

## Launch of COVID-19 project: ‘European Research and Preparedness Network for Pandemics and Emerging Infectious Diseases’ — EU-RESPONSE

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**Paris, France – 18 September 2020** – EU-RESPONSE, a 5-year multi-national project, coordinated by Prof. Yazdan Yazdanpanah (Inserm: French national institute for health and medical research), was awarded €15,7M by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme in order to design and run a new adaptive European platform trial on COVID-19 and emerging infectious diseases.

The emergence and the spread of SARS-CoV-2 is an unprecedented challenge, vividly illustrating the pace at which a viral outbreak can progress among a highly interlinked and susceptible global population. The COVID-19 crisis raises a major challenge for the European life sciences and medical research community who is urged to propose in the short term therapeutic and preventive solutions, including vaccines.

EU-RESPONSE will allow the European expansion of the DisCoVeRy study, a phase III, open-label, adaptive, randomized, controlled, multi-centre clinical trial designed to evaluate the safety and efficacy of medicinal products in hospitalized adult patients diagnosed with COVID-19. The DisCoVeRy trial was originally initiated in France as WHO Solidarity trial “add-on” study and thanks to EU-RESPONSE it will further expand to many other European countries.

Additionally, EU-RESPONSE will allow the building of a new multinational European Adaptive Platform Trial, based on existing initiatives, experiences and competencies – the EU-SolidAct. This will be a flexible platform, providing a modular trial network enabling most, if not all, European hospitals to participate at their preferred level of commitment. EU-SolidAct will aim to run repurposing trials, evaluating combination strategies as well as evaluating efficacy and safety of new compounds entering clinical development on COVID 19. Although in the short-term this project will focus on COVID-19, the mid-term/long-term objectives are to build a platform trial network on emerging infectious diseases in general. The project also includes a coordination module with the EU-funded RECOVER project, led by ECRIN<sup>1</sup>, ensuring complementarity and cooperation across all large European COVID-19 Adaptive Platform trials, and their capacity to answer the needs of society through dialogue with the EMA, national competent authorities, HTAs and industry partners.

EU-RESPONSE project officially started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2020. The project consortium, coordinated by Inserm acting as multinational sponsor, includes 20 academic partners (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey), together with ECRIN and its national nodes in participating countries that supports multinational trial management.

Joining forces in Europe and with international partners will contribute to the global clinical trial capacity for urgently meeting the expectations of society and medicine developers to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. It will also support multinational cooperation in Europe and will have a major impact on epidemic control.

Prof. Yazdanpanah, the project coordinator, stated: “Research is an important component of the response to emerging infectious diseases. A prepared, coordinated, multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary

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<sup>1</sup> European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network, [www.ecriin.org](http://www.ecriin.org)

European research approach is needed to make this response more effective. EU-RESPONSE is an important step toward this European research coordination.”

A link to the news article published by the European Commission in relation to this project is available here : [https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-supports-international-clinical-research-network-treat-covid-19-2020-sep-18\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/news/commission-supports-international-clinical-research-network-treat-covid-19-2020-sep-18_en)

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