OPPORTUNITY FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN PRIMARY CARE: COOPERATION BETWEEN EUROPEAN MEDICAL AGENCY AND ORGANIZATIONS OF GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

G. Visentin

"Crosscutting Informal Care and Professional Primary Care" Riga 04-06/09/2016
Why independent primary care research?

- **Independent** because GPs are not involved to research on behalf of pharmaceutical industry.
- **Primary care** because reality is not enough described by big data.
- **Research** because is the only way to describe properly the reality.
ECRIN Integrating Activity - Clinical Research in Europe

ECRIN Integrating Activity (ECRIN-IA) is a collaborative project, initially running from 2012 to 2015, funded by the European Commission Framework Program 7 and involving 23 countries. Work package (WP) 7 was extended until 2017.

http://www.ecrin.org/multinational-clinical-trial-funding
Independent research funding in Europe
Nefarma has supported research and related activities indirectly via other organisations and without a direct industry interest. First the current initiative. Nefarma supports a research programme of the Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (Dutch medical research council). The programme is called Goed Gebruik Geneesmiddelen (could be translated as Good Medicine Use). This programme is ordered and mainly funded by the Ministry of Health. Nefarma is co-financing parts of the programme. For a couple of years Nefarma has funded a foundation called Platform Patient and Industry. This platform has made a programme of support and research on patients and use of medicine (areas such as compliance). It had an independent committee to judge proposals. Finally, Nefarma has also supported an initiative on compliance, that included all major stakeholders from patient organizations, policy-makers, research and industry.
Independent research is worthwhile

Conclusions: Even though it takes time to set up and conduct a funding program for independent research on drugs, the results are highly rewarding. Independent funding is crucial in supporting studies aimed at answering questions that are relevant for clinical practice despite the lack of sufficient commercial interest.

Traversa et al. Orphanet Journal of Rare Diseases (2016) 11:36
National funding research are mainly addressed to:

- Clinical trials
- Academic research
- Apparently not (or few) observational studies
- Scarce involvement of general practice
In March 2014 EMA launched a pilot project to explore the adaptive pathways approach.

Adaptive pathways seeks to balance timely access for patients who are likely to benefit most from the medicine with the need to provide adequate evolving information on the benefits and risks of the medicine itself.
Real World Data (RWD) : another way to explore drug safety

**PROTECT (Europe-EMA):** Partnership among EMA, Pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions. 7 work programs. In WP2 drug-adverse events pairs were studied in 6 different european databases with common protocols and with different methods.
Real World Data (RWD): another way to explore drug safety

PROTECT (Europe-EMA): Partnership among EMA, Pharmaceutical companies and academic institutions. 7 work programs. In WP2 drug-adverse events pairs were studied in 6 different European databases with common protocols and with different methods.
Real World Data (RWD) : another way to explore drug safety (USA)

- **OMOP Initiative (USA-FDA):** a 5-yr experience in USA (2008-2013). Assembled 5 different electronic databases to study and validate study methods. 4 health outcome events studies and 7 different analytical methods tested.

- **OHDSI:** The Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics (OHDSI) program is a multi-stakeholder, interdisciplinary collaborative that includes all of the members of the OMOP investigator team. Whereas OMOP was restricted to methodological research, OHDSI develops and applies methods to observational data to answer real-world clinical questions.

- **The SENTINEL Initiative (USA-FDA):** starting in 2008, it’s a long-term program designed to build and implement a national electronic system for monitoring the safety of FDA-approved drugs and other medical products. Once completed, the system under development by the Sentinel Initiative will be called the Sentinel System.
Risk management plan

• In Risk Management Plan of drugs approved by EMA diverse post marketing studies addressing risk

• One agreed with companies and EMA

• These studies would better be developed by independent research teams
The research programs and pilot systems created to study harms of licensed drugs proved largely unable to provide credible evidence of new, unsuspected drug adverse effects, and conflicting and contradictory results when seeking to confirm known harms.

Despite their potential, there is no evidence that Electronic Health Data can provide reliable surveillance to identify new drug risks.
Primary care

- Database are optimized for economic reports but are not sensible in finding clinical outcomes.
- ACG demonstrate that without GPs data are not accurate.
- Also in small numbers (Sogaro) they miss diagnosis.
Distribuzione RUBs con e senza diagnosi dei MMG

Without GP diagnoses
- Very High/high: 44.2%
- Moderate: 17.1%
- Low: 17.4%
- Healthy user: 4.5%
- Non user: 14.2%

Reference USA
- Very High/high: 39.3%
- Moderate: 18.5%
- Low: 13.4%
Heart failure detected by ACGSogaro
Primary care research

- Because pragmatic research can add stronger informations for the safety compared to the informations coming from a data base.
- Because patient centered research can imply different point of view that should take in account by the regulatory bodies.
...not only academy...
In March 2007 12513 patients were enrolled in Risk and Prevention study
860 medici ricercatori distribuiti in tutta Italia
12.513 pazienti arruolati e seguiti per 5 anni
Netto miglioramento del profilo prescrittivo di Statine, ACE-inibitori, Antiaggreganti
Diminuzione dei valori di PA e LDL
Profilo glicometabolico dei diabetici invariato
Dimostrato l’effetto sulla riduzione di mortalità attraverso dieta corretta, attività fisica, abolizione del fumo
Inefficacia degli n-3 PUFA, relativamente al contesto di popolazione oggetto della sperimentazione
SPONSOR

It is the person, society, institution or the body:

- Who assumes the responsibility to start, manage and/or fund an experimental study
- Who makes the application of the experimental design (at central level first and then at local level)
- Who indicates the responsible and coordinator of the trial
• Who communicates the list of the Regions where the trial is carried out

• Who organise specific courses for the researchers

• Who is the publisher of the results of the trial

• Who may use the data for the registration

Collaborative Group is the owner of the project