

JPND meets Industry - A Workshop on Industry-Academia Collaboration in Neurodegenerative Disease Research

Date: October 12, 2017

Time: 9 am-13 pm

Location: CENTRO CONGRESSI TORINO INCONTRA

Via Nino Costa 8 – TORINO (Italy)

The **EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)** is hosting a half-day workshop to foster collaboration in Neurodegenerative Disease (ND) research between academia and industry.

JPND is the largest global research initiative aimed at tackling the challenge of ND and currently includes 30 member countries. JPND aims to coordinate and increase EU investments in research aimed at:

- Finding the causes of NDs
- Enabling early diagnoses
- Developing new treatments and therapies by identifying novel targets
- Developing appropriate ways to care for the growing number of patients suffering from NDs

Since 2009, JPND has been actively funding academic research and creating open-access tools to facilitate the study of NDs at the preclinical and clinical level. Tools include a new database of experimental models, the creation of an online, global database of longitudinal cohorts suitable for ND research, and aligning methodologies and optimizing the use of biomarkers.

More than 360 EU researchers have been funded since 2011 within JPND-supported research projects. This large scientific community is rapidly advancing knowledge in the field in a coordinated way, creating opportunities for innovation and collaboration with industries.

With this in mind, JPND is engaging with industries that are interested in creating innovation in the field of ND, which will grow in the future years as a result of population ageing and the current lack of appropriate therapies for such disorders. This meeting will be relevant for pharma, diagnostics, IT, medical devices, healthcare providers and imaging industries, as well as Small and Medium Enterprises.

The aim of the workshop will be to provide introductions between academia and industry in order to lay the foundations for future collaborations and knowledge exchanges in ND research, and will serve to orient JPND's research activity and investment over the coming decade.

To register for the workshop please send an e-mail to JPNDworkshop@miur.it. Participation is free of charge. Registration is open until October 5th.

For more information on the program of the workshop, please contact Valeria Cardia at valeria.cardia@miur.it or by phone at +39 06 5849 7333.

Registration is limited, and participants will be selected based on their area of expertise and location in order to ensure geographically diverse representation at the event.

Programme

Plenary session: presentation of the JPND, tools and activities.

9:00 -10.00

- **8 years of JPND activity: achievements and prospects for the future** (Prof. Adriana Maggi, University of Milan, JPND Vice-Chair)
- **New JPND Global Cohort Portal linked to database on longitudinal cohorts in ND** (Dr. Simon Fisher, Medical Research Council, JPND Programme Manager)
- **Database on experimental models for ND research** (Prof. Adriana Maggi, University of Milan, JPND Vice-Chair)

Parallel sessions: JPND and Industries working together for innovation in the field of ND

10:00 – 12:00

- **Parallel discussion session I: Industries and SME in Pharma and Diagnostic** chaired by Prof. Adriana Maggi, University of Milan, JPND Vice-Chair.
- **Parallel discussion session II: IT, medical devices and Imaging industries** chaired by Prof. Stefano Cappa, IUSS Pavia, member of the Scientific Advisory Board of JPND.

Topics for discussion:

- Scientific areas of potential collaboration between academia and industry based on past experiences.
- Specific activities and areas around which industry and JPND researchers could align (e.g. sharing of infrastructures, training in the use of resources; science exchange program, others...).
- Infrastructures and tools to be implemented which will benefit future research (e.g. platforms for data collection and retrieval).

Closing Plenary session

12:00 – 13:00

Wrap-up session:

Presentation of a summary of the inputs gathered in each parallel session by JPND rapporteurs and final discussion on future/follow-up actions.

Lunch