

REWARD

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Updates

November 2016

Increasing value of biomedical research: the Lancet-REWARD campaign

Italian REWARD Conference, hosted by GIMBE Foundation

Bologna, November 9th, 2016

Recently, several initiatives have witnessed a renewed interest for biomedical research in Italy: a new call for the independent drugs research program by Italian Medicines Agency, funds for Human Technopole (a predictive medicine national centre), a call for a National Agency for Research. This has led to the need for indicators to measure the return of funds invested in biomedical research: scientific productivity, quality of published evidence, impact of research on the National Health Service and on health outcomes, beside patents and profits.

As first Italian organization endorsing the Lancet-REWARD campaign, GIMBE Foundation is encouraging all stakeholders to increase value and reduce waste in biomedical research. After the publication of the [Italian version of REWARD recommendations](#), on the 9th of November GIMBE Foundation organized a national conference in Bologna attended by over 150 participants, representing all stakeholders: researchers, public and private funders, regulatory bodies, research institutions, ethics committees, publishers, patient organizations and government. The opening session focused on health research's funding in Italy: in 2015 drug companies invested € 1,5 billion, while public funds account for less than € 500 million. Sir Iain Chalmers illustrated the human consequences of waste identified in the Lancet series, namely failure to systematically review what is already known before embarking on additional research, and biased under-reporting of research. Up for discussion with various stakeholders, three interactive sessions led by Silvio Garattini (Director of Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research) and Nino Cartabellotta (President of GIMBE Foundation) addressed problems leading to research waste. Delegates actively contributed using a tele voting system to score the relevance of 17 recommendations made in the Lancet series. Results of the survey and Conference report are available on GIMBE website (www.gimbe.org/ricerca).

GIMBE Foundation is now approaching the major Italian public funders in order to integrate the most relevant REWARD recommendations into national calls for biomedical research. Further steps and results will be presented in the REWARD session during the 8th EBHC International Conference, that will be held in Taormina from 25th to 28th October 2017 (www.ebhc.org).

