



EHFG 2007: Session Highlights

The European Health Forum Gastein 2007 will cover a broader range of content than ever before. Leading experts will present and discuss many of the most important issues regarding European health policy and health policies in EU member states in more than 20 plenary sessions, forums and workshops.

Community actions in the field of healthcare services: New course set for European health policy

The first EU initiative specifically dealing with health care is uncharted territory for the EU. For the first time, the European Commission is attempting to form a uniform European health care model, in order to raise the quality and safety of health services across member states. This could result in significant improvements to the coordination of health measures and in establishing uniform standards. Leading EU experts and member states involved in drawing up these measures will have the opportunity to meet at Gastein in order to discuss the Commission's recommendations immediately prior to the expected closure of proceedings. These are expected to be presented shortly after the EHFG.

Supporting innovation, stabilising key areas

The continuously increasing numbers of patients and rising costs demand new medical and organisational approaches to the treatment of chronic diseases, in particular diabetes. New technological innovations, as well as new forms of care will be necessary to stabilise these key areas of European health services for the future. New care models outdated structures and permanently change the care of the chronically ill. Experts will present numerous successful examples of innovative solutions in a push to implement them across Europe.

Costly cancer medicine: How will the cost of improved treatment methods be financed?

Progress in the treatment of serious, previously often fatal diseases are pushing important areas of the healthcare system to their financial limits. Cancer therapy in particular has experienced exploding costs because of improved treatment methods and a positive rise in the life expectancy of patients. Top experts present organisational and financing models that will guarantee that *all* patients will have access to modern and effective methods of treatment.

What impact does our environment have on our health? The health benefits of climate protection

Experts present comprehensive studies on the health impact of emissions and climate change and outline the predicted positive effect of climate protection measures on the health situation in European industrialised nations, as well as possible savings to health services as a result of improved environmental conditions.

Genomics and public healthcare

At least since the European Commission set public health genomics as a priority, the opportunities and risks associated with genetic tests and gene databases in the public health domain became a controversial issue in European health policy. A range of leading experts will discuss the opportunities for prevention and therapy, as well as the most important ethical, legal and social aspects of this issue.



Herculaen challenge: mental illnesses

By 2020, mental illnesses will become the most significant type of disease in industrialised nations. Even today, 27 percent of all adults in the EU already suffer from at least one incidence of mental illness each year. Based on a green paper by the European Commission, effective countermeasures are now to be developed.

Further information:

EHFG Press Office, c/o MB Dialog, Thomas Brey
Tel.: +43 1 917 51 18-25; E-Mail: ehfg@mbdialog.at