

Charter

REMEDi4ALL Funders Network

October 2023

Version 1.0

The REMEDI4ALL Funders Network is established in October 2023 as part of the REMEDI4ALL drug repurposing platform.

Purpose

The purpose of the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network is to enhance high impact drug repurposing research. It comprises diverse funding entities - both public and private - from across the globe that are dedicated to advancing drug repurposing initiatives.

Background

Drug repurposing (DR) has demonstrated high utility to serve unmet patient needs in a broad variety of disease areas. Successful examples are the repurposing of fexinidazole for the treatment of sleeping sickness, dimethyl fumarate for multiple sclerosis or the use of dexamethasone for COVID-19. However, drug repurposing is a complex endeavour requiring expertise from multiple disciplines to align for success. Currently, the drug repurposing eco-system remains at an early stage of development, with several systemic inefficiencies that hamper the pace and effectiveness of drug repurposing. These include:

- A fragmented and siloed DR research and development (R&D) environment and a healthcare landscape that lacks a framework for true co-creation with patients and without an easily identifiable value chain to put the medicine on the market. This results in inefficiencies as DR researchers struggle to find competent partners outside of their own specialised domains, and projects lack the momentum and drive provided by patient champions;
- Heterogeneous availability and quality of computational tools, scattered and non-standardised datasets and other resources to support effective rational DR utilising machine learning and artificial intelligence methods. The in-silico area is highly siloed, often with little understanding of the reliability of the tools available to the DR community, while later preclinical projects are often advanced with little evidence of mechanism of action;
- A lack of understanding among many DR researchers - as well as a lack of institutional support from employers - of all the steps, including regulatory processed and substantial patient engagement needed, to advance their specific project to market and into practice, resulting in inefficient Research and Development (R&D) and wasted time and resources;
- A reimbursement and health technology assessment (HTA) environment that has impediments to efficient uptake of repurposed drugs, lacking a viable path to market for repurposed generic medicines;
- A regulatory landscape that is not yet fully aligned to the specific needs of the DR process;
- Limited involvement of biotech and pharma companies in academic- or patient-led repurposing trials;
- Long standing financial disincentives when repurposing generic products with multiple manufacturers and no mechanisms to confer returns on investment should one or more of them invest in DR projects; and
- A funding eco-system showing increasing interest in repurposing, but not as yet coordinated, leading to undesired duplication, funding gaps and large variation across countries and regions.

REMEDi4ALL is an EU-funded research initiative, launched in September 2022, to drive forward the repurposing of medicines. In five years' time, the REMEDI4ALL consortium (consisting of 24 European partners, led by EATRIS) will establish a sustainable innovation platform for drug repurposing, designed to tackle the above issues, generate system-wide improvement in the efficiency and effectiveness of the drug repurposing process and support harmonisation in the EU and globally. The REMEDI4ALL vision is: An EU research and innovation eco-system that facilitates

fast and cost-effective patient-centric development and implementation of repurposed medicines, meeting high unmet medical needs in any disease area.

As part of REMEDI4ALL, a funders network – the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network – is established, led by ZonMw and in collaboration with the Anticancer Fund. ZonMw is the Dutch organisation for health research and development and has been funding drug repurposing research now for over 10 years. The Anticancer Fund is a Belgian not-for-profit research foundation with international scope.

Objectives

The REMEDI4ALL Funders Network brings together diverse funding entities - both public and private - from across the globe that are dedicated to advancing drug repurposing initiatives. We aim to:

- **collaborate** – facilitate collaboration among all type of funding entities and promote collaboration with research institutions, and other stakeholders through the REMEDI4ALL platform to foster a multidisciplinary and cross-border approach to drug repurposing research;
- **synergize funding activities** – reduce fragmentation of the drug repurposing funding landscape, we support alignment of research agenda's, facilitate coordination of funding activities, and support joint calls;
- **innovate funding and business models** – through public private collaboration we create innovative funding streams and explore viable business models;
- **share best practices** – facilitate exchange of best practices and learnings among funders through annual meetings, working groups, guidance, tools and multiple resources;
- **provide a marketplace for funding opportunities** – connect funders with investigators and projects that run through the REMEDI4ALL platform, including opportunities for joint funding;
- **support high-impact & patient-centric projects** – support identification and prioritization of patient-centric drug repurposing projects with the potential for high impact, focusing on those that address significant unmet medical needs;
- **enhance research quality** – promote the use of standardized methodologies, quality control measures, data-sharing practices and ethical considerations to improve the reliability and rigor of drug repurposing research;
- **find solutions for funding barriers** – facilitate an inclusive forum for discussion (think tank) where funders are encouraged to share their funding perspectives and actively engage in conversations surrounding policy matters and potential solutions to enhance the field;
- **advocate for policy changes** – support drug repurposing at national and international levels, including changes in regulatory approval pathways, reimbursement and HTA processes.

The REMEDI4ALL Funders Network will closely collaborate with the overall REMEDI4ALL consortium and platform that is being established.

The REMEDI4ALL Funders Network is not a new funding organisation but aims to make the work of its members more effective through collaboration and by jointly addressing the barriers to drug repurposing.

Membership

Members of the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network include diverse funding entities - both public and private - from across the globe that are dedicated to advancing drug repurposing initiatives. Other organisations or individuals can join as observer, but do not have voting rights.

Member

Applicable for organisations, not for individuals. To become a member, an organisation needs to:

- be a funding entity (public or private) and
- share the purpose, objectives and principles of the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network.

Observer

An organisation or individual can be an observer if:

- the organisation represents funders (without being a funder itself), or sets funding policies, or works closely with researchers or research funders, or makes contributions to improving the health research funding landscape or
- the individual is a leading voice in the field relevant to drug repurposing or represents a group of stakeholders whose voice should be present at the network discussions and
- share the purpose, objectives and principles of the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network.

Membership can be requested by completing the membership application form and sending it to remedi4all@zonmw.nl. All current members and observers are shown on the [REMEDi4ALL Funders webpage](#).

Commitment

Members follow the principles of the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network, see details in section 'Principles'.

There is currently no legal or financial commitment required to be a member or observer. This may change in the future and will be communicated to members in advance. Members pay their own travel and subsistence expenses related to meetings of the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network.

Benefits

Funders join the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network to:

- be part of a strong and impactful international network comprising diverse funding entities - both public and private – that are committed to driving drug repurposing forward;
- share best funding practice with other funders and learn through annual meetings, working groups, guidance, tools and multiple resources;
- promote, enable and incentivize high-impact and patient-centric drug repurposing projects;
- engage in (public-private) partnerships that can lead to innovative funding streams and business models;

- synergize funding activities with like-minded funders and collaborate in joint calls;
- connect to researcher projects through the REMEDi4ALL platform, funding radar database and multistakeholder meetings;
- engage in conversations surrounding policy matters and work on better implementation of drug repurposing project results (including regulatory approval pathways for drug repurposing products, reimbursement and HTA processes);
- be part of a think tank and propose solutions and incentives needed to overcome funding barriers;
- show their organisations' commitment to improve drug repurposing;
- make their vision for the future of drug repurposing count;
- be close to the development of the REMEDi4ALL platform and receive the latest news;
- be part of a community with critical mass that is heard in discussions with policy makers and other stakeholders.

Principles

Principles will be developed by the members of the REMEDi4ALL Funders Network in collaboration with the REMEDi4ALL consortium.

Governance

The REMEDi4ALL Funders Network is established in October 2023 under the lead of ZonMw and in collaboration with the Anticancer Fund. It is developed as part of the EU-research initiative REMEDi4ALL (term September 2022 to September 2027). The network will evolve over the coming years, starting with funders to join the network, designing and implementing the networks' governance and setting up a strategic agenda, including prioritization of main focus topics and establishment of working groups.

Secretariat

The secretariat is initially hosted by ZonMw. The secretariat oversees and provides support to the REMEDi4ALL Funders Network and will initially:

- keep the network on track by identifying and framing emerging issues and collecting agenda topics;
- facilitate information sharing among the members;
- organise an annual meeting to share best practices;
- raise visibility of our global coalition and its activities.

Steering Group

The Steering group initially consists of ZonMw and the Anticancer Fund. As the REMEDi4ALL Funders Network evolves the Steering Group will consist of a diverse representation of the network's members. The purpose of the Steering Group is to consider strategic and major operational issues for the REMEDi4ALL Funders Network. The responsibilities of the Steering Group initially are:

- setting up a strategic agenda;

- consider major operational issues for the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network, including supporting the development and delivery of the agenda for the meetings;
- ensure that opportunities are addressed that could impact on the collaboration and development of the network - finance, infrastructure and reputation;
- consider new membership requests;
- review and update the REMEDI4ALL Funders Network documentation including this document at least annually.