

**Written submission by the British Pharmacological Society to the *Brexit: Science and Innovation Summit* call of the Science and Technology Committee, House of Commons**

**Background**

1. The British Pharmacological Society (BPS) is the primary UK learned society concerned with research into drugs and the way they work. The Society has around 4,000 members working in academia, industry, regulatory agencies and the health services, and many are medically qualified. The Society covers the whole spectrum of pharmacology, including laboratory, clinical, and toxicological aspects. Pharmacology is a key knowledge and skills base for developments in the pharmaceutical and biotech industries, and is therefore fundamental to a thriving UK industry and R&D. The Society publishes three scientific journals: the British Journal of Pharmacology, the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology, and Pharmacology Research and Perspectives.

**Brexit and the Regulation of Medicines and Devices**

2. As we have previously reported<sup>1,2</sup>, leaving the EU could have profound consequences for the availability and safety of medicines and devices in the UK. We have chosen to focus our submission on measures we believe will help mitigate this particular risk.
3. The Society's preferred option would be for the UK – through the Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) – to remain intimately involved with activities of the European Medicines Agency (EMA).
4. The Society hopes that the MHRA will continue to be closely involved with the EMA by:
  - 4.1 Undertaking its share of the detailed scientific assessments (as rapporteur/co-rapporteur and/or reference member state);
  - 4.2 Participating in all the scientific meetings and accept the decisions for licensure in the UK made by the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP);
  - 4.3 Sharing in the EU's pharmacovigilance activities;
  - 4.4 Sharing the results of inspections (including GMP and GCP inspections);
  - 4.5 Having access to, and being active contributors to, the clinical trials portal when this goes live (likely in late 2019).
5. Finally, the Society hopes that the EU-27 will continue to recognise the UK's Notified Bodies and that UK will continue to recognise Notified Bodies located in the EU-27.

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<sup>1</sup> Written submission by the British Pharmacological Society to the Industrial Strategy Green Paper, April 2017 <https://www.bps.ac.uk/about/policy-positions-and-statements/consultation-responses/articles/response-to-industrial-strategy-green-paper> (accessed 29 January 2018)

<sup>2</sup> Written submission by the British Pharmacological Society to the Life Sciences and Industrial Strategy, September 2017 <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/science-and-technology-committee-lords/life-sciences-and-the-industrial-strategy/written/70254.pdf> (accessed 29 January 2018)