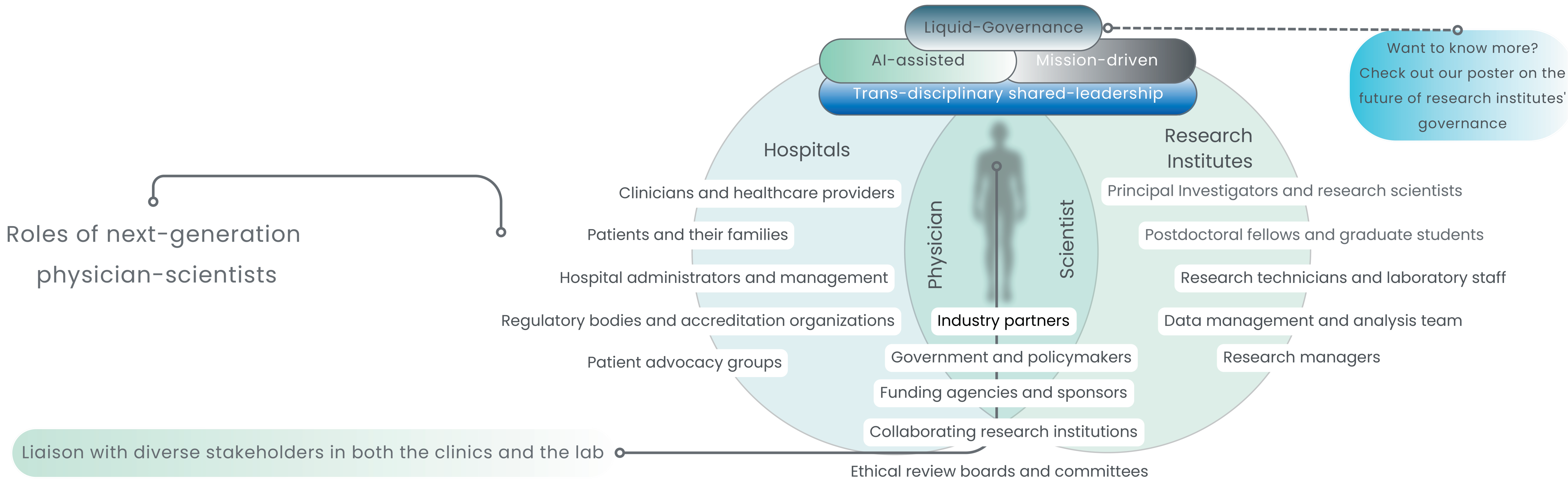


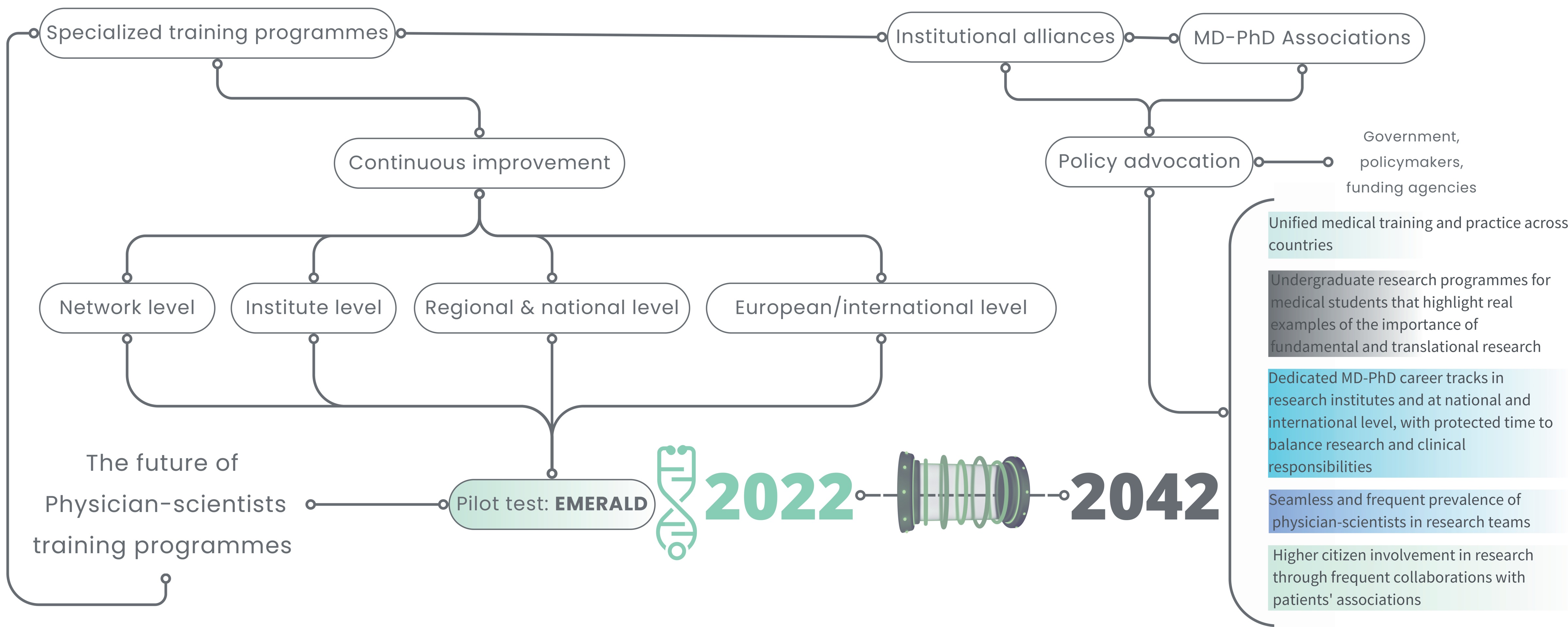
A Physician-Scientist a Day Keeps the Bench-to-Bedside Gap Away: A Prescription for the Future Integration of Research and Healthcare

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Precision medicine demands a deep understanding of the molecular basis of diseases, yet the **prevalence of specialized physicians or researchers with the skills to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research and clinical practice remains low**, partly as a consequence of the **lack of specialized training programmes** at local, and European-level.

This has resulted in **multiple fractures between research and clinical practice**, partly caused by a **bilateral scientific to clinical aphasia**, which delays the translation of cutting-edge research into clinical benefits.



The **prescription** for this issue is **higher doses of physician-scientists (MD-PhDs)**, trained in **specialized programmes**, that are necessary to equip future physician-scientists with the skills to succeed in a rapidly changing research and medical landscape. Such programmes should be **fostered between institutional alliances** to **ensure sustainability over time** and that the latest scientific technology is integrated with the latest clinical needs, and the specialized courses are organized at a wider level. EMERALD, the **first European-wide training programme for physician-scientists**, was born from the collaborative efforts of **EU-LIFE**, thus being an excellent trail to develop the tools for establishing wider and more **sustainable specialized programmes** for physician-scientists.

The future of healthcare demands a **new type of medical professionals who feel equally at home in the laboratory and the clinic, fluently liaising with the different stakeholders in hospitals and research institutes**. The prescription of frequent doses of physician-scientists, in combination with the development of specialized training programs like EMERALD, is the key to bridging the current bench-to-bedside gap. By following this treatment, we can look forward to a future where medicine is truly personalized and the best possible outcomes are achieved for all patients.

