

WEBINAR: Tuesday, April 30, 2013

TOPIC: Innovative Medicines Initiative: The EU's Quest to Spur Innovation

SPEAKER: Michel Goldman, MD., PhD
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The Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) is Europe's largest public-private partnership aimed at speeding up the development of safer and more effective drugs. Established in 2008 as a joint undertaking between the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry association EFPIA, IMI supports collaborative research and builds networks of industrial and academic experts. It has 40 projects underway, ranging widely across a number of research areas, including safety and efficacy, knowledge management and education and training. A number of drugmakers, including Bayer, AstraZeneca, Sanofi, Lundbeck, Merck, UCB and Janssen, are active in IMI's research. Some of the early milestones of its research projects include: development of the first human pancreatic beta cells that can survive in test tubes, identification of potential targets for developing new pain-relieving drugs, and development of the largest known database of studies on schizophrenia, just to name a few.

In this webinar, IMI's executive director, Dr. Michel Goldman, will examine a wide range of topics on the development and progress of IMI, including:

- Background of IMI: key drivers in the EU that led to its formation, an overview of the operational framework and some of the early challenges in managing the initiative,
- Roles of various stakeholders, including pharma companies, academic institutions, patient organizations and public authorities,
- Oversight of IMI research projects, including the process of evaluating and funding new projects, reporting requirements and how IMI determines key areas of research,
- Intellectual property policy and sharing data from IMI-supported research, and
- Opportunities for organizations outside of the EU to participate in research projects
- Potential for similar types of partnerships outside of the EU, such as the U.S. and Japan.

Dr. Goldman is Professor of Immunology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. His achievements in the fields of immune-mediated disorders and immune-based biotherapies resulted in over 400 articles in peer-reviewed journals. In 2004, Dr. Goldman started the Institute for Medical Immunology as the first public-private partnership in the biomedical sector in Wallonia, Belgium and he was inaugural vice-president of the BioWin Health Cluster.