Editorial

Welcome!

During the week of 21 March, our European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) met in Brussels. On day two of their meeting, the tragic attacks on Zaventem airport and Maelbeek Metro station unfolded. I would firstly like to extend our sympathies to all those affected by these attacks. I am relieved to inform you that all members of the group and of the Alzheimer Europe (AE) staff who were in Brussels at the time got home safely. I would like to commend everyone at the meeting for their courage in remaining calm and professional in this highly stressful situation. They managed to continue with the meeting as planned and stuck to the agenda.

Business as usual! Two Vice-Chairs of the group, Agnes and Helen even took the time to write about their experiences for the “Living with dementia” section of this newsletter.

The month began with our first series of meetings for 2016, in Luxembourg, including a Board meeting, Company Round Table meeting and a Public Affairs meeting. As ever, we are grateful to all participants for their valuable contributions, helping us to steer the course for our annual publications and other projects.

On the EU policy front this month, the Netherlands EU Presidency hosted a meeting on access to innovative medicines in Brussels, and the 2nd EU Joint Action on Dementia was launched in Luxembourg. The aim of this Joint Action is to provide practical guidance for policy makers developing and implementing their national dementia plans, policies and strategies and will focus on four key areas: diagnosis and post-diagnostic support, crisis and care coordination, residential care and dementia-friendly communities.

March has also been a positive month for members of our European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), five of whom were winners at the 12th annual “MEP awards”, hosted by the Parliament Magazine. Paul Rübig, MEP also hosted an event on research in neuroscience as part of 2016 Brain Awareness Week, an occasion celebrated across Europe by many of our national members associations also.

On the science front, AE is delighted to have been involved in a comprehensive report put together by the Lancet Neurology Commission, detailing recommendations on how dementia care and research should be organised in the future.

I would also like to draw your attention to four open positions related to the INDUCT project. Two of these are in Brussels, one in Prague and one in Salamanca. See our “Job opportunities” section.

Last but not least, at the start of the month, registrations opened for our upcoming 26th annual conference, 26AEC in Copenhagen, Denmark. I hope to see you all there!

Jean Georges
Executive Director
Alzheimer Europe

29 February: Alzheimer Europe holds first Board meeting of the year

The Alzheimer Europe Board members held their first meeting of 2016 on 29 February and 1 March in Luxembourg.

The Board discussed various financial and operational matters, including preparations for the 26th Alzheimer Europe Conference, to be held this year in Copenhagen, Denmark from 31 October to 2 November.

The next Board meeting will take place at the end of June.

1 March: AE hosts Company Round Table

Alzheimer Europe hosted a Company Round Table meeting in Luxembourg on 1 March. In all, 36 people were in attendance, including nine representatives from sponsor companies and a further 20 from AE member countries.

The delegates saw the presentation “Dementia as a global and European priority”, an overview on EU, WHO and G7 initiatives on dementia. They also discussed the recent Alzheimer’s Association Academy, an AE event that took place in December 2015. This was followed by AE staff presenting ongoing activities, such as the Clinical Trial Watch and Guideline Watch projects, as well as the European Dementia Monitor.

2 March: Alzheimer Europe hosts Public Affairs meeting in Luxembourg

On 2 March, Alzheimer Europe hosted a Public Affairs meeting in Luxembourg. Eighteen representatives from AE member organisations, and six AE staff members were in attendance.

AE Chair, Heike von Lützau-Hohlebin welcomed participants and opened the floor for member associations to present their recent activities. Representatives from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland and Monaco shared their national activities, campaigns and initiatives with the group. Many lively discussions emerged during this interactive session, in particular around funding issues, the varying costs of care, the withdrawal of medical reimbursement in some countries, a number of social and healthcare reforms and what might constitute a dementia-friendly society.

AE Project Officer Ana Diaz introduced the 2016 Yearbook project. This year’s theme is “Protecting the autonomy and self-determination of people with dementia”. After an introduction of her ideas and plans, and some feedback from members, Ana gave the floor to representatives from Croatia, Ireland and Portugal. Nino Mimica, President of Alzheimer Croatia, Collette Kelleher, Chief Executive of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland and Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Member of the Audit Committee of Alzheimer Portugal took turns to speak about the legal protection of people with dementia in their countries, raising some very interesting points for debate around the table.

Ana then laid out the next steps regarding the yearbook project and brought the new Active and Assisted Living (AAL) call for 2016 to the attention of all present. This year’s topic is “living well with dementia” and many AE member countries are eligible to participate. More information about this call is available here:

http://www.aal-europe.eu/get-involved/aal-2016/

Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor then took the floor to present a new public affairs strategy for AE, including some of the key issues being discussed at EU level, work with European Parliament (EP) Interest Groups, some ideas on methods for recruiting MEPs to our European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) and how we can use the EU Presidencies to increase EU collaboration. She also mentioned the positive impact of our 2015 Glasgow Declaration campaign.

Representatives from Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Turkey and the United Kingdom (Scotland) were up next, taking turns to share their interesting national activities, campaigns and initiatives with the group. Discussions emerging from these presentations mainly revolved around national dementia strategies and some of the difficulties experienced in implementing them, with the importance of ensuring funding is well planned to support implementation being particularly emphasised. Election campaigns, reducing stigma around dementia and Dementia Friends movements were also hot topics during this last section of the meeting.

The next Public Affairs meeting will take place in Brussels on 28 and 29 June.

2 March: EWGPWD Vice-Chair Hilary Doxford encourages people living with dementia to join research

On 2 March, English newspaper The Western Gazette ran a story about Hilary Doxford, Vice-Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe’s European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), encouraging people living with dementia to sign up for research studies via the UK service Join Dementia Research (JDR).

Funded by the UK Department of Health, JDR matches potential dementia study participants with researchers in the UK. The service is delivered in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research, Alzheimer’s Research UK and the Alzheimer’s Society.

Ms Doxford (pictured, with her husband Peter Paniccia), herself living with early onset Alzheimer’s dementia, is currently taking part in a research study looking at brain inflammation as dementia develops.

“I have enjoyed taking part in the study and love being involved in research. I am well looked after, I have interesting discussions, gain an insight into the latest theories; I am aware of the latest results and it keeps my brain active”, she told The Western Gazette.
Ms Doxford also believes research participation has given her a better understanding of the disease progression that she might otherwise have had.

In an earlier online article by Bristol Health Partners, about an event to promote JDR in the South West of England, where Ms Doxford is from, she commented that "anything that can help researchers complete their research sooner has to be good news for people with dementia, and the register does just that.”


8 March: Registrations are now open for our 26th annual conference

Alzheimer Europe and the Danish Alzheimer’s association (Alzheimerforeningen) invite you to register for the 26th AE annual conference, this year to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark from 31 October to 2 November.

You can take advantage of the early bird registration fee via our website, until 30 June.

The full conference registration fee includes:

- Admission to all sessions.
- Delegate bag and final programme including the abstract book.
- Opening ceremony and welcome reception.
- Scheduled coffee breaks and lunches on 1 and 2 November.

Please note the registration fees for the conference do not include the Gala dinner. Delegates can register for the Gala dinner via the AE website and an early bird fee is also available until 30 June.

AE and Alzheimerforeningen are providing reduced rates for people living with dementia, students, delegates from low and middle income countries (World Bank Categories) and Alzheimerforeningen members and staff.

One day registrations are also available.

http://alzheimer-europe.org/conferences/2016-copenhagen/registration-fees

21 March: EWGPWD goes ahead with meeting amidst heightened security measures in Brussels

From 21 to 23 March, the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) met in Brussels for a three-day meeting, which was marked by the tragic incidents at the airport and in the metro in Brussels on the morning of Tuesday 22 March.

Everyone was calm and the meeting was carried out as planned, whilst Alzheimer Europe staff took the necessary measures to ensure that everyone could return home safely.

It was a very productive meeting, during which the members of the group took part in three consultations, made plans for the annual AE conference (26AEC) to be held in Copenhagen later this year and organised the working procedure for their involvement in AE’s work on the clinical trials database and on the updating of the yearbook and the ethics work on changing definitions of Alzheimer’s disease. AE Director for Projects Dianne Gove and AE Project Officer Ana Diaz provided support and carried out the consultations. They were joined by AE Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor, who gave the group an update on the Accessibility Act and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

There was some discussion about the upcoming elections for the EWGPWD, which will take place during 26AEC, at the end of October. The EWGPWD and AE would welcome new members to the group. Anyone with dementia who is interested in joining should contact AE for more information about what is involved and then ask their national Alzheimer association to nominate them before 31 July 2016.

EU projects

25 February: SMART4MD project reports on phase 1 of user-centric research on e-health solutions

The SMART4MD project has successfully completed its first phase of user-centric research, including interviews with healthcare professionals and focus groups, involving people with mild dementia and their carers.

The findings have been published in a report, which will form the basis for designing and developing the first prototype of the Support, Monitoring and Reminder Technology for Mild Dementia (SMART4MD) application (app).

The four year SMART4MD project launched in 2015, funded by the European Commission’s Horizon2020 programme. The app it is building aims to help people with mild dementia adhere to treatment regimens as well as allowing them to share health-related data with their carers and doctors, thus giving them more control over their care. It also aims to slow cognitive and functional decline, reduce pressure on carers and reduce costs for healthcare providers.

To read the project’s full report on its phase 1 research, click here:

http://dx-dicom.org/report-on-phase-1-of-user-centric-research-of-the-project-smart4md-for-people-with-mild-dementia

25 February: Healthcare IT Journal discusses EPAD and the power of big data

An article published on 25 February in the “Global Trends” section of Healthcare IT Journal HIMSS Insights has placed particular emphasis on the work being done by the European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia (EPAD) Initiative in the area of big data and collaboration.
The article “Big Data Ripe For The Picking?” features comments from Professor Craig Ritchie, EPAD co-coordinator and Professor of the Psychiatry of Ageing at the University of Edinburgh, and Chris Roche, CEO of Scottish clinical and translational informatics company Aridhia, home to EPAD’s data and analytics platform AnalytiXagility.

http://www.himssinsights-digital.com/esights/vol_4_number_2/pg=36#pg36

7 March: ROADMAP project passes first IMI approval hurdle

After a positive first-stage evaluation by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) on 7 March, the ROADMAP project, which intends to develop a multimodal data access platform, has been officially invited to develop a second stage application. The acronym ROADMAP stands for “Real world outcomes across the AD spectrum for better care”.

The final project submission must be made by 14 June.

9 March: Rise – MinD project kicks off

On 9 and 10 March, the University of Wolverhampton’s Brussels office hosted the first partner meeting of the MinD project, which is a collaboration in the area of designing for the mindful self-empowerment and social engagement of people with dementia. This kick-off meeting was a first opportunity for researchers from ten partner organisations in five European countries to discuss the goals and practicalities of the project.

Partner organisations include Alzheimer Europe, alongside a combination of universities, healthcare providers and design professionals.

During this four-year project, which will run until February 2020, partners will work together to design and create a number of experiential prototypes to support people living with dementia. These will cover designing to help with personal difficulties with social engagement and designing the environment to help with social engagement.

www.designingfordementia.eu

10 March: EPAD WP6 team reviews communication strategy

Members of the EPAD WP6 communication team held a one day meeting in Luxembourg on 10 March to review the project’s communication strategy.

The participants discussed external communication goals and expectations and paid particular attention to communication with and retention of research participants. The team also took this opportunity to plan activities around EPAD’s 2016 General Assembly, which will take place in May in Barcelona, Spain.

The meeting was attended by Serge van der Geyten and Lennert Steukers (Janssen), Karine Fauria (Pasqual Maragall Foundation), as well as Alzheimer Europe’s Executive Director Jean Georges, Director for Communication Alex Teligadas and Communications Officer Kate Boor Ellis.

http://ep-ad.org/

14 March: AETIONOMY holds Steering Committee meeting

The AETIONOMY project aims to generate disease-specific, mechanism based taxonomies for Parkinson’s (PD) and Alzheimer’s diseases (AD), which will hopefully lead to better treatments. The Steering Committee meeting took place on 14 March at the Fraunhofer site in Bonn (Germany). During the meeting, work package leaders presented their ongoing work and discussed the main deliverables for 2016.

The involvement of the AETIONOMY consortium with other research initiatives, including other IMI consortiums was also discussed. Delegates had the opportunity to hear in detail about the work that WP3 is undertaking to produce proof-of-concept disease hypotheses for PD and AD on the basis of mining public data, with presentations from University College London, Karolinska Institute and Fraunhofer. Ana Diaz, AE Project Officer attended the meeting.

14 March: EMIF partners hold 4th General Assembly

The EMIF partners held the 4th General Assembly of the “Alzheimer’s disease” (AD) and “Metabolic” arms of the project on 14-16 March in Budapest, Hungary.

The first day consisted of general project updates, including presentations on the links between certain diabetic conditions and dementia. There was also a progress report from the AD work packages, which aim to discover early diagnostic and prognostic markers and increase the understanding of AD pathophysiology. In addition, delegates learned how insulin resistance increases the risk for pathological brain aging, including cognitive impairment, AD and other neurodegenerative diseases. They also saw the results of a study assessing AD biomarkers in insulin-resistant men.

The agenda for the second day focused on discussions about individual work packages and their progress. This included updates on tracking the key trajectories of decline in cognitive scores, as well as the prevalence of vascular and lifestyle risk factors in different stages of prodromal AD. Further presentations covered biomarker discoveries in the proteomic, genomic and metabolomic paths of the project, as well as a review of recent publications and interaction with other IMI projects. The second day also
The third and final stakeholder event of the MOPACT project was held in Vienna on 15 March. The aims of this forum were to present initial key policy messages, to discuss thematic cross-disciplinary findings to support ageing as a social and economic asset for Europe, and to collect comments on the policy implications of the operationalisation of active ageing.

Key challenges to active ageing were identified across five dimensions of social and economic impact, namely: economic and financial consequences of ageing; societal structures; civil society and cohesion; social support, long-term care and quality of life; the built and technological environment; and health and wellbeing, biogerontology and frailty.

AE Director for Projects Dianne Gove attended the forum and took part in the round table discussions. The final results of the project will be presented at a large conference which will be held in Brussels on 29 November 2016.

**16-17 March: EMIF hosts a Health Data symposium in Budapest**

Partners in EMIF gathered in Budapest to review progress in the scientific research programme’s objective of creating a trusted and technically efficient framework to provide federated access to human health databases across Europe, allowing the evaluation and re-use of this information in research.

To ensure the relevance of this work and to exemplify the value of combining and re-using data, EMIF includes the EMIF-AD project, which is pulling together large cohorts of 500 – 1,000 samples from Alzheimer’s patients across Europe and using these to look for biomarkers of the early stages of the disease. EMIF also has parallel work in EMIF-Metabolic, searching for early biomarkers of metabolic complications of obesity.

In support of its objectives, EMIF also supported a symposium “E-managing the Future of Health Data” in Budapest, exploring how such real world health care data can be used to inform the development of new medicines and underpin development, approvals, access and use - across the life cycle of a medicine.

In a day of discussion and debate by experts across the healthcare chain, a series of points emerged as needing attention to address barriers to the re-use of data, and support interactions with regulators, health technology assessment organisations and access and reimbursement bodies, to ensure they have the right evidence, and maximise the benefits of data re-use for the good of patients. A full report on the meeting will be forthcoming soon.

“There is clear value in the sharing and re-use of data in the discovery and development of medicines,” said the chair of the meeting and Coordinator of EMIF, Bart Vannieuwenghuyse from Janssen. “However, there is much more work to be done to realise this potential.”

On 18 March (Strasbourg, France) Vanessa attended “Access to Justice for persons with Intellectual disabilities” at ECHR.

On 21-23 March (Brussels, Belgium) Vanessa attended the European Patient’s Forum’s Annual General Meeting.

On 21-23 March (Brussels, Belgium) Dianne, Vanessa and Ana attended the EWGPWD meeting.

European Alzheimer’s Alliance

15 March: MEP Paul Rübig hosts event on importance of research in neuroscience as part of Brain Awareness Week

From 14 to 18 March, the European Parliament hosted Brain Awareness Week - a global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research and to unite the efforts of partnerships worldwide. In this context, the European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) held an event on “The importance of research in neuroscience” on 15 March. STOA Chair Paul Rübig, MEP (Austria), who is also a member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance, hosted the event.

Richard Morris from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland made the keynote speech, “Research on neuroscience in Europe: where we are, where we should go”. A presentation of the Lancet Commission’s paper on Defeating Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias: a priority for European science and society was given by Bengt Winblad and Angel Cedeza-Minguez from the Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. Bernard Dan from the European Academy of Childhood Disability presented “The importance of brain disorders in childhood in Europe” and finally, a presentation on “Mental health and mental disorder in Europe” was given by Mara Dierssen from the Center for Genomic Regulation, Barcelona, Spain.

All presentations can be found on the STOA webpage, here: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/stoa/cms/cache/office/home/workshops/neuroscience/anderson94C8320BEF794064CBE4F2C6C60E

Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor represented AE at the event.

16 March: European Alzheimer’s Alliance members win MEP awards

Winners of the 12th annual MEP awards, hosted by the Parliament Magazine were announced at an awards ceremony on 16 March in Brussels.

Five of the winners are members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance:

- Therese Comodini Cachia (Malta) won the Corporate governance category.

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Members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at 126, representing 27 Member States of the European Union and six out of seven political groups in the European Parliament. Alzheimer Europe would like to thank the following MEPs for their support of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance:

### Austria
- Heinz K. Becker (EFF); Kappel Barbara (NI); Rübig Paul (EFF). Belgium
- Mark Demesmaeker (ECR); Frédérique Ries (ALDE); Bart Staes (Greens/EFA); Marc Tarabella (S&D); Kathleen van Brempt (S&D); Hilde Vautmans (ALDE). Bulgaria
- Andrey Kovatchev (EFF). Croatia
- Ivana Bladurova (ALDE); Iva Bladurova (ALDE); Iva Bladurova (ALDE). Cyprus
- Costas Mavrides (S&D); Eleni Theocarous (S&D). Czech Republic
- Olga Sehnalová (S&D); Pavel Svoboda (EFF); Tomáš Zdechovský (EFF). Denmark
- Ole Christensen (S&D); Jens Rohde (ALDE); Christel Schaldemose (S&D). Estonia
- Urmas Paet (ALDE); Finland
- Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D); Anneli Jääteenmäki (ALDE); M gameplay Nattri (S&D); Merja Kylilönen (GUE/NGL); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EFF). France
- Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE); François Groussetête (EFF); Philippe Juvin (EFF); Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EFF); Gilles Pargneaux (S&D). Germany
- Angelika Niebler (EFF); Udo Voigt (NI). Greece
- Kostas Chrysoygos (GUE/NGL); Manolis Kefalogiannis (EFF); Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL); Kyriks Miltiadis (S&D); Dimitrios Panadhimoulis (GUE/NGL); Sofia Sakoura (GUE/NGL); Maria Spyraiki (EFF); Eleftherios Synadinos (NI). Hungary
- Ádám Kósa (EFF); Ireland
- Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL); Matt McCarthy (GUE/NGL); Ness Childers (S&D); Deirdre Clune (EFF); Brian Crowley (ALDE); Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan (GUE/NGL); Marian Harkin (ALDE); Brian Hayes (EFF); Seán Kelly (EFF); Mairead McGuinness (EPP); Romana Tomc (EP. Italy
- Brando Benifei (S&D); Elena Gentile (GUE/NGL); Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D); Aldo Patriciello (EFF); Remo Sernagiotto (EFF); Patrizia Toia (S&D); Damiano Zoffoli (S&D). Lithuania
- Vilija Binkeviciute (S&D). Luxembourg
- Georges Bach (EFF); Frank Engel (EFF); Charles Goerens (ALDE); Viviane Reding (EPP). Malta
- Therese Comodini Cachia (EFF); Roberta Metsola (EFF); Alfred Sant (S&D). Netherlands
- Esther de Lange (EFF); Jeroen Lenaers (EFF); Lambert van Nistelrooij (EFF). Poland
- Elżbieta Łukacijewska (EFF); Krystyna Lybacka (S&D); Jan Olbrycht (EFF); Marek Piura (EFF); Bogdan Wenta (EFF). Portugal
- Carlos Coelho (EFF); Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL); Sofia Ribeiro (EFF). Romania
- Cristian Silviu Busoi, MEP (EPP); Dancaian Octavia Sarbu (S&D); Claudiu Ciprian Tanasescu (S&D); Renate Weber (EFF). Slovakia
- Miroslav Mikolášik (EFF); Ivan Stefanc (EFF); Anna Záborská (EFF). Slovenia
- Franc Bogovci (EFF); Tanja Fajon (S&D); Alojz Peterle (EFF); Igor Šoltes (Greens/EFA); Patricija Sijak (S&D). Russia
- Vladimir Ageev (EFF); Mikhail Varfolomeev (EFF); Ivan Stefanec (EPP); Jana Žitňanská (ECR). Spain
- Iñaki de Segovia (S&D); Xabier Aranburu (S&D); Pedro Olañeta (S&D). Sweden
- Sören Berg (EPP); Anna Kinberg Björk (S&D); Ann-Manne Wilker (S&D). Switzerland
- Christian Murer (ECR). United Kingdom
- Martin Griffith (EPP); Anneliese Dodds (S&D); Ian Duncan (ECR); Theresa Griffin (S&D); Ian Hudghton (Greens/EFA); Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA); Linda McAvan (S&D); Claude Moraes (S&D); Alyn Smith (Greens/EFA); Catherine Stihler (S&D); Keith Taylor (Greens/EFA); Derek Vaughan (S&D); Julie Ward (S&D); Glenis Willmott (S&D).
EU developments

18 February: MEPs launch a motion for a European Parliament resolution on a European Alzheimer's strategy

A Motion for Resolution, on a European Alzheimer’s strategy dated 2 February has been put forward by MEPs Dominique Bilde, Marie-Christine Boutonnet and Steeve Briois (ENF, France).

The European Parliament, having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Alzheimer’s is an incurable neurodegenerative disease of the brain tissue that causes progressive and irreversible loss of mental functions, particularly memory;
B. whereas six million people in Europe are affected by Alzheimer’s or other related diseases and the number of new cases diagnosed increases each year;
C. whereas no treatment has yet been found to cure the disease, although some drug treatments can slow down its development;
D. having regard to Written Declaration 0057/2015 of 5 October 2015, signed by 122 MEPs, and to the Glasgow Declaration of 20 October 2014;

- Calls on the Commission and Council to raise awareness of Alzheimer's and other related diseases so that they are recognised as a public health priority in Europe;
- Calls on the Commission and the Member States to adopt a strategy to deal with the problems caused by this disease and to promote research into treatments which have lasting effects;
- Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Member States.

2 March: Netherlands EU Presidency holds expert meeting on faster access to innovative medicines

The Netherlands EU Presidency recently gathered over 100 experts from across Europe at a conference in Amsterdam on 2 March, at the invitation of the Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport, Edith Schippers, to discuss new market authorisation and reimbursement procedures for innovative medicines.

During the Presidency, Ms Schippers would like to speed up market authorisation procedures for new medicines:

“Here in Europe we need to look at how we can get these medicines to patients who’ve been waiting for them as soon as possible, without any safety risks,” said the minister. “This must go hand in hand with affordability. After all, what’s the point of authorising a medicine if it’s completely unaffordable? Innovative medicines require effective collaboration on market authorisation and reimbursement policies at an early stage. At present, there is insufficient cooperation between the authorities responsible for these at both national and international level.”

The findings of the conference will be addressed at the health council meeting in April, when health ministers from the 28 EU member states will discuss the EU’s policy on medicines.

3 March: EU experts meet in Luxembourg to launch 2nd Joint Action on Dementia

Building on the success of ALCOVE (Alzheimer Cooperative Valuation in Europe), the first Joint Action on Dementia, the European Commission supported the launch of a 2nd Joint Action through its health programme.

Experts from ten European countries and Alzheimer Europe participated in the kick-off meeting of the Joint Action to discuss the methodology, proposed actions and the budgetary implications of this collaboration between EU Member States. The action will be led by the Scottish Government on behalf of the United Kingdom with participation from Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain and the Department of Health from the United Kingdom. In addition, Cyprus, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, Portugal as well as Alzheimer Europe will contribute to the Joint Action as collaborating stakeholders.

The aim of this 2nd Joint Action is to provide practical guidance for policy makers developing and implementing...
their national dementia plans, policies and strategies and will focus on four key areas:

- Diagnosis and post-diagnostic support
- Crisis and care coordination
- Residential care
- Dementia-friendly communities.

4 March: Commission adopts Work Programme for 2016

The Commission has adopted the Work Programme for 2016. The funding opportunities include projects and service contracts, as well as Joint Actions planned with national authorities.

The overall total amount of EU funding available in 2016 covering grants and tenders is nearly EUR 58 million. All grants for projects will be implemented through the call for proposals, organised and managed by the Consumer, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA).

Under the work programme the European Union has made a EUR 500,000 contribution to the WHO Observatory on dementia. This will enable the observatory to support EU Member States to base their health service planning on good practice, scientific evidence and public health needs, and would contribute to regular reporting on the development of dementia and related actions and policies in EU countries.

Calls for tenders for specific services described in the 2016 Work Programme were announced on the CHAFEA website on 4 March [http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/projects.html](http://ec.europa.eu/chafea/health/projects.html). The deadline is 2 June 2016.

For more information on the Health Programme, and to read the 2016 Work Programme in full, see: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/events/adoption_workplan_2016_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/events/adoption_workplan_2016_en.htm).

7 March: EMA launches PRIME (PRiority MEdicines) scheme

On 7 March, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) launched its new PRIME (PRIority MEdicines) scheme. The scheme, which builds on existing EU regulatory tools, aims to strengthen support to accelerate medicines that target an unmet medical need.

The scheme offers early, proactive and enhanced support to medicine developers to optimise the production of robust data on a medicine’s benefits and risks and enable accelerated assessment. To support earlier access to patients, the Commission has shortened the timeframe for adopting decisions that authorise medicines for unmet needs, which have been evaluated under an accelerated assessment procedure.

“The launch of PRIME is a major step forward for patients and their families that have long been hoping for earlier access to safe treatments for their unmet medical needs, such as rare cancers, Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias,” said Vytenis Andriukaitis, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety.

16 March: EFPIA hosts Think Tank meeting

On 16 March the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) hosted a Think Tank meeting.

The meeting started with a quick review of the current European state of affairs, with an update on activities of the EU Netherlands Presidency and the state of play in Europe in the area of pharmaceutical product pricing. This was followed by a presentation on the European Commission’s recent study on Enhanced Cross-Country Coordination in the Area of Pharmaceutical Product Pricing.

EFPIA then outlined a new initiative on which it wanted input from the Think Tank group: its Healthier Future Campaign. The campaign aims to bring in the patient perspective, beyond patient-reported outcomes, the idea being to have a substantial dialogue on patient outcomes. EFPIA also wanted input from the Think Tank on a proposed position paper on the ethical relationship between patient organisations and industry.

Finally there was a short discussion on this year’s Health Collaboration summit, to be held on 19 and 20 October in Brussels.

Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor attended this meeting on behalf of AE.


16 March: Call for interest for European Reference Networks is launched

European Reference Networks (ERNs) help professionals and centres of expertise in different countries to share knowledge.

The launch of the call for interest for ERNs is 16 March and an “info day” about this call will be organised on 7 April. Registration for the meeting is now open: [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ern/implementation/call/index_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ern/implementation/call/index_en.htm).

The idea of ERNs is to allow the best specialists from across Europe to join efforts to tackle complex or rare medical conditions that require highly specialised healthcare and a concentration of knowledge and resources. ERNs should serve as research and knowledge centres, updating and contributing to the latest scientific findings, treating patients from other Member States and ensuring the availability of subsequent treatment facilities where necessary.

The EU Directive on Patients’ Rights in Cross-Border Healthcare requires the EU Commission to support the development of ERNs throughout Member States.


22 March: European Patients’ Forum holds its Annual General Meeting

On 22-23 March the European Patients’ Forum (EPF) held its Annual General Meeting in Brussels. Members elected a new President.
and Vice President, as well as five new Board members, for a two year mandate.

Marco Greco was elected as President of the European Patients’ Forum (EPF).

EPF past President Anders Olauson was awarded the title of Honorary President. He has chaired EPF since 2005. Mr Olauson was instrumental in creating and supporting the patient movement at European level.

EPF members voted in two new Board members: Michal Rataj from the European Alliance of Neuromuscular Disorders Associations and Juan Fuertes from Pulmonary Hypertension Association Europe (PHA Europe). Three existing Board members were also re-elected for the new two year term: Brian West (European AIDS Treatment Group, EATG), who was also named Vice President, Dominik Tomek (AOPP, Slovakian Patients’ Coalition) and Susanna Palkonen (European Federation of Allergies and Airways Diseases Association, EFA).

During the two day meeting, AE Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor attended a workshop on patient empowerment and a roundtable on “Mental Health: Fighting Stigma & discrimination”.

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Members’ news

25 February: Germany and Turkey launch “twinning” program

A meeting between the German and Turkish Alzheimer’s Associations took place in a mosque in Berlin on 25 February. In the context of a “twinning” program, supported by Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI), the associations are standing up for Turkish migrants in Germany and German migrants in Turkey.

Sabine Jansen, Executive Director of Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft (DAzG) - the German Alzheimer’s Association - welcomed all 110 guests. Ahmet Başar Şen, Turkish Consul General of Berlin, said a few words to the audience as well, followed by Professor İşn Baral Kulaksızoğlu from Istanbul University Hospital, who gave a general overview of dementia, its symptoms, the course of the disease and treatment options.

Belgin Habel, from the Berlin Information Center for Migrants with Dementia, gave important information on nursing care insurance, care services in Berlin and health care proxy. Füsun Kocaman, Executive Director of the Turkish Alzheimer’s Association also spoke. During her lively presentation, she talked about offers, projects and the structure of her association.

In the afternoon, Belgin Habel conducted a panel discussion involving three Turkish relatives of people with dementia. Each of them said the diagnosis was a shock to begin with, but they put a lot of effort into understanding the illness and situation. Their advice was to show understanding for people with dementia, as well as endurance, acceptance and loving care.

The meeting ended with an overview given by Christa Matter from the Alzheimer’s Association Berlin.

6 March: UK Alzheimer’s Society reports on “What the Prime Minister’s new plan means for dementia in the UK”

The Alzheimer’s Society (UK) recently welcomed the UK Government’s publication of the Implementation plan for the Prime Minister’s Challenge on dementia 2020. The Plan sets out how the Government aims to meet the commitments made in the Challenge 2020, in order to make the UK the best place in the world to live with dementia. The Secretary of State for Health impressively vowed to make the UK the most dementia-friendly country in the world.

A big success story during the last Parliament was the increase in dementia diagnosis rates to their highest ever levels. The new Implementation Plan tells us that the Government’s focus over the next four years will be on improving quality of care for people with dementia, tackling variation across the country and investing in dementia research.

Other good news in the plan included a commitment to roll out a national standard of post-diagnostic support by 2019/20 and a promise that the health regulator, the Care Quality Commission will develop indicators and ratings to assess how well all health and care services are meeting the needs of people with dementia. There is also a recognition that we need to build on the success of awareness and social action movements, such as the Dementia Friends programme. There are now 1.5 million Dementia Friends in the UK with an ambition to boost this to 4 million by the end of 2020.

However, while the implementation plan demonstrated a willingness or sentiment to build on the success over the last five years, we await the funding to accompany the scale of the ambition.

7 March: Jersey Alzheimer Association publishes 2015 infographic

2015 was a year of growth for the Jersey Alzheimer’s Association (JAA), opening our new drop-in centre made us so much more accessible, attracting 238 new visitors.

We have produced an infographic sharing the facts associated with dementia as well as demonstrating statistics from JAA’s 2015 in numbers.

Please read and help us share the facts: http://goo.gl/K56mmY

9 March: Spominčica attends 14th International Athens/Springfield symposium

Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia attended the 14th International Springfield conference on Advances in Alzheimer Therapy (AAT) from 9 to 12 March. Spominčica President Štefanija L. Zlobec presented her association’s success story, with particular emphasis on its
popular Alzheimer Cafés, helping to build a more dementia-friendly society.

Professor Magda Tsolaki, President of the Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders gave a presentation about non-pharmacological interventions for Alzheimer’s disease, Miia Kivipelto, Professor of Clinical Geriatric Epidemiology at the Karolinska Institutet, Sweden presented lifestyle interventions to prevent cognitive impairment and Professor Ezio Giacobini from the University of Geneva Medical School spoke about A-beta oligomers and brain pathology.

The next AAT symposium will take place in Turin, in March 2018: http://www.ad-springfield.com/

14 March: Slovakia reports on its campaign “Together against dementia”

In Slovakia exact statistics regarding the incidence of dementia do not exist, but according to estimates there are about 60,000 people living with dementia and about 150,000 dementia caregivers. People with dementia and their caregivers are faced with a number of prejudices, myths and stigmas. This is why the Slovak Alzheimer’s Society has decided, in March, to start the preventive and educational campaign “Together against dementia”, aiming to increase knowledge and provide information about dementia.

The campaign has a new website www.spoluprotidemencii.sk - “Together against dementia”. It provides a platform for all people who want to know more about dementia - about memory and forgetting, prevention, signs and stages, diagnostics, therapy and finding available sources of help. Designed to be easy to navigate, the Society considers it useful for people in the early stages of dementia, as well as for their caregivers and also for anyone interested in memory problems.

In addition to the website, a guide book has been published for caregivers of people with dementia, which discusses 11 main issues to be considered after someone is diagnosed with dementia.

As part of this project, the event “Days of open mind” was organised at the Centrum MEMORY - a specialised facility for people with dementia and memory problems. The Centre’s doors were open to all for three days from 14 to 16 March. People with dementia, their families, caregivers and other members of the general public had the opportunity to hear lectures, experience different therapies, test their own memory and to share and talk about their experiences in discussions with people with dementia and their families - the message being that we can talk about dementia and find people with similar problems to our own.

The Society received a lot of positive feedback from participants, who felt that projects of this kind are very important for people affected by dementia. “Hopefully we have contributed to the de-stigmatisation of dementia in Slovakia”, wrote the Society.

14 March: The Alzheimer Society of Finland celebrates international Brain Awareness Week

From 14 to 20 March, the Alzheimer Society of Finland (Muistiliitto) celebrated international Brain Awareness Week, alongside the Finnish Network for the Neurologically Disabled (NV), of which Muistiliitto is a member.

This year, the theme was the brain health benefits of our natural surroundings and everyday activities.

Muistiliitto, along with its member associations, organised over 130 events all across Finland, including “brain health stations” (pictured) offering information and activities to support brain health.

Brain Awareness Week is one of the Society’s two most important campaign weeks in the year, with Memory Week in September being the other.

15 March: France Alzheimer launches survey

France Alzheimer, in partnership with research institute Opinion Way, has launched a major national survey on the topic of caring for a person with dementia while in employment.

The survey (in French) hopes to allow people who are trying to balance working with caring for a loved one with dementia, to speak out about their difficulties in reconciling these different roles, while also tending to their own needs.

The survey will close on 15 May and results will be revealed on the occasion of World Alzheimer’s Day (21 September).

To answer this survey online, visit: www.sondagefrancealz.org

15 March: Brain Awareness Week 2016 celebrated in Athens

On 15 March, KINAPS! - in cooperation with the Academy of Athens - organised a conference during Brain Awareness Week 2016 in Athens, with special emphasis on the support of relatives with dementia and schizophrenia. This is the third time such an event has been organised in Greece.

Speeches included “The role of caregivers in the cognitive functioning of individuals with psychoses” by Professor George Alevizopoulos, “Research about dementia in Greece today” by Professor Magda Tsolaki, and “Treating Dementia in Greece” by Psychiatrist Antonios Mougas.

Delegates were then given a tour of the modern laboratories of the Academy of Athens Biomedical Research Foundation.

To close the event, a meeting was hosted aiming to found a “Greek National Brain Council”, under the auspices of the European Brain Council.

The conference itself was held under the auspices of the World Federation for Mental Health, (WFMH), the European Brain Council and the Greek Psychiatric Association.
22 March: UK Alzheimer’s Society appoints a new Chairman

The Alzheimer’s Society (UK) has announced Stephen Hill as the new Chair of its Board of Trustees.

Mr Hill will take up office at the Society’s AGM in September, and succeeds Ann Beasley, who has been Interim Chair since Dame Gill Morgan stepped down in 2015.


22 March: Danish Alzheimer association’s 25th birthday wish is for a dementia-friendly society

2016 marks the Danish Alzheimer association, Alzheimerforeningen’s 25th year. On this momentous occasion, Chairperson Birgitte Valund has expressed the association’s “birthday wish”: that the combined efforts of professionals, volunteers and the general public will make Denmark a dementia-friendly society in the years to come.

Alzheimerforeningen has been working tirelessly towards this goal since 1991 - in the early years, stressing the importance of medical knowledge of the dementia diseases, their cause and treatment, and later, widening the scope to encompass support for people with dementia and their families in daily life.

Today, the activities of the association are thorough and comprehensive in addressing all aspects of life with dementia:

- Financial support for research into the dementia diseases, publication of books and leaflets, and campaigning.
- Counselling via telephone, internet and social media.
- Offering a wide range of activities for people with dementia and their families, both locally and nationwide: holidays, highschool courses, Think Tanks, dementia cafés and public lectures with free admission.
- Influencing policymakers and policies at local and national level.
- Engaging and supporting volunteers in local activities, including the present campaign to recruit Dementia Friends (Demensven).
- Last but not least, participating in international endeavours to build dementia-friendly societies, to better support people living with dementia and their families all over the world.

24 March: UK Alzheimer’s Society and Radio City empower schools across Merseyside to engage with dementia

The Alzheimer’s Society (UK) and Radio City, Liverpool have been working with schools across Merseyside, North West England, to raise awareness of dementia among younger people. Radio City’s education academy invited 30 year 9 pupils (age 13-14) from local schools to present and record a script about dementia that was amalgamated into a radio commercial, and broadcast on Radio City throughout March.

Brenda Stagg, Dementia Support Manager for the Alzheimer’s Society in Liverpool said: “We were delighted to be approached by Radio City and to get involved in this project. We could see how enthusiastic the pupils were to learn about dementia when we went into the assemblies to talk them about the competition.

“Not only was this a fun and creative project, it also increased the children’s knowledge and understanding of dementia which they could then share with family, friends and their local community. It will also help people to learn more about the support Alzheimer’s Society can give within Merseyside.”

Caroline Greer, Regional Educational Manager NW for Radio City said: “Radio City’s Academy developed this programme to help enhance self-referrals and increase dementia awareness across Merseyside. The competition has seen some fabulous creative scripts; the biggest challenge was to find the best script to air!”

To find out more about the Society’s services in the Merseyside area, visit: www.alzheimers.org.uk/localinformation.

To find out about the Society’s nationwide youth engagement work, visit: https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/home_info.php?homemapageID=46

24 March: Alzheimer Slovenia is growing fast and working hard

Next year, Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica) will celebrate 20 years of activities. The association had its beginnings in 1997, when Slovenian psychiatrist Dr Aleš Kogoj established it, to answer the growing needs of carers for support and knowledge about dementia. The first self-help groups and a telephone helpline were organised. Thanks to Dr Kogoj’s enthusiastic work, local associations began to emerge in Slovenia and in 1999 the association started an educational programme for carers and the first ever Spominčica magazine was published.

In 2012 Spominčica became a member of Alzheimer Europe and during that same year moved into new offices in the centre of Ljubljana. The association then began organising “Alzheimer Cafés”, which turned out to be a great success and in the space of one year, 50 were organised in different locations country-wide.

Last year, Spominčica started working on its dementia-friendly society project, organising lectures about dementia for police officers and also for medical staff at Ljubljana University Medical Centre, among others. The association also co-hosted Alzheimer Europe’s 25th annual conference in Ljubljana, which was a great success. Based on this, Spominčica became more visible in the local and national media, which opened the door for further public speaking and awareness-raising about dementia. Spominčica works very closely with doctors and other specialists in the field of dementia, and also has the
support of the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health and particularly the local community and the Municipality of Ljubljana.

All its many activities cannot be managed only with volunteers, so Spominčica sought financial resources to employ staff members and in 2014, succeeded in receiving funds from the Ministry of Social Affairs for its programme “Living well with dementia in a dementia-friendly society”, allowing for one new employee to be recruited. This year, Spominčica has also been successful in an Employment Service of Slovenia grant to employ two additional co-workers, and a journalist has been taken on, to work on public relations.

Today the Spominčica team (pictured) consists of four employees and four regular volunteers, who all work extremely hard in support of people with dementia and their carers in Slovenia and beyond.

**24 March: Bosnia will host its first national dementia symposium this year**

On 24 March, Alzheimer Europe’s provisional member in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH), Udruženje „AIR“-Sarajevo reported that a date, venue and topics have all been agreed by the organising committee for its upcoming national symposium on dementia – the first of its kind in the country.

The committee agreed on topic areas around different aspects of the treatment of dementia for the symposium, which will take place on 14 September in the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo:

- The participation of speakers from the national associations in Austria and Slovenia was also agreed. Monika Natlacen will speak on behalf of Alzheimer Austria and Štefanija Lukič Zlobec on behalf of Spominčica (Alzheimer Slovenia).
- The Symposium is supported by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH), as well as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

**31 March: New campaign from Alzheimer Scotland asks the public to Challenge Dementia**

This spring Alzheimer Scotland launched a brand new fundraising and awareness campaign. The campaign invites individuals, groups and workplace organisations to take on a challenge of their choice to raise funds for Alzheimer Scotland and really challenge dementia in Scotland.

The campaign has three key aims:

- Fundraising for the support and projects that benefit people living with dementia in Scotland
- Reducing the discrimination, isolation and stigma that people living with dementia face by raising awareness of key facts about dementia
- Reducing the public’s risk of dementia by encouraging people to get their bodies and minds active with physical and mental challenges

The challenges aim to encourage physical fitness (like runs, cycles and abseils) and keep the brain active (like baking, knitting or quizzes). The campaign offers something to suit every taste and ability and people can create their own challenge too.

Alzheimer Scotland is using a multi-channel approach with adverts and information reaching audiences via: microsite, radio, social media, email, film and animation and a press editorial.

The response to the campaign has been great and we’ve had thousands of visitors to the site and hundreds of new event sign ups. You can read some participant case studies here.

**Policy watch**

**25 February: Dementia tops list of health worries in Wales, Government launches campaign to reduce risk**

New Welsh Government figures show 76% of people in Wales are worried about developing dementia later in life. On the same day these survey findings were published, 25 February, Minister for Health and Social Services Mark Drakeford launched a new campaign aiming to reduce people’s risk of dementia.

The “Change 4 Life” campaign encourages people to “ACT NOW”, taking these six simple steps to reduce the risk of developing dementia:

- **Active (physically and socially)**
- **Check your health regularly**
- **Try new things**
- **No to smoking**
- **Occasional alcohol in moderation**
- **Watch your weight**

Find out more about the campaign here: [http://change4lifewales.org.uk/adults/dementia/?lang=en](http://change4lifewales.org.uk/adults/dementia/?lang=en)

Watch the campaign video here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhqoUI_iZMM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhqoUI_iZMM)

**1 March: UK appoints new World Dementia Envoy**

On 1 March, the UK Prime Minister, David Cameron appointed David Mayhew (pictured) as the new World Dementia Envoy.

The Envoy works with countries, corporations and leaders from around the world, sharing expertise and promoting research and support for people with dementia and their carers.

David Mayhew said “Urgent action is needed, and the UK has a hugely important role to play in this fight. I look forward to working with the UK government to tackle dementia on an international scale – we must lead the way, and we must all redouble our efforts to defeat this devastating condition once and for all.”
Dementia is a high priority for the UK government and internationally. The envoy will play an important role in supporting the 2020 challenge on dementia.

David Mayhew is also Chairman of Alzheimer’s Research UK and a member of the Wellcome Trust Investment Committee, supporting new breakthroughs in dementia research.

Mr Mayhew takes over from Dr Dennis Gillings, who was the World Dementia Envoy for 2 years. Dr Gillings helped launch the GBP 100 million (EUR 130 million) Dementia Discovery Fund and was “instrumental in the progress that’s been made since the first G8 summit on dementia was held in 2013”, according to the UK Department of Health.


18 March: Justice for persons with intellectual disabilities discussed at European Court of Human Rights

On 18 March, the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) hosted a roundtable discussion at the European Court of Human Rights, Strasbourg on “Access to Justice for persons with intellectual disabilities. Implementation of Article 12 and 13 of the UN CRPD.”

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD) confirms the right to full legal capacity and the right to access to justice in Articles 12 and 13. Persons with intellectual disabilities should be able to make legally-binding decisions for themselves and access the justice system on an equal basis with others, it affirms.

Giannluca Esposito, Head of Equality and Human Dignity Department, Council of Europe reported on the state of play and policy areas, which the Council is currently focusing on. Legal capacity is already a top priority, said Mr Esposito. The Council could also become involved in the area of accessibility, but other areas of focus are still being negotiated and the new strategy will be finalised later this year, he concluded.

Facundo Chavez Penillas of the United Nations (UN) spoke about the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities. Mr Facundo Chavez Penillas, from the UN discussed the deprivation of liberty of persons with disabilities. The UN holds regular sessions where countries are asked to report on their progress in supporting people with disabilities and these reports are scrutinised by a UN committee. Alongside these reports, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) can submit shadow reports to the UN if they have complaints about the situation in their country. You can find further background information and more about what was presented by Mr Chavez Penillas here: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Disability/Pages/deprivationsofliberty.aspx

The roundtable was also an opportunity to disseminate the final conclusions of the Access to Justice for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (AjupID) project. More information on the project, including models of promising practice on Article 12 and Article 13 and other reports here: www.ajupid.eu

A dedicated website for information on Article 12 of the UN CRPD is available: http://www.right-to-decide.eu/

The UN CRPD is very relevant for people with dementia and could be used for advocacy purposes, to ensure people living with dementia are able to enjoy their human rights and access services on an equal basis with others. The convention defines persons with disabilities as including “those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor represented AE at the roundtable meeting.


22 February: Corium announces positive results of phase I study on memantine transdermal product

On 22 February Corium International, Inc. - a commercial-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development, manufacture and commercialisation of specialty transdermal products - announced positive topline interim results from a phase I clinical study designed to evaluate the pharmacokinetics (PK), safety and tolerability of its memantine transdermal delivery system for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Memantine is an NMDA receptor antagonist approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA) for use in the treatment of moderate to severe Alzheimer’s dementia.

In designing the memantine product candidate to achieve sustained delivery in a convenient multi-day transdermal dosage form, Corium applied its proprietary technology, which it developed to enable the controlled transdermal delivery of a wide range of drugs.

The purpose of this phase I study was to evaluate the PK, safety and tolerability of the memantine transdermal product in 11 healthy volunteers aged between 50 and 80.

http://goo.gl/d3QmId

1 March: UK neuroscientist receives prestigious Brain Prize for his work on memory

The most valuable research prize for brain science has been awarded to Edinburgh-based neuroscientist Professor Richard Morris, in recognition of his work to understand the mechanisms of memory.

Prof. Morris shares the EUR 1 million Brain Prize with fellow neuroscientists Tim Bliss and Graham Collingridge.

The Brain Prize is awarded annually by the Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation in Denmark.

http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2016/brainprize-010316
2 March: Australian researchers say snake venom may help combat Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers based in Australia have completed a study into the effects of a molecule in snake venom on Alzheimer’s disease (AD). They say the venom can activate the enzymes that break down amyloid plaques in the brain - a hallmark of AD. Their results were published in the journal Nature Scientific Reports, on 2 March.

In healthy people, amyloid beta is degraded by enzymes as it forms. However, in those with AD, it appears these enzymes are unable to properly perform the task, so the amyloid beta accumulates into plaque deposits, which is believed to lead to dementia.

Study co-author Dr Sanjaya Kuruppu of Monash University’s Biomedicine Discovery Institute in Melbourne, Australia has spent most of his career studying snake venoms for their medical benefits, so when he and his colleagues were looking for a molecule that would stimulate the enzymes to break down the amyloid plaques, “snake venom was an obvious place for me to start,” he said.

What the team found when screening various snake venoms was a molecule with the ability to enhance the activity of two plaque-degrading enzymes. This molecule was extracted from the venom of the Bothrops asper pit viper, found in South and Central America. The scientists also created a synthetic version of the molecule and carried out testing in the lab on human cells, finding it to be equally effective.

The team now plans to test out the molecule on Alzheimer mouse models.

http://www.nature.com/articles/nrep22413

4 March: Using a computer may help reduce dementia risk, study suggests

Older people who use a computer once a week or more were more than 40% less likely to develop memory and thinking problems, compared to those who hadn’t, according to a four-year long study conducted by the Mayo Clinic in the US.

Nearly 2,000 people aged 70 and older, who all had normal memory and thinking abilities at the start of the research, were asked to engage in mentally stimulating activities such as computer use, reading, crafting and social activities. They were followed to see whether they developed any memory or thinking impairments.

People who reported using a computer once per week or more were found to be 42% less likely to develop memory and thinking problems than those who did not. Other activities also showed some benefit, but each was less effective than computer use, according to the researchers.

The research will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology’s 68th Annual Meeting, taking place from 15 to 21 April in Vancouver, Canada.


8 March: Scientists call for urgent investigation into microbes as possible cause of AD

A team of international dementia experts has written an editorial on “Microbes and Alzheimer’s disease”, published on 8 March in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

The global team of 31 senior scientists and clinicians suggests that microbes could be the major cause of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and other dementias and calls for urgent investigation into this possible link.

The herpes virus (pictured) and chlamydia bacteria are named as the major players, as well as corkscrew-shaped bacteria spirochaetes.

The authors say that viruses and bacteria are common in the brains of older people, and although they are usually dormant, they can ‘wake up’ after stress, or if the immune system is compromised. They also point to the fact that a gene mutation -APOEe4 - which makes one in five people more susceptible to AD, raises their susceptibility to infectious disease. Viral infections in the brain are already known to cause symptoms similar to AD, and the experts say the link has been “neglected” for too long.

They propose further research on the role of infectious agents in AD causation, including prospective trials of antimicrobial therapy and say new findings could also have implications for the future treatment of Parkinson’s disease, and other progressive neurological conditions.

http://content.iospress.com/articles/journal-of-alzheimers-disease/jad160152

8 March: TEDx Fulbright talk focuses on using companion robots to combat isolation

A recent TEDx Fulbright talk on Fighting Ageing with Companion robots was given by Professors Kathy Murphy and Dymphna Casey in Dublin, Ireland.

The talk focused on using a companion robot called MARIO (Managing Active and healthy ageing with use of calling service RObots) to combat loneliness and isolation. It can be viewed here.

The robot was developed by the MARIO project.

10 March: New research says a nutritional drink can help some memory symptoms in early stage AD

On 10 March, clinical trial results for nutritional drink Souvenaid in early stage Alzheimer’s disease (AD) were presented at the Advances in Alzheimer’s Therapy (AAT) congress in Athens, Greece. The study provided some evidence that the drink, developed by Nutricia with the aim of preventing the loss of important connections between brain cells in AD - may help to improve some aspects of memory in people who have mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Souvenaid is a nutritional drink containing an active ingredient called Fortasyn Connect - a combination of fatty acids, vitamins and other nutrients. Whilst this effect on brain cells has been demonstrated in animal studies, it has
not yet been confirmed that the drink has the same effect in people.

Previous trials of the drink were not able to show any effect on its ability to slow or prevent cognitive decline but there was evidence that it may improve some kinds of memory in people in the early stages of AD.

The study, presented in Athens, involved 311 people with MCI shown to be most likely due to the very early stages of AD.

Half ingested the drink once a day for two years; the other half ingested a drink with the same calorie content but without the active ingredient. When the researchers analysed the results at the end of the trial, there was no difference in overall cognitive performance between the two groups, but when the researchers used more sensitive tests they found that the people who had taken Souvenaid had improvements in their episodic memory (memories of specific events and the time and place that they happened). Brain scans from the trial also showed that the people who took Souvenaid had less shrinkage in certain areas of their brain, including in the hippocampus, which is involved in memory.

There was no evidence presented that those who took Souvenaid were less likely to experience cognitive decline or to progress to Alzheimer’s dementia. The research team are still analysing this data from their LipiDiDiet trial.

11 March: Alzheon announces positive efficacy analyses of prior AD drug candidate phase III studies

Alzheon Inc. – a Biopharmaceutical company focused on developing new medicines for patients with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and other neurological and psychiatric disorders – has announced positive efficacy analyses of prior phase III studies for its AD drug candidate ALZ-801, in Alzheimer’s disease patients with APOE4 genotype - a population known to have high prevalence of cortical amyloid pathology.

The new subgroup analyses of the phase III trials showed that patients with one or two copies of the e4 allele of apolipoprotein E, referred to as APOE4, who received the ALZ-801 drug had “clinically meaningful benefit” on cognition and/or function during 78 weeks of treatment.

The analyses were presented on 11 March at the 14th Annual International Athens/Springfield Symposium on Advances in Alzheimer Therapies (AAT) conference, held from 9 to 12 March in Athens, Greece.

Alzheon now has plans for phase III pivotal trials of ALZ-801, in the genetically defined APOE4/4 homozygous population of subjects with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease.


14 March Blueberries may restore some cognitive function in people with MCI, study says

Researchers in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Ohio, US, have completed a study into the effects of blueberries on participants with mild cognitive impairment (MCI). At a press conference at an American Chemical Society (ACS) meeting in San Diego, California on 14 March, lead study author Professor Robert Krikorian announced an improvement in “memory and improved access to words and concepts” in study participants taking freeze dried blueberry powder once per day, as compared with a placebo powder during the 16-week study.

The study involved 47 adults aged 68 and older with mild cognitive impairment, a risk condition for Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

The team also conducted functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI), which showed increased brain activity in those taking the blueberry powder daily (equivalent to one cup of the whole fruits).

The beneficial effects of blueberries could be due to flavonoids called anthocyanins, which have previously been shown to improve cognition in animals, Prof. Krikorian said.

In another study conducted by the team, 94 people aged 62 to 80 were divided into four groups, receiving either blueberry powder, fish oil, fish oil and blueberry powder, or placebo. The participants didn’t have objectively measured cognitive problems, but they subjectively felt their memories were declining.

"The results were not as robust as with the first study,” Prof. Krikorian explained. “Cognition was somewhat better for those with powder or fish oil separately, but there was little improvement with memory.” Also, fMRI results were not as striking for those receiving blueberry powder. He says that the effect may have been smaller in this case because these participants had less severe issues when they entered the study.

He said the two studies indicate that blueberries may be more effective in treating patients with cognitive impairments, but may not show measurable benefit for those with minor memory issues or who have not yet developed cognitive problems.

In the future, the team plans to conduct a blueberry study with a younger group of people, aged 50 to 65. The group would include people at higher risk of developing AD, such as those who are obese, have high blood pressure or high cholesterol.

The blueberry has previously been labelled a “super fruit” for its potentially positive effects in lowering the risk of heart disease and cancer. Along with other berries, it makes up an important part of the MIND diet, which, according to recent studies, may help reduce the risk of dementia.

Watch the ACS press conference here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=alJrOGWvY&list=PLLG7h7PPhHBlbbo4J
m_LZT52hnoCq7lAHl&index=2
15 March: Top researchers advocate international collaboration on dementia

To meet the challenges raised by dementia, a concerted effort and long-term economic commitment is needed, according to a new expert report by leading researchers in the field. The journal Lancet Neurology is devoting its entire April 2016 issue to a detailed overview and recommendations about how care and research on dementia should be organised in the future. The report, to which Alzheimer Europe is pleased to have contributed, was presented on 15 March at a workshop hosted by the Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) panel of the European Parliament in Brussels, during international Brain Awareness Week 2016.

The comprehensive report is the work of the Lancet Neurology Commission, initiated by Lancet editors and formed with the aim of providing expert recommendations and information to politicians and policy makers about dementia. More than 30 key European and international researchers collaborated on the 78-page report, led by Professor Bengt Winblad, Centre for Alzheimer Research, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden. The report identifies a range of challenges to address, and hopes to stimulate increased national and international collaboration on reducing the European and global impact of dementia.

"We need investments of resources in research in all areas involved...to find better drugs, but also to improve compassionate care and prevention" says Prof. Winblad. "United actions are needed, not only within research, but also within the political arena on all levels."

The report discusses health economics, epidemiology, prevention, genetics, biology, diagnosis, treatment, care and ethics. The commission advocates that governmental agencies should form large multinational partnerships with academic centres and pharmaceutical companies to spread investment and share risk.

The authors of this report are researchers from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the US.

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/laneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(16)00062-4/fulltext

Science – behind the headlines

23 March: “Revealed, the ‘ground zero’ of Alzheimer’s” - Professor Brian Lawlor comments

Professor Brian Lawlor’s research interests are in the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, the neurobiology and treatment of behavioural and psychological symptoms in dementia and mental disorders. He is active in clinical trials and cohort studies of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and cross-sectional and longitudinal studies of the mental health of community-dwelling older people. Find out more about Prof. Lawlor here:

http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Alzheimer-Europe/Who-we-are/Expert-Advisory-Panel/Members/Brian-Lawlor

Following recent media headlines claiming the exact site in the brain where Alzheimer’s disease originates - the ‘ground zero’ - had been discovered, we asked Professor Brian Lawlor - a member of our Expert Advisory Panel – to comment. He first provided some background about the scientific report on which the media attention was based:

This is a review paper in which the authors argue that studies suggest that the locus coeruleus (LC), a discrete noradrenergic nucleus within the brainstem, and noradrenergic function in general are critical for maintaining cognitive function in ageing. Furthermore, they suggest that targeting this system could improve cognition in ageing and potentially have a preventive effect on dementia and Alzheimer’s disease.

A number of key papers are referenced in this review. One is a detailed neuropathological analysis that found that one of the earliest parts of the brain to be affected by the deposition of tau, a hallmark of Alzheimer’s disease, is the LC. Another paper referenced from the Rush Memory & Aging Project found that the integrity of the LC at postmortem was predictive of cognitive function prior to death. The authors argue that further support for their hypothesis is the fact that novelty and cognitively challenging situations, which have been found to decrease the risk of cognitive decline and dementia, are associated with the release of noradrenaline and that this may be the mechanism underpinning the ‘cognitive reserve’ hypothesis.”
Living with dementia

21 March: Agnes Houston, EWGPWD Vice-Chair, writes about her experience in Brussels

My daughter Donna and I attended the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) meeting held in Brussels Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd March 2016.

Traveling with dementia is still doable, but I find it takes more planning and at times I need to use assisted travel.

In spite of preparation, things do happen to upset all plans, and this was one of those trips. Thankfully my daughter, Donna is an experienced traveller assisting people with dementia, so we had extra medication contact numbers with us.

Also having the internet and mobile phones was a great asset to keep in touch with home. These were especially needed during this trip as security and emotions were heightened due to the terrorist bombing attacks at Brussels metro and airport on Tuesday.

People with dementia need routine, so the meeting continued as planned, with Alzheimer Europe (AE) staff, Ana and Dianne remaining calm throughout, although the sirens of ambulances and police sounded all day on Tuesday - a constant reminder of what was taking place outside.

The hotel staff were accommodating and attentive. Yes, business as usual!

Donna liaised behind the scenes with AE staff also briefing Alzheimer Scotland.

It’s with a happy heart, I report that all the attendees of the EWGPWD and AE staff arrived home safe and well.

Our thoughts go out to those affected by the events on Tuesday in Brussels.

It’s a personal choice, but for me to travel and campaign, the camaraderie and peer support far outweigh the stresses.

The Scottish Dementia Working Group has a booklet and DVD on Travelling Safely with Dementia visit the website.

You can view the booklet here: http://www.sdwg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/Travelling-with-Dementia.pdf
And the video here: http://www.sdwg.org.uk/videos/920

Agnes Houston, Vice-Chair of EWGPWD

21 March: Helen Rochford Brennan, EWGPWD Vice-Chair says “Terrorism failed to prevent the EWGPWD from completing its work”

I had been looking forward to attending the EWGPWD meeting and catching up with some new and old friends from across Europe for many months; not just from a work perspective but also as an enjoyable social engagement. I looked forward to exchanging updates on our families - including Hilary’s dog Tilly - and enjoying some laughter and fun.

On Monday morning, I met Agnes and Donna for breakfast after which Agnes and I went out for a walk to visit to one of Brussels’ many beautiful churches; this was our quiet time, a time out to remember our friends who could no longer be with us.

The meeting on Monday was very productive. It was chaired by Helga and facilitated by the excellent Dianna Gove and Ana Diaz. We updated the group on what we had been doing in our own countries on behalf of Alzheimer Europe (AE). I am lucky because The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) has such a great advocacy and policy team who always ensure people with dementia are at the forefront of their work, and as AE are included in our work, needless to say I had lots to report on.

We then discussed the recent Board meeting, ethics and our future work. Vanessa Challinor also gave a wonderful presentation on current developments on the UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Now it was time for a break, dinner at Hotel Thon and an early night after all I was still on Irish time, so it was a bit early for me!!!

We all met for breakfast on Tuesday morning and realised with a growing horror that something was very wrong. Just after 8am I got a text from my son Martin in London enquiring if I was ok, the frantic texts began to stream in from family and friends in Ireland. The hotel staff and Sky
News filled us in on what had happened. It took a moment to sink in; the absolute horror and the proximity of it. It was a shock for all of us.

Our meeting was on the 29th floor and all we could hear were sirens. It brought me right back to working in London across the road from the Hyde Park bombings in the 1980s. I must admit I shed a tear now thinking of the pain for the people involved in Brussels and the fear for all of us.

I spoke to Dianne and Ana suggesting we stay calm and I asked our Chair Helga to have a moment’s silence to remember everyone caught up in this awful tragedy. We carried on with our meeting, business as usual because we must never give in to terrorists.

Dianne and Ana facilitated with their very best leadership skills. They were truly amazing, trying to keep us all focused on research especially when the Metro was attacked nearby. For me, like others, questions flooded my mind; how many more bombs would there be? How and when will I be able to get home? We succeeded in getting our work done and decided to go out for dinner, personally I thought this was a very good idea as we did not allow fear to influence our actions, which is exactly what the terrorists are hoping to achieve. Terrorism wins if fear rules.

In the quietness of my own room, I had mixed emotions; anger, some fear but most of all grief for all the people who lost their lives and the many lying injured, lives shattered. I was delighted we had such productive couple of days and were able to continue our work to help make the world better for people with dementia.

Wednesday morning was a challenge for all. We were well aware that the airport would not be opening for a week, as is to be expected with the enormity of what had happened. Ana worked so hard liaising with Gwladys at AE to try and reschedule our flights etc., whilst Dianne kept the meeting going. I was lucky to receive a message from Ryanair telling me my flight was moved to Charleroi. I heard from the hotel staff the queue at the bus stop was huge, not to mention the airport. I travel alone, which is my right but the thought of all the people was daunting. Ana travelled by taxi with me to Charleroi, which was terrific.

A few things from this whole experience stood out for me:

Travel alone whilst I can, it’s a rewarding challenge.

We can fight to protect and preserve our way of life, or we can give in to fear and panic.

My emotions are still there, despite my illness.

The Airport Assistance was amazing and Ryanair reminded me in advance of the time I needed to get to the airport, it’s very useful for our airlines to keep us informed.

Social media played an important part in me getting home easily by linking up with a friend on Facebook, who messaged to say she was at Charleroi airport and would look out for me. She gave me a lift home from Dublin to Sligo. By using Facebook and Twitter I received lots of messages from family and friends, so they all knew I was safe. I also received a social media message telling me I was in a Terror Zone and to answer yes or no, whether I was safe, information which is then fed back to our countries.

The hotel staff were courteous and helpful as were the taxi drivers.

Finally, I think we were a brave group being led with great empathy by the AE team.

As Lyndon B. Johnson once said “Yesterday is not ours to recover but tomorrow is ours to win or lose”.

The EWGPWD will continue to win.

I would like to say thanks to all the staff at AE and ASI for their professionalism and support, which was outstanding.

Helen Rochford Brennan, Vice-Chair of EWGPWD

Dementia in society

6 March: Former US first lady and Alzheimer’s disease champion Nancy Reagan has died

On 6 March, former US first lady and Alzheimer’s advocate Nancy Reagan passed away. Mrs Reagan was a long-standing honorary member of the Alzheimer’s Association (US) National Board of Directors, and her involvement in the cause was a long-time inspiration to the US Alzheimer’s community of families, caregivers and researchers.

In 1994, her husband President Ronald Reagan shared that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, with an open letter to the American people, writing, “In opening our hearts, we hope this might promote greater awareness of this condition. Perhaps it will encourage a clearer understanding of the individuals and families who are affected by it.” Following the announcement of his diagnosis, Mrs Reagan used her voice to represent families and to increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease.

New publications and resources

16 March: The EPF invites your opinions on quality of healthcare in Europe

Quality of healthcare is at the heart of the work done by the European Patients’ Forum (EPF). It is now conducting a survey to explore perceptions of what “quality” means in the matter of healthcare.

This survey is aimed at patient representatives: primarily individual patients, their family members or informal carers, and patient organisation representatives across the EU.

EPF will use the results to develop its future advocacy work around quality of care and patient safety, including patient-centeredness and patients’ empowerment, at EU level.
The survey consists of 20 questions, some of which have tick-box options. It should take around 30 minutes to complete.

Click here to access the online survey, which closes on 31 May: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/257V9JF

**31 March: World Young Leaders in Dementia network has a website**

The World Young Leaders in Dementia (WYLD) network, a group of young people working collaboratively, towards a world that cares for and values people with dementia, has a new website: http://wyldementia.org/

You can also find them on twitter @wyldementia or send them an email: info@wyldementia.org

**Job opportunities**

**1 March: Four Early Stage Researchers sought for INDUCT project in Brussels, Prague and Salamanca**

Applications are invited for: two Early Stage Researcher posts to work with Professor Lieve Vandenberg Block at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium; one to work with Associate Professor Iva Holmerová at the Centre of Expertise in Longevit (WYLD) network, a group of young people working collaboratively, towards a world that cares for and values people with dementia, has a new website: http://wyldementia.org/ and one to work with Professor Manuel Franco and ClinPsyD J. Antonio Garcia, linked to INTRAS Foundation/IDES and the University of Salamanca, Spain. All four positions emerge from the institutions’ involvement in European research project, INDUCT - Interdisciplinary Network for Dementia Utilising Current Technology - a European Commission Horizon 2020-funded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Innovative Training Network (ITN).

For more information on the specific content of the posts in Brussels, please visit: http://www.endoflifecare.be/vacancy/induct-marie-skłodowska-curie-itn-early-stage-researcher-position

The deadline for applications to VUB is 17 April.

For more information on the specific content of the post in Prague, please visit: http://fhs.cuni.cz/FHSENG-509.html?news=22338&locale=en

For more information on the specific content of the post in Salamanca, please visit: http://www.intras.es/index.php/que-hacemos/id-i/proyecto-induct

Candidates are encouraged to send their applications before the 16 April for the Prague and Salamanca positions, although the deadline for applications is 30 April for both these posts.
### Conferences 2016

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>13-15 April</td>
<td>25th European Stroke Conference, <a href="http://www.eurostroke.comventus.de">www.eurostroke.comventus.de</a></td>
<td>Venice, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-10 May</td>
<td>Living well witht(oo) dementia, <a href="http://english.eu2016.nl/fait/events/2016/05/09/living-well-with-dementia">http://english.eu2016.nl/fait/events/2016/05/09/living-well-with-dementia</a></td>
<td>Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
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<tr>
<td>28-31 May</td>
<td>2nd Congress of the European Academy of neurology, <a href="http://www.eaneurology.org">www.eaneurology.org</a></td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-10 June</td>
<td>Jeanne M MASA, <a href="http://frm2016.univ-lyon1.fr/en">http://frm2016.univ-lyon1.fr/en</a></td>
<td>Lyon, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-17 June</td>
<td>Grand Designs &quot;Are we there yet?&quot;, <a href="http://www.dementiaconference.com/">http://www.dementiaconference.com/</a></td>
<td>Sydney, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 June-2 July</td>
<td>4th International conference on vascular dementia</td>
<td>Valencia, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-28 July</td>
<td>AAN Annual Conference, <a href="https://www.alz.org/aan/">https://www.alz.org/aan/</a></td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 August-2 September</td>
<td>10th International Conference on Fronto-temporal Dementias, <a href="http://www.ictd2016.de/">http://www.ictd2016.de/</a></td>
<td>Munich Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>6-9 September</td>
<td>2016 IPA International congress, <a href="http://www.ipa-online.org">www.ipa-online.org</a></td>
<td>San Francisco, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 September-1 October</td>
<td>9th Conference of the German Alzheimer’s Association (DAZG) on “Dementia. Looking at diversity”, <a href="http://www.demenz-kongress.de">www.demenz-kongress.de</a></td>
<td>Saarbrücken, Germany</td>
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<td>5-9 October</td>
<td>Croatian Congress on Alzheimer disease with International participation (CROCAD 16), <a href="http://www.alzheimer2016.com/">http://www.alzheimer2016.com/</a></td>
<td>Tulepi, Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October-2 November</td>
<td>26th Alzheimer Europe Conference (26AEC) on &quot;Excellence in dementia research and care&quot;</td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-11 December</td>
<td>2016 IPA Asian regional meeting, <a href="http://www.ipa-online.org">www.ipa-online.org</a></td>
<td>Taipei, Taiwan</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 March-2 April 2017</td>
<td>13th International Conference on Alzheimer’s &amp; Parkinson’s (AD/PD 2017)</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
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26th Alzheimer Europe Conference
Excellence in dementia research
and care
Copenhagen, Denmark
31 October – 2 November 2016
www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences    #26AEC