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Make your call for gastrointestinal and liver disease research funding before further EU budget cuts

(Vienna, 13, February, 2015) With recent plans to cut billions from the European Commission's Horizon 2020 funding programme, United European Gastroenterology (UEG) is urgently calling on the GI community to apply now for much needed research funding.

According to the results of **UEG's major 'Survey of Digestive Health Across Europe**,' gastrointestinal (GI) and liver diseases remain one of the most common causes of death and hospitalisation in Europe and are responsible for almost 500,000 deaths per year in Europe alone.[1,2]

"Although GI and liver diseases are on the increase and draining European healthcare resources, gastroenterology gets relatively little attention from a policy perspective compared with other specialities. However, research is essential to facilitate the development of more effective treatments and to improve mortality rates," explains Professor Farthing.

Horizon 2020 is the European Union's biggest ever research programme with nearly 80 billion of overall funding available from 2014 to 2020. In spite of the EU Commission's proposal to cut billions from Horizon 2020's €24 billion scientific research programme, a healthy €154,000,000 is still available specifically for research grants on the topic of 'FET-Open- Novel ideas for radically new technologies'. "However, the deadline is looming with a call for proposals by 31st March 2015 so scientists need to take prompt action to develop steering groups and submit their application," urges UEG President, Professor Michael Farthing.

"Gastrointestinal disorders remain a major threat to public health and it is important for medical research policies to respond to such threats;" adds Professor Michael Manns, UEG Vice President.

To maximise the chance of a successful application, UEG advises scientists to consider the following 3 key points before submitting their proposal:

Commission's priorities - does their work fit within the EU Commission's guidelines?

Organisation's capabilities - can their organisation realistically manage and deliver the proposal?

Economical and social impact - will their work provide return on investment and reduce the economic and social burden?

Further information and guidelines on the application process can be found at: www.**ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding**.

Notes to Editors:
Available for interview
Professor Michael Farthing, UEG President; Professor Michael Manns, UEG Vice President

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Further information for Horizon 2020 Funding Applications is available at:

https://www.ueg.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/Publications/Horizon%202020.Information.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/grants/applying-for-funding/find-a-call_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/how-get-funding

About UEG

United European Gastroenterology is a professional non-profit organisation combining all the leading European societies concerned with digestive diseases. Together, its member societies represent over 22,000 specialists, working across medicine, surgery, paediatrics, gastrointestinal oncology and endoscopy.
Find out more about UEG's work at www.ueg.eu

UEG Survey of Digestive Health Across Europe

The Survey of Digestive Health Across Europe was commissioned by UEG in the spring of 2013 at the request of its own Future Trends Committee. An experienced research group from Swansea University in Wales, UK, initiated a detailed assessment of digestive health across Europe, focussing on the clinical and economic burden of disease and the organisation and delivery of gastroenterology services across 28 European Union (EU) member states, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein and Russia. The aim of the survey was to draw together all the available evidence and provide up-to-date information on the human health consequences and public health burden of GI disorders.

References

1. Roberts SE, Samuel DG, Williams JG, et al. Survey of Digestive Health across Europe. Part one: The burden of gastrointestinal diseases and the organisation and delivery of gastroenterology services across Europe. Report for United European Gastroenterology. October 2014.

2. Anderson P, Dalziel K, Davies E et al. Survey of Digestive Health across Europe. Part two: The economic impact and burden of gastrointestinal diseases across Europe. Report for United European Gastroenterology. October 2014.

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"Although GI diseases are on the increase and draining European healthcare resources, gastroenterology gets relatively little attention from a policy perspective compared with other specialities. Further research is essential to facilitate the development of more effective treatments and to improve mortality rates," explains Professor Farthing.

"Gastrointestinal disorders remain a major threat to public health and it is important for medical research policies to respond to such threats;" adds Professor Michael Manns, UEG Vice President and member of the newly constituted Scientific Panel for Health, set up to specifically advise the European Commission on medical research and help EU decision makers shape policies that are conducive to innovative research, benefitting digestive and liver health.

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To maximise the chance of a successful application, UEG advises scientists to consider the following before submitting their proposal:

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Notes to Editors

Available for interview
Professor Michael Farthing, UEG President

Professor Michael Manns, UEG Vice President, member of The European Commission's Scientific Panel for Health

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