

EMBL Conference: Lifelong Learning in the Biomedical Sciences Heidelberg, 5–7 July 2016

MEETING ABSTRACT

A3.9

Stay ahead in biomedical sciences—catch the LifeTrain

Mike HARDMAN¹, Cath BROOKSBANK², Claire JOHNSON²,
Christa JANKO^{3,4}, Heinrich KLECH⁴, Klaus WASSERMANN^{3,*}
and Hans H. LINDÉN⁶

¹Coordinator IMI EMTRAIN, AstraZeneca, United Kingdom;

²EMBL–EBI, United Kingdom; ³Managing Entity IMI EMTRAIN,

Medical University of Vienna, Austria; ⁴current address: Eli Lilly

Regional Operations, Austria; ⁵Vienna School of Clinical Research,

Public Health and Medical Education, Austria; ⁶EUFEPS – European

Federation for Pharmaceutical Sciences, Sweden

The medicines research and development process is undergoing considerable change. Today, professionals are expected to be much more agile, moving and collaborating between disciplines, sectors and geographical locations. This necessitates continually developing and maintaining competencies required to work most effectively.

LifeTrain [1] is a cross-sectoral platform for supporting continuing professional development (CPD) in the medical, biomedical and pharmaceutical fields. The initiative aims at promoting dialogue between employers, course providers and scientific communities, and at providing professionals with guidance for career planning and competence development. Funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) as part of the imi-train project [2]. LifeTrain registers a growing list of signatories who have agreed to its principles and to work towards their implementation.

Within the LifeTrain framework, an increasing number of stakeholders are focussing on the development and implementation of competency profiles and certification processes to recognise that bearers excel in their respective disciplines regarding standards of education, skills, experience and professional standing. In Parallel, individual professionals are advised to develop and maintain competency portfolios which are recognised by both professional/scientific bodies and employers.

Since its foundation in 2011 LifeTrain has run four workshops, conducted specific research and pursued broad networking efforts to engage stakeholder groups. Case studies and success stories have been documented for dissemination and motivation. In addition, efforts were taken to integrate the LifeTrain concepts in policy makers' and funders strategies.

Lifetrain strives to disseminate its agreed principles for broad implementation and recognition. Ultimately, the initiative's aim is to establish its principles as state-of-the-art within the sciences now addressed, and potentially beyond.

Links

1. <http://www.lifetrain.eu>
2. <http://www.imi-train.eu>

*Presenting author e-mail: klaus.wassermann@meduniwien.ac.at