

Refounding research and innovation at the heart of the University Hospitals

Symposium of the French National Academy of Medicine

Press release of the French National Academy of Medicine (*)

September 20, 2022

The University Hospital Centers (CHU) were created, and the status of University Hospital staff (HU) defined, by the ministerial order of 1958, with the triple mission of care, teaching, and research. However, the evolution of CHU has gradually moved away from the research mission, which had shown its effectiveness by offering patients high-level medicine adapted to all pathologies. Faced with this observation, a symposium of the French National Academy of Medicine brought together on September 7 and 8, 2022 more than 100 personalities from the scientific, economic, and political world, including the presidents of France-Universities and of the Conference of Deans of Medicine, representatives of Ministries, members of Parliament, etc.

After a recall of the work produced by the French National Academy of Medicine on the state of research in biology and health, and the place of University Hospitals in its organization [1], national and European experts presented the systems deployed in countries comparable to France, but which invest two to three times more in biology-health research: Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and Belgium. Three round tables identified areas of improvement in the organization of research in biology and health and its integration into University Hospitals, the attractiveness of careers and innovation in health. Several recommendations emerged:

1- *Ways to proceed: better targeted towards a quality research*

Transforming the financial contribution of Social Security to research developed in hospitals into a real grant to research teams via a mechanism allocating resources in accordance with international standards; at the same time, increasing significantly research funding in biology and health to get closer to the levels reached in comparable European countries.

2- *Human resources: restoring the attractiveness of university medicine and promoting its orientation towards research*

Modernizing the status of University Hospital staff by introducing mobility and flexibility, firstly in recruitment then throughout the career to promote a quality research in research teams and within hospital departments.

3- *Governance: putting back the University Hospitals at the heart of the University and research at the heart of the University Hospitals*

Identifying in each region University Hospital sites with research teams of international visibility; setting up a scientific and medical management of the University Hospitals.

4- ***Innovation: facilitating technology transfer by simplifying support for innovation and encouraging risk-taking***

Creating ecosystems integrated into University Hospital research sites, which bring together industry, Health-Tech and private investors; simplifying innovation support mechanisms to make them more efficient and not afraid of risk-taking.

(*) Press release from the Academy's Rapid Communication Platform validated by the members of the Board of Directors on September 20, 2022.

[1] https://www.academie-medecine.fr/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Rapport-19-05-Contribution-au-projet-d-une-loi-_2019_Bulletin-de-l-Acad-mie.pdf

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