

## PEARRL kicks off! – Fifteen young researchers are collaborating to bring important new medicines to market faster

This week, PEARRL members from all over Europe, representing nine [Beneficiaries](#), nine [Partner Organisations](#) and fifteen Early Stage Researchers ([ESRs](#)), attended the PEARRL kick-off meeting in Bad Homburg, Germany.

### What is PEARRL?

The PEARRL (Pharmaceutical Education And Research with Regulatory Links) project is a European Training Network (ETN) is funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions). In PEARRL, young researchers will work together with experienced academic, industrial and regulatory scientists to develop innovative formulation strategies for promising drugs so that they can be brought to market, and to create robust biopharmaceutics tools that can facilitate faster approval of new drugs by regulatory authorities.

### Why do we need to get new medicines to market faster?

From antibiotics through medicines which prevent gastric ulcers to stem cell research, the research in the pharmaceutical sciences has made great strides over the last century. Whereas average life expectancy was under 40 years at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the worldwide average today is around 70 years of age. Medical breakthroughs have contributed to not only longer life expectancy but also by a lower infant mortality rate and higher quality of life for the elderly.

However, developing a new drug is a long, costly and complex process, often taking well over 10 years to complete, since drug development requires the coordination of many different disciplines such as chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceuticals, chemical engineering and bioinformatics, to name just a few. When a promising new drug candidate comes along, there is a strong motivation to streamline the development process to get the molecule to market faster so that patients can benefit from the drug's advantages as soon as possible.

### How will PEARRL help?

PEARRL research is grouped into three core Work Packages: Design of 'bio-enabling' formulations to ensure that new drugs can reach their sites of action in the body efficiently, Biopharmaceutics tools which can be used to assess the bioenabling formulations in the lab and therefore avoid time consuming and ethically questionable animal experiments, and *in silico* approaches for predicting performance of the new drugs in patients, helping to reduce the number of clinical trials required to bring the drug to market. The **kick-off meeting on the 31st October 2016** provided the first opportunity for the young researchers to share their PEARRL research plans with the entire team.



Photo: PEARRL members from all over Europe at the PEARRL kick-off meeting in Bad Homburg, Germany.



## PEARRL Facts and Figures

PEARRL is a research project, co-funded by the European Union

- Involves 9 beneficiaries and 9 partner organisations (5 academic, 8 industry, 4 regulatory agencies, 1 management)
- Started on 1 May 2016 , Kick off meeting 31 October 2016, will end on 30 April 2020
- Budget: 3.9 million euro
- Website: [www.pearrl.eu](http://www.pearrl.eu)
- Email: [pearrl.network@gmail.com](mailto:pearrl.network@gmail.com)
- Goal: A Pan-European training network that develops innovative drug development strategies and regulatory tools tailored to facilitate earlier access to medicines
- Contact: Dr. Brendan Griffin, Project Coordinator, PEARRL [brendan.griffin@ucc.ie](mailto:brendan.griffin@ucc.ie)

## Sources

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