

EAMBES 2015: State of the Alliance

Dear Members of EAMBES, and all European Biomedical Engineers and Scientists,

The promotion of Biomedical Engineering (BME) and medical and biomedical engineering sciences within Europe is very necessary and important as it was more than 20 years ago when EAMBES was established.

Compared to our colleagues, for example, in the USA, in Europe we are still somewhat lacking behind on reorganization of the BME as an independent and important science/profession and a key contributor in the improvement of public health thorough new healthcare technology innovations both in research institutes/universities and in industry. This lack of visibility is also reflected in the so far published Horizon2020 program as very few research grant calls are directly related to the BME research community. However, the issue of recognition is wider than the shortage of proper H2020 calls and we should jointly work to solve this issue.

Our work in EAMBES is to promote the BME education and research and act as a common voice at a European level. The majority of EAMBES work in 2014 has concentrated on forming BME viewpoints to communications and statements for various consultations calls from EU, following the preparation of the medical device directive (MDD), and the organisation of a new policy workshop in Brussels. All this is done by the voluntary work of our Council Members and members of our open Policy Affairs Working Group in cooperation with Rohde Public Policy Consultation Company that helps us on connecting with EU policymakers.

The full list of activities can be found at our website. Highlights of the 2014 activities are:

- We published 3 newsletters
- We aimed at forming a narrative of BME and EAMBES that promotes the importance of our field in European societal and industrial landscape. This will be available in our website and will be distributed to .policy stakeholders in European and member country levels.
- Responding to Commission consultations on mHealth (<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/public-consultation-green-paper-mobile-health>)
- Participation of preparation of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) opinion paper on "Promoting the European single market combining biomedical engineering with the medical and care services industry"
<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.events-and-activities-biomedical-engineering>

WHAT IS EAMBES ?

European Alliance for Medical and Biological Engineering & Science

A nonprofit scientific society to promote Biomedical Engineering (BME) and Biological and Medical Engineering and Sciences (BMES) especially in Europe.

Members are scientific societies or research institutions in Europe. Today EAMBES represents 30 national & transnational societies and 33 institutions, and through them around 8,000 biomedical engineers and scientists working primarily in research and higher education. It is affiliated to the International Federation of Medical and Biological Engineering (IFMBE).

EAMBES acts to:

- Support and promote BME and MBES research and development, education, training and accreditation of scientific programmes,
- Recognize individual and group achievements and contributions to the field of BME and MBES.
- **Acts as a one voice for academic/research MBES at EU level:**
- Position Biomedical Engineering (BME) on the EU research and policy agenda
- Develop a dialogue between EAMBES & key policy makers in the area of biomedical engineering

www.eambes.org

We were delighted to note that the opinion paper reflected well the EAMBES view on the BME area in Europe. We participated in the hearing meeting, our Secretary General Andrei Linnenbank gave a speech and we were able to successfully propose amendments to the document highlighting the role of BME professionals on healthcare processes and the need for proper policy to include BME professionals on development of care services and technologies. We feel this is one of the most relevant documents for the BME community with important suggestion to promote and recognize BME.

- Preparation of policy workshop in the European Parliament in Brussels. This was postponed to be organized later due to security problems in the Parliament in February/March 2015. We are looking forward to collaborate with EESC on organizing the event later 2015 .
- EAMBES has been closely monitoring developments on the new Medical Device Regulations (MDR). We are working towards formulating an EAMBES view on the potential issues and impact this could have.
- EAMBES organized two scientific sessions at BMT 2014 in Hannover entitled (i) “Biohybrid Implants and Regulatory Affairs” and (ii) “Safety and Performance of Medical Devices – New Medical Device Regulations”
- EAMBES endorsed European scientific conferences on BME in Europe such as MBEC 2014 in Dubrovnik and the NordicBaltic 2014 in Gotenborg.
- EAMBES Fellows Division was revitalized and we had the 2nd Fellows Symposium in Brussels on March 16, 2015 with the new 2015 elected class of distinguished Fellows. Our classes of fellows are bringing additional experience, insight and academic leadership into EAMBES, and will strengthen our work in representing BME across Europe. We are very pleased to welcome the new esteemed Fellows of 2015.

As you can see, EAMBES has had a very active year. The growing need for EAMBES to make the voice of Biomedical Engineering heard by European policy makers requires the voluntary contribution by its member institutions and its representatives. My time as president started on March, 2015 and I am pleased to thank Prof. Birgit Glasmacher, now past president, on her successful activities in 2013-2014 as the president of EAMBES and the previous council on their efforts for the benefit of BME in Europe.

Our aim is to continue to strengthen EAMBES policy work and collaboration with EESC and other stakeholders on European BME scheme including EUCOMED. Another long term goal is to strengthen the scientific scene by reinforcing the European conference series on BME. We are convinced that the newly elected council with members from nine European countries and thirteen organizations has the expertise and energy to successfully tackle these goals.

We would like to stress that our work depends on the continuing support and the resources provided by you - our members! We hope that our work is serving your needs as member of EAMBES. We will warmly welcome all feedback and suggestions to improve our work. We are looking forward to your continued support to strengthen the Biomedical Engineering Community in Europe!



Jari Hyttinen, president



Birgit Glasmacher, past president