Welcome!
Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the members of our European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), as the group has won the international Mano Amiga award for services to people with dementia. EWGPWD Vice-Chair Helen travelled to Spain together with AE Project Officer Ana Diaz to accept the award. The two other winners this year were Dr Pablo Martinez-Lage, a member of the AE Expert Advisory Panel, and none other than Queen Sofia of Spain! A very proud moment indeed and well deserved by the whole group.

The acceptance speech given by Helen was excellent and very moving - you can read it in full in this month’s “Living with dementia” section on page 24.

Helen also spoke at a very interesting dementia event organised by MSD during this year’s European Health Forum Gastein, which Alzheimer Europe was delighted to be a part of.

Later in the month, we got wind of good progress being made in both Bosnia and in the Andalucía region of Spain regarding dementia policy: Bosnia has formed a National Dementia Strategy working group. Meanwhile, in Andalucía the Parliament has requested that the government launch the Alzheimer 2020 Strategy within three months. It has already been approved and has unanimous cross-party support. For more policy news, you may also like to read our new Dementia in Europe magazine, out today and available via our website.

It has been an exciting month for our projects too, with the launch of new IMI project AMYPAD - Amyloid imaging to prevent Alzheimer’s disease. We are delighted to be a part of this novel research initiative, a sister project to the European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia (EPAD) initiative. AMYPAD is currently looking for a PhD student to join its ranks at the VUMC Medical Amsterdam. For further information about this position see page 25. EPAD, meanwhile, published two breakthrough recommendations for detection of early preclinical Alzheimer’s disease and also began screening participants in France, Netherlands, Spain and the UK.

For our part, we began the month by processing the 400 applications received for our three open positions. Many thanks to all who applied! Interviews have been completed and the successful applicants will be hearing from us shortly. We look forward to welcoming our new colleagues soon! Also on the newcomers front, I am pleased to welcome the 127th member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), MEP Karin Kadenbach, who joined mid month.

Finally, I very much look forward to seeing all of you at our 26th Annual Alzheimer Europe Conference (26AEC) today. 26AEC, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark, will bring close to 700 delegates together in Copenhagen, under the banner “Excellence in dementia research and care”. The opening ceremony will take place at 6pm today and I for one can’t wait!

Jean Georges
Executive Director
Alzheimer Europe

14 October: EWGPWD receives International Award in Spain

The International Mano Amiga Awards were created in 2011 by Alzheimer Leon to recognise and encourage outstanding work of individuals, organizations, institutions or groups being conducted in the field of dementia. The awards seek to identify and showcase innovative research and initiatives that contribute, in a meaningful and significant way, to enhance the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people with dementia and their families.

In their V Edition, Alzheimer Europe’s European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) has received the award in the Institutional category. H.M. Queen Sofia of Spain and the Spanish neurologist, Dr Pablo Martinez-Lage received awards in the “Individual recognition category” and “Individual category” respectively. The Award ceremony took place on the 14 October 2016, at Auditorio Ciudad de Leon. A painting by the Spanish artist Luis Garcia Zurdo was awarded to the winner of each category. Helen Rochford-Brennan, Vice-Chair of the working group and Ana Diaz attended the ceremony and accepted the award on behalf of the EWGPWD and of AE. In her acceptance speech, Helen, emphasised that “the voice of the person with dementia is very important and our involvement is now very relevant all over the world. We are heard because we are participating in research and helping to remove stigma by speaking out at events such as this one. We have to come out of the shadows and we have had our voice heard”.

The ceremony was very moving, and Alzheimer Leon also presented two recent videos that they have developed about their work and about the relevance of research, the latter featured a person with dementia, Senen Rodriguez. Senen also gave the award to H.M. Sofia. Attendees had the chance to meet Queen Sofia at the cocktail following the ceremony.

Preceding the awards ceremony, Helen and Ana were invited to visit Alzheimer Leon’s day care centre and were also welcomed by the Mayor of the city at the city hall.

Pictured (l-tr): Dr Pablo Martinez-Lage, Queen Sofia, Helen Rochford Brennan (EWGPWD), Ana Diaz (AE).

https://www.premiosmanoamiga.es/en/home-eng/international-manoamiga-awards

15 October: AE updates map of national dementia strategies in Europe

Alzheimer Europe recently updated its map of national dementia strategies in Europe and among its member associations. The updated map notably shows that new strategies were recently launched in Denmark and Slovenia. In addition, a new category for France and Spain shows that these countries operate neurodegenerative disease strategies that include aspects of dementia.

AE regularly monitors the status of national dementia strategies in Europe and the AE website contains comprehensive information about the development and launch of new strategies.

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/National-Dementia-Strategies

31 October: AE releases new issue of Dementia in Europe magazine

Alzheimer Europe has circulated issue 23 of the Dementia in Europe magazine. The new issue contains a special section called “Human rights in the spotlight” that reports on the adoption of the main body of the UN’s Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) into European law. This includes coverage of AE’s lunch debate in June 2016, an overall view of the UNCRPD, as well as expressions of support from MEPs Marian Harkin (Ireland) and Marek Plura (Poland). The final article in this section covers the launch of the Charter of Human Rights for People with Dementia in Ireland.

The policy section features coverage of the new national dementia strategies in Denmark, Flanders and Slovenia, as well as the Netherlands’ EU Presidency conference on dementia. On a global level, this issue covers the progress of the WHO in developing a global action plan for dementia, as well as an interview with Yves Joanette, the new Chairman of the World Dementia Council.

In the news section, there is an article about a new report that discusses the issues concerning dementia in the countries surrounding the Mediterranean. This study was produced by the Mediterranean Alzheimer’s Alliance (MAA), an association that shares many members and values with Alzheimer Europe. This is followed by a trio of profiles from the new heads of the national Alzheimer associations in Germany, Spain and Switzerland.

This issue is accompanied by Alzheimer Europe’s 2015 Annual and Financial Report and a special supplement on the EPAD project. The “Dementia in Europe” magazine appears in print twice per year and reaches more than 3,000 readers. The current issue is available for purchase on the Alzheimer Europe website, while previous issues can be freely downloaded.

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Publications/Dementia-in-Europe-magazines
31 October: It’s time for the 26th Annual Alzheimer Europe Conference!

On 31 October, the 26th Annual Alzheimer Europe Conference (26AEC) - organised in partnership with our Danish member Alzheimerforeningen and under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark - will bring close to 700 delegates together at the Hotel Scandic Copenhagen, under the banner “Excellence in dementia research and care”. The opening ceremony will take place at 6pm on 31 October and the conference will run until 6pm on 2 November.

As every year, Alzheimer Europe (AE) has endeavoured to make its conference as dementia friendly as possible. There is a room reserved in the conference complex of the hotel specifically for the use of people with dementia and their guests - a place to meet, to have a cup of tea or coffee, or just to grab some quiet time. We are delighted to be welcoming 35 people with dementia, along with their guests among the delegates and that, as ever, people with dementia feature prominently in the conference programme - in plenaries, parallel sessions and at the Special Symposium of the European Working Group of People with Dementia.

The full conference programme includes 168 oral presentations and 190 poster presentations. We highly recommend that delegates with smart phones or tablets download the AE conference app, to keep up to date with the programme and find out more about the speakers: https://attendify.com/app/mu1ueo/

We also kindly ask you to use the hashtag #26AEC in your conference-related tweets and other social media posts, so that we can respond to/repost/retweet them as much as possible, making the whole experience more interactive.

Delegates will be able to register and receive their badges at the conference reception desk in the Hotel Scandic lobby. Should you have any questions or need support during the event, please speak to a conference host/hostess on site, or find a member of our staff at the Alzheimer Europe stand, during breaks in the programme.

We very much look forward to seeing you in Copenhagen!

EU projects

1 September: INDUCT is developing a Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST)

On 1 September, 15 Early Stage Researchers (ESRs) started their work across Europe as part of the Interdisciplinary Network for Dementia Using Current Technology (INDUCT). INDUCT is aimed at developing a multi-disciplinary, inter-sectorial educational research framework for Europe. The biggest aim is to improve technology and care for people with dementia, and to provide the evidence to show how technology can improve the lives of people with dementia.

Each ESR will work on his/her own research while developing effective collaborations with other ESRs. At the University of Nottingham, one of the ESRs will develop an interactive touch screen tablet version of Cognitive Stimulation Therapy (CST) which can be used for people with dementia and their carers in the United Kingdom (UK). This will then be adapted for users in Spain and the Netherlands, according to the cultural contexts of these countries. Finally, the potential benefits of the developed and translated touch screen tablet version will be evaluated. CST is a brief, psychological treatment for people with mild to moderate dementia which has been shown to improve cognition and quality of life. The INDUCT project hopes to improve the accessibility and reach of CST on a large scale for current and future generations in Europe and perhaps beyond.

As the project progresses, a call for potential participants from the UK, The Netherlands and Spain will be made. In the meantime, if there are any questions, suggestions or comments about the project, please do not hesitate to contact Harleen Rai, ESR on this project, via email: Harleen.Rai@nottingham.ac.uk.

5 October: AMYPAD project will investigate value of β-amyloid brain scans as diagnostic and therapeutic marker for AD

The Amyloid imaging to prevent Alzheimer’s disease (AMYPAD) project announced the start of a novel research initiative during a kick-off meeting on 5 and 6 October 2016 in London. The research initiative, between academic and private research partners, aims to investigate the value of β-amyloid using positron emission tomography (PET) imaging as a diagnostic and therapeutic marker for Alzheimer’s dementia.

Beta-amyloid (β-amyloid) deposition in the brain is one of the neuropathological hallmarks on the path towards development of Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The recent advent of commercially available β-amyloid PET tracers has opened up new potential for the visualisation of brain β-amyloid in vivo. It may improve an early diagnosis of AD, and, when recognised in a pre-symptomatic population, even provide an opportunity for secondary prevention of AD. However, the full value of this relatively novel technology and its optimal position in the diagnostic workup of patients is not yet fully understood.

“The AMYPAD Consortium brings together a world-class team of highly synergistic partners from across Europe to form a pan-European network including the most active PET sites. This will ensure effective access to patients and also maximise exposure to technical knowledge and disease modelling. This is a game-changing step in establishing the value of β-amyloid PET imaging in clinical practice”, said Prof Frederik Barkhof, AMYPAD Project Coordinator and Professor of Neuroradiology at VU University Medical Center, Amsterdam and at University College London.
Understanding the value of imaging of β-amyloid using PET provides a unique opportunity to achieve 3 major goals: 1) improve the diagnostic workout of people suspected to have AD and their management; 2) understand the natural history of AD in the pre-symptomatic stage; 3) select people for treatment trials aiming at preventing AD by ensuring a more homogeneous and appropriate enrolment. Through engagement with regulators, the AMYPAD consortium will maximise the value of its findings for pharmaceutical companies, healthcare providers, and patients.

AMYPAD will determine in a real-life clinical setting for whom diagnostic β-amyloid imaging is appropriate, when this is best performed and how the resulting information is influencing diagnostic certainty, patient management and ultimately decision trees and cost-effectiveness of dementia care.

“The development of β-amyloid imaging has been a tremendous research success which allows a more accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and a better selection of research participants for ongoing clinical trials. The AMYPAD project will provide much-needed information on the best place of this new technology in everyday clinical practice. Thanks to projects like these, we hope to get closer to our aim of ensuring a timely and accurate diagnosis for all patients”, said Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe.

AMYPAD will address the above goals in close collaboration with IMI project EPAD (the European prevention of Alzheimer’s dementia project www.ep-ad.org), a major global initiative to create a novel environment for testing new treatments for the prevention of Alzheimer’s dementia.

“AMYPAD will apply amyloid PET on an unprecedented scale to patients who are suspected to be in the early stages of AD and generate the knowledge to fully integrate PET β-amyloid markers into current clinical practice in a cost-efficient way, by demonstrating its diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic value from a multi-stakeholder perspective.”, said Dr Gill Farrar, AMYPAD Project leader and Scientific Director at GE Healthcare Life Sciences.

AMYPAD is mainly sponsored by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and the European pharmaceutical industry (via EFPIA) under the auspices of the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking.

For more information, contact info@amypad.eu, check out www.amypad.eu or follow @IMI_AMYPAD on Twitter.

Jean Georges and Dianne Gove attended the kick-off meeting on behalf of Alzheimer Europe (AE). AE will be involved in the ethics, communication and dissemination work package of this project.

10-11 October: AETIONOMY and PRECISESADS have joint meeting in Barcelona

Members of the AETIONOMY project gathered on 10-11 October 2016 in Barcelona (Spain) for a series of meetings. Jean and Dianne attended the steering committee meeting and then attended the clinical workshop and the legal and ethics work package respectively. The meeting was also an opportunity to exchange information with PRECISESADS, a sister project of AETIONOMY.

11 October: EPAD publishes breakthrough recommendations for detection of early preclinical Alzheimer’s disease

On 11 October, the European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia (EPAD) initiative was thrilled to report on recent progress on its EPAD study. Just as the project is nearing the time point when the first follow-up visits are due, two key papers have been published by the consortium. The papers, published this week, summarise current assessment measures used for detecting cognitive decline and highlight the lack of evidence-based guidelines for measuring cognitive change in a preclinical population where the cognitive decline is “silent” and occurring years before memory problems arise.

As EPAD will undertake large-scale proof-of-concept trials in predementia Alzheimer’s disease (AD), the monitoring of cognitive trajectories in the preclinical period will constitute a central outcome measure. However, there are currently no clear guidelines as to how this should be achieved, as most measures have been developed for the period around dementia diagnosis. The EPAD Scientific Advisory Group for Clinical and Cognitive Outcomes has identified appropriate cognitive measures for use on preclinical population, based on a literature search covering both cognitive correlates of preclinical brain changes from imaging studies and cognitive changes observed over time in nondementia population cohorts developing incident dementia.

The resulting consensus statement provides recommendations for both future drug trials and research into preclinical AD. More background to the EPAD publications is available at the University of Edinburgh Centre for Dementia Prevention website.

Pictured: Lead author of both papers Prof. Karen Ritchie, Chair of the EPAD Neuropsychology and Clinical Scientific Advisory Group.


13 October: EPAD works on 2 animated clips for possible participants in their future trials

As yet another example of the innovative approach to the involvement of research participants, on 13 October 2016, EPAD joined together with the company “Instruxion” to work on the production of two short animated clips.
One will be about the EPAD project in general and the other will about the role of amyloid in Alzheimer’s disease. Both clips will be targeted at potential participants in the future EPAD trials.

The group discussed the possible content of the two animated clips and the visual approach which might be adopted. It is hoped that the clips will be ready at the beginning of December.

Dianne Gove and Lennert Steukers were present at the meeting with Instruxion in Brussels and were joined by other members of the EPAD team by telephone.

**20-21 October: SMART4MD project meeting takes place in Spain**

On 20-21 October, 31 members of the Support, Monitoring and Reminder Technology for Mild Dementia (SMART4MD) project consortium gathered for a General Assembly.

The SMART4MD project, which launched in April 2015, is developing an app designed 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. As well as giving people more control over their care, the aim of the app is to slow cognitive and functional decline and to reduce pressure on carers as well as costs for healthcare providers. It will be piloted with 1,100 volunteers from several EU countries.

The two-day General Assembly meeting was hosted by Spanish project partner Servicio Andaluz Salud (SAS) in Torremolinos and was an opportunity for a number of fruitful discussions around the SMART4MD app’s functions, feedback from focus groups, and the content of the new project website, among others.

Project partners in attendance, alongside hosts SAS, were: Anglia Ruskin University (UK), Alzheimer Europe (Luxembourg), University College Leuven - Limburg (Belgium), DEX Innovation Centre (Czech Republic), Consorci Sanitaria de Terrassa (Spain), Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Spain), Pow Health (UK).

The next General Assembly will be held in April 2017, in Prague and will include a training workshop.

http://www.smart4md.eu/

**22 October: MinD project visits Barcelona on its sixth secondment**

The sixth secondment of the MinD project - “Designing for People with Dementia” - in October was the first secondment wholly dedicated to design. It saw a renewed discussion on the basic tenets of the MinD framework and its application through design. Fuelled by a series of inspiring presentations and visits centred on architecture and wellbeing and technology health applications, such as wearables and e-textiles, the Barcelona visit gave MinD an excellent start into the design phase.

PICARCHITECTS, a renowned architecture agency, and EURECAT, a major technology provider in Catalonia, who are the hosts for this secondment, presented the work and vision, and arranged for a series of insightful and inspiring visits in the city and in the Barcelona surrounding to give the group first-hand experience of their projects and development and production facilities. These visits fuelled discussions on the relationship between technology and nature, person and environment, and the opportunities offered by e-health and architectural interventions.

Alongside throughout the visit, based on the first findings of the interviews and focus groups, researchers and designers discussed the dynamics underlying social engagements (or the lack thereof), and the role of mindfulness. A core question identified was not only where do people with dementia experience a lack of social engagement and what potential strategies could be used to remedy this, but most importantly how social relationships and challenges associate with them can be transformed through mindfulness.

These discussions allow for a rich (mindful) understanding of dementia and the ways in which it manifests itself in everyday (social) interactions as a basis for the design development. As such, the MinD framework further took shape, and the potential roles of environmental design and technology really came to the fore under the influence of our generous and inspiring hosts. This was supported by the presentations and discussions on recent and on-going research projects connecting to opportunities offered by, for instance, e-textiles, through considerations such as ‘what tactile feedback could be offered when anxiety and stress are overwhelming?’ Needless to say, the Barcelona region provided the ideal climate for idea generation with its numerous (architectural) highlights, including the timeless Gaudi monuments.

Photo taken by MinD researcher Thomas van Rompay.

**25 October: PACE publishes project newsletter**

On 25 October, the PACE - Palliative Care for Older People in care and nursing homes in Europe project published its second newsletter.

The PACE project aims to describe and compare the effectiveness of healthcare systems in six European countries with (Belgium, Netherlands, UK) and without (Finland, Italy, Poland) formal palliative care structures for long-term care facilities in terms of patient and family outcomes, quality of palliative care and cost-effectiveness, and in terms of staff knowledge, practices and attitudes.

You can view the newsletter here:

http://www.eupace.eu/newsletter2
Alzheimer Europe networking 2016

On 5-6 October 2016 (London, United Kingdom). Jean and Dianne attended the kick-off meeting of the AMYPAD project.

On 10-11 October 2016 (Barcelona, Spain), Jean and Dianne attended the AETIONOMY steering committee and project meetings.

On 12 October 2016 (by teleconference), Kate and Alex attended a WP6 dissemination meeting for the EPAD project.

On 13 October 2016 (Brussels, Belgium), Dianne took part in EPAD meeting to produce 2 short animated clips.

On 13-14 October 2016 (Athens, Greece), Jean attended a work package meeting on residential care organised in the framework of the 2nd Joint Action on Dementia.

On 14 October 2016 (by teleconference), Kate and Alex attended a WPS dissemination meeting for the MOPEAD project.

On 14 October 2016 (by teleconference), Kate attended a General Assembly meeting for the PACE project.

On 14 October 2016 (Leon, Spain) Helen and Ana attended the ceremony of the Mano Amiga Awards.

On 18 October 2016 (Barcelona, Spain), Jean provided an update on the changing AD environment in Europe at the AD University organised by Lilly.

On 19 October 2016 (Lisbon, Portugal), Jean presented on the state of dementia care in Europe at the 3rd meeting of health and social care professionals organised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Alzheimer Portugal.

On 20-21 October 2016 (Torremolinos, Spain) Dianne, Kate and Ana attended the General Assembly, Project Board and Project Management meetings of SMARTAMD.

On 24 October 2016 (London, UK) Ana participated in the meeting of the EU Taskforce for Guidelines on Summaries of Clinical Trials for Lay People.

On 25-26 October 2016 (Amersham, United Kingdom), Jean and Dianne attended a meeting of the PredictND project.

On 30 October 2016 (Copenhagen, Denmark), the European Working Group of People with Dementia met.

Members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at 128, 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 (EPP); Karin Kadenbach (S&D); Barbara Kappel (NI); Paul Rübig (EPP). **Belgium:** Mark Desmesmaeker (ECR); Frédérique Ries (ALDE); Bart Staes (Greens/EFA); Marc Tarabella (S&D); Kathleen van Brempt (S&D); Hilde Vautmans (ALDE). **Bulgaria:** Andrey Kovatchev (EPP). **Croatia:** Ivan Stefanec (EPP); Tonino Picula (S&D); Rijnoš Marija (ECR). **Cyprus:** Costas Mavrides (S&D); Eleftherios Synadinos (NI); Nikos Tziridis (S&D); Kostas Chrysogonou (GUE/NGL). **Czech Republic:** Olga Sehnalová (S&D); Pavel Svoboda (EPP); Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP). **Denmark:** Ole Christensen (S&D); Jens Rohde (ALDE); Christel Schaldemose (S&D). **Estonia:** Urmas Paet (ALDE); **Finland:** Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D); Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE); Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D); Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP). **France:** Dominique Bilde (ENF); Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE); François Grossetête (EPP); Philippe Jusvin (EPP); Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EPP); Gilles Pargneaux (S&D). **Germany:** Angelika Niebler (EPP); Udo Voigt (NI). **Greece:** Kostas Chrysohongos (GUE/NGL); Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP); Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL); Kyrkos Mitsialis (S&D); Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL); Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL); Maria Spyra (EPP); Eleftherios Synadinos (NI); Elissavet Vozemberg (NI); Elvire Voxtberg-Vrioni (EPP). **Hungary:** Ádám Kása (EPP). **Ireland:** Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL); Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL); Nessa Childers (S&D); Deirdre Clune (EPP); Brian Crowley (ALDE); Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan (S&D); Marian Harkin (ALDE); Brian Hayes (EPP); Séan Kelly (EPP); Mairead McGuinness (S&D); Liadh Ni Riada (GUE/NGL). **Italy:** Brando Benifei (S&D); Elena Gentile (S&D); Stefano Mauro (EPP); Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D). **Lithuania:** Vilija Bliknave (S&D). **Luxembourg:** Georges Bach (EPP); Frank Engel (EPP); Charles Goerens (ALDE); Viviane Reding (EPP). **Malta:** Therese Comodini Cachia (EPP); Roberta Metsola (EPP); Alfred Sant (S&D). **Netherlands:** Esther de Lange (EPP); Jeroen Lenaers (EPP); Lambert van Nistelrooij (EPP). **Poland:** Elżbieta Łukacijewska (S&D); Krystyna Lybacka (S&D); Jan Olbrycht (EPP); Marek Plura (EPP); Bogdan Wenta (EPP). **Portugal:** Carlos Corelho (EPP); Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL); Sofia Ribeiro (EPP). **Romania:** Cristian Silivu Bușoi (MEP); Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP); Daciana Octavia Sârbu (S&D); Claudiu Ciprian Tanasescu (S&D); Renate Weber (EPP). **Slovakia:** Miroslav Mikolášik (EPP); Ivan Stefancic (EPP); Anna Žaborská (EPP); Jana Žitňanská (ECR). **Slovenia:** Franc Bogovič (EPP); Tanja Fajon (S&D); Alojz Peterle (EPP); Igor Šotes (Greens/EFA); Patricia Šušin (S&D); Roman Tomc (S&D); Ivo Vaigl (ALDE). **Spain:** Azisun Bilkao (ALDE); Soledad Cabezon Ruiz (S&D); Luis de Grandes Pascual (S&D); Rosa Estarás (EPP); Juan Carlos Girauta (S&D); Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D); Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D); Ernest Maragall (Greens/EFA); Pablo Zulbia (EPP). **Sweden:** Jytte Guteland (S&D); Henrik Lundgren (EFD); Cecilia Wikström (ALDE). **United Kingdom:** Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL); Richard Ashworth (ECR); Anneliese Dodds (S&D); Kate Hoey (S&D); Ian Lucas (NI); John Mann (NI); Vicky Foxwell (NI); Daniel Green (NI); Sheila Ritchie (NI); Paul Williams (NI); Matthew Wiessler (NI).
European Alzheimer’s Alliance

13 October: MEP Karin Kadenbach joins the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

The European Alzheimer’s Alliance is pleased to welcome a new member as of 13 October, MEP Karin Kadenbach (S&D, Austria). This brings the total membership up to 128 MEPs from 27 countries.

Miss Kadenbach sits on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and the Committee of Inquiry into Emission Measurements in the Automotive Sector.

http://alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/European-Alzheimer-s-Alliance/Members/Kadenbach-Karin

EU developments

30 September: MSD organises forum on “Facing the challenge of Alzheimer’s and other dementias” at EHF Gastein

On 30 September MSD organised a forum on “Facing the challenge of Alzheimer’s and other dementias” at the European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) in Bad Hofgastein, Austria. Alzheimer Europe was invited to participate.

Helen Rochford Brennan Vice-Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) was a speaker on the first panel, “Measuring the challenge” other panelists were Tim Muir, OECD who presented the facts and figures and epidemiological data on dementia, people diagnosed with dementia, the economic costs of dementia. Tania Dussey-Cavassini, Swiss Federal Office of Public Health, discussed policy, the direction it needed to take and how Member States should be looking at the growing impact of the disease and that action needed to be taken now. Globally only 24/ 194 countries have a dementia strategy. She referred to the WHO response and talked about the Global Action Plan for 2017 and the current “zero draft” consultation. She also stressed the need for policies on raising awareness and stigma and risk reduction. These same points were also made by Ms Rochford Brennan during her moving testimony about her own diagnosis and her struggle to come to terms with her illness.

“Where should we put our hopes and priorities” was the second panel. First speaker Professor Peter Dal-Bianco gave a very interesting presentation on the “Current and future outlook of Alzheimer’s treatment” - an overview of treatment and the risk of the growing dementia demographic of the “baby boomers”. He emphasised the fact that sadly we are still very far away from a cure and talked about “a graveyard of attempts to cure AD and other dementias”.

The panel discussion that followed included Antonia Croy, Alzheimer Austria, Elisabeth Hansen Eurocarers and Wiebe Cnossen, Into D’mentia Foundation. Elisabeth Hansen spoke from the carers point of view and stressed again the importance for priority to be given to dementia by policy makers- saying it is estimated around 19 million informal carers are caring of people with dementia (PWD), carers often fill gaps where health systems are inadequate, again she emphasised the need for raising awareness of better rights for carers of PWD. Antonia Croy also talked about caring for people with dementia in their own homes, the lack of services and support and again need for more allocation of resources and awareness of services that are available to carers and people with dementia.

Herta Adam from DG SANTE gave an overview of European Action on dementia, highlighting the Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia a platform for EU countries to exchange experiences and good practices, the current Joint Action on dementia and referring to the recent Luxembourg EU Presidency Council Conclusions on dementia from December 2015 and how now we need to put these into actionable policies.

MEP Karin Kadenbach (Austria) summed up and believed everyone was in agreement that we need to better recognise and understand the illness and to engage more with PWD to reduce the stigma. At European level policy makers needed to be made more aware of the urgency of the growing impact dementia will have on health care systems and the work that needs to be done to have a pan European strategy.

Ms Rochford Brennan had the final word: more recognition for the illness through awareness campaigns more engagement with people with dementia to combat stigma, early diagnosis and better post diagnosis support and care pathways. Finally she stressed the importance of a human rights based approach putting the rights of the person with dementia at the centre of public health policy.

4 October: EPF publishes guide on new Data Protection Regulation for patient organisations

The new EU Regulation on personal data protection EU/2016/679 was published in May 2016 and will be applicable from May 2018. It provides more rights to citizens to be better informed about the use made of their personal data, and gives clearer responsibilities to people and entities using personal data.

The right to protection of one’s health data is an important issue in diverse contexts such as healthcare, including care given through eHealth or in a cross-border healthcare context, and research (clinical trials, clinical investigations, epidemiological research, patient registries, etc.)

In this regard, The European Patients’ Forum (EPF) has drafted a guide for patients and patient organisations to explain what the new EU Regulation on the protection of personal data means.
The EPF also outlines how patients’ organisations can contribute to ensuring that patients’ rights to privacy, data sharing and accessing their health data are properly implemented.

6 October: European Commission publishes two care reports


The first report addresses the work-life balance of carers of dependent persons, by examining three main social policy arrangements: leave schemes, cash benefits and benefits in kind.

The second report presents policy challenges for health care and long-term care, as well as possible ways to help contain spending pressures through efficiency gains, to ensure fiscally sustainable access to good quality services for all.

Both reports can be read in full here:

Work-life balance measures for persons of working age with dependent relatives in Europe

Joint Report on Health Care and Long-Term Care Systems & Fiscal Sustainability

11 October: “It’s been a great first year” says IMI Executive Director Pierre Meulien

One year after taking office as the Executive Director of IMI, Pierre Meulien recounts some of the year’s highlights and explains why he believes in the model of public-private partnerships more than ever:

“I came in understanding that this was the beginning of a whole era of constructing public-private partnerships”, says Mr Meulien.

“They’re very new, very challenging for all the stakeholders and we’re not only pushing the boundaries in terms of what we’re learning scientifically, but we’re pushing the barriers around what kinds of partnerships can be built in terms of aligning very different views from a number of different stakeholders. That’s very exciting for me: I believe that great things are created at interfaces, and although interfaces are sometimes challenging to put together, they can be incredibly productive.”

The IMI has launched several dementia projects, bringing together leading experts from across Europe and beyond, including five involving Alzheimer Europe: AETIONOMY, AMYPAD, EMIF, EPAD and Pharma-Cog.


Read the full interview with Pierre Meulien here: http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/interview-pierre-meulien

12 October: ENVI committee reviews draft report on improving access to medicines

On 12 October, the European Parliament’s Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) considered the draft report on “EU options for improving access to medicines”.

A number of parliamentary resolutions and Council Conclusions have drawn attention to the specific nature of the pharmaceutical market, highlighting the need for a debate and for measures to be taken in this regard.

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the most competitive sectors in Europe with a 20% return on investment, generating 800,000 jobs and producing an output of approximately EUR 200 billion each year.

Rapporteur MEP Soledad Cabezon Ruiz (Spain, S&D) said the report “deserves a tremendous amount of attention”. Ms Cabezon Ruiz (pictured) calls on the Commission and the Council to explore new measures to control prices and stresses that more transparency is needed regarding the costs of development and clinical trials, which would lead to reach a fair price.


20 October: Public consultation: have your say on Horizon 2020

The European Commission has launched a public stakeholder consultation which will feed into the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020.

This interim evaluation will help improve the functioning of Horizon 2020, and will also be an important element in preparations of a next EU research and innovation programme. Running from 2014 to 2020 with a budget of nearly €77 billion, Horizon 2020 is one of the largest research and innovation schemes worldwide. In its first two years, the programme attracted over 76 thousand eligible proposals. This consultation will be open until 15 January 2017.

Carlos Moedas, European Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, said: “I hope as many people as possible will use the chance to have their say on Horizon 2020, its first three years and its future direction. We are already analysing available data, facts and figures. But in order to have a full overview, it is very important to get
direct feedback from researchers, entrepreneurs, innovators, citizens and all types of organisations that have participated in the programme."

A further consultation on public-public and public-private partnerships under Horizon 2020 will also be launched in the near future.


20 October: EMA gives open access to clinical data for new medicines

As of 20 October 2016, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has given open access to clinical data for new medicines for human use authorised in the European Union (EU).

For every new medicine, citizens, including researchers and academics, will be able to directly access thousands of pages from clinical reports submitted by companies to the EMA in the context of marketing-authorisation applications.

The EMA is the first regulatory authority worldwide to provide such broad access to clinical data.

For more information see the EMA press release.
https://clinicaldata.ema.europa.eu/web/cdp/home

23 October: MeetingDem project brings Dutch model for dementia care to Italy, Poland and the UK

Developed by Professor Rose-Marie Dröes of the department of Psychiatry at the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam (VUMC), the programme – designed for community-dwelling people with mild to moderately severe dementia - has been implemented in more than 140 centres across the country, where academic assessments have indicated that the initiative has been effective: Participants have exhibited fewer problems related to behaviour and mood, as well as higher self-esteem; carers have been shown to feel more competent in caring; and admission to residential care homes has been delayed, suggesting that the programme may also be cost effective.

In 2014, Prof. Dröes teamed up with an international group of researchers, all members of the INTERDEM network, in a project called MeetingDem - supported by the JPN (EU Joint Programme - Neurogenerative Disease Research). The project aims to test whether and how the model could be successfully implemented in three other European countries: Italy, Poland and the UK. Could the concept be tailored to the local cultures, social systems and specific needs of people living with dementia in these countries? Two-and-a-half years later, JPND checked in with partners in each country to see how the project was progressing.

You can read the full JPND report here:

26 October: Council of Europe adopts new Recommendation on processing of personal health-related data for insurance purposes

The new Recommendation sets out essential principles aimed at protecting the rights of persons whose personal data are processed for insurance purposes. It takes into account insurance companies’ legitimate interest in assessing the level of risk presented by the insured person. The recommended measures include strict safeguards for the collection and processing of health-related personal data, based on the insured person’s consent, as well as the prohibition of requiring genetic tests for insurance purposes.

The Council of Europe calls upon the Governments of its Member States to ensure non-discrimination, including on grounds of genetic characteristics, and the protection of private life in the framework of insurance contracts covering risks related to health, age or death.

“People’s health and genetic data are highly sensitive and must be properly protected. Governments have duty to ensure nobody is discriminated on the grounds of his or her genetic characteristics. Genetic tests for insurance purposes should therefore be banned,” said Secretary General Jagland. “Our recommendations show the way how to better protect the rights of insured people in an increasingly international market,” he added.

As a first international legal instrument in this field, the Recommendation notably aims at preventing any processing of health-related data which would not be justified and would not comply with the criteria of relevance and validity.

The text also underlines the necessity of facilitating access to insurance, under affordable conditions, to persons presenting an increased health risk, and the importance of promoting fair and objective settlement of disputes between insured persons and insurers.

Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)8 of the Committee of Ministers to the member States on the processing of personal health-related data for insurance purposes, including data resulting from genetic tests

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Members’ news

19 September: Czech Alzheimer Society marks World Alzheimer’s Day

The Czech Alzheimer Society (CALS) held a number of events throughout the month of September, including memory testing across major cities, culminating in the Conference “Prague Gerontological Days”.

The motto of the conference was “Life with dementia- new perspectives” and it connected both social and medical areas of dementia.

This year, a special part of the Conference was focused on architectural challenges within care for people with dementia. More than fifteen contact places (mostly social
care providers) of CALS were actively involved in their own campaign to raise awareness of dementia during the week of 19 to 25 September (e.g. fundraising campaigns, memory testing, support groups for caregivers, lectures, concerts and discussions).

21 September: Fundación Alzheimer España reports on its World Alzheimer’s Day activities

As every year on World Alzheimer’s Day (WAD) 21 September, Fundación Alzheimer España (FAE) wanted to raise the voice of people affected by dementia and their families, giving visibility to their everyday needs and promoting social awareness of a problem that affects us all. The impact of WAD is growing, but the stigmatisation and misinformation that surrounds dementia remains a global issue.

For this purpose, FAE wanted to be present at various events held on the occasion of the WAD:

- Creation of and participation in the event “Remembering the music” at the city of Arts and Sciences of Valencia in collaboration with the “Berklee College of Music” and the Association of Relatives of Alzheimer’s patients in Valencia under the direction of the renowned Fátima Pérez (music therapist of AED) and Suzanne Hanser Musictherapists (founding chair of the Musictherapy Department at Berklee College of Music). Participants were involved in corporal expressions, musical interpretation and relaxation activities and even paid their own tribute to taking care of their families during a year in which the chosen motto for WAD is “C for Carer”.

- Presentation of the book “I like balloons” by Pablo Caracol - an event with a national impact that seeks intergenerational inclusion in the approach to family care for people affected by dementia. This initiative aims to educate children about the problems experienced by families assuming the care role for a family member who has dementia.

- Dissemination of information and a lecture to the general public at a charity event at a market in downtown Madrid, with the help of a number of volunteers.

In a continuous effort to improve direct care for its users, the FAE incorporates, for its new course, an innovative cognitive stimulation system through tablet devices and a specially developed application to diminish cognitive stimulation system through tablet devices.

Aims to engage families in the intergenerational approach to family care and support for people affected by dementia.

In addition, the FAE has been recognised for its trajectory and social work, receiving two very important awards:

- The first one, from the Spanish Neurology Society, for participation in EU research projects, teaching activities and particularly for its efforts in disseminating information and support to people affected by dementia and their families.

- The second award was for the advertising campaign “Lost Memories”, made in collaboration with the McCann Advertising Agency and awarded the “Golden Sun” in the 20th Aspid Health and Pharmacy Ibero-American Communication and Advertising Awards.

21 September: Larissa Association of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders marks WAD with open day events

On the occasion of World Alzheimer’s Day (WAD) 2016, the Larissa Association of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, Greece (EENAL) ran open day events.

Festivities opened with The Elder’s Orchestra, under the supervision of Konstantina Noulı. A panel of volunteer specialists then addressed aspects of the Disease. Dr Artemissia-Phoebe Nifli presented the pathophysiology of dementia, its latent and multifaceted character and the available prognostic/diagnostic tools. Dietitian Angelos Vlahy Ioannissi also provided a profile of nutritional needs over time and stage-specific advice to people with dementia and caregivers. Dr Kyriaki Giota discussed the implications of stress - both “good” and “toxic” types - in everyday life and demonstrated some relaxation techniques.

In parallel, participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the EENAL’s activities within the local community, including the experiential workshops and non-pharmacological interventions, presented by nurse Eleni Kamboura-Nifli and members, and the caregiver support and visual communication illustrated by nurse Panagiota Doura. Participants were also able to schedule individual diagnostic screenings and personal caregiver consultations.

21 September: Cyprus celebrates World Alzheimer’s Day with “Make a Wish”

On the occasion of World Alzheimer Day, 21 September 2016, the Cyprus Alzheimer Association (CAA) organised for a second consecutive year the innovative event “Make a Wish”.

The event was held in Cyprus’ capital at the Nicosia Science Cafe. During the event, the public was invited to make a wish for those living with dementia, while stargazing through professional telescopes.

During her opening speech, the Secretary of the CAA Maria Seleari thanked all who contributed towards the event’s success and made reference to the 20 years of voluntary work done by the Association.

The event was held under the auspices of Environment Commissioner Ioanna Panayiotou, who congratulated the CAA for its efforts in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease.

It was organised in cooperation with the Astronomy Club of the secondary English School in Nicosia and the CAA gives many thanks to Katie Demetriou, the Physics teacher responsible for the club. Ms Demetriou provided telescopes and arranged a bake-sale to fundraise for the Association.
Under her guidance, the English School students greatly contributed to the success of the event. Members of the Cyprus Amateur Astronomy Club also provided professional telescopes during the event and helped the public to identify the planets, while Zen Productions created a warm atmosphere, playing background music throughout the evening. The English School Parents Association was the main sponsor of the event.

The concept of this original event came from the youngest long-standing member of the CAA, Stefani Petropoulou, who is also an active member of the English School Astronomy Club. Ms Petropoulou based her initiative to stargaze on the experiments that NASA carries out in space, where chemicals can last longer, to find a cure for the disease. As she explained, making a wish to help those in need, while marveling at the wonders and secrets of the Universe is also a wonderful gesture to commemorate World Astronomy Day.

Professor Savvas Papacostas, a neurologist at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics made a presentation about the nature of Alzheimer’s disease and the latest developments in the field of research. The public had the opportunity to ask questions and to meet the members of the CAA.

CAA President, Noni Diakou conveyed her appreciation to all for their hard work and willingness to achieve yet another successful World Alzheimer Day.

21 September: Alzheimer Bulgaria marks World Alzheimer’s Day, despite having no budget

This year for World Alzheimer’s Day (WAD) 21 September, Alzheimer Bulgaria had no budget to organise events to mark the occasion. Instead, the association marked the day, with a short interview for Bulgarian National Radio, given by Irina Ilieva.

Other members of the association in rural areas of Bulgaria gave interviews to local newspapers also. The Bulgarian press is already aware of the work being done by Alzheimer Bulgaria, which is good news for the associations, as journalists are already starting to seek them out of their own accord.

WAD was also marked this year via the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Health:

https://www.mh.government.bg/bg/informaciya-za-grazhdani/svetovni-zdravi-dni/

24 September: Danish awareness and fund raising campaign “Husk mig” is a big success

More than a thousand Danes were on the streets in 106 cities on 24 September, collecting money for the Danish Alzheimer Association. The purpose of this campaign, called “Husk mig” (remember me), was twofold - to focus attention on dementia, and to fund the task of helping affected people.

“We were on the streets with our collection boxes to show what we are working for and to increase awareness of the Danish Alzheimer Association. It was a fantastic day with engaged activists, a nice public and lots of good will” (Thomas Dyrebjerg on Facebook).

Birgitte Vølund, Chair of the Danish Alzheimer Association, commented on the results of the collection: DKK 900,000 (EUR 121,000).

“For a small association, making its first nationwide collection, it was an extraordinarily good result, and a fantastic helping hand to people with dementia and their relatives. We are very grateful and thank all who contributed with money, and the excellent effort of the many activists”.

4 October: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland has a new CEO

As of 4 October, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) has a new CEO, Pat McLoughlin (pictured).

Alzheimer Europe wishes Mr McLoughlin every success in his new position and looks forward to working with him.

Mr McLoughlin replaces Colette Kelleher, who left ASI in August this year to pursue a new opportunity.

10 October: Alzheimer Nederland reports on “Dance Dance Dance” show

In the popular dance competition Dance Dance Dance six dance couples (famous Dutch people, from soaps series, singers, sports and musicals) show their best dance acts to a jury of professionals. Apart from the honour of being the best dancers, the couples all dance for different non-profit organisations, to which they donate their prize money via the “Vrienden-lotery” (friends’ lottery). The good cause is one of their choice.

Alzheimer Nederland is proud that famous artists Kees Tol and Annemarie Keizer (pictured, centre) chose it to dance for - or, to be more specific: its Alzheimer Cafés project.

In a dazzling and exciting finale the couple won second prize and presented the association with a cheque for EUR 25,000, to start new Alzheimer Cafés across the country. This will give more people the opportunity to share their stories about living with dementia and get the support needed from professionals.

In a short film, taken at an Alzheimer Café in Amsterdam, two million viewers watched Gea Broekema-Procházka (also pictured, left), Director of Alzheimer Nederland talk about the importance of meetings such as these Cafés. In the film, former family carer Dineke Liauw also talks about how she enjoys the meetings and continues to attend despite her husband having passed away with dementia.

Alzheimer Nederland is truly thankful for this extraordinary support, which has provided not only a financial boost to
its Alzheimer Cafés project, but has also given it a huge PR boost.

The association also appreciates the enormous hard work of Mr. Tol and Ms. Keizer, who are not professional dancers at all, but who trained hard for months. Alzheimer Nederland hopes to keep a close association with them.

28 September: Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft hosts conference in Saarbrücken

“Dementia. Looking at diversity (["Demenz. Die Vielfalt im Blick”] was the motto of the 9th conference of the German Alzheimer Association, Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft (DAzG). More than 750 participants attended the conference in Saarbrücken from 28 September to 1 October. Among them, people with dementia, family carers, volunteers, professionals from the fields of medicine, care, social work and therapy.

Monika Kaus, chairwoman of DAZG, explained the conference motto:

“We have to see that people with dementia have different needs, depending on the type and phase of their illness, their personality, social and cultural background. Therefore they need individual fitting support and therapy.”

A good message to come out of the conference was that the DAZG finally achieved improvements to the German long-term care insurance, for which DAZG has been fighting for many years. As of 2017, people with dementia will have the same support as people with somatic diseases, following these changes.

As the conference organisers expected, there was a lot of interest in the development of anti-dementia drugs. Indeed a number of new compounds are being developed and tested, which may decelerate neurodegeneration, but not stop it. A call was made during the conference for non-pharmacological therapies – such as ergotherapy, music therapy and cognitive training – to be used in combination with currently available pharmacological interventions, to help maintain abilities and improve quality of life.

Another important topic at the conference was the migrant population and its growing number of people with dementia. Migrants in Germany are mostly Turkish and Russian. Many older members of the migrant population have been in Germany for some time and the number of them with a form of dementia is growing. A speaker from Hamburg presented a special unit in a nursing home for people with dementia from Turkey. The personnel speaks Turkish, they prepare typical food and celebrate the traditional Turkish holidays. A project in Stuttgart is developing an “intercultural dementia pack for nursing homes”, containing information materials for professional carers about migrants from different countries and cultures, as well as information for family carers in different languages.

Many contributions stressed the importance of inclusion of people with dementia, as required by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD).

People with dementia should be able to participate in “normal” activities wherever possible. Therefore, it is necessary that communities, companies, churches and civil society become more sensitive and accessible for people with dementia. Some good examples were presented: cooperation with museums, orchestras and choirs; a theatre project with actors with and without dementia together on stage; cooperation with sports clubs to try to include people with dementia in their activities. There was also a contribution from the DAZG project "Demenz Partner", launched on 6 September 2016, which aims at raising awareness and understanding of dementia and support for people living with dementia. Already, almost 200 partners organize 90 minute courses all over Germany.

A special highlight of was a flash mob in Saarbrücken city centre (pictured – with thanks to Andreas Engel, DAZG), started by the initiative “We dance again” and partners. Under the motto “Generations on the move” participants of the conference, citizens with and without dementia and even some young Arab refugees spontaneously danced and sang together, providing a good example of inclusion.

15 October: Slovenia runs dementia awareness campaign on public buses

During the last two weeks of September and first two weeks of October, Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica) ran an awareness campaign on public bus displays, regarding Spominčica, the organisation’s annual Memory Walk and the first signs of dementia. The adverts ran four times per day, for 45 minutes.

The publicity was a success and thanks to this campaign, alongside the organisation’s World Alzheimer’s Day awareness-raising events, many more telephone calls came in from carers of people with dementia, seeking further support and advice.

19 October: Alzheimer Portugal develops training based on AE Ethics Report

Alzheimer Portugal has developed a training based on the Alzheimer Europe (AE) 2015 Ethics report “Ethical dilemmas faced by health and social care professionals providing dementia care in care homes and hospital settings”. Conceived to be a guide for use in the context of ongoing professional care training, the publication has been an important influence on Alzheimer Portugal’s training programmes.

More precisely, the team of the Cuidar Melhor Project of Alzheimer Portugal - with the help of Lucilia Nóbrega who integrated the group that produced the guide - built a training programme. The training, which is in a workshop format is on ethical dilemmas faced by health and social care professionals providing dementia care in care homes and hospital setting, and follows the contents of the AE guide.
The team found the guide to be an excellent support - "very well structured and easy to read". The theoretical framework was very much appreciated and was found to be extremely helpful to health and social care professionals, reflecting on the decision-making process concerning ethical issues.

During this year, there have been two workshops attended by Alzheimer Portugal’s staff (health and social care professionals working at the nursing home, day care centres and other facilities and services).

Another workshop was attended by professional carers in Sintra and the next one will be for primary care professionals, in the same municipality.

Within the framework of the 3rd Meeting of Health and Social Care Professionals - "Providing Dementia Care" - held in Lisbon at the Gulbenkian Foundation on 19 October, another workshop also took place, meaning the workshop has now been delivered to a total of around 80 participants.

Feedback has been very positive and the team is enthusiastic to go on developing this training programme, with further workshops and trainers.

19 October: Alzheimer Portugal’s “Cuidar Melhor” project organises 3rd meeting of health and social care professionals

On 19 October, Alzheimer Portugal’s “Cuidar Melhor” project organised its 3rd Meeting of Health and Social Care Professionals, held in Lisbon at the Gulbenkian Foundation.

More than 200 participants attended the meeting, mostly health and social care professional from across Portugal.

The first panel was dedicated to “Providing Care to People with Dementia in Europe”.

Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe (AE) gave an overview of the main milestones and achievements of the European Dementia Movement led by AE, and focused on the findings of the organisation in areas such as: legal rights, care pathways and post-diagnostic support. Finally, he stressed the importance of having a national plan or strategy and some of the main topics it should include.

George McNamara, Head of Policy at the Alzheimer’s Society, UK, shared some of his country’s experience regarding dementia, highlighting the number of people with dementia, the costs, the challenge of living better with dementia in the UK, “The well pathway for dementia” (from prevention to dying well) and the importance of risk reduction. A particularly important point for Portugal, where dementia is concerned, is that it has been discussed in the framework of the Reform of the Continuous and Integrated Care Network – How dementia can be the success criteria for integrated health and social care.

António Leuschner, Chairperson of the National Mental Health Council in Portugal and one of the people in charge of leading the working group on dementia, participated in this meeting.

Alzheimer Portugal hopes that the contributions by Mr Georges and Mr McNamara will influence policy makers in Portugal to recognise dementia as a national priority and to better understand how a dementia plan or strategy should be conceived.

Mr McNamara also made reference to dementia-friendly communities and to the existence of 1.7 million dementia friends in the UK. These topics were enthusiastically welcomed by participants and by the Alzheimer Portugal team, who hope to have dementia-friendly communities and Dementia Friends there too.

21 October: Federazione Alzheimer Italia’s Dementia Friendly Community project wins two awards

The pilot project “Dementia Friendly Community”, promoted by the Federation Alzheimer Italia (FAI) in the municipality of Abbiategrasso, near Milan - in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Society - is continuing with its training and the whole city is striving to become dementia friendly. One major objective is to produce a set of guidelines applicable to help all interested Italian communities to become dementia friendly too.

This initiative it is already attracting a lot of success and during the month of October has received two awards.

The first was the “Arete Award 2016” for Public Communication of Confindustria (the Italian Industrial Association) awarded for being an "outstanding example of responsible communication” and the second was a prize as part of the Cresco Award for sustainable Cities, organised by the Foundation Sodalitas and ANCI (National Association of Italian Municipalities). This awards was given "because the Dementia Friendly Community validly addresses the management of Alzheimer’s disease, which has repercussions at all levels of the social fabric.”

An interesting aspect of this recognition is that the company Bracco, which sponsored the prize, will offer specialised technical expertise to the town of Abbiategrasso, to analyse the project and to identify elements for improvement and development. The town will be followed by a multidisciplinary team that will evaluate all aspects of the project, from strategic and operational ones, to communication.

With this extra boost, FAI is sure that the Dementia Friendly Community project will accelerate further, promising the start of a process of social change that will make the town - with its spaces, its initiatives, its social relations - fully accessible. This will prevent the exclusion and isolation of people with dementia and their families, allowing them to participate in an active community-oriented life and improving their quality of life.
21 October: Federazione Alzheimer Italia publishes first ever Italian video interview with a person living with dementia

For the first time in Italy, Federazione Alzheimer Italia has published - in collaboration with the ASP Golgi Redaelli - a very beautiful video interview with a person living with dementia. Father Giancarlo Politi, a PIME missionary (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions) recounts his experience of life and the moment when he noticed “the presence of an intruder... of someone who should not be there, but she was called Mrs Disease”. He never uses the word “dementia” in his interview, despite the fact that Alzheimer’s dementia took over his life a long time ago. With rare and admirable awareness, Father Giancarlo recounts - through a combination of calmness and feeling - the discovery of the disease and his daily life during this last period, full of essential human relations, huge support from his family and community, and the relationship between him, his doctor and medication. With his still twinkling eyes and a coy smile, he ends his tale with this extraordinary appeal to all people living with dementia:

"Do not feel sorry for yourself. It is necessary that every one of us must communicate beauty, a beauty that comes from existence...What matters is whether you are happy with your life."

The courageous account of Father Giancarlo tells the story of all people living with dementia, who have the right to be heard and to come forward, relying on a community that fights the stigma ordinarily associated with this disease, because, as Father Giancarlo says, “You may have a disease, but this does not take away anything from your humanity...the disease does not take away your ability to be a father, a mother, a son”.

The video is available (in Italian) on Federazione Alzheimer Italia’s Youtube channel: https://goo.gl/wBhh3q

21 October: Bosnian association Udruženje AIR campaigns for a national dementia plan

On 21 October, Alzheimer Europe (AE)’s member in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) - Udruženje AIR – reported the signing of a Declaration on dementia, as well as an agreement to form a working group on the National Dementia Strategy. Both very positive steps towards a national dementia strategy in the country.

As well as the formation of this working group, Udruženje AIR is working on support for its Declaration on dementia in B&H.

At the invitation of Alzheimer Croatia, Director of the Center for Dementia Osman Kučuk gave a lecture at the 8th Alzheimer Congress of Croatia.

22 October: Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders holds Board meeting

On 22 October 2016, the Board of the Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders had a productive meeting in Thessaloniki, Greece, with representatives from associations throughout the country (Athens, Thessaloniki, Volos, Chania, Heraklion, Kozani, Serres, Ioannina, Chalkida). The Federation is very happy to welcome two new members to the family of the Federation, reaching 37 member associations across Greece!

23 October: First EU project to support quality of life for people with dementia in Croatia launched

Alzheimer Croatia, together with partners from Croatia and Slovenia have begun launched an EU Interreg Slovenia-Croatia “Demenca aCROSLO” project. Over the next 18 months, nursing homes in the cross-border Istria region will receive specialised trainings, implement dementia-friendly visual standards, or rebuild their dementia departments and improve services at home for people with dementia and their family caregivers. A separate programme is also intended to fight stigma and train family caregivers in this region.

The “Demenca aCROSLO” project, worth EUR 412,000, will include more than 300 people, including general practitioners, nurses, social workers, support workers, architects, indoor designers, staff from other nursing homes, high schools and universities across Croatia and Slovenia.

 Croatian partners in the project are nursing home Atilio Gamboc from the City of Umag, the City of Umag and Alzheimer Croatia. Slovenian partners are nursing homes in the cities of Izola and Koper and the Slovenian institute for public health.

Each partner has a separate leading role within the working groups and Alzheimer Croatia is leading the working group for education. Once it has the approval for its education plan, Alzheimer Croatia will begin the training.

The outcomes of this EU project - updated curriculums, textbooks, educational brochures and guidelines for the design of departments and services for people with dementia - will benefit all nursing homes and family caregivers in Croatia and Slovenia.

24 October: Finland’s “Memory Activists” want to create similar groups throughout the country

The Alzheimer Society of Finland (Muistiliitto) established a nationwide working group of people with memory diseases and their caregivers in 2013. Members of the working group are called “Memory Activists”. The main idea behind the group of Memory Activists is to bring the expertise gained from first hand experiences with memory diseases to the fore. It supports the work of Muistiliitto and
Spotlight on: AMPA Monaco

The Monegasque Association for research on Alzheimer’s disease (AMPA - Association Monégasque pour la recherche sur la maladie d’Alzheimer) was established on the initiative of Michel Pastor and Dr Michel-Yves Mourou in 1990. Since 2009, the association has been chaired by Catherine Pastor and its Vice-President Professor Alain Pesce, head of Monegasque geriatric services. AMPA works at national and international levels to support research, encourage scientific meetings, disseminate expertise and knowledge, increase public awareness and inform and accompany people with Alzheimer’s dementia and their carers.

AMPA in Monaco:

Supporting research and local initiatives

Since its creation, AMPA has supported 9 projects, to the tune of EUR 605,000.

Four research projects: Claude Pompidou Foundation, Nice (Alzheimer Institute), Institute of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology, Sophia Antipolis (Prof. Checler), DataSharing Alzheimer International, Toulouse (Prof. Andrieu), Innovation Alzheimer, Association, Nice (Prof. Robert).

Five local initiatives: Respite Center, Menton (France Alzheimer Association), Day Care Centre Speranza – Albert II, Monaco, Rainier III Centre, Monaco, Alzheimer Pilot Centre, Essaouira (South Morocco Association), Alzheimer Medical Caravan, Aicha des Gazelles Rally.

Supporting scientific congresses

Since its creation, AMPA has organised, welcomed or supported 17 international scientific conferences in order to take stoke on the latest medical discoveries. AMPA contributes to further research by allowing scientists to exchange and share their knowledge. In Monaco or abroad, these congresses participate in promoting Monaco involvement in research for Alzheimer’s disease.

Increasing public awareness

Each year, AMPA organises several events in Monaco in order to raise awareness regarding Alzheimer’s disease among the general public:

- Conferences and debates for the general public.
- Projection of films and documentaries.
- Artistic projects (ballets, concerts, photography and art exhibitions).
- Memory walks.

Diffusing expertise and knowledge

AMPA allows people with Alzheimer’s dementia and their carers access to information and advices through its website (www.ampa-monaco.com), social networks and information brochures. AMPA also regularly participates in major national and international conferences and is involved in several workshop of experts on Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders.

World Alzheimer’s Day 2016

For World Alzheimer’s Day (WAD) 2016, AMPA, the city of Monaco and Monegasque healthcare professionals from geriatric structures and services organised the first “Healthy Ageing” Village in Monaco. This initiative aimed to inform the general public about healthy ageing and to promote the wellbeing of older people and people with dementia. Inaugurated by Stéphane Valéri, Minister for Health and Social Affairs and Catherine Pastor, the village offered several information stands and demonstrations of the devices available for the elderly in Monaco. Discovery workshops, as well as artistic and recreational activities were organised throughout the day for the general public.

AMPA at international level

Since 2013, AMPA is a member of Alzheimer Europe (AE) and of Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) working respectively with the European Health Authorities and international organisations to support people with dementia.

In 2013, AMPA also launched the Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance (MAA) and as a result is recognised as an international solidarity organisation in Monaco.

The Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance

Upon AMPA’s initiative, the MAA currently has 17 member countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

The MAA endowment fund, domiciled in Paris, is the only network composed of Alzheimer associations, scientific experts and healthcare professionals from each country. Its main objectives are to support MAA members in the development of their initiatives, defend the interests, needs and specificities of Mediterranean people with dementia and their family carers, encourage and promote associative, scientific and academic collaborations in the Mediterranean region. This project is supported by the Union for the Mediterranean.

In 2015, the MAA created a scientific committee, chaired by Prof. Jacques Touchon (Montpellier, France). This committee brings together researchers in biomedical and clinical research and human and social sciences from the principal Mediterranean area. Its objective is to promote and develop research in this region.
Alzheimer and the Mediterranean Report

AMPA published the first “Alzheimer and the Mediterranean” report and officially launched the MAA on WAD 2016, during a press conference in Paris. This unprecedented initiative in the Mediterranean aims to make dementia a public health priority in this region. The publication of this report is one of the MAA’s first achievements.

In many Mediterranean countries, there is still little knowledge about the problems surrounding dementia, which remains underestimated and insufficiently documented. This report is the first paper to discuss the issues concerning dementia in the Mediterranean region. The report highlights 11 main issues:

1. An alarming rise in the number of people with dementia.
2. A disease that is still not recognised as a priority.
3. The difficulty of assessing the financial impact of dementia.
4. The importance of timely/early diagnosis.
5. The breakdown of family structures.
6. Institutional healthcare and services, not specific to dementia.
7. A general lack of training among professionals.
8. Unequal access to medical treatment and psychosocial interventions.
9. A lack of biomedical, fundamental and clinical research.
10. A persistent negative image and lack of awareness.
11. The need to develop adequate legal safeguards and a specific ethical reflection.

Finally, the report makes recommendations at regional and international levels in order to anticipate solutions and provide better support and care for people with dementia.

The “Alzheimer and the Mediterranean” report was distributed to the public health authorities of each Mediterranean country and to all the relevant public, private and associative stakeholders on WAD. The report is available for download on the AMPA website:


Policy watch

3 October: Peter Mittler asks “How can the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities benefit Europeans living with a diagnosis of dementia?”

Following his participation in a meeting with the CRPD Committee in late August, and more recently in a UN Human Rights Council meeting alongside Dementia Alliance International (DAI) Board Member Professor Mary Radnofsky and DAI Human Rights Advisor Professor Peter Mittler (pictured) sent the following report to Alzheimer Europe, titled “How can the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities benefit Europeans living with a diagnosis of dementia?”

Before answering the question in the title, I have some important news. On 26 August, a three-person delegation from Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) and Dementia Alliance International (DAI) received a very warm welcome when we met the entire CRPD Committee to present our case for full access to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on the same basis as persons with other disabilities.

Glenn Rees and Marc Wortmann were there as Chair and Executive Director of ADI and I represented DAI. Our joint position paper, press release and individual verbal submissions are on www.alz.co.uk and http://www.dementiaallianceinternational.org/2016/08/

We asked the CRPD Committee to use the full resources of the UN to facilitate access to the CRPD by persons with dementia - for example by monitoring the extent to which they are included in CRPD implementation by Member States. We also asked them to do this in the wider context of the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, launched by the UN, with a commitment to “Leave No-one Behind”:

www.sustainabledevelopment2015.org

From public and private feedback from the Committee, we heard two messages. “This is just what we’ve been waiting for to enable us to put people with dementia on the UN Human Rights and Global SDG map. But why didn’t you come to us earlier?”

I can now provide the first part of my answer to the question in the title:

1 - Europeans living with dementia are not benefiting from the Convention to which they are legally entitled. They need to use every means at their disposal to claim those rights to improve their well-being and quality of life and that of their loved ones. So far, Scotland is the only country to include people with dementia in CRPD implementation.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that the CRPD has been used to design the new dementia strategies launched since 2015.

DAI has discussed this with senior officials of the European Commission in relation to the 2016-2018 ALOVE collaboration, which includes seven countries and was presented at Alzheimer Europe’s 2015 Annual Conference in Ljubljana by a representative of the Scottish Government.

A policy of “we don’t tell governments what to do” is unacceptable to DAI because the exclusion of people with dementia from an international treaty amounts to systemic discrimination. We are also in discussion with the WHO on similar issues.

Europeans living with dementia are fortunate to have Alzheimer Europe (AE), which, like ADI, has adopted a strong Human Rights-based policy, including access to the CRPD. AE has already used its close working links with the Commission, Parliament and MEPs to secure commitments to the rights of people living with dementia. Europeans living with dementia can take heart.
Nevertheless, I must stress that there has to be a balance between the voice for and of people with dementia and also between them and their care partners.

2 - AE and its national member associations, working in close partnership with people living with dementia, can use their right to submit parallel reports when their governments are reporting on implementation of the CRPD and other Conventions.

Alzheimer Germany (DAIg) was the first to do this by contributing to European Disability Federation report. Next year, we know that the governments of Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova and Cyprus will meet the Committee in March and that Latvia, Luxembourg, Montenegro and the UK will do so in September.

The Committee now has six new members, one of them a person with an intellectual disability. When will there be a person with a diagnosis of dementia?

**Lessons from Italy**

Till then, we can all learn from Italy because the Committee’s Concluding Observations have just been published:


All the reports on Italy, including those written by Civil Society, NGOs and Disabled Persons Organisations are on:


Italy was criticised for being one of the few countries not to have an independent National Human Rights Organisation. But there is a European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, which provides free independent advice to Civil Society Organisations in most European countries: www.enhri.org.

The UK Equalities and Human Rights Commission has published “CRPD: What Does it Mean for You?” It is the best User’s Guide to the Convention. Please read it and use it: https://www.equalityhumanrights.com

Peter Mittler’s blog post about the UN Human Rights Council meeting, in which he participated with DAI Board Member Professor Mary Radnofsky, from 3 to 5 October can be read in full here: others will follow

http://www.dementiaallianceinternational.org/un-protects-human-rights/

5 October: Policy conclusions are adopted at biennial Croatian Congress on Alzheimer’s disease

From 5 to 8 October 2016, in the small town of Tučepi on the Adriatic coast, the 2016 instalment of the biennial Croatian Congress on Alzheimer’s disease (CROCAD-16) was held, with international participation. The biennial CROCAD conferences traditionally support a holistic approach, with basic, clinical and social topics represented.

CROCAD-16 was the biggest gathering on the topic in the region has ever seen, with more than 250 people from 7 countries, with different specialties taking part - many of whom delivered lectures or gave poster presentations on various aspects of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and other causes of dementia.

Awards for the best poster in each particular field were given, following the decision of an international jury, and the plenary lecture was given by Professor Charles Scerri (Malta), Honorary Secretary of Alzheimer Europe (AE).

There was a promotion of the first book written in Croatian by a caregiver of person with dementia.

On the first day of the conference, a Memory Walk was organised, with participants wearing blue t-shirts to help raise awareness of dementia. On the second day, a meeting of the Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance (MAA) was organize and on the third and final day, during the closing of CROCAD-16, some policy conclusions were adopted:

- The National strategy against AD and other dementias should be adopted as soon as possible in Croatia, and due to the fact that the country now has a new Government, it is necessary to apply again with the existing written documents.
- Some aspects of the law concerning mental health – specifically regarding the hospitalisation of people with dementia - should be changed
- Access to medication should be made be easier (all anti-dementia drugs are currently only partially reimbursed, and other drugs deemed necessary are not allowed due to old insurance company algorithms.
- Caregivers and families of persons with dementia need more support from society.
- A better connection and less obstacles between medical and social professionals is needed.
- Developing a more dementia-friendly society should be our goal.

6 October: Andaluz Parliament calls for dementia strategy

On the 6 October the Andalusian Parliament requested the government to launch the ‘Alzheimer 2020 Strategy’ within three months. The strategy which has already been approved and has unanimous cross party support will include the implementation of a study of the actual costs of the disease, the necessary tools for early diagnosis; promotion of technological treatments and cognitive stimulation, a prevention plan and a specific training plan for health professionals in primary care and social services in local authorities as “key players in the early diagnosis of the disease”.

The strategy will also include a new boost to scientific research aimed at the prevention of disease in the asymptomatic phase; further support of social research; the integration of the caregiver in care protocols, both
health and social, and improvement of the management and quality of service providers.


21 October: Bosnia is moving closer to a national dementia plan

On 21 October, Alzheimer Europe (AE)’s member in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H) – Udruženje AIR – reported a positive step towards a national dementia strategy in the country:

Following B&H’s recent scientific symposium on dementia, which concluded with the signing of a Declaration on dementia, Udruženje AIR was able to negotiate with B&H’s Ministry of Health and the Ministry for Labour and Social Policy. These negotiations culminated in an agreement to form a working group on the National Dementia Strategy. The group will be composed by Udruženje AIR, with the consent of both ministries.

The Director of the B&H Center for Dementia, Mr Osman Kučuk commented:

“It is an important step for the future, because we now have political support to create a national dementia strategy. The next step is the appointment of two members from each of the ministries to the working group.”

Science – behind the headlines

5 October: “Claims that coffee prevents dementia are lukewarm at best” says NHS Choices

Following recent media headlines (21 September) claiming that coffee could prevent dementia, we looked to the NHS Choices website for a more grounded look, behind the headlines.

Where did the story come from?

The study was carried out by researchers at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Wake Forest School of Medicine, the Health Partners Institute for Education and Research in Minnesota, and Harvard Medical School, all in the US. The study was funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, at the National Institutes for Health, US. The authors do not report any sources of conflict. The study was published in the peer-reviewed Journals of Gerontology, Medical Sciences, an open-access journal and is free to read online. The quality of the UK media’s reporting of the study was poor. Firstly, most of the headlines, such as the Mail’s “Coffee really can help to prevent dementia,” overstated the implications of the study’s results. Secondly, nobody highlighted that the main result in terms of dementia prevention only barely scraped the level required for statistical significance.

Finally, and most importantly, all of the UK media’s sources reported a factual inaccuracy. The actual reduction in terms of hazard ratio was 26% not 36%.

The inaccuracy appears to originate with a press release from the EurekAlert! science news service. This suggests no UK media source bothered to read the actual study (which to be fair to EurekAlert! was linked to in its article) and instead just used the press release.

What kind of research was this?

This was a prospective cohort study which aimed to assess the relationship between caffeine intake and overall incidence of probable dementia or cognitive impairment in postmenopausal women. Previous research in animals has suggested a protective effect of caffeine and other components in coffee on brain function.

The researchers used data from a long running randomised controlled trial in the US called the Women’s Health Initiative. Women aged 65 to 80 had been randomised to take oestrogen tablets or placebo between 1995 and 1999. They were followed up annually for up to 10 years.
As this was a cohort study using data from the trial, it can only show a link between one factor – in this case caffeine intake – and another – dementia and cognitive impairment. It cannot prove caffeine intake lowered the risk of dementia or cognitive impairment.

**What did the research involve?**

Researchers looked at data from 6,467 women who had provided self-reported caffeine data within six months of starting the study and had at least one follow-up cognitive assessment.

Global cognitive function was assessed annually by trained, certified technicians and interviewers using the 100-point Modified Mini Mental State (3MS) exam until 2007. Annual assessment after 2007 was done by the 40 point Telephone Interview for Cognitive Status-modified (TICSm). Both the 3MS and the TICSm are well validated methods of assessing and measuring cognitive abilities.

Caffeine intake was based on self-report at the start of the study using a food frequency questionnaire (FFQ). Caffeine intake was estimated from questions on coffee, tea, and cola beverages, including frequency and serving size. It was presumed that intake of these drinks were of the caffeinated form as there was no specific question asking about decaffeinated forms.

The data was analysed according to caffeine intake and the time until incidence of probable dementia or cognitive impairment. The results were adjusted to take into account risk factors including: age, education, body mass index (BMI), hormone therapy, race, sleep quality, depression, hypertension, prior cardiovascular disease, diabetes, smoking and alcohol consumption.

**What were the basic results?**

In a sample of generally healthy postmenopausal women, during the 10 years of follow-up, 209 women received a classification of probable dementia and 179 of mild cognitive impairment.

Women who drank more than 172mg of caffeine per day (equivalent to just under two cups of coffee) had a 26% lower risk of probable dementia than those who drank less (adjusted hazard ratio (HR) 0.74, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.56 to 0.99). As mentioned this result is borderline statistically significant.

They were also 26% less likely to have either probable dementia or mild cognitive impairment (HR 0.74, 95% CI 0.60 to 0.91).

The average amount of caffeine consumed in the women above the 172mg cut-off was 261mg, equating to about three cups of coffee or five cups of tea. The average amount consumed below the cut-off was 64mg.

**Conclusion**

This study suggests there is a link between self-reported caffeine consumption and risk of developing probable dementia or some kind of cognitive impairment.

The findings could be important in leading to more research to investigate the mechanisms by which caffeine might provide protection against dementia and cognitive impairment. The hope being that such investigation may eventually lead to new forms of drug treatments.

However, there are several limitations of the study, including:

- The level of caffeine was self-reported and may be inaccurate, particularly as it was presumed the reported intake of coffee, tea and cola were all caffeinated, which may not be the case.
- As the actual levels of caffeine were not measured in the study, it may have been another component in coffee, tea of cola that was having a positive effect on the cognitive ability of the women.
- The women in the sample were mostly white and generally highly educated and may not be representative of the general population which may have had an impact on the cognitive functioning scores.
- Although some confounding factors were adjusted for, some were not, for example other aspects of women’s diets and family history of dementia.
- Breaking down level of caffeine consumed into more than two groups would have been useful to observe if cognitive function improves with caffeine consumed or if there is an optimum level of caffeine consumption somewhere in the middle.

Finally, the measures of cognitive function were not consistent throughout the study and therefore comparing women assessed using different instruments may lead to over- or under-estimation of cognitive impairment or probable dementia, causing inaccuracies in the conclusions.

Overall, it cannot be said that women consuming more caffeine are at a lower risk of developing cognitive impairment or probable dementia. More research is needed to identify whether there are mechanisms by which caffeine may be a protective factor in cognitive functioning.

http://www.nhs.uk/news/2016/10October/Pages/Claims-that-coffee-prevents-dementia-are-lukewarm-at-best.aspx
10 October: Is gene therapy a cure for Alzheimer’s disease? The Alzheimer’s Society comments

Following recent media headlines claiming that gene therapy might be able to cure Alzheimer’s disease, our friends at the Alzheimer’s Society (UK) commented on the stories and the original study behind the headlines. Here is what they had to say:

New research published today (Monday 10 October 2016) in the journal of Proceedings of the National Academy, holds potential to treat Alzheimer’s disease.

The research shows how the development of Alzheimer’s disease can be prevented in mice by delivering a gene into the brain using a specially adapted virus.

Scientists from Imperial College London suggest that the gene, called PGC1-alpha, may prevent the formation of a protein called amyloid-beta. Amyloid-beta is the main component of the amyloid plaques, the sticky clumps of protein found in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease. Mice that were treated with the gene therapy showed less amyloid in their brain and performed better on memory tests.

Commenting on the research, Dr Doug Brown, Director of Research and Development at Alzheimer’s Society said:

“This research takes a new approach to tackling the underlying causes of Alzheimer’s disease – using a technique called gene therapy to interrupt the production of amyloid protein, one of the key hallmarks of Alzheimer’s. So far, potential treatments that directly target amyloid build-ups in the brain have mostly had disappointing results in clinical trials, whereas this study could pave the way for a new plan of attack.”

“It’s still early days for this gene therapy approach – while it has shown promise in mice, we’re still not sure whether this will be suitable for people. Using gene therapy could prove to be useful further down the line in dementia research and we look forward to seeing if this will be an effective way of developing future treatments.”

Link to original study: http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2016/10/05/1606171113

Science watch

21 September: Failure of immunotherapy in AD clinical trials may be due to presence of another form of dementia

Immunotherapy for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) may not provide a clinical benefit in those with Alzheimer’s dementia, who also develop vascular cognitive impairment and dementia (VCID), according to a study published in the Journal of Neuroscience on 21 September.

VCID is the second most common form of dementia after Alzheimer’s, and it is estimated that 40% of those with Alzheimer’s dementia also have some form of VCID. The main hallmark of AD is the accumulation of aggregates of the Aβ protein (Aβ plaques), whose presence disturbs neuronal function and brain activity.

For this reason, one promising technique for Alzheimer’s, called anti-Aβ immunotherapy consists of the administration of proteins that react against these aggregates, clearing them from the brain.

“While successful in clearing Aβ and improving cognition in mice, anti-Aβ immunotherapy failed to reach primary cognitive outcomes in several different clinical trials,” the authors wrote. “We hypothesized that one potential reason the anti-Aβ immunotherapy clinical trials were unsuccessful was due to this high percentage of VCID comorbidity in the [Alzheimer’s] population.”

To test their hypothesis, researchers compared the effect of anti-Aβ immunotherapy in normal mice and mouse models with both AD and VCID. To do so, the scientists induced hyperhomocysteinemia (HHcy - a form of VCID) through diet in AD mouse models. After three months on the diet, when cerebrovascular pathology was induced by HHcy, the mouse models received injections of anti-Aβ immunotherapy for a further three months.
Consistent with their hypothesis, researchers observed a decrease in the levels of the Aβ protein, but no cognitive benefit was induced by the anti-Aβ immunotherapy. What’s more, this treatment induced an increase in microhaemorrhages in mouse models carrying both diseases.

The study results showed that the treatment not only did not reduce cognitive impairment, it also exacerbated adverse cerebrovascular events in the mouse models carrying both diseases. The co-existence of VCID with AD may therefore mute the response to anti-Aβ immunotherapy.

http://jneurosci.org/content/36/38/9896

29 September: US Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation announces new clinical trial to test cancer drug as AD treatment

On 29 September, the Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) in the US announced a USD 2.1 million (EUR 1.9 million) grant awarded to Dr R. Scott Turner, Georgetown University Medical Center to conduct a phase II clinical trial of low-dose nilotinib in people with Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Nilotinib is an FDA-approved drug for the treatment of adult chronic myeloid leukemia.

In preclinical studies conducted by Georgetown researchers, nilotinib reduced cognitive impairment by targeting two of the underlying causes of AD - neuroinflammation and misfolded proteins. Nilotinib triggers a process (called autophagy) that removes the toxic proteins tau and beta-amyloid from the brain before they accumulate into plaques and tangles.

Dr Turner, Co-Medical Director of Georgetown University Medical Center’s Translational Neurotherapeutics Program (TNP) and Director of the Georgetown Memory Disorders Program, said:

“By stimulating the brain’s normal autophagic process, which clears out these misfolded proteins in cells, we hope to prevent or slow the progression of Alzheimer’s.”

The preclinical research was conducted by Dr Charbel Moussa, Scientific and Clinical Research Director for Georgetown’s TNP, who explained:

“Nilotinib seems to activate the cell’s garbage disposal machine, reduce plaques and tangles and reverse cognitive decline in animal models of Alzheimer’s disease. We hope that this trial will clarify the effects of nilotinib in Alzheimer’s patients.”

Dr Moussa will be a co-investigator on the Alzheimer’s trial.

The trial is expected to start this year and will include 42 participants, with half randomised to receive an escalating dose of nilotinib, while the other half receives a placebo. The primary objectives of the study will be to test the drug’s safety and tolerability and to measure whether nilotinib reduces inflammation and the presence of beta-amyloid and tau in spinal fluid.

Dr Turner and his colleagues in the Georgetown Memory Disorders Program will also perform cognitive and functional abilities tests.

6 October: Enzyme treatment of gene may reverse effects of AD

A Tel Aviv University (TAU) study published recently in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease suggests a new target for Alzheimer’s research: the APOE gene. The gene has two faces: a healthy form called APOE3 and a disease-related pathological form called APOE4. The researchers developed a novel mechanism and approach with which to convert the “bad” APOE4 to the “good” APOE3.

The research was led by Prof. Daniel M. Michaelson, Director of the Eichenbaum Laboratory of Alzheimer’s Disease Research and incumbent of the Myriam Lebach Chair in Molecular Neurodegeneration at TAU’s Faculty of Life Sciences, together with Anat Boehm-Cagan, the Eleanore and Harold Foonberg Doctoral Fellow in Alzheimers Disease Research, and in collaboration with a commercial company based in California, US.

Prof. Michaelson said “the normal APOE gene provides the interface that moves lipids - naturally occurring molecules that include fats, cholesterol, fat-soluble vitamins and other components essential to the health of cells - in and out of cells.

“Whereas the healthy APOE3 does so effectively, the bad form - APOE4 - is impaired.”

Prof. Michaelson and other groups found in past research that the bad APOE4 and the good APOE3 differed in their interactions with lipid cargo. The researchers devised an experimental approach to measure the “bad” features of APOE4, using mouse models expressing either good or bad forms of APOE. Those with APOE4 exhibited impaired learning and memory, as well as damaged brain synapses and an accumulation of phosphorylated tau and a-beta molecules - two pathological hallmarks of Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

“We focused on an enzymatic machinery called ABCA1 that loads lipid cargo onto APOE4. We found that the impaired lipidation of APOE4 could be successfully reversed by activating ABCA1. Most importantly, we discovered that this increased lipidation of APOE4 reversed the behavioral impairments and brain damage seen in non-treated APOE4 mice” Prof. Michaelson said.

In the course of administering treatment, the researchers found that mouse models, which prior to the treatment exhibited disorientated behaviour were able, following treatment, to locate a submerged island in the middle of an artificial pond. Mouse models that had forgotten familiar objects such as bottles - suddenly exhibited sharp object recognition.

"Is there really a magic bullet? One treatment that covers all aspects of Alzheimer’s? Not likely,” said Prof. Michaelson. "Therefore there is a need to define specific subpopulations and to develop treatments targeted at genetic risk factors of the disease, like APOE4, which affects more than half of the Alzheimer’s population."
11 October: Study finds tenuous link between dementia and sudden dizziness when standing up

Researchers at the Erasmus Medical Center in the Netherlands, who followed 6,204 people in their 60s or 70s for an average of 15 years, found that those who suffered repeated periods of low blood pressure on standing were 15% more likely to develop dementia in the years that followed. Their study was published in the journal Plos Medicine on 11 October 2016.

Researcher Dr Arfan Ikram said: “Even though the effect can be seen as subtle - with an increased risk of about 4% for people with postural hypotension compared to those without it - so many people suffer from postural hypotension as they get older that it could have a significant impact on the burden of dementia across the world.”

But he added that young people, who have one-off episodes of dizziness when standing up because of dehydration for example, should not be unduly worried.

NHS Choices comments that the supposed link is “weak” and said the result was on the borderline of statistical significance, so the possibility that this is a chance finding cannot be ruled out.

“While the results are interesting in helping us understand the possible causes of dementia, they don’t mean that anyone who’s ever felt dizzy on standing is going to get dementia”, NHS Choices assures.

http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002143

19 October: Exercise may help ward off memory decline in older people, study suggests

Exercise may be associated with a small benefit for older people who already have memory and thinking problems. This, according to new research published online in the journal Neurology on 19 October.

The study involved 70 people with an average age of 74. Participants all had vascular dementia, the second most common type of dementia, which causes problems with memory and thinking skills as a result of damage to large and small blood vessels in the brain.

Half of the participants took part in one-hour exercise classes three times a week for six months, while the other half received information each month about vascular cognitive impairment and a healthy diet, but no information on physical activity.

All of the participants were tested at the beginning and the end of the study and again six months later, on their overall thinking skills, executive function skills such as planning and organising and how well they could complete their daily activities. Those who exercised had a small improvement on the test of overall thinking skills, executive function skills such as planning and organising and how well they could complete their daily activities. Those who exercised had a small improvement on the test of overall thinking skills, executive function skills such as planning and organising and how well they could complete their daily activities. Those who exercised had a small improvement on the test of overall thinking skills, executive function skills such as planning and organising and how well they could complete their daily activities.


20 October: Treatment approach used in cancer may be useful in Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers have developed a novel treatment that could block the development of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) using microscopic droplets of fat to carry drugs into the brain. This treatment approach, which is used to target drugs to cancer cells, has been successfully applied to AD for the first time, restoring memory loss in mouse models.

The study, led by researchers at Lancaster University and funded by the Alzheimer’s Society was published on 20 October, in the journal Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology and Medicine.

The treatment uses tiny droplets of fat, called nanoliposomes, coated in protein fragments that are able to stop amyloid protein accumulating into plaques, even at low concentrations. Amyloid plaques are the toxic clumps of protein that cause damage to cells in the brains of people with AD.

AD mouse models were injected with the nanoliposomes for three weeks. Those receiving the drug recovered their long-term memory and could recognise familiar objects after a 24-hour period. In comparison, those on a placebo injection had no memory of objects seen the day before.

Commenting on the need for innovative approaches to dementia treatments, Dr Doug Brown, Director of Research and Development at Alzheimer’s Society, said:

“Nanotechnology is promising great benefits to people with many different types of cancer, and it’s exciting that it could one day offer the same hope to people with the most common form of dementia.”


24 October: Phase III analyses in AD show clinical benefit of tramiprosate in APOE4 carriers

Results published on 24 October in The Journal of the Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease (IPAD) describe analyses of Phase III data for the investigational amyloid-targeted drug tramiprosate, in people with Mild to Moderate Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

These efficacy analyses evaluated patient subgroups based on the number of ε4 alleles of apolipoprotein E (APOE4), a major genetic risk factor in up to 65% of people with AD.

The published results showed a gene-dose effect at the high dose of tramiprosate (250 mg, twice-per-day), with patients with two APOE4 alleles (APOE4/4 homozygotes) showing the largest clinical benefit, those with one APOE4 allele (APOE4 heterozygotes) showing an intermediate benefit, while APOE4 non-carriers showed no benefit from tramiprosate.

The results published in IPAD are the first evidence from a large clinical trial to associate efficacy of an amyloid-targeted agent with APOE4 status in people with AD.


https://www.aan.com/PressRoom/Home/PressRelease/1498
25 October: New drug decreases inflammation in brains of mouse models

An experimental drug has been shown to prevent inflammation and remove abnormal protein clumps in the brain associated with Alzheimer’s disease (AD), suggests an animal study presented at the ANESTHESIOLOGY 2016 annual meeting by lead researcher Professor Mohamed Naguib, an anaesthesiologist in the Department of General Anaesthesiology at the Cleveland Clinic and Professor of Anaesthesiology at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

A key characteristic of AD is the development of abnormal protein clumps called amyloid plaques and tangled bundles of fibres in the brain. These changes cause inflammation in the brain and damage to the neurons. This progressive damage leads to memory loss and ultimately Alzheimer’s dementia. The drug, known as NTRX-07, appears to decrease this inflammation in the brain, while preserving neurons and regenerative cells in the brain.

The researchers discovered NTRX-07’s memory-restoring abilities while studying the drug’s potential to treat a complex, chronic pain condition called neuropathic pain. "Patients who have neuropathic pain have chronic neuroinflammation," said Prof. Naguib. "This is a compound that blunts that inflammation."

Researchers tested NTRX-07 on AD mouse models. They found that inflammation produced in response to the disease caused changes in the brain’s microglia cells - immune cells that typically remove dangerous amyloid plaques (protein clumps) in the brain. As the amyloid plaques accumulated in the mouse models, the microglia (immune cells) were unable to remove them, leading to inflammation and damage to nerve cells and causing decreased cognitive ability.

Microglia cells have receptors on the surface called CB2 receptors, which when activated can produce an anti-inflammatory response. NTRX-07 targets CB2 receptors, which leads to decreased inflammation and prevents damage to the brain tissue. The new drug improved removal of abnormal amyloid plaques and improved memory performance and other cognitive skills.

The drug also increased levels of a protein called SOX2, which has been shown to help new brain cells develop and protect the brain in people with Alzheimer’s disease. The study found in mouse models treated with NTRX-07, the levels of SOX2 were restored to normal levels. In contrast, mouse models treated with a placebo showed decreased levels of SOX2, active inflammation in the brain, poor removal of amyloid plaques, and poor memory performance.

Dementia in society

7 October: Spanish awareness campaign asks children to imagine living to 100

The Fundación Pasqual Maragall in Barcelona, Spain has released a video to help raise awareness of dementia and to ask people to help fund research, for “a future without Alzheimer’s”.

In the video (in Spanish) children are told they are the generation that will live to see 100. They are asked what they will do with this time and what kind of grandparents they would like to be. Among their many hopes and dreams, a common wish emerges – not to be sick and not to get Alzheimer’s dementia.

The video campaign, “Los Abuelos Que Queremos Ser” (the grandparents we would like to be) can be viewed on the Fundación Pasqual Maragall website and on YouTube.

25 October: Singer Bobby Vee dies aged 73, with advanced Alzheimer’s dementia

Sixties rock ‘n’ roll singer Bobby Vee – né Robert Thomas Velline - died aged 73, on 25 October. He was in the advanced stages of Alzheimer’s dementia.

The singer, who shot to fame with Hit 100s like “Peggy Sue”, “Rubber Ball” and “Take Good Care of My Baby”, was diagnosed in 2011.

His career began when he took a Midwestern stage as a teenager to fill in after the 1959 plane crash that killed rock ‘n’ roll pioneers Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and J.P. “The Big Bopper” Richardson - dubbed “the day the music died”.

Living with dementia

14 October: Helen Rochford Brennan gives moving acceptance speech on behalf of EWGPWD at Mano Amiga awards

On 14 October, Helen Rochford Brennan, Vice-Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia
(EWGPWD), travelled to Leon, Spain, together with Alzheimer Europe Project Officer Ana Diaz, to accept an International “Mano Amiga” award on behalf of the whole group. The award, in recognition of the group’s outstanding work in the field of dementia, was given by Alzheimer Leon, which seeks to identify and showcase innovative research and initiatives that enhance the health, wellbeing and quality of life of people with dementia and their families.

Ms Rochford Brennan (pictured left, with Ana Diaz right) said:

“I would like to thank everyone involved with the Mano Amiga awards. It is truly an amazing honour for me to be here to accept this award on behalf of the European Working Group of People with Dementia.

For people with dementia this is extra special, as many of us do not have the opportunity to advocate on behalf of people with dementia.

I have enjoyed every moment of my time as a member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia of which I am Vice Chair.

Being involved in advocacy has changed my life completely.

My family are thrilled to have some of the old me back.

I now have some renewed confidence and have moved from believing I could never do anything again to meeting all of you here in Leon especially Her Royal Highness, Queen Sophia.

In the course of our advocacy work we meet many Heads of Government and many politicians.

We engage with the European Parliament and the Commission.

We write speeches (writing is important to us). We advocate for the rights of all people with dementia. We have many speaking engagements- whether in our community, or with health forums- and we are involved in lots of research.

We travel the world to let people know we can live well with dementia in our communities with the correct supports.

Personally I feel grateful and blessed to be here today.

I am also Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group, the advocacy work we do is only possible with the support and encouragement of Alzheimer Europe.

I do not have words to express what my own personal experience with The Alzheimer’s Society of Ireland has been like.

It’s difficult to convey how wonderful the support I have received has been on limited resources.

The voice of the person with dementia is very important and our involvement is now very relevant all over the world.

We are heard because we are participating in research and helping to remove stigma by speaking out at events such as this one.

We have to come out of the shadows and we have had our voice heard.

The very best part of being involved in advocacy is all the new fantastic friends we meet along the way.

Having new friends in other European countries struggling with the same issues is such a special experience, because we can support each other and give each other all that we have to give which is “HOPE”, because, sadly, we do not have a cure.

To finish up: may I quote Jane Goodall "What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make".

May I assure you the EWGPWD are working very hard to make a difference for people with Dementia, not just in Europe, but all over the world.

More than anything we want to talk about the illness, just like we talk about heart disease.

We want timely diagnosis and above all else we want to remove the stigma associated with dementia.

Muchas Gracias!

New publications and resources

25 October: DAI publishes conference guidelines

Dementia Alliance International (DAI) launched the first edition of its “conference guidelines” on 25 October. The publication is based on feedback from people with dementia and family care partners since 2012.

“Of course, it was not possible to receive feedback from the more than 47 million people currently diagnosed with dementia, but we did engage with hundreds of people from more than 12 countries...Your feedback is important, and if you have ways in which the next edition of this document could be improved, we would appreciate hearing from you”, writes DAI in its introduction to the new publication.

For printed copies, please email info@infodai.org


Job opportunities

7 October: Three Alzheimer Europe open positions attract 400 applicants

On 7 October, applications closed for Alzheimer Europe’s three advertised positions - two full time Project Officers and one part-time administrative assistant.

After the official announcement of the positions on 15 September, via our website, newsletter and social media accounts, a total of around 400 applications were received. We were delighted to receive so many!
All applications have been reviewed at the time of writing (19 October) and interviews will take place in the coming days.

We look forward to welcoming the successful candidates to our team and would also like to thank all applicants for their interest in our organisation.

24 October: AMYPAD project seeks PhD student to join its ranks

The AMYPAD project - Amyloid Imaging to Prevent Alzheimer’s Disease is looking for a PhD student to join its ranks, at the VUMC Medical Amsterdam, in the department of radiology and nuclear medicine.

The recently launched European project will try to establish the true value of amyloid PET in a diagnostic and prognostic setting. The five-year project is a collaboration between industry (GEHC, Piramal, Janssen, Ixico) and academic partners funded by the IMI-2 programme, with a total budget EUR 27 million.

As a PhD student for the project, main tasks and responsibilities would be:

- Help recruit patients for a diagnostic study on the added value of amyloid PET;
- Collect follow-up data regarding diagnosis, management and health resource utilisation;
- Participate in PET scanning and image analysis;
- Model data from all EU partners in the prognostic study in collaboration with AMYPAD’s sister project EPAD (European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia);
- Link amyloid imaging data to other MRI measures (atrophy, perfusion).

Applicant profile

A PhD student, who will help develop and implement the AMYPAD project in close collaboration with the project leader, spanning from research to implementation.

- Master in neuroscience or neuropsychology;
- Good communication skills;
- Experience with image analysis.

The PhD position (36 hours) is for four years, starting with a contract for 12 months. Start date is 1 January 2017. The position offers an innovative translational environment in close collaboration with the Alzheimer Centre and Neuroscience Amsterdam with extensive international collaborations.

For more information about this position, you can contact Frederik Barkhof, professor of Neuroradiology, via telephone number: +31(0)20-4440365 or Bart van Barckel, professor of Molecular Brain Imaging, via telephone number: +31(0)20-4442863.

For more information about the procedure, you can contact Cees Knottenbus, recruiter, via telephone number: +31(0)20-4445635.

Please apply before 11 November 2016, via the following link: [http://bit.ly/phd-amypad](http://bit.ly/phd-amypad)

Contact Alzheimer Europe

Alzheimer Europe, 14 rue Dicks, L-1417, Luxembourg; info@alzheimer-europe.org, www.alzheimer-europe.org

Alzheimer Europe Board

Chairperson: Heike von Lützau-Hohleben (Germany); Vice-Chairperson: Iva Holmerová (Czech Republic); Honorary Secretary: Charles Scerri (Malta); Honorary Treasurer: Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis (Portugal); Members: Marie Odile Desana (France), Sabine Henry (Belgium), James Pearson (UK - Scotland), Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland), Jesús Rodrigo (Spain), Helga Rohra (Germany), Štefanija Lukič Žlobec (Slovenia).

Alzheimer Europe Staff

Executive Director: Jean Georges; Communications Officer: Kate Boor Ellis; Policy Officer: Vanessa Challinor; Project Officer: Ana Diaz; Director for Projects: Dianne Gove; Conference and Event Coordinator: Gwladys Guillery; Finance Officer: Stefanie Peulen; Director for Communication: Alex Teligadas; Administrative Assistant: Grazia Tomasini.

AE Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 October</td>
<td>European Working Group of People with Dementia (Copenhagen, Denmark)</td>
<td>EWGPWD and AE staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>INTERDEM Meetings (Copenhagen, Denmark)</td>
<td>Dianne and Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October - 2 November</td>
<td>AE Board meeting, AE Annual General Meeting and the 26th Alzheimer Europe Conference: Excellence in dementia care and treatment (Copenhagen, Denmark)</td>
<td>Members of the AE Board, and staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 November</td>
<td>EPAD Dissemination WP meeting (Copenhagen, Denmark)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<td>7 November</td>
<td>EPF, Access Working Group, (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Vanessa</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 November</td>
<td>IMI Alzheimer’s meeting in European Parliament (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>AMYPAD Communication Meeting (London, UK)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-15 November</td>
<td>EMA Big Data Workshop (London, UK)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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### Conferences 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-11 November</td>
<td>EDUCAL 2016 – Second educational conference on Alzheimer’s disease, <a href="http://www.edukal.alzheimer.hr">www.edukal.alzheimer.hr</a></td>
<td>Zagreb, Croatia</td>
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<td>29-30 November</td>
<td>Dementia conference of the Slovakian EU Presidency</td>
<td>Bratislava, Slovakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 December</td>
<td>MinD Project 1st Symposium, <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mind-project-1st-symposium-tickets-2772802261">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mind-project-1st-symposium-tickets-2772802261</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-5 February 2017</td>
<td>10th Panhellenic Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (PICAD) and 2nd Mediterranean Conference Neurodegenerative Diseases (MeCoND)</td>
<td>Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 March-2 April 2017</td>
<td>13th International Conference on Alzheimer’s &amp; Parkinson’s (AO/PO 2017), <a href="http://adpa2017.kenes.com/">http://adpa2017.kenes.com/</a></td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-25 June 2017</td>
<td>3rd Congress of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), <a href="https://www.ean.org/amsterdam2017/">https://www.ean.org/amsterdam2017/</a></td>
<td>Amsterdam, Netherlands</td>
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