

25th May 2011

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Subject: Innovative Medicines Initiative Education and Training Programmes and 4th Call for Proposals.

The Medicines Authority would like to bring to your attention the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) Education and Training Programmes and also the IMI 4th Call for proposals.

The Innovative Medicines Initiative is a unique Public-Private Partnership (PPP) between the pharmaceutical industry represented by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and the European Communities represented by the European Commission. The total IMI budget for the period 2008-2017 is €2 billion, including €1 billion provided by the European Union and €1 billion to be provided in kind from the industry.

IMI supports projects in the following pre-competitive areas:

- Predicting safety
- Predicting efficacy
- Knowledge management
- **Education and training**

Based on these 4 needs or pillars, a European Strategic Research Agenda was developed under the lead of industry involving all relevant stakeholder groups, i.e. academia; biopharmaceutical companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); healthcare providers and clinical centres; regulators, learned societies, and patients' organisations.

To date, four IMI Education and Training Programmes have been initiated to provide excellence in education and training. More information may be accessed on the IMI Education and Training Projects flyer available on the www.medicinesauthority.gov.mt/research.htm

IMI will also hold an Open Info Day on its 4th Call for proposals at the HUSA President Park Hotel in Brussels, Belgium on Friday 17 June 2011.

The day will include an overview of IMI's funding and intellectual property (IP) rules, tips and testimonies from people involved in ongoing IMI projects, and detailed presentations of the 4th Call topics by the topic Coordinators of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA). Participants in the Open Info Day will have the opportunity to directly interact with the Coordinators of the Call topics, during dedicated topic-related workshops. In addition, there will be plenty of networking opportunities during lunch and tea/coffee breaks. IMI staff will also be on hand to answer questions relating to the submission procedures.

The Medicines Authority encourages small and medium-sized enterprises, patient organisations, regulatory authorities, academic teams, industry, hospitals and other organisations with an interest in IMI projects to take part in the Open Info Day.

Registration will be open shortly and a link to the registration form, as well as the preliminary agenda, will soon be available via the IMI website at <http://www.imi.europa.eu/events/2011/05/18/open-info-day-4th-call-proposals>.

The 4th Call for proposals will be launched in mid-June. Indicative call topics can be found at <http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/4th-call-2011>. Please note that all information relating to the 4th Call is indicative and subject to change. Final information about the IMI 4th Call will be communicated after approval by the IMI Governing Board.

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