Activities of the BMBF to support coordination of cancer research

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Outline:
Activities of BMBF to support coordination of cancer research

National:
Introduction to the research landscape in Germany
Cancer research in Germany
The Health Research programme of the Federal Ministry BMBF
  overview
  cancer research within the Health Research Programme
  policy on networking (national)
  policy on networking (international within Health RP)

International:
  IMI
  ESFRI
  ERA-Net of funding agencies
  Coordination of cancer centres ?
Introduction to the research landscape in Germany

„relatively MOBILE money:
the funding of „projects“ (concise research proposal for limited time)
1) bottom-up, initiative by scientists: DFG
2) programmes and funding initiatives:
3) mostly „model projects“

Sustainability:
the funding of „institutions“ (long time finances for running costs and personnel)
1) universities (35 medical faculties), financed by the Länder
2) publicly funded research institutes, cofinanced by Bund and Länder
   - Max-Planck Society (Mainly basic science, 78 institutes)
   - Helmholtz-Association (15 national institutes, e.g. DKFZ)
   - Leibnitz-Association (diverse group of 80 institutes)
   - Fraunhofer Society (mainly applied science, 58 institutes)
3) Research Institutes of the Ministries (e.g.
   - Robert-Koch-Institut, infectious diseases, health ministry,
   - Friedrich-Löffler-Institut, animal health, avian flu, Ministry of nutrition, agriculture
   and consumers protection)
Programm der Bundesregierung „Gesundheitsforschung: Forschung für den Menschen“

Projektförderung durchgeführt und implementiert durch das BMBF

BMBF
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung

Soll 2006 126 Mio.

Ist 2005 91 Mio. Biomedizin und Molekulare Medizin
Soll 2006 107 Mio.

Ist 2005 92 Mio. Medizin und Gesundheit
Soll 2006 113 Mio.

Ist 2005 113 Mio. Gesundheitsforschungsprogramm
Soll 2006 145 Mio.
Aims of the Programme:

- To improve prevention and health precaution
- To examine the causes of diseases and to develop effective treatment
- To contribute to a productive and affordable health care system
- To improve the transfer of research into health care system and the economy
- To foster the research landscape
Calls for proposals which support networking

**Funding instruments:**

**single projects:**
- multicentre clinical treatment trials, investigator initiated (29 mio € per annual call)

**small scale consortia,**
- molecular diagnostic, 5 Mio € per annual call
- innovative therapies, 12 Mio € per annual call

**large scale national networks:**
- Competence Networks in Medical Sciences
- Follow up initiative

**local coordination:**
- „Integrierte Forschungs- und Behandlungszentren (IFB)“
  - integrated centres of health care and research in medical faculties

**research infrastructure:**
- clinical trial centres
Starting in 1998
12 “Coordinating Centers for Clinical Trials” are funded which

• improve standards,
• train physicians and nurses,
• build an infrastructure for conducting clinical trials
• 29 Mio € have been granted.

A new program for “Study Centers” was launched in 2006, which aims at an ever greater participation of clinicians.

• 6 centers are going to start in 2007
• 48 Mio € will be granted
Centres for coordination of clinical trials („KKS“) = infrastructure for clinical trials

The first KKS were established in 1999. Meanwhile there are 12 plus two specialized modules for pediatric topics and for studies on surgery. Funding by BMBF: 29.6 Mio. €

Follow-up initiative in 2007

On the long run the centres have to find support from the university funds and industry.
Welcome to the Internet Portal of the Competence Networks in Medicine

The 17 large-scale research projects of this network are being funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and deal with specific diseases.

Funding by the BMBF started in 1999 in order to set up competence networks in the field of medicine, its purpose being the establishment of supraregional medical networks concerning specific diseases characterized by high morbidity and/or mortality.
Perspectives: disease-related competence networks

- based on the experiences of the competence networks in medicine
- goal: foster translational research
goal: establish national networks for diseases entities which foster interdisciplinary work of basic scientists with clinical scientists on research on causes and etiology of disease(s)
development of new treatment and diagnostic procedures
health care research

- first announcement (August 2006): dementia
other topics to follow, 1-2 per year, 8-10 competence networks in total

- call for small collaborative research consortia (4-10 projects)
allow them to grow
foster interconnections between different consortia

- 2,5 - 5 Mio € p.a. for 4 x 3 years, up to 60 Mio € per network
~ 400 Mio € total funding,
Prospective cohort studies
are an important instrument to analyse pathogenesis including genetic and non-genetic factors by epidemiological research.
Moreover they are essential to answer clinical and health care research questions concerning e.g. therapy prognosis and outcome or implementation of research results into practice.
The necessary long time period of these studies require combined efforts of project funding and research institutions.

BMBF will launch a funding measure in 2007 in order to analyse how the systematic difficulties with longlasting prospective cohort studies in health research could be overcome.
Perspectives: integrated research & treatment centers (IFB)

- main goal 1: help medical faculties to focus and develop strategic plans, coordinate interdisciplinary cooperations in clinical research within the faculty and with groups working in neighbouring institutions

NO PRE-DETERMINED TOPICS,
BUT DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

- main goal 2: improving patient-oriented research

- research work equally important as clinical work: develop attractive careers for young (medical) scientists, scientific professor equally important as clinical professor

- first announcement: May 2006

- 5 Mio € p.a. for 2 x 5 years per center, 50 Mio € per center

8 centers, 400 Mio € total funding,
Cancer research in the Health research programme, currently running initiatives

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initiative</th>
<th>Funding</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application-oriented breast cancer research</td>
<td>(6.4 Mio €, 2003-2008)</td>
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<td>Hormone Replacement Therapy and Cancer</td>
<td>(6 Mio €, 2005-2007)</td>
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<td>▪ Malignant Lymphomas</td>
<td>(13.8 Mio €, 1999-2007)</td>
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<td>▪ Leukemias</td>
<td>(11.9 Mio €, 1999-2008)</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Pediatric Oncology</td>
<td>(13.4 Mio €, 1999-2007)</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ The CancerNet</td>
<td>(9.8 Mio €, 2001 - 2007)</td>
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<td>▪ Brain tumours</td>
<td>(2.5 Mio €, 2004 - 2007)</td>
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<td>▪ Embryonal tumours</td>
<td>(3.1 Mio €, 2004 - 2007)</td>
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Innovative Therapies
Molecular diagnostics
Regenerative Medicine
Clinical trials
Coordinating Centres for Clinical Trials (KKS)
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<th>National Initiatives</th>
<th>European Initiatives</th>
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<td>Competence networks</td>
<td>Possible within FP7 as large scale cooperative project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding programmes:</td>
<td>Possible within FP7, small scale cooperative projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Molecular diagnostics</td>
<td>FP7, ESFRI Infrastructure for Clinical Trials and Biotherapy</td>
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<td>Innovative therapies</td>
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<td>Clinical trial infrastructure</td>
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<td>Clinical trials repetitive open call</td>
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<td>Long term cohort studies, open call</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>EATRIS – Infrastructure for translational medical research</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>European Bio-Banking and Bio-Molecular Resources</td>
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<td>?</td>
<td>IMI</td>
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**Eurocan+Plus**: Analysis of status quo and Feasibility study for the coordination of cancer research in Europe
P. Lange, BMBF: chair of working group of European funding organisations

**ERA-NETs** (European Research Area Networks) in Life Sciences
- ERA-Age (ageing research)
- Neuron (neurosciences)
- E-Rare (rare diseases)
- Pathogenomics (pathogenic microbes)
- Plant genomics
- ERA-SAGE (ethics in genome research)

- proposed (suggestion of ministries & funding agencies involved in Eurocan+Plus):
**ERA-NET on translational cancer research**
Article 169 (of the EU treaty) initiative

- EDCTP: European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (aids/HIV, malaria, tuberculosis)

Technology Platforms (Joint Technology Initiatives: PPP)

- IMI: Innovative Medicines Initiative

ESFRI: European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures

E. Curtius, BMBF: chairman of the Biological and Medical Sciences Working Group

- e.g. EATRIS: The European Advanced Translational Research Infrastructure in Medicine
- e.g. ECRIN: Network of Distributed Infrastructure for Clinical Trials
- ...
Why Coordination? Why ERA-NET?

**Objective:** Reduce fragmentation of research efforts made at national & regional level in Europe

Reasons for coordination:

- Achieving critical mass, to ensure better use of scarce resources
- Join Forces to provide common answers to common problems
- Addressing global issues
- Developing common approaches (e.g. ethics, standards)
- Addressing specific geographical issues
- Speaking with “one voice” to third countries

In many cases several reasons apply but for all:

- Avoiding overlap and build up of expertise
- Exchange of good practices
- Access to expertise
ERA-NET on translational cancer research

- proposed by **funding organisations** (engaged in Eurocan+Plus) to EC for inclusion into 3rd call of FP7 work programme, theme 1 ("Health")

- **estimated timeline** (very preliminary)
  - launch of call for proposals: end of 2007 / start of 2008
  - start of project: ~ end of 2008 / early 2009

- **participants**: ministries & funding agencies (from EU Member States & Associated States), **not** researchers (except for advisory functions)

- **aims** (e.g.):
  - overcome fragmentation and redundancy in national funding of translational cancer research by (e.g.):
    - coordinating national funding activities within a strategic plan
    - launching joint European call(s) for research proposals

- **contact**: Birgit Wetterauer, BMBF
European Network of Comprehensive Cancer Centers

- proposed by scientists AND funding organisations (engaged in Eurocan+Plus) to EC for inclusion into 3rd call of FP7 work programme, theme 1 ("Health")

- estimated timeline

- participants: excellent EU research institutes & hospitals

- aims:
THANK YOU for your attention!
ESFRI Roadmap Proposals in Life Sciences

Upgrade of European Bio-Informatics Infrastructure

Infrastructure for Clinical Trials and Biotherapy

EATRIS – Infrastructure for translational medical research

Integrated structural biology infrastructure

Functional Genomics in the Mouse

European Bio-Banking and Bio-Molecular Resources