



PRESS RELEASE

A NEW EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM TO ASSESS THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PHARMACEUTICALS

- **The goal of iPiE Project is to develop frameworks that utilize information from toxicological studies, pharmacological mode of action and *in silico* models to support more intelligence based environmental testing of pharmaceuticals in development and to prioritize legacy pharmaceuticals for targeted environmental risk assessment and/or environmental (bio) monitoring.**
- **iPiE is a unique collaboration between key players in the sector from all over Europe including academia, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industry as well as regulatory bodies.**

Human-use active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) are biologically active compounds. They are partially excreted following use and emitted into the sewer system, where they may find their way into the environment. Although reported concentrations of APIs are generally low, many APIs can be detected in a variety of settings. Over the past 25+ years substantial progress has been made to evaluate the resulting risks of APIs in the environment and to set up specific requirements by regulatory bodies that must be met by new APIs reaching the market. However, more than 3,000 legacy APIs are currently in use, many of which have not been assessed for their environmental risks. Due to the large number there is a high need for developing science-based prioritization approaches to identify those APIs that are likely to pose the greatest risk.

The newly founded international consortium is called "iPiE" (Intelligence-led Assessment of Pharmaceuticals in the Environment). The iPiE-consortium aims to develop predictive frameworks that will help to prioritize further environmental risk assessment investigations. In addition, establishing an intelligence-led methodology as an early screening tool will support drug development by allowing the prediction of likely environmental risk properties of new APIs early on in the development process. The partners will utilize information from existing datasets on environmental fate and effects of APIs, toxicological studies, pharmacological mode of action and *in silico* models.

The iPiE-consortium consists of 25 partners from academia, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), the pharmaceutical industry as well as regulatory bodies from all over Europe. All members of the consortium are key players in their fields constituting a unique network of experts in the areas of data management and computational modelling, pharmacology, ecotoxicology, environmental chemistry, predictive (eco)toxicology, prioritization and intelligent testing methodologies and environmental risk assessment. iPiE is a public-private

partnership supported by Europe's Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) with a total budget of €10.2 million . The project has started in January 2015 and will run over a period of four years.

[Partner organizations could add a paragraph (possibly in a quote) explaining their precise role in IPIE]

Further information:

Notes to editors

More information on iPiE, including full list of partners:
www.imi.europa.eu/content

iPiE Budget:

IMI funding: € 3.0 million
EFPIA contribution: € 7 million
Other: € 0.2 million
Total budget: € 10.2 million

About IMI

The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is the world's biggest public-private partnership (PPP) in the life sciences. IMI is improving health by speeding up the development of, and patient access to, innovative medicines, particularly in areas where there is an unmet medical or social need. It does this by facilitating collaboration between the key players involved in healthcare research, including universities, the pharmaceutical and other industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), patient organizations, and medicines regulators.

IMI is a partnership between the European Union (represented by the European Commission) and the European pharmaceutical industry (represented by EFPIA, the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations). Through the IMI 2 Programme, it has a €3.3 billion budget for the period 2014-2024. Of this, the European Union contributes €1.6 billion to the IMI research programme, and this is matched by in kind contributions worth at least another €1.4 billion from the member companies of the EFPIA. Up to €213 million can be committed by other life science industries or organizations.

The Innovative Medicines Initiative currently supports 47 projects, many of which are already producing impressive results.

More info on IMI: www.imi.europa.eu

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