

IMI becomes IHI

What's changing, what's staying the same, and why

After almost 14 years and nearly 200 projects, the **Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)** has become the **Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)**.

We are in an exciting era of medical innovation. Science is driving new avenues of research and development spanning different sectors from across the life-science community. The creation of IHI aims to realise the potential of this convergence in order to transform the lives of patients across Europe and beyond.

To bring this vision to life, Europe's new partnership for health will bring together the biopharmaceutical, biotechnology, digital health and medical technology sectors, along with academic and patient communities and the European Commission to create **a new, world-leading cross-sectorial partnership**. The aim is to remove silos and combine capabilities and expertise, with all industry sectors contributing equally to the projects and to the programme.

What else is new?

The way we're governed will change. The scope of the partnership is significantly broader than IMI as it will cover the entire continuum of care. There will be new, specific objectives that align with the EU's latest health policy strategy.

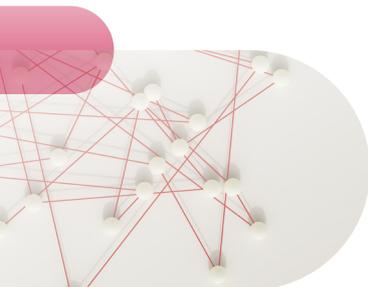
What's staying the same?

Funding will come equally from the public partner and the industry partners (the pharma sector and the medical technology sectors). Calls for proposals will be open and competitive. Universities, big and small companies, regulators, patients, and other groups will still be involved. And **IMI projects that are ongoing will still be managed by IHI**.

Why are we changing?

Conscious that future breakthroughs in healthcare and medical science will be the result of cross-sectorial discoveries, IMI needed to evolve. Europe is at a crossroads, facing increasing challenges on several fronts while at the same time, technological and scientific advances offer new opportunities to solve these challenges. Bridging the gap to address today's health and translational challenges will require a multi-sector public-private partnership.

The successes of IMI and the knowledge gleaned from 14 years of experience in public-private partnerships means that IHI will ensure Europe remains at the cutting edge of interdisciplinary, sustainable, patient-centric health research.



From IMI to IHI - the main changes

New members

The new industry members are COCIR, EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe), EuropaBio and MedTech Europe. The public member in the partnership is still the European Union, represented by the European Commission.

Organisations that want to support specific areas of research without becoming full members of IHI can apply to become 'Contributing Partners' (similar to the Associated Partners in IMI).

New research focus

IHI-funded projects will expand to include the expertise areas of the new partners in the biopharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical technology and digital sectors, helping to integrate fragmented health research and innovation efforts.

New strategy

The EU has the ambition of strengthening a competitive health research and innovation ecosystem, and IHI has been given new, specific objectives that will help make it happen. The objectives involve making sure there is maximum cross-sectoral cooperation within and between IHI projects, as well as concentrating research funding on integrating different



healthcare products and services in ambitious and well-funded R&D projects. The objectives tie IHI's mission to specific EU policy goals: the Beating Cancer plan, the new Industrial Strategy for Europe, and the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe. The planned activities of the partnership can be found in IHI's Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda.

New governance

An advisory body called the Science and Innovation Panel will bring together representatives from the scientific community and the wider health sector such as regulatory bodies, patients and healthcare professionals, together with the European Commission, IHI industry partners and the States Representatives Group, as well as ad-hoc experts who may be invited to join specific discussions as needed.

This new governance structure will help IHI better incorporate the views of various stakeholders involved in healthcare and ensure that IHI projects reflect public health issues and the needs of end users.

For more information,
ihi.europa.eu

