The Alzheimer Europe (AE) team has just returned from Brussels, where we had another series of successful meetings, including a Board meeting, Company Round Table, Public Affairs meeting and a European Parliament lunch debate. I would like to thank all speakers and participants, with a special mention for the MEPs who joined us: Deirdre Clune (Ireland) hosted the debate, while her colleagues Heinz Becker (Austria), Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland), Nessa Childers (Ireland) and Sofia Ribeiro (Portugal) also participated and Hilde Vautmans (Belgium) was represented. European collaboration on the dementia challenge is paramount, and the active participation of MEPs in events like these is very encouraging. During the debate, we also launched our European Dementia Monitor 2017, a benchmark of national dementia policies in Europe, which can be found in our website e-shop.

On the national policy front, I would like to say a huge congratulations to our friends in Scotland, where a third National Dementia Strategy has been launched. It was a pleasure for me, also, to join our Scottish colleagues earlier in the month, for their annual conference, at which I presented the impact of “Brexit” on dementia research.

On the EU project news front, another promising EU project, the four-year SMART4MD project has just launched its feasibility study, paving the way for its main study later this year. Meanwhile, EPAD announced that its LCS study is now recruiting volunteers in San Sebastian, Spain and the project’s “Academy”, aiming to leverage project resources to foster and develop academic research capacity and output in AD has also been launched this month, and Project Officers Cindy and Chris are officially Fellows. Last but not least on the project front, I would like to personally congratulate Simon Lovestone, of EMIF and EPAD, for his recent knighthood in the Queen’s birthday honours, for services to neuroscience research. Truly deserved!

On a less positive note, there have been a number of concerns regarding the future of European health policy. A joint letter, signed by AE and 38 other organisations, has been sent to President Jean Claude Junker highlighting these fears and asking for an urgent meeting. We remain optimistic and will keep you appraised of any updates.

To end on a high note, I am excited to see that momentum is building for our Annual Conference, which has attracted a record number of registrations within the “Early Bird” fee period, which closed at the end of June. Registrations, which are already close to 600, will remain open until 22 September. We look forward to what promises to be another interactive and well-attended conference this October in Berlin!

As in recent years, we will combine July and August into one summer newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine!

Jean Georges
Executive Director
ALZHEIMER EUROPE

2 June: AE Executive Director discusses Brexit implications for dementia

At the Annual Conference of Alzheimer Scotland in Edinburgh on 2 June 2017, Jean Georges, the Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, gave an overview of some of the potential implications of Brexit for dementia:

- With 5% of nurses, 10% of doctors, 5% of adult care workers, 16% of academics and 14% of PhD students currently working in the UK coming from other European Union countries, any restrictions to the freedom of movement will undoubtedly have consequences for the work force in these sectors.
- The conduct of clinical trials across EU countries has been simplified thanks to the EU regulations on clinical trials and on data protection. With the UK leaving the European Union, these frameworks will no longer apply and companies will need to submit applications for clinical trials under two different systems with potentially conflicting sets of rules.
- The approval of new medicines at EU level is effectively done by the European Medicines Agency thanks also to the active collaboration of British regulators. After Brexit, the European system will lose the fantastic expertise of UK regulators whilst the UK will need to set up a new parallel system to that of the European Medicines Agency.
- The participation of UK universities and researchers in European research mechanisms such as the Innovative Medicines Initiative or the Horizon2020 programme will need to be renegotiated.

In his presentation, Jean Georges highlighted that the future collaboration between the UK and the European Union on all four highlighted areas would depend on the good will of policy makers on both sides to find compromise solutions during the Brexit negotiations, but he also committed Alzheimer Europe to continuing its excellent collaboration with Alzheimer Scotland in the future.

17 June: AE presents at University of Vechta’s Gerontology Future Day

On 17 June, the University of Vechta, Germany hosted a “Gerontology Future Day” (Zukunftstag der Gerontologie). The panel session was organised by the student board of Gerontology and included presentations from 7 alumnæ, including Alzheimer Europe (AE) Project Officer Christophe Bintener. The aim of the sessions was to give the students an insight into the possible work domains of Gerontologists and to highlight aspects of the university curriculum that helped them to find employment.

During the morning presentations, two students from the master’s programme of Dortmund and Vechta spoke about possibilities to engage in a master’s programme with a focus in Gerontology. The next panellist Cathrin Autenrieb, spoke about her involvement in the conceptualisation to realisation of a home for elderly people in Heidelberg and engagement in social services. Christophe then introduced AE, its work, newsletter and the two IMI2 projects (ROADMAP and MOPEAD) in which he is involved. After that, Andreas Schindler introduced his work in the “Demographie-Netzwerk e.V. (ddn)”, followed by Ann-Kristin Folkerts explaining her path to a doctorate and her work in the research group “Medical Psychology | Neuropsychology and Gender Studies, at the University Hospital of Cologne. The sessions then ended with a presentation by Tomke zur Brügge who is Project Coordinator of a regional care project “Perspektive Pflege!”. This was followed by an open discussion round between the panellists and the attending students.

https://www.facebook.com/events/17514149683208/

26 June: Alzheimer Europe Board meets in Brussels

The Alzheimer Europe Board members convened in Brussels on 26-27 June. The meeting agenda included various financial and operational matters, including preparations for the 27th Alzheimer Europe Conference, which will be held in Berlin, Germany from 2 to 4 October 2017. The Board also discussed the next two annual conferences. The next Board meeting will take place on 2 October in Berlin and will be followed by AE’s Annual General Meeting.

27 June: Alzheimer Europe Lunch debate focuses on current and future treatment for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias

On 27 June, Alzheimer Europe held a successful lunch debate in the European Parliament chaired by MEP Deirdre Clune (Ireland) which focused on the current and future treatment of Alzheimer’s dementia.

The lunch debate gathered over 50 people including MEPs Heinz Becker (Austria) Nessa Childers (Ireland) Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland) and Sofia Ribeiro (Portugal). The audience included representatives from 19 Alzheimer Europe member associations and several pharmaceutical companies.

The numbers of people with dementia in Europe is increasing and still there is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) or any other common type of dementia.

Medicines have been developed for AD that can temporarily alleviate symptoms, or slow down their progression in some people, but these treatments have limited efficacy.

Yet, despite an unprecedented research focus on AD and dementia at European and global level, attempts to develop
new drugs for treating Alzheimer’s disease have so far been unsuccessful.

However our understanding of the underlying disease processes causing Alzheimer’s dementia has increased. The four speakers at the lunch debate presented an overview of past present and future treatment and research into treatments for AD.

The first speaker was Prof. Alexander Kurz, (Technical University of Munich, Germany) who highlighted the current pharmacological treatment and non-pharmacological management options.

The second speaker was Prof. Simon Lovestone, (University of Oxford, United Kingdom) who gave an update on researchers’ latest understanding of Alzheimer’s disease and Alzheimer’s dementia. He was hopeful that a cure can be found despite the current failure rate of research compared to other diseases.

Prof. Bengt Winblad (Karolinska Institutet, Sweden) the third speaker, gave an overview of ongoing clinical trials including preventative strategies,

Dr Elisabetta Vaudano from the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), presented the public private partnership of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), their efforts to speed up the drug discovery process and how the European Union and IMI are supporting efforts to identify new treatments for Alzheimer’s disease.

The question and answer session was very lively with MEP Sofia Ribeiro kicking off with a question on Brexit and the impact on research, and what would be the effect for the rest of Europe since so much research was taking place within the UK.

MEP Heinz Becker stated he was very impressed with the debate and offered the full support of the European Parliament asking what academia and research needed.

MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen thanked AE for an inspiring interactive and a high quality meeting but commented “What if we have got it wrong? How serious is this, could it be the “the 4th type of diabetes” Helen Rochford Brennan from the European Working Group of People with Dementia also commented, asking “are we really looking in the right place?”

Executive Director Jean Georges commented, “It is great to hear this message of hope and the new focus on preventing Alzheimer’s dementia. What are the perspectives for people already at the dementia stage or those with other forms of dementia?”

MEP Deirdre Clune summed up, thanking all the speakers and saying that she felt inspired and that with the collaboration at European level she had more hope for a new treatment and eventually a cure for AD.

Iva Holmerová, Chair of Alzheimer Europe closed the lunch debate with the launch of AE’s new publication, the “European Dementia Monitor 2017”, which highlights the existing inequalities in access to dementia care and treatment across Europe. A full report can be read here: https://goo.gl/jHHJPX

The next lunch debate will be help on 5 December 2017.

The objective of the report was to provide a benchmark of national dementia policies in order to compare and rate the responses of European countries to the dementia challenge. The survey covered all Member States of the European Union (with the exception of Estonia), as well as Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Jersey, Israel, Monaco, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey. The publication highlights existing inequalities in access to dementia care and treatment across Europe.

Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, stated: “Our organisation has been lobbying for the recognition of dementia as a public health priority and called on European governments to develop national dementia strategies. The aim of the European Dementia Monitor is to assess which countries provide the most dementia-friendly policies and guarantee the best support and treatment of people with dementia and their carers”.

The European Dementia Monitor compares countries on 10 different categories:

1. The availability of care services
2. The affordability of care services
3. The reimbursement of medicines
4. The availability of clinical trials
5. The involvement of the country in European dementia research initiatives
6. The recognition of dementia as a priority
7. The development of dementia-friendly initiatives
8. The recognition of legal rights
9. The ratification of International and European human rights treaties
10. Care and employment rights

According to the findings of the European Dementia Monitor, no country excelled in all ten categories and there were significant differences between European countries with most of the Western and Northern European countries scoring significantly higher than Eastern European countries.

Some of the key findings were:

- Finland scored highest on care availability and affordability since it provided the most care services and ensured that these services were accessible and affordable for people with dementia and their carers.
- On treatment, Belgium, Ireland, Sweden and the United Kingdom (both England and Scotland) came first, as all anti-dementia treatments were fully reimbursed and the countries had a policy in place to limit the inappropriate use of antipsychotics.
- Germany, France and Spain scored highest in the clinical trial category, as it was possible for people with dementia to take part in all nine phase III clinical trials currently being conducted in Europe.
- Italy was the country that was the most committed to and active in European dementia research collaborations.
- Ireland and Norway came first in the recognition of dementia as a national policy and research priority.
- Finland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom (England) had the most inclusive and dementia-friendly initiatives and communities.
- Germany, France, Israel, the Netherlands, Slovenia and the United Kingdom (England and Scotland) complied with Alzheimer Europe’s four recommendations with regard to respecting the legal rights of people with dementia and their carers.
- Finland and Norway had ratified the most International and European human rights conventions.
- Ireland came first with regard to the care and employment rights which are recognised.

Ms Clune (pictured) welcomed the findings: “As a Member of the European Parliament and the European Alzheimer’s Alliance, I am interested in how European countries differ in their approaches to dementia care and treatment. I hope that this report will be an incentive for some countries to further improve their support to people with dementia and their carers and to learn from those countries which have put more dementia-friendly policies in place. As an Irish MEP, I was happy to see that Ireland excelled in some key areas with the development of our national dementia strategy, the Irish Working Group of People with Dementia and the recognition of care and employment rights. However, my country is also
lagging behind in other areas and it is time, for example, for Ireland to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

Read our full press release here: https://goo.gl/Ru9psh

27 June: Alzheimer Europe hosts a Company Round Table in Brussels

Alzheimer Europe (AE) hosted a Company Round Table (CRT) meeting in Brussels on 27 June. The 33 participants included 7 participants from sponsor companies, 16 different AE representatives (7 of which are AE staff members) alongside another 10 representatives from national organisations.

The first presentation by Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor, comprised of an update on the EU and WHO developments in the field of dementia. This revolved around several key issues, such as the discussions on the Accessibility Act, in which AE is currently involved through the European Disability Forum (EDF). Another important topic was the European Pillar of Social Rights. After this, discussions on the future of the health programme and DG Santé were taken up. Vanessa then introduced the procedure and criteria for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency following Brexit. As a last part, she concluded that the developments on dementia as a shared priority are progressing and that a number of Member States have recently announced dementia strategies. Furthermore, there have been developments in Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Wales (UK) and Germany. Another positive point she noted, was that research at EU level is progressing and the development of the WHO Global Action Plan on dementia is proceeding as well.

Executive Director Jean Georges gave an update on some of AE’s activities, such as the Annual Conference in Berlin, the Alzheimer’s Association Academy, and the European Dementia Monitor, which was launched earlier the same day at the European Parliament. The report provides a benchmark of national dementia policies in order to compare and rate the responses of European countries to the dementia challenge.

Project Officer Cindy Birck gave an update on the Clinical Trials Watch and described its aims to the participants, highlighting challenges in updates and stressing the importance of the involvement of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and pharmaceutical companies. This led to an outlook on how it could be further developed and an open discussion with representatives of the attending pharma companies.

Jill Smith from F. Hoffmann-La Roche, then introduced the barriers and challenges on clinical trial information and recruitment from an industry perspective. Her presentation led to questions to the participants revolving around a call to action raising awareness of clinical trials and possibilities for practical support. An open discussion on clinical trial information and recruitment followed, concluding the session.

The CT Watch is available on our website: http://alzheimer-europe.org/Research/Clinical-Trials-Watch

28 June: Alzheimer Europe hosts Public Affairs meeting and PACE consultation in Brussels

On 28 June, Alzheimer Europe (AE) hosted a Public Affairs meeting in Brussels. 18 representatives from AE member organisations, and 7 AE staff members were in attendance, alongside 5 expert speakers from the 2nd Joint Action on Dementia and 3 members of the PACE project. AE Chairperson Iva Holmerová chaired the meeting.

In the morning, the agenda focused on:

- The 2017 AE Yearbook and Ethics Report, with updates being given by Project Officer Ana Diaz on the former and Director for Projects Dianne Gove on the latter.

AE is grateful to the following expert speakers, for providing a detailed update on the 2nd Joint Action, to date:

- Rona Tatler, Senior Policy Officer, Scottish Government, who gave delegates an introduction to the project as a whole and also shared findings and recommendations of the Joint Action regarding dementia-friendly communities.
- Audrey Mailllet, a researcher from France, who shared findings and recommendations regarding timely diagnosis and post-diagnostic support.
- Jacqueline Hoogendam, Senior Advisor, Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, who shared findings and recommendations regarding care coordination and crisis management.
- Øyvind Kirkevold, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, who shared findings and recommendations regarding residential care. He was joined by his colleague Kari Kristiansen.

Some of the findings discussed at our Public Affairs meeting will be published later this year. For news about these and for other updates on the Joint Action, you can sign up to the newsletter via the holding website (which will go fully live after summer 2017): http://www.actondementia.eu/

In the afternoon, delegates were invited to participate in a consultation with the PACE project - Palliative Care for Older People in care and nursing homes in Europe. Katherine Froggatt, University of Lancaster, chaired two plenary sessions, presenting the project to the participants and putting a number of questions to them for
consideration and feedback, to support the project’s policy recommendations. These recommendations are being jointly worked on by PACE partners AGE Platform Europe (AGE) and Alzheimer Europe (AE). AGE and AE split the participants into two consolation groups during the afternoon session, with Borja Arrue, AGE and Dianne Gove, AE, leading one group and Nhu Tram, AGE and Ana Diaz, AE leading the other. The PACE project expressed its gratitude to all participants in this very interactive and productive session. You can find out more about the PACE project and sign up for the newsletter here: http://www.eupace.eu/

3 July: Early Bird rates attract record number of registrations for our Berlin conference

Early Bird rates for our 27th Annual Conference (27AEC) have now ended and we are delighted to announce that we already have almost 600 delegates registered, with many more expected between now and close of registrations on 22 September 2017. The detailed programme overview for the conference in Berlin from 2 to 4 October is now available on our website: http://alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/Berlin-2017/Detailed-programme

27AEC - MEET THE SPEAKERS

Imogen Blood

Imogen Blood set up the social research consultancy, Imogen Blood & Associates (IBA) in 2009. IBA is a network of independent researchers with strong links to practice, working to promote inclusion in communities and to influence policy and services.

Over the past year, Imogen has been working in partnership with Innovations in Dementia as part of the EU Joint Action on Dementia to review the evidence on Dementia Friendly Communities. This has involved finding out from people living with dementia what helps and hinders their participation in day-to-day life. She is currently producing a guide (What Works, and Why?) for those involved in Dementia Friendly Communities, for the Alzheimer’s Society in England.

As a researcher, she has over thirty publications related to ageing, dementia, equality, housing, care and support. Her book for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, A Better Life – Valuing our Later Years (2012) offers a blueprint for a positive ageing society, told through the stories of older people.

Imogen began her career in social work and frontline supported housing work and is an associate of Research in Practice for Adults, for whom she writes and trains on dementia and enablement, positive risk taking and strengths-based practice with older people. She sits on the expert panel for the EU Ambient Assisted Living programme, which funds research and development projects using technology to enhance independence for older people, including people living with dementia.

Imogen Blood is one of the speakers in Plenary 1, on 3 October.

Bob Woods

Bob Woods is Professor of Clinical Psychology of Older People at Bangor University, Wales where he is Director of the Dementia Services Development Centre Wales and Associate Director of the (Wales) Centre for Ageing & Dementia Research.

His research has involved the systematic development of evidence-based psychosocial interventions for people with dementia and their care-givers, including cognitive stimulation and reminiscence approaches.

He is an Alzheimer’s Society Ambassador, a member of Alzheimer Europe’s Expert Advisory Panel and a board member of INTERDEM, the European network on psychosocial research in dementia care. Prof. Woods is one of the speakers in Plenary 2, on 3 October.

Wiesje van der Flier

Wiesje van der Flier (1975) is full professor and head of clinical research at the Alzheimer center of the VU University Medical Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, where she works since 2004.

She studied neuropsychology at the University of Utrecht. In addition, she is clinical epidemiologist. She is head of the Amsterdam Dementia Cohort, an ongoing memory-clinic based cohort including over 6,000 patients with deep phenotyping (MRI, EEG, CSF biomarkers, and PET) and linked biobank (blood, DNA, CSF). The Amsterdam Dementia Cohort is at the basis of many of the studies performed at the VUmc Alzheimer center.
Prof. Van der Flier has been (co)promotor of 20 theses and is currently supervising ~10 PhD projects. Her main research areas are phenotypical heterogeneity, early diagnosis and the role of vascular factors in Alzheimer’s disease. Together with her colleague, Philip Scheltens, she has recently written a book, “het Alzheimermysterie”, which was published by the Arbeiderspers. Prof. van der Flier is one of the speakers in Plenary 3, on 4 October.

Stéphane Hogan

Stéphane Hogan is the Head of Sector for Neuroscience within the unit dealing with "Non-communicable diseases and the challenge of healthy ageing" in the Health Directorate of DG Research & Innovation, which manages the part of the Horizon 2020 programme. Previously Mr Hogan was Head of Unit for Biotechnology for Health and subsequently Head of Unit for Strategy in the Health Directorate of DG Research & Innovation. He has also represented the European Commission as Science Counsellor at the EU Delegation to the African Union in Addis Ababa from 2012-2016, where his role was to foster cooperation in between the EU and the AU, both at policy level and through the Horizon 2020 programme.

Mr Hogan has a background (BA) in genetics and (MSc) biotechnology. He studied in Ireland and Belgium before working in the private sector in France and joining the European Commission in 1996. In 2002 he completed an MBA at the Open University.

Stéphane Hogan is one of the speakers in Plenary 4, on 4 October.

EU PROJECTS

18-20 May: PACE participates in European Association of Palliative Care congress

From 18 to 20 May, members of the PACE project (comparing the effectiveness of Palliative Care for older people in long-term care facilities in Europe) participated in the European Association of Palliative Care (EAPC) congress in Madrid, Spain.

PACE was delighted to present its work during the parallel session “Palliative Care in LTCFs in Europe: State of the Art” and in various poster presentations, including those by Tinne Smets, Anne Wichmann and Marc Tanghe.

Congratulations to members of the PACE project consortium, who received awards during the congress:
- Sheila Payne (EAPC Award for outstanding contribution to palliative care)
- and Lara Pivodic (EAPC Early Researcher Award)

The PACE project has received funding from the European Union’s Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement no 603111.

http://www.eupace.eu/

1 June: EAPC taskforce completes PACE project mapping

The second European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC) taskforce looking at palliative care in long-term care facilities (LTCFs) in Europe has just been completed.

The work was undertaken as part of the PACE (comparing the effectiveness of Palliative Care for older people in long-term care facilities in Europe) study.

The aim of the current taskforce was to map and classify different structures, organisational models, and policies related to palliative care provision in LTCFs in Europe. Through a survey of country informants and a review of secondary data sources, the taskforce built up a picture of the long-term care facility context and the different ways in which palliative care is being developed and provided in this setting.

To access the full report PACE/EAPC Taskforce report, follow this link and scroll to the end of the page. To access the resulting paper published in the Journal of the American Medical Directors Association (JAMDA) follow this link.

7 June: AMYPAD project publishes its flyer

On 7 June, the AMYPAD consortium released a flyer developed by its communication team. It includes general information on Alzheimer’s disease and β-amyloid as well as a brief description about the AMYPAD project, its objectives and the partners involved. The aim is to raise awareness of the project’s existence and to reach efficiently known and additional relevant audiences. It will also be used to support the AMYPAD presentations at upcoming events.

You can download the flyer here:
http://amypad.eu/resources/documents/

9 June: EMIF AD cohort explorer reaches maturity

During the first week of June 2017, the European Medical Information Framework (EMIF) took the next step in fulfilling its mission of improving the identification, access and assessment, and the (re)use of health data. Following the launch of the EMIF Alzheimer’s disease (AD) Catalogue (https://emif-catalogue.eu/) back in
January 2017, the next phase was initiated, as the “Alzheimer’s disease cohort explorer” has reached user testing and a public launch is expected to occur in early 2018. The AD cohort explorer allows AD data cohorts to map their data to a harmonised data template, called the Switchbox. The latter allows to query these harmonised AD data cohorts at a group level, via the included subject and variable selection tools. As a side note, it is important to stress that single subject data will never be visible. The subject and variable selection tools in the AD cohort explorer thus allow researchers to identify AD data cohorts suitable for their research, and facilitates the initiation of new collaborations with these AD cohorts.

For the AD cohorts participating in EMIF, the benefit of mapping their data to this Switchbox is twofold. First, it increases the AD data cohort’s visibility and thus promotes new research and grant collaborations. At the same time, the Switchbox makes the AD data cohorts a more attractive project partner due to the inherent harmonisation with other data sources, supporting other IMI projects and AD research platforms.

As the AD cohort explorer is now being evaluated, the first AD cohorts have started to map their data to the Switchbox. However, the strength of the platform will be determined by the number of AD cohorts willing to participate. As such, we want to grasp this opportunity to reach out to all researchers interested in using the platform, and most importantly, to all AD data cohort owners which are willing to unlock the full potential of their data via collaborating in the EMIF platform. Please, do not hesitate to contact us for more information - Jelle Praet: jpraet1@its.jnj.com

9 June: NILVAD project nears completion as partners hold 6th General Assembly

On 9 June, the NILVAD partners met in St James’ Hospital, Dublin, Ireland to discuss the completion of the project’s clinical trial of nilvadipine for mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease. The results will be published in a peer-reviewed journal later this year. A public announcement of the study results and the paper’s publication will be made available on the NILVAD website later this year. A Press Release on the main study publication will be issued from all partner institutions and will be coordinated by Trinity College Dublin.

Updates were given on the blood biomarker and CSF substudies. Biosamples are to be transported at the end of June to the testing laboratories in Florida and Sweden for analysis. These results will contribute to ongoing subgroup analyses. The presentations also included updates by Rianne de Heus and Daan de Jong of the Dutch team on the blood flow, frailty and blood pressure sub-studies within the project.

Performance of interviews and collection of questionnaires around patient and caregiver experiences on NILVAD as part of the Mini Study is happening in France, Ireland and Greece and this data is being processed by the team in Lille. A workshop was held to identify and discuss key learnings from NILVAD. The information obtained from this will contribute to a Key Learnings Document being compiled by the project office. This document will be a reference guide for similar future investigator-led studies.

Pictured: some of the NILVAD team at the recent final General Assembly meeting (from left to right) - Vonnie Nally, Fiona Cregg, Lisa Crosby, Ali Sheikh, Dr Annette Kent, Prof Rose-Anne Kenny, Dr Ricardo Segurado, Dr Michael Mullan, Dr Fiona Crawford, Prof Robin Jacoby, Dr Suzanne Hendrix, Prof Brian Lawlor, Siobhan Gaynor, Dr Robert Coen, Jessica Adams, Daan de Jong, Prof Ugo Lucca, Rianne de Heus, Laetitia Breuilh, Maressa Mills, Dr Sean Kennelly and Dr Hannah McCarthy.

13 June: ROADMAP project holds 3rd General Assembly in Barcelona

On 12 and 13 June (Barcelona, Spain), the Real World Outcomes across the AD spectrum for better care: Multi-modal data Access Platform (ROADMAP) Consortium gathered for their 3rd General Assembly Meeting (GAM). The meeting was chaired by John Gallacher (Project Coordinator; The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Oxford) and Frédéric de Reydet de Vulpillieres (Project Manager, Novartis on behalf of EFPIA). The aim of the meeting was to provide updates on the progress of the different Work Packages (WPs), discuss the research questions and how the specifications and amendments of those influence the specific plans of the WPs in the next three months.

During the morning of 12 June, members of specific WPs met in break-out sessions to discuss their ongoing work in face-to-face settings. The GAM then officially started with a welcome by the chairs of the meeting. Frédéric de Reydet de Vulpillieres, introduced the achievements of the project so far, this was followed by an introduction to the upcoming discussions on the revision of the specific research questions with regard to the project’s “Use Cases”, given by John Gallacher. After that, Carlos Diaz (Project Management Office) gave an overview of the so-far submitted and upcoming deliverables, with an outlook on upcoming administrative tasks.

Then, followed seven short WP updates after which the project’s discussions and developments on the research questions were taken up. The questions were proposed by the core group of Consortium scientists and initiated feedback from each WP on these, which led to an open discussion and initial feedback by each WP on how this impacts their future work.

On 13 June, Catherine Reed, introduced the discussions on the strategic results that are to be achieved in ROADMAP Phase 1
on which the EFPIA partners gave feedback, this was followed by an overview of the publication policy process. Jacoline Bouvy (NICE) then gave an update on the development and role of the Expert Advisory Group (EXAG). Each WP gave feedback on their plans for the next three months focusing on the updated research questions. The Project Coordinator then recapped on how the different work streams of the project fit together and invited the project Consortium to provide feedback on his overview, after which the GAM ended.

13 June: NILVAD review article published in "Drugs of the Future"

On 13 June 2017, the NILVAD project office received confirmation that a review article entitled “Repurposing nilvadipine for treatment of dementia: an overview” was published in Drugs of the Future issue number 5. Professor Brian Lawlor coordinated this review article, which discusses repurposing antihypertensives for Alzheimer’s disease (AD), the basic science evidence for repurposing nilvadipine for AD and describes the aims of the NILVAD trial.

https://nilvad.eu/

15 June: EPAD project launches its Academy

On 15 June, the European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia (EPAD) project announced the launch of its EPAD Academy that is aiming to efficiently leverage EPAD resources to foster and develop academic research capacity and output in AD across Europe for maximum global impact. It is expected to be a great space -

• To create the next generation of AD researchers and thought leaders, by creating and facilitating opportunities for junior researchers’ career advancement.
• To create fair and efficient procedures for EPAD and non-EPAD research teams to access EPAD data, samples and research participants with the objective of deepening the understanding of AD onset and progression, and the factors contributing to underlying processes.
• To support the EPAD academic output in terms of scientific publications, participation in conferences and development of guidelines and studies, and to maximise their visibility and impact.

The EPAD Academy will first focus on activities to support early career researchers. For this purpose, a register of “EPAD Fellows” has been established, all of whom will be eligible for Academy activities. Applications are welcome from all EPAD partners, including EFPIA and SMEs. 19 EPAD Fellow applications have already been received. AE is delighted to announce that Project Officers Cindy Birck and Christophe Bintener are now officially EPAD Fellows.

Further information on the project can be found on the EPAD website: http://ep-ad.org/

16 June: Simon Lovestone of IMI’s EMIF and EPAD projects awarded knighthood

Simon Lovestone of IMI’s dementia projects EMIF and EPAD has been awarded a knighthood in the Queen’s birthday honours, for services to neuroscience research. Professor Lovestone is the coordinator of EMIF, which is developing a common information framework of patient-level data that will link up and facilitate access to diverse medical and research data sources, opening up new avenues of research for scientists. He also leads the work package on scientific challenges in EPAD, which is revolutionising the way we carry out clinical trials for treatments designed to prevent dementia. Professor Lovestone described himself as “thrilled and delighted” by the honour.

“The past 25 years working in dementia research has been, and continues to be, the most fulfilling and rewarding experience and it has been the greatest of pleasures to work with superb scientists and students in my group and through collaboration; I am humbled by the excellence of their work and their dedication,” he said. “We are making progress towards therapies and tests for Alzheimer’s disease and this award only spurs me on to redouble our efforts and defeat this disease that causes so much unhappiness to so many people. I remain convinced that we will succeed; and such success cannot come soon enough.”


16 June: The MinD project reports on its design development work

MinD Participants from University of Wolverhampton (UK), University of Twente (NL), University of Dresden (GER), and Panton Design Agency (NL) were hosted by Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) and PICH architects, both Barcelona-based.

During this visit, the team worked (together with our hosts) on developing mindful design topics and concepts based on the design themes developed during the previous visit to Luxemburg. Lots of hours of brainstorming resulted in a matrix linking issues and challenges, which people with dementia face (for instance, issues with person recognition or difficulties in expressing emotions) to initial design concepts which may remedy or alleviate these problems.

Importantly, these challenges follow from the qualitative data collected from people with dementia and carers throughout the first year of MinD, and which were analysed during previous visits. At the end of our Barcelona visit, 30 out of 72 concepts were deemed promising and were further grouped to provide 6 concepts to further work on. Notably, it was here that, in addition to product and service designs, environmental concepts (co-inspired by our host PICH architects) saw the light
of day. This process of grouping, refining, and working out to detail will continue during the next visits, starting with the one in the Netherlands next week.

In addition to brainstorming, this Barcelona visit comprised presentations, visits and demonstrations organised by our new partner (UPC). Interestingly, these covered the whole range from existing (lo-tech) solutions for problems people with disabilities face to hi-tech robots assisting people in rehabilitation and daily life.

20 June: Meet the ROADMAP team at the HTAi conference 2017

On 20 June, a ROADMAP-related panel session was held at the Health Technology Assessment international (HTAi) annual meeting that took place in Rome 19-21 June. Four speakers from the ROADMAP Consortium presented a wide range of perspectives on the state of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in Europe including innovation, value and challenges to HTA.

Michael Happich (EFPIA – Eli Lilly and Company Ltd), moderator of the session, introduced the implications of upcoming new therapies and diagnostics on the AD treatment horizon over the next five years. Each presentation was followed by questions from the audience with regard to the raised topics.

Jean Georges, Executive Director, Alzheimer Europe followed up with perspectives of patients and caregivers regarding the impact of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) on carers and attitudes to diagnosis and predictive testing, this included the presentation of findings from the Alzheimer Europe surveys “The value of knowing” and “Who cares? The state of dementia care in Europe”.

The second speaker, Ron Handels, Maastricht University, gave an overview of health economic considerations for new interventions in AD, introducing results from the European Brain Council project which aimed to analyse the potential health-economic impact of a hypothetical treatment for AD starting in the pre-dementia phase.

Next, Joceline Bouvy, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, gave an overview of different perspectives for potential disease modifying therapies in AD, explaining the European situation with regard to the specific focus of regulatory agencies, HTA bodies as well as payers. She also introduced ROADMAP’s dedicated Work Package for regulatory, HTA and payer engagement as well as the Expert Advisory Group (EXAG), which ensure the project’s outputs might have meaningful applicability in the regulatory, HTA and payer context.

Catherine Reed (EFPIA – Eli Lilly and Company Ltd) then introduced the challenges for AD value proposition and real world evidence (RWE) in the context of new AD treatments which led to the presentation of the ROADMAP project, objectives, opportunities and its goals.

26 June: INDUCT project on cognitive rehabilitation starts usability study

GRADIOR is a computer-based programme used for neuropsychological rehabilitation for people with various cognitive impairments of different aetiology in addition to cognitive stimulation of healthy individuals. GRADIOR consists of dynamic exercises and provides tools to adjust the cognitive intervention for every person individually.

The randomised controlled trial on the evaluation of the effectiveness of GRADIOR will start its preliminary study on usability in July 2017. The usability study will consist of various focus groups and users’ testing of the cognitive rehabilitation software. People with dementia and people with MCI will be involved in this part, giving feedback on the software’s main features. One of the focus groups will also involve healthcare professionals reporting on their experience with GRADIOR in different clinical settings, including memory clinics, day-care centres, or care homes.

The main clinical trial consisting of one year of treatment and one year of a follow-up study involving people with dementia and MCI will start in September 2017. The study will offer a long-term, individualised treatment for 400 people, with regular evaluation of their cognition, activities of daily living, mood, quality of life and their relationship with a caregiver. The study also expects the treatment to have a positive impact on carer burden and anxiety.

Martina Vanova (pictured), a Marie-Curie Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) is coordinating this study within her post at IDES/INTRAS Foundation in Spain together with researchers from the University of Salamanca specialising in a qualitative analysis.

27 June: CITA Foundation enrols its first participant in EPAD

The EPAD (European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia) project is very pleased to announce that the EPAD LCS study is now recruiting volunteers in San Sebastian (Spain), which opened as a new EPAD Trial Delivery Centre (TDC). This centre is in the first wave of centres opened and a few others will be following very soon.

Aranzazu (pictured) is the first participant enrolled in the EPAD project in San Sebastian. “I volunteered because my father had Alzheimer’s disease and I want to contribute to give the chance to my relatives and the rest of the society to live without this devastating disease”, she said after her first visit.
Aranzazu is one of the participants of the CITA Foundation’s Basque Cohort. This site has just initiated enrolment, under the coordination of the National Lead of the project, the Barcelonabeta Brain Research Center.

According to Dr Pablo Martinez-Lage, Scientific Director of the CITA Foundation, “EPAD offers a unique opportunity to take part in the most innovative study and clinical trial for the prevention of Alzheimer’s to those who may be at risk of developing the disease”.

Aranzazu is 71 years old and has been collaborating with CITA since 2010. “After my participation in the Gipuzkoa Alzheimer’s Project, I have to recognise that I am familiar with the tests that I have done. The neuropsychological tests and the rest of the tests are nothing compared to the sense of pride that I feel for my participation in this research project”, she explained.

CITA expects to enrol at least 50 participants, who will have regular health checks, including cognitive and genetic tests, brain scans, and lumbar punctures.

http://ep-ad.org/

30 June: Ambitious SMART4MD project is developing a computer tablet-based system app to improve the quality of life of people with mild dementia and of caregivers

The four year SMART4MD (Support Monitoring and Reminder Technology for Mild Dementia) project is developing a computer tablet-based platform especially for the needs of people with mild dementia, to help remind them to take prescribed medication, as well as allowing them to share health-related data with their caregivers and doctors.

As well as giving people more control over their care, the app, also called SMART4MD, aims to help slow functional decline, relieve pressure on caregivers, and reduce costs for healthcare providers.

In order to customise the SMART4MD platform to the needs and capabilities of people with dementia, two rounds of focus groups consisting of people with dementia and carers were carried out in Spain, Belgium, Sweden and the Czech Republic. This also involved a first testing of the system and its main features. The user-centred design-led prototype has already been developed to be used in three languages, and three more are underway. The newly-launched feasibility study, involving 20 dyads of participants (20 people with dementia and 20 informal carers) - at least 75% of whom must agree that the system is easy to use - will pave the way for the main study kicking off in September. The main study will involve 1,200 volunteers in five participating centres around Europe and will run until late 2019.

SMART4MD aims to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their carers, increase treatment compliance, reduce dementia-related costs by helping reduce the number of missed appointments and of hospital re-admissions and help reduce functional decline.

Its key features are:

- A powerful customisation tool to improve usability.
- A daily planner with activity, medicine and appointment reminders to aid independent living and better health management.
- Photo albums as visual aids to keep people connected with friends, family and healthcare teams.
- Quality-of-life and health tracking for dementia and any other conditions being managed.
- Simple charts to help visualise health progress and medicine compliance.
- Sharing of controlled health data with doctors, carers and family.

The project has an initial budget of around EUR 4 Million, distributed across a total of 10 partners from the private and academic sectors:

- Alzheimer Europe (Luxembourg)
- Anglia Ruskin University (United Kingdom)
- Athena ICT Limited (Israel)
- Blekinge Tekniska Hogskola (Sweden)
- Consorci Sanitari De Terrassa (Spain)
- Dex Innovation Centre (Czech Republic)
- Pow Health (United Kingdom)
- SAS-IBIMA (Spain)
- UC Limburg (Belgium)
- Universidad Politecnica De Madrid (Spain)

Project Coordinator, Professor James Hampton-Till, Anglia Ruskin University (UK) said:

“We want people to stay healthier for longer. SMART4MD is one way to empower people with mild dementia to take control of their health and, more importantly, their lives by retaining independence. We are delighted to be launching the pilot phase of our pan-European project, which heralds an important millstone for easily-accessible personalised healthcare.”

Clinical Lead, Professor Johan Sanmartin Berglund, Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden) said:

“To date, there have been a number of interesting developments in applications to support people with cognitive decline. However, due to mostly small-scale trials, any impact has been difficult to establish, although the individuals often perceived them as beneficial. The much-needed SMART4MD study, with its randomised controlled design, provides an opportunity to demonstrate whether we can have a positive impact on clinical parameters and on people’s wellbeing.”

For more information, check out http://smart4md.eu/ or email arctu@anglia.ac.uk
A number of the projects in which Alzheimer Europe is a project partner receive funding from the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) 2 Joint Undertaking. The Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union’s Horizon2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA. The projects in this newsletter, with IMI 2 funding are:

- AMYPAD - grant agreement 115952
- EMIF - grant agreement 115372
- EPAD - grant agreement 115736
- ROADMAP - grant agreement 116020

Alzheimer Europe Networking

On 2 June (Edinburgh, UK), Jean and Iva participated in the Annual meeting of Alzheimer Scotland to give a presentation on the repercussions of Brexit on dementia.

On June 10 (Galicia, Spain), Jesus participated in the XV Alzheimer’s Meeting of Galician Federation in Santiago de Compostela From 11-13 June (Barcelona, Spain), Chris and Dianne attended the 3rd ROADMAP General Assembly Meeting and a F2F WP2 “Outcomes Definition” breakout session.

On 13 June (Brussels, Belgium), Ana attended a meeting for the preparation of a project proposal for an IMI call.

On 17 June (Vechta, Germany), Christophe attended the future day of Gerontology panel session at the University of Vechta.

On 19 and 20 June (Rome, Italy), Jean attended the HTAi conference and participated in the Lilly symposium “Building HTA Processes for Good HTA Decisions: Research and Implications for a Challenging Area” and the ROADMAP symposium “The state of Alzheimer’s disease in Europe – innovation, value and challenges for HTA”

On 21 June (Paris, France), Ana attended a JPND workshop on Public Health in Neurodegenerative Disease.

On 27 June (Brussels, Belgium), Jean and Dianne attended Alzheimer Europe’s Board meeting.


On 27 June (Brussels, Belgium), Alzheimer Europe organised a company round table meetings with its sponsors and member organisations.

On 28 June (Brussels, Belgium), Alzheimer Europe organised a public affairs meeting with its member organisations and representatives of the 2nd European Joint Action on Dementia and the PACE project.

Members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at 127, 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 Demesmaeker (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: Biljana Borzan (S&D); Tonino Picula (S&D); Ruža Tomašić (ECR). Cyprus: Costas Avgvstides (S&D); Elena Theocharous (EPP). 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 Jääkonsaari (S&D); Anneli Jaätteenmäki (ALDE); Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (GUE/NGL); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP). France: Dominique Bilde (ENF); Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE); François Grossetête (EPP); Philippe Juvin (EPP); Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EPP); Gilles Pargneaux (S&D). Germany: Angelika Niebler (EPP); Udo Voigt (NI). Greece: Costas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL); Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP); Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL); Kyrkos Miltiadis (S&D); Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL); Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL); Maria Spyra (EPP); Eleftherios Synadinos (NI); Elissavet Vozemberg-Vronidou (EPP). Hungary: Ádám Kősa (EPP). Ireland: Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL); Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL); Nessa Childers (S&D); Deirdre Clune (EPP); Brian Crowley (ALDE); Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan (GUE/NGL); Marian Harkin (ALDE); Brian Hayes (EPP); Seán Kelly (EPP); Mairéad McGuinness (EPP); Liadh Ní Riada (GUE/NGL). Italy: Brando Benifei (S&D); Elena Gentile (S&D); Stefano Maullu (EPP); Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D); Aldo Patricelli (EPP); Remo Sernagiotto (EPP); Patrizia Toia (S&D); Damiano Zoffoli (S&D). Lithuania: Vilija Blinkeviciute (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
EUROPEAN ALZHEIMER’S ALLIANCE

7 June: MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen hosts roundtable in European Parliament on Alzheimer’s disease

Member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance MEP Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland) invited Alzheimer Europe to the European Parliament for a roundtable discussion with stakeholders from the Finnish Alzheimer Association - Muistiyhdistys ry who are also a member of Alzheimer Europe.

Policy Officer Vanessa Challinor presented an overview of EU policy on dementia and recent EU actions as well as an overview Alzheimer Europe’s activities to support EU policy and research. There were also discussions about the Accessibility Act and the European Pillar of Social Rights and about research opportunities and funding for national associations or rather lack of opportunities.

27 June: Members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance participate in AE Lunch Debate

Alzheimer Europe (AE) would like to thank MEP Deirdre Clune (Ireland) for hosting its lunch debate on "The current and future treatment of Alzheimer’s Dementia" at the European Parliament in Brussels on 27 June. AE would also like to thank MEPS Heinz K. Becker (Austria), Sirpa Pietikainen (Finland), Nessa Childers (Ireland) and Sofia Ribeiro (Portugal) for their active and positive participation, as well as MEP Hilde Vautmans (Belgium) who was represented at the meeting.

All MEPS present or represented are current members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) - a non-exclusive, multinational and cross-party group of MEPS supporting AE and its members in making dementia a public health priority.

The EAA currently has 127 Members from 27 Member States of the European Union and all seven political groups in the European Parliament.

http://alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/European-Alzheimer’s-Alliance

EU DEVELOPMENTS

22 May: European Semester 2017 Spring Package: Commission issues country-specific recommendations

On 22 May, the European Commission published a new set of Country Specific Recommendations (CSRs) in the context of the European Semester.

It seems that the recommendations are more balanced (not only fiscal sustainability), more focused and better grounded in analysis and there seems to be more about coverage and access than in previous years. The full press release can be read here although health is not mentioned.


29 May: Horizon 2020 interim evaluation done

On 29 May 2017, the Commission published the interim evaluation of Horizon 2020, this evaluation aims to contribute to improving the implementation of Horizon 2020 in its last Work Programme 2018-2020, to provide the evidence-base for the report of the High Level Group on maximizing the impact of EU Research and Innovation programmes and to inform the design of future Framework Programmes

The interim evaluation also looks forward to future EU funding for research and innovation. The results and lessons will help the Commission to design the final Horizon 2020 Work Programme (2018-20) and will provide the evidence base for the report of the High Level Group on maximizing the impact of EU Research and Innovation Programmes. This group will present its report and recommendations at the conference Research and innovation: shaping our future in Brussels on 3 July.
The Commission will draw policy conclusions from the interim evaluation and react to the recommendations of the High Level Group in a Communication due to be adopted this autumn.


6 June: Is the future of European health policy in jeopardy?

Recent reports of the possible demise of the European Commission’s DG SANTE and the lack of clarity on the future of health policy have caused alarm amongst EU Health stakeholders.

Today Alzheimer Europe along with 38 other organisations, representing EU health stakeholders, have sent a joint letter to Jean Claude Junker President, European Commission expressing grave concern about the future of health in European policies and programmes and have asked for an urgent meeting with him on this issue.

The signatories of the letter and the vast majority of EU citizens share the same view that health is absolutely a core business of the EU and is entrenched in the Treaties of the European Union.

The letter calls for enhanced coordinated EU action in the field of health supported by a robust EU Health Programme.

A strong future health programme with high level leadership is crucial to meet the challenges Europe is facing including an ageing demographic with 8.7 million people currently living with dementia in the European Union and numbers expected to at least double by 2020. National Governments cannot tackle this and other health challenges alone such as the spike in chronic diseases, challenges from drug resistant infections and inequalities in access to health care.

There has never been a more pivotal moment for Europe to work together to protect our health. EU action has already saved countless lives and this role must continue with vital collaboration and leadership from the EU.

The full letter can be read here: https://goo.gl/8gxKxF

6 June: New report released on “The impact of collaboration: the UK value of the UK medical research sector to EU science and health”

In light of Brexit this report identifies some of the main ways in which UK research contributes to medical progress, it highlights the benefit this has delivered for EU science, and ultimately how this has improved the health of patients across the EU.

This report was funded by eight leading UK medical research funders and charities, all actively engaged in the EU’s health and research landscape. One of the strengths of the UK’s medical research sector is the diversity of organisations involved in funding activity and policy dialogue, including medical research charities and patient representative organisations.

Five key areas of the UK research environment are emphasised:

- Contributions to advisory bodies, networks and policies that underpin research across the EU and its member states
- Participation in pan-EU clinical trials, providing notable leadership for rare disease and paediatric clinical trials
- Co-ordination and hosting of some of Europe’s unique large-scale infrastructures for medical research
- Development of new therapies and medical technologies that benefit EU patients, backed by a thriving pharmaceutical and biotechnology sector;
- Training early career researchers from across the EU, to develop their skills and launch their research careers.

The UK has a long history of patient involvement, and continues to serve as a model for other EU countries in this area. This report brings together evidence from a number of disease areas, including Dementia “The person-centred UK model of dementia care adopted throughout the EU” which is one of eight case studies on the UK’s contribution to EU science and health.

The full report and all eight case studies can be read here: http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-us/we-develop-policy/we-work-with-government/exitng-the-eu/uk-and-eu-research

8 June: Call for submissions opens for “Silver Economy Awards”

The SEED project - Supporting the recognition of the Silver Economy in Europe in the Digital Era – has announced a new initiative to reward ICT-based innovative solutions that improve the lives of European seniors and support the growth of the European Silver Economy.

Aiming to serve as a catalyst to stimulate a sustainable Europe-wide digital Silver Economy movement, the Awards promote and reward innovative and creative ideas that have proven benefits for people aged 50 and above. The call for applications opened on 8 June, with a deadline of 15 November 2017.

The Silver Economy Awards consists of three award categories:

- Public Authority,
- Non-for-profit organisation and
- For-profit organisation.

The Award Ceremony will be held in spring 2018. www.silvereconomyawards.eu

14 June: Britain forms new Brexit Health Alliance as UK prepares to leave European Union

Britain has formed a new Brexit Health Alliance to be voice of the health sector as to safeguard the interests of patients and
the healthcare and research they rely on as the UK moves into negotiations with the EU and prepares to leave.

The Brexit Health Alliance co-chaired by Sir Hugh Taylor, the former permanent secretary of the Department of Health, and Niall Dickson, the Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation brings together the NHS, medical research, industry, patients and public health organisations.

The Alliance will seek to make sure that issues such as healthcare research, access to technologies and treatment of patients are given the prominence and attention they deserve in the Brexit negotiations. The Alliance will argue that it is in both Europe and the UK’s interests to maintain co-operation in research and in handling public health issues. It will also call on the UK government to make sure there is a commitment to medical research and providing alternative funding, and that UK citizens’ right to receive healthcare in EU countries is preserved. The Alliance’s co-chair, Sir Hugh Taylor, said: “Our aim will be to ensure a strong focus on health as Brexit approaches, and that we offer views from across the health sector to negotiators to ensure that patient care and the population’s health and wellbeing will be protected as we leave the EU.”

Niall Dickson (pictured) added: “There is a risk that healthcare will become forgotten alongside the vast number of issues that the negotiators will have to address.

It is vital we protect world leading research, that patients have access to medicines when they need them and that cooperation between the UK and Europe continues to protect all our citizens.”

Brexit Health Alliance founding members:
- NHS Confederation - Co-chair of alliance
- Welsh NHS Confederation
- Northern Ireland Confederation (NICON)
- Association of UK University Hospitals (AUKUH)
- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AOMRC)
- NHS Providers
- National Voices
- Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)
- Association of British Healthcare Industries (ABHI)
- The Richmond Group of Charities
- Bio Industry Association (BIA)
- Faculty of Public Health (FPH)
- Association of Medical Research Charities - (AMRC)
- Scottish NHS Chief Executive Group


21 June: JPND workshop on Public Health in Neurodegenerative Disease takes place in Paris

This workshop was an initiative of the EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND), the largest global research initiative tackling the challenge of neurodegenerative disease (NDD). The feedback received from the participants will be used to inform the refresh of the JPND Research Strategy which is planned for early 2018. This new Research Strategy will provide a framework for future investment in NDD research over the next five to ten years.

In the workshop, delegates had the opportunity to listen and provide feedback on the development of public health research in the context of NDD and to refer to particular areas of research that are often overlooked such as prevention and risk-reduction. The morning started with an update on JPND activities and presentations from Edo Richard (21st Century EURODEM), Gill Livingston (health and social considerations) and Adelina Comas Herrera (health economics and policy).

Structured discussion sessions ensued after the presentations. In these sessions participants worked in small groups with a view to identifying three priority areas in terms of public health research in NDD. Each group presented the results of their discussions in a plenary session.

Project Officer Ana Díaz attended the meeting on behalf of AE.

22 June: European Commission and European Council set out criteria for relocation of European Medicines Agency

On 22 June, at the EPSCO council meeting European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and European Council President Donald Tusk discussed general principles for the relocation of the European Medicines Agency with EU heads of states and governments.

They have now formally set out the procedure leading up to a decision on the relocation of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) in the context of Brexit.

All interested Member States have the opportunity to submit their offer to host the agency by 31 July 2017 at the latest.

The Member states applying must meet the following criteria:
- The assurance that the agency can be set up on site and take up its functions at the date of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the Union.
- The accessibility of the location.
- The existence of adequate education facilities for the children of agency staff.
- Appropriate access to the labour market, social security and medical care for both children and spouses.
- Business continuity.
- Geographical spread.

The final decision on the relocation will be taken by vote in the margins of the General Affairs Council in November 2017. The voting process should be similar to the process used for the decision on the relocation of the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL), namely the outcome of a vote consisting of successive voting rounds, with the votes cast by secret ballot and all 27 Member States having the same number of votes.

More details of the procedure can be read here: https://goo.gl/b59hht
MEMBERS’ NEWS

31 May: Alzheimer Uniti opens new Alzheimer Café in Rome

Alzheimer Uniti (AU) has opened a new Alzheimer Café in the centre of Rome in the well-known International Women’s House. This is the 6th Alzheimer Café that AU has opened in Rome. The International Women’s House is located in a 17th century convent and in recent years was set up as a place for promoting the rights of women as well as encouraging the concept of hospitable (friendly!) communities. It is indeed a good place for an Alzheimer Café! The first two meetings were in May and the opening session included accordion music played energetically by the musician Giuliana Soscia. At the second session the guest of honour was the famous theatre and television actor, Massimo Reale, who entertained the audience (people with dementia and their caregivers) with stories about the acting profession. He then read poetry that was specifically requested by the participants in the room. One person with dementia asked the actor to read a poem by the famous 19th century poet Giacomo Leopardi entitled “Saturday Evening in the Village”, which every pupil in Italy studies at school. This, together with other episodes, convinces us that the Alzheimer Café is an excellent place to stimulate memories, get people to interact with each other and promote socialisation, when there is often isolation and stigma.

13 June: Ireland wants more support for carers following launch of De-Stress report

The health and well-being of family carers must be addressed as a matter of urgency following a large-scale survey of 200 people who are caring for their spouse who has dementia. “De-Stress: A study to assess the health and wellbeing of spousal carers of people with dementia in Ireland” aimed to find out more about their lives and health, their caring role and the impact this has on their lives and to explore the amount of stress they experience, as well as exploring the positive aspects of caring. This study was carried out by researchers at Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and was funded by Health Research Board (HRB) and The Alzheimer’s Society of Ireland (ASI) and was launched in Trinity on 13 June, during Carers Week 2017.

The findings of the De-Stress study provide information about the level and extent of care being provided and chronic physical and mental health conditions among carers. Of particular interest are the high levels of mental health issues among carers, such as depression and anxiety, which can have an impact on confidence, as carer Jacquelin Keane and research participant highlights: “People have no idea how isolating caring can be.”

However, the majority of carers agreed that there were positive aspects of caring, such as appreciating life more, and feeling needed and useful. Most felt they had not had a choice in taking on the role of spousal carer, but took it on willingly. “Becoming a carer for a loved one with dementia is a life-changing experience. Carers play an immensely valuable role in understanding and supporting people with Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. Our current health and social care system depends largely on family carers who provide the main bulk of care; its estimated value to the State is in the region of EUR 807 million per annum,” said ASI CEO, Pat McLoughlin. “The ASI provides a range of specialist services throughout Ireland that provide support and advice to carers as well as people with dementia, including a National Helpline Service, social clubs, support groups, a Dementia Adviser service which provides individualised information and sign-posting service, Day Care and Respite Centres. All of our services operate using a person-centred care approach.” The main findings include:

• Nearly half of the carers in the study spent all of their waking time looking after their spouse, and 15% had given up their jobs in order to care for their spouse;
• Most carers (79%) reported that they themselves provided 81% – 100% of the care for their spouse. Women more commonly provided this level of care than men;
• Most of the carers took prescribed medicines. Those who had more chronic health conditions (such as arthritis, hypertension or diabetes), were more likely to have high carer burden and lower quality of life;
• Depression and anxiety were common among family carers, and around a third of participants had difficulty with at least one core caring activity, such as managing money, shopping for or preparing food or managing appointments;
• Carers experience a decline in cognitive functions (such as attention and ability to plan), over a one-year period, but this was not linked to their stress levels or a genetic susceptibility to developing Alzheimer’s disease.

The full report can be read here: http://alzheimer.ie/About-Us/Research.aspx

Pictured: (L-R) Dementia Carers Campaign Network (DCCN) member Ann Twomey, TCD Prof Sabina Brennan, ASI Head of Advocacy & Public Affairs Tina Leonard, ASI CEO Pat McLoughlin and Trinity College Project Manager Dr Maria Perti.

15 June: First Alzheimer centre opens in Ljubljana, Slovenia

In June 2017 Spominčica opened its first Alzheimer Center in Ljubljana. The centre is located close to the city’s train and bus station, which provides easy access to the city’s main attractions. It is open to the public and offers a range of services, including day care, respite care, and support groups. It is also equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including a memory clinic, a rehabilitation centre, and a day centre. The centre is staffed by a team of experienced professionals, including doctors, nurses, and psychologists. The centre has been established with the aim of improving the quality of life for people with dementia and their families, and providing them with the best possible care.
mobility and access for different target groups. The rental of these premises was enabled by the Municipality of Ljubljana. The Alzheimer Center is a place where persons with dementia and their caregivers can socialise. Other participants such as volunteers, students and individuals who would like to gain knowledge about dementia, are also welcome. The aim of the centre is to inform the public about different aspects of dementia: how to communicate with persons with dementia; how to approach to person with dementia; forms of community help; social rights of caregivers; among others.

In the centre, people can find the Spominčica newsletter, leaflets about dementia, literature, Spominčica magazine, posters about the first signs of dementia and details about Spominčica’s activities. In the coming months, Spominčica will organise some workshops with games and exercises for cognitive training, mostly aimed at persons with dementia. The centre is meant as a support for daily care centers, as they are already known in nursing homes.

“The Alzheimer Center is a major step in realising better quality of life for persons with dementia and their carers”

The opening ceremony took place on 15 June 2017. The special guest was a psychologist Jelka Verbič, longtime and active volunteer and an honorable member of Spominčica. In 2015, she received a prize for her lifetime dedication to voluntary work. The prize was awarded by Slovenian President, Borut Pahor.

According to the needs of caregivers, Spominčica adjusts the place into a small round table, where participants can talk openly and spontaneously about their care burden, stress and dilemmas.

From September, similar gatherings will be organised every third Thursday in the month at 6pm (18h00).

Another goal of the centre is to establish a group of persons with dementia, who would occasionally meet and exchange their experiences. At these gatherings, the volunteers will established a safe and friendly atmosphere. Meetings of the group will help ease caregiver burden and provide an opportunity for respite from everyday tasks. Similar groups exist in other European countries.

16 June: Joël Jaouen reelected as France Alzheimer President

On 16 June it was announced that Joël Jaouen has been re-elected, for the third year running, as President of France Alzheimer.

Mr Jaouen’s priority for the coming year:

"Increasing awareness of our actions among the general public and public authorities”.

23 June: Association Luxembourg Alzheimer presents an exhibition of artworks by people with dementia

On 23 June, Luxembourg’s National Day, the Association Luxembourg Alzheimer (ALA) had the pleasure of presenting an exhibition of artworks made exclusively by people living with dementia, at the “Konschtfestival” in Lellingen, Luxembourg. Under the theme “l’art rend visible” (art makes us visible), this exhibition was an invitation to take a fresh look at the people affected by this disease.

The ALA art workshop

ALA uses art to help people with dementia to express themselves. A regular art workshop is held, bringing together residents of the “Beim Goldknapp” residence and care home, as well as visitors to the “Dominique Marth” day-care center. They come together to undertake creative work. The goal is not to paint the most beautiful picture, what matters is the creative process and the positive effects it brings to people with dementia.

Paintings are a bridge to the soul

ALA artists use colours and materials intuitively. The result is abstract, energetic and captivating paintings, which are quite the opposite of society’s image of older people with dementia. It is precisely this contrast that constitutes the attractiveness of the works of ALA’s art workshop. These workshops allow us to better understand people with dementia, when words fail us. The paintings are a “bridge to their soul”.

Take a fresh look at people with dementia

Art also has an important role to play in drawing society’s attention to dementia. With this exhibition, the ALA wanted to change mentalities, so that people with dementia are no longer reduced to the sum total of their illness but are seen as fully-fledged people with unique personal histories. This is also the reason why the art workshop took its inspiration from the words of Swiss painter Paul Klee: “Art does not reproduce what is visible, it makes it visible.”

By making our art visible, we hope to make those living with dementia more visible.

26 June: Federazione Alzheimer Italia reports on its latest fund-raising campaign

From 19-26 June 2017, it was possible to help Federazione Alzheimer Italia through a fund-raising campaign via SMS or via a landline call to support the national Helpline “Pronto Alzheimer”, a fundamental service of Federazione Alzheimer Italia, which supports people with dementia, caregivers and family members to make them feel less alone.

The Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017-2025, launched recently by WHO members
highlights the importance of services attentive to the quality of life of people with dementia and those taking care of them. Federazione Alzheimer Italia has been responding to this need since 1993, by providing support services such as “Pronto Alzheimer”.

In all these years, Pronto Alzheimer has responded positively to more than 145,000 requests for help, becoming a reference point for guidance, assistance and support for both family members and professional figures.

The helpline, which runs from Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm (at other times and at the weekend, it responds by answering machine) provides information on Alzheimer’s disease, occupational therapy counselling tips to facilitate the management of the person with dementia daily, psychological assistance, legal advice and information on social security and social assistance; in addition the helpline gives indications on the health and social providers present in Italian territory and provides books and information materials.

During this week dedicated to Federazione Alzheimer Italia, the main national telephone companies made their networks available for the fundraising campaign; the public national television and radio networks also participated by launching the call for donations, and TV show hosts and numerous news headlines broadcast the video and audio spots of the “memory room”.

“Pronto Alzheimer” is a fundamental service that will never cease, in order to keep giving people the “strength of not being alone” - this is the statement of Gabriella Salvini Porro, President of Federazione Alzheimer Italia.

27 June: EMDA - The Alzheimer's Association of Israel publishes "Eating and Living with Dignity"

EMDA - The Alzheimer's Association of Israel has published "Eating and Living with Dignity", a guidebook for caregivers of people with dementia. The nutrition recommendations guidebook is a part of the Israel's National Plan for the treatment of people with dementia. EMDA initiated the process of creating this guidebook when the association led a process regarding end-of-life issues, and recommendations were needed for proper nutrition in the final stages of dementia, in which life expectancy is six months.

After the preparation of the recommendations ended, it was decided to expand the recommendations regarding end of life, to a comprehensive guidebook containing recommendations on nutrition in dementia.

The editorial staff of the guidebook included occupational therapists, dieticians, nurses, social workers and physicians in the field of geriatrics. This committee wrote its recommendations in the form of the guidebook that is now used by professionals in the field of ageing as the Ministry of Health’s recommendations for correct nutrition in dementia.

The purpose of the guidebook is to provide recommendations for correct nutrition. Even when discussing actions to prevent dementia, this guidebook also addresses these situations.

The guidebook is available to read online at: http://www.health.gov.il/PublicationsFiles/Dementia_Nutrition_en.pdf

27 June: Nordic associations meeting held in the Faroe Islands, Finland reports

The Alzheimer Society of Finland participated in a Nordic meeting in June organised by the Faroe Islands. The participants were from Iceland (Alzheimer Samtækin), Sweden (Alzheimer Sverige), Finland (Alzheimer Society of Finland - Muistilitto), Faroe Islands (Forskning i Alzheimer’s sygdom på Færøerne), Denmark (Alzheimerforeningen) and Norway (Nasjonalforeningen for Folkehelse).

At the meeting, memory organisations introduced their latest projects and shared good practices. In the future, special attention will be paid to the fact that people with memory-related diseases from all Nordic countries can also be involved in the meetings.

The Alzheimer Society of Finland thanks the organisers for the wonderful meeting days in the Faroe Islands. The Society considers Nordic meetings highly important, so as to promote cooperation, share knowledge and learn from the good practices of each country. The next Nordic meeting will be held in Denmark in 2018.

30 June: Spominčica publishes magazine, celebrating 20 years

The first issue of “Spominčica” magazine was published in 2003, by Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica) founder Dr Aleš Kogoj and his team.

Since 2013, the current president of Spominčica suggested that the magazine become a separate supplement of well-known Women’s magazine in Slovenia. The circulation of the magazine is now 22,000 and the magazine is accessible throughout Slovenia. Spominčica magazine is distributed in nursing homes, health community centres, daily centres for elderly people. “With Spominčica, we make dementia more recognisable and reduce stigma”, said president, Stefaanija Zlobec.

Topics of magazine cover different aspects of dementia in Slovenia:

“Our readers prefer to read interviews with important professionals, for instance interview with Lojze Peterle, Slovenian MEP, representative of Minister of Health, Minister of Social Affairs, Human Right Ombudsman in Slovenia, Vlasta Nusdorfer.”

The magazine also contains personal life stories from caregivers.
The next issue will be released in July 2017, dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Spominčica, in honour of Dr Ales Kogoj. Spominčica’s 2017 conference will take place on 20 and 21 October in Spa Terme Čatež. The keynote speaker at the opening ceremony will be Alzheimer Europe Chairperson Dr Iva Holmerová. Other important participants at this conference will be: Bengt Winblad (Karolinska Institut), Ezio Giacobini (University of Geneva Medical School), Nori Graham (Vice President of ADI), Magda Tsolaki (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and other specialists from Slovenia (Dr Zvezdan Pirtošek, Dr Milica G. Kramberger).

30 June: The Alzheimer’s Society’s writes about its Dementia Tax Campaign

During this year’s UK General Election, all three major political parties committed to addressing the escalating social care crisis gripping the country. The parties made different commitments to reforming the care system. The Conservative proposals in particular drew widespread controversy.

The party’s proposal for a sustainable long-term care system was to increase the means-test threshold, which could have beneficial if it wasn’t for the fact that they wanted to include the home as an asset for the first time. This would have meant that most homeowners with dementia would face even more financial burden than they already do. To make matters worse, the Party, led by Theresa May, also failed to commit to a cap on care costs, which had been proposed by a Commission in 2011. This was vital, as without it people with dementia could still face spending hundreds of thousands on care – many other high-income countries have created care systems that guarantee equality between conditions.

This caused widespread outrage amongst the general public, and arguably contributed to Theresa May losing her majority in the UK Parliament. Unfortunately, throughout, charities were unable to speak up about this policy, as well as the wider inequality between dementia and other conditions during the General Election, due to the Lobbying Act. The latter, dubbed the ‘gagging law’ prevents charities from speaking out about particular policies during a General Election campaign, and this frustrated our ability to speak out at the time.

However, since the General Election we have launched our campaign aimed at ending the unfair and unjust system that currently sees people spending hundreds of thousands of pounds on their care. We used the term Dementia Tax as a way to maintain momentum and ensure that social care as a policy issue is not dropped. The danger in the wake of the General Election was that given the controversy around social care, that the Government would push aside the topic in its entirety. Therefore, we used the momentum around the so-called Dementia Tax to galvanise people and continue the public debate around social care but also from our point of view to inform the public about the fact that the Dementia Tax already exists in the current system. As part of our campaign, we have launched a petition that has so far garnered over 45,000 signatures – calling on the Government to end the Dementia Tax once and for all and will ensure we feed into the Government’s planned consultation on social care reform later in the year.

30 June: The Alzheimer’s Society is “Rising Against Dementia”

This year, people across England, Wales and Northern Ireland dusted off their baking bowls and whipped out their whisks to unite against dementia and mark Alzheimer’s Society’s second annual Cupcake Day.

You’d be forgiven for thinking the humble cupcake is no more than a sweet treat, but Alzheimer’s Society has proven without a doubt that it’s much more than that. Primarily, anyone can follow a recipe so simple - everyone can get involved. Secondly, there’s the nostalgic value: joyously messy baking experiences with parents; sweet treats bought with spare change at school bake sales. Thirdly and finally: nearly everyone enjoys a good cupcake.

With dementia set to be the 21st century’s biggest killer and likely to affect us all, the scale of the challenge is huge. Every cupcake counts and each one sold will help Alzheimer’s society to find a cure, improve care and offer and understanding for people affected.

Last year, Cupcake Day was born and it was a success: raising GBP 330,000 (EUR 375,000) and spreading awareness of the work we do across the country.

This year, Cupcake Day has grown in confidence. With a new and improved pack of fundraising materials (including balloons, information leaflets, games and more), lessons learnt from the year gone by and the knowledge that it could work, in April the campaign began in earnest.

Celebrities like Paul Hollywood fronted the campaign, Cupcake Day trended on Twitter on the day of the event and corporate partners across the country supported by hosting their own events. Response from the public was fantastic with over 24,000 individuals having signed up to take part. Internally, Society offices up and down the country showed their support with exuberance.

Three months down the line after the grand finale on 15 June donations are rolling in and we’ve already raised over half a million pounds. We hope to surpass our target or GBP 750,000 (EUR 850,000).

Admittedly, the baking or buying of a cupcake might seem a small contribution on its own. However, as exemplified by the fantastic amount by Cupcake Day raised for our charity, the
cumulative effect of these countless acts of kindness and generosity should never be underestimated.

https://cupcakeday.alzheimers.org.uk/

2 July: Croatia has its first dementia nurse specialists

Nurses in retirement homes in Istria have become the first specialists for dementia care in Croatia. This is the result of a partnership in the European Interreg program Croatia-Slovenia “Demanca aCROsSLO” for which Alzheimer Croatia conducted an education programme for dementia specialist nurses. 33 hours of lectures covered all relevant topics needed for the person-centered psychosocial approach to residents with dementia and their families.

Combining roles in this EU project and in the Dementia Friends Initiative, Alzheimer Croatia is contributing to the establishment of the first Croatian Home Care Program for people with dementia and their families in City of Umag; to the creation of the first standards for dementia-friendly design; and to working programmes of the first cross-border committees in Croatia and Slovenia, which will assist local communities in Istria to strengthen partnerships vertically and horizontally. Gained experience will be used by Alzheimer Croatia to develop similar programmes in other parts of Croatia.

POLICY WATCH

12 June: Jersey launches new Carers’ Strategy just one month after launching Disability Strategy

On 12 June, Jersey Chief Minister Senator Ian Gorst launched the island’s new Carers’ Strategy, which seeks to help informal carers in Jersey get more support and has been prepared by the Jersey Association of Carers, in close consultation with carers, State Departments, other charities and voluntary groups. The strategy identifies areas of change needed in Jersey, to enable local carers to “thrive, not just survive”. It is hoped that in time a Carers’ Law will be enacted, to ensure that more financial support and respite is made available for the estimated one in seven people in Jersey currently fulfilling an unpaid carer role. You can read the new Carers’ Strategy here: https://goo.gl/YMZWXH

The island also launched its “Disability Strategy for Jersey - Working to ensure that people living with disability enjoy a good quality of life” during May 2017. You can read the Disability Strategy here: https://goo.gl/5N7coV

17 June: Portuguese MEP Marisa Matias hosts 2nd national meeting of informal dementia carers

On 17 June, in Oporto, Portugal, the “2nd National Meeting of Informal Carers of People with Alzheimer or other dementias” took place.

The initiative was organised by the political party “Bloco de Esquerda” of the GUE/NGL - European United Left - Nordic Green Left - European Parliamentary Group, represented by the MEP Marisa Matias, Vice-Chairwoman of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) and Rapporteur of the European Strategy for fighting Alzheimer’s disease, who has played an important role in the field of dementia.

The meeting also had the support of a group of family carers, who have submitted to the Portuguese Parliament a petition for the creation of the Status of Informal Carers of People with Alzheimer or other dementias. Alzheimer Portugal was also a partner in this initiative and its Chairman, José Carreira, made a presentation entitled “Alzheimer’s Portugal: Supporting Carers”.

The session was opened by the MEP Marisa Matias, who welcomed all the participants. The opening session was also attended by the Mayor of Oporto, who expressed his interest in the meeting theme.

The participants were mainly family carers from across the country. “There is no doubt that families are the main support for people with dementia, their social and economic role being absolutely ignored by the political decision makers” said Alzheimer Portugal.

Nevertheless, in March 2016, at the time of the public presentation of the National Programme for Health, Literacy and self-care, the Health Minister had already estimated that, in 2017, it would be possible to launch a structured network for informal carers (through family or community volunteers), their training and empowering having been considered as a priority.

Following a proposal from the National Assembly Chairman, a recommendation was sent to the Government to create the Informal Carers’ Status. The text was approved unanimously by the Parliament, but, unfortunately, there have been no developments since.

At the Meeting, it was confirmed that there are still many serious issues concerning care and support for people with dementia and their family carers. These issues are already well known. It was once again confirmed that Portugal is one of the European countries having more informal carers with no training and the highest rate of informal home support in Europe. And it must be taken into account that many people with dementia have no family support and live alone at home.

“But we are all - family carers and Alzheimer Portugal - hopeful and convinced that the objective will be achieved.”
"There is still much to be done, much hard work has to be developed until dementia is recognised as a national challenge that should go well beyond political parties interests.”

Unfortunately, despite the invitation sent by Ms Matias, no other policymakers attended the meeting.

The meeting was closed by His Excellency the President of the Portuguese Republic, Professor Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, who highlighted how important is to create the Informal Carers’ Status and a National Dementia Strategy in Portugal.

The President outlined, also, that “since there is not a long-term care network (...) much of the mission that should be formal carers’ responsibility is fulfilled by the informal carers. Because they are informal, they are no less important. (...) With no formal carers permanently, informal carers are needed permanently. This must be accepted and recognised.”

This was one of the most applauded moments of the speech. Alzheimer Portugal is most grateful to Marisa Matias and her party for having organised such an important meeting and for having involved our organisation, in a clear token of appreciation for our work to promote the legal rights of people with dementia and their carers, since 1988, at national level.

http://www.presidencia.pt/?idc=10&idi=131925&idl=2

22 June: Wales is making good progress on its dementia strategy

Wales has been making great forward strides regarding its upcoming national dementia strategy, which is expected to be launched in the autumn.

Following a 2015 lobbying campaign by Alzheimer’s Society Cymru (the Welsh chapter of the UK Alzheimer’s Society) called “45,000 reasons Wales needs a dementia strategy”, the momentum has been gathering and it looks likely that the strategy will be launched in late September-early October 2017, following an extensive consultation process.

Phase one of the consultation took place at the end of 2016. This phase allowed people affected by dementia to share their experiences and generate priority points they felt should be included. These views were summarised in a report for the Welsh Government, following which a draft strategy was published in January 2017.

Phase two took place between January and April 2017. This was an opportunity for people affected by dementia to either (a) read the first draft of the Wales Dementia Strategy or (b) hear an overview of the draft strategy and comment on its key actions.

Alzheimer’s Society Cymru and the Dementia Engagement & Empowerment project (DEEP) worked closely together to ensure as many people as possible were involved in the consultation process and to try to get the best possible result for people living with dementia in Wales.

Chris Roberts, Vice-Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) took part in this process and reported on his experiences in the Dementia in Europe magazine, issue 24 (April 2017), available on the Alzheimer Europe website.

The outcome of the consultation process can be read in the DEEP report: https://goo.gl/TJ1wGK

You can read the draft version of the Welsh dementia strategy, here: https://goo.gl/5VNSrN

28 June: Scotland launches its third dementia strategy

On 28 June 2017, the third National Dementia Strategy for Scotland was launched, news which was welcomed by Alzheimer Scotland, who said this “demonstrates a long-term commitment from the Scottish Government to improve the lives of people with dementia and those who care for them in Scotland”.

Scotland’s first dementia strategy ran from 2010-2013, with a second strategy launched for 2013-2016

Some key points in the new strategy:

- A commitment to go beyond the initial guaranteed minimum of one year’s post-diagnostic support to offer those individuals diagnosed early in their illness with a named Link Worker who will continue to use Alzheimer Scotland’s “eight pillar approach” beyond the initial 12 months if necessary, until formal health or social care supports are needed.

- Commitment to ensure that those individuals who are diagnosed later and whose needs are more appropriately delivered using the Alzheimer Scotland “eight pillar model” receive their post-diagnostic support from a named Dementia Practice Coordinator from that point and through the advanced illness.

- Commitment to test the Advanced Dementia Practice Model and the focus on end-of-life care.

These proposals mean the new strategy moves closer to achieving the best possible support for people living with dementia from the point of diagnosis to the end of life, said Alzheimer Scotland.

Henry Simmons, Alzheimer Scotland Chief Executive, commented: “We welcome the new commitments within Scotland’s third national dementia strategy...it is a progressive and ambitious policy that will build on existing guarantees and takes us closer to delivering a high quality, person centred service for people with dementia and their families, from the point of diagnosis to the end of life. However it will require local areas throughout Scotland to maintain and increase their investment in dementia care.

“Across Scotland there is too much inconsistency; the current gap between policy and practice in some places is far too wide. We recognise the good work that is taking place in many areas and we would call on all Integration Authorities to follow this, and ensure that delivery of this strategy is given priority and
resources so that the aspirations of the strategy become the reality for people living with dementia.”
You can read and download the full strategy here:
http://www.alzscot.org/campaigning/national_dementia_strategy

SCIENCE WATCH

11 May: Recent study reveals how tau inhibits synaptic transmission

In a study published in the journal Nature Communications on 11 May, researchers at VIB-KU Leuven Center for Brain & Disease Research, Belgium, have described how tau inhibits the synaptic transmission, which is the process of communication between nerve cells.

Mainly expressed in neurons, tau is a protein known to be abnormally accumulated in people with some neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease (AD). In the published study, scientists showed that pathogenic tau bound to synaptic vesicles in the brain cells of people with AD, while it was not observed in healthy participants. Using nerve cells of the Drosophila (fruit fly) brain, they assessed the precise localisation and distribution of pathogenic tau. Interestingly, they described the mechanism whereby pathogenic tau restricted synaptic functions including synaptic transmissions and vesicle mobilisation. Finally, the inhibition of the binding of tau to synaptic vesicles was demonstrated to rescue the deficits observed.

http://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms15295

11 May: Differences in neuropsychological performance by amyloid status

On 11 May, researchers from the USA published an article about a meta-analysis in the journal Neuropsychology Review. In their paper, they describe the analysis of published work on differences in neuropsychological performance by amyloid status. For this, they utilised a total of 61 studies into their final meta-analysis. The results showed that the used measures were sensitive to different stages of preclinical Alzheimer’s disease among older adults that did not have mild cognitive impairment.

Another finding was, that people with tau pathology or neurodegeneration, performed worse in memory tests than participants with amyloid plaques. Both amyloid and tau pathology were confirmed by PET can or cerebrospinal fluid. As part of the paradigm, the current presumption has been that there would be no noticeable difference in how people with preclinical Alzheimer’s disease (AD) perform on cognitive tests, which the results contradict.

The main problem is, that there is no reference to compare the individual performance to, apart from the statistical norm. In the scope of their findings one of the authors of the study told “Medical News Today”, that he believes that the study’s findings provide solid argument for incorporating cognitive tests into routine, annual check-ups for older people. This would help to have a baseline measure of cognition before noticing cognitive change or decline, which would lead to early detection.

On one hand, the benefit would be that the earlier a person knows about the risk of developing dementia, the earlier it could start doing what could potentially help to stave off neurodegeneration. On the other hand, this could enable people to participate in clinical trials and facilitate research.


19 May: Common attribute found in Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and Huntington’s diseases

On 19 May, scientists from the Loyola University Chicago published findings on different abnormal proteins, which are all causing damage to neurons when entering them. Their work focussed on observing how these different proteins cause damage that leads to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease (AD), Parkinson’s disease and Huntington’s disease. In the article published in the journal Acta Neuropathologica, the team used imaging-based technology to see whether different abnormal proteins causing different diseases have a common damaging mechanism.

Their observation was that once the abnormal proteins get inside the cells, they enter small compartments (vesicles) in the cell and damage or destroy them, which then leads to protein exposure in the cytoplasm of the cell and further damage. The observation that tau as well as huntingtin can damage vesicles has been described as surprising, yet the team has stressed that the findings need to be followed up and confirmed in future studies.

This research is adding to the body of work that is being done with regard to science in the field of biological pathways involved in the aetiology of diseases.


23 May: Family history of Alzheimer’s disease may explain mixed results in how a metabolic gene raises risk

Scientists from Iowa State University recently published an article in the journal Alzheimer’s and Dementia that might help scientists to better understand the link between the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and a metabolic gene called TOMM40.
Until now many studies reported mixed findings on the risk of developing AD and the gene TOMM40, which impacts the function of mitochondria (energy producing organelles). In order to clarify whether or not TOMM40 is impacting the risk of developing dementia, the scientists used data from two large AD studies, including 912 participants at risk of AD monitoring memory loss and cognitive function and 365 participants with and without AD monitoring similar changes. Their analyses showed that the way TOMM40 affects cognition depends on the length of a specific portion of the gene. The team found that having the longer version of the gene, together with no family history of AD, was linked to around a 20 percent lower risk of developing AD and better memory up to 10 years later. At the same time, people with a family history of AD a long version correlated with a higher risk. http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/317587.php?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=weekly

1 June: Study evaluates an Alzheimer’s candidate drug for Down syndrome

In a recent study published in the journal of Alzheimer’s Disease, US researchers described Phase II data of an experimental Alzheimer’s disease (AD) drug tested in a clinical trial involving people with Down syndrome.

ELNDO05 (also known as scylo-inositol) is a drug being evaluated for AD treatment because this compound was found to significantly reduce toxic β-amyloid in brains of people with AD. In the published study, this drug was accessed in a Phase II trial for Down syndrome. In fact, Down syndrome is caused by an extra copy of chromosome 21, which includes the gene for the amyloid precursor protein.

This clinical trial was a randomised and double-blind study assigned for young adults with Down syndrome without dementia. The study involved 23 participants 18 to 45 years of age, who received the placebo or the drug (250 mg) once-daily or twice-daily by oral administration for 4 weeks.

The drug was found to be well-tolerated by participants and no severe adverse effects were observed. The researchers reported that further studies should be done to test the efficacy of the drug.

http://content.iiospress.com/articles/journal-of-alzheimers-disease/jad160965

8 June: Recent study suggest four biomarkers for dementia and AD

In a study published in the journal Alzheimer and Dementia on 8 June, researchers from the Boston University School of Medicine in the US identified new markers that could be associated with the risk of developing dementia and Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Researchers used data from 2,067 participants from the Framingham Heart Study Cohort. They evaluated the plasma levels of 271 metabolites to search compounds associated with dementia and AD risk.

Findings revealed four candidate plasma biomarkers (anthranilic acid, glutamic acid, taurine, and hypoxanthine) that could be associated with the risk of developing AD and dementia.

http://www.alzheimersanddementia.com/article/S1552-5260(17)30200-5/fulltext

19-20 June: RHAPSODY project reviews its initial results at the final meeting of the consortium in Berlin

RHAPSODY (Research to Assess Policies and Strategies for Dementia in the Young) is a 3-year project funded by the European Joint Programme Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) from 2014 to 2017. The aim is to create, evaluate and disseminate a multi-media e-learning information and skill-building intervention for carers of people with young-onset dementia, defined by symptoms beginning before the age of 65 years. Partners from 6 countries (France, Germany, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom) representing academia, IT industry and patient organisations are engaging in a close collaboration.

The team started out analysing the national policy environments for people with young-onset dementia and the specific needs of this particularly vulnerable group. On the basis of this information the e-learning intervention was collectively designed and produced in three languages (English, French and German). After completion, the intervention was evaluated in a randomised, controlled pilot study on 60 participants in 3 countries. The initial results were reviewed at the final meeting of the consortium in Berlin on 19-20 June. The intervention was positively rated by the users regarding usefulness, comprehensibility and ease of use. Carers’ depressive symptoms, perceived stress and sense of self-efficacy in fulfilling the caring role did not change after 6 weeks of access to the programme. However, the intervention was associated with modest but significant reductions of patients’ disease-related symptoms including disruptive behaviours, and with reduced negative reactions in caregivers to memory difficulties. The e-learning programme will be disseminated in partnership with national Alzheimer’s organisations as a complementary resource to existing services.

Inspired by the positive findings, the researchers now plan to submit a large-scale follow-up project to JPND, to determine the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of the intervention in comparison with standard face-to-face counselling.

http://www.rhapsody-project.eu
28 June: Araclon Biotech initiates Phase 2 trial of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) vaccine

On 28 June, Araclon Biotech announced its Phase 2 initiation after receiving approval from the Spanish Agency of Medicinal Products and Medical Devices. The study includes a total of 120 patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) from 22 European facilities. Araclon expects that the study will take place over the next two years. The aim of this phase is to establish the dosage regimen for the therapy, and in addition to evaluate response on the cognitive and molecular levels. Another important aspect is to confirm the treatment safety and tolerability data which was obtained in Phase 1.


30 June: Psychosis can lead to higher probability of misdiagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease (AD)

On 30 June, researchers from the University and St Michael’s Hospital, Toronto (Canada), found that AD was misdiagnosed in 24% of all cases. In 12% of the cases people received a diagnosis although they had no AD and in 12% of the cases they were not diagnosed although they had the condition.

The research team analysed data from 961 patients from the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Centre database, including 606 patients without psychosis, 173 patients with delusions, 79 patients with hallucinations and 103 with delusions and hallucinations.

According to the study, patients that experienced psychosis, received a higher rate of false negative diagnosis and a lower rate of false positive diagnosis of AD in comparison to patients without. Other factors that were analysed, such as the experience of hallucinations, delusions or a combination of both, did not change the rate of misdiagnosis.

“Psychosis can be a symptom of Alzheimer’s disease, but it is a defining clinical feature in other types of dementia, including Parkinson’s disease related dementia and dementia with Lewy bodies,” said Dr Corinne Fischer, director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto and lead author of the study. “Consequently, clinicians are more reluctant to diagnose a patient with Alzheimer’s disease when they present with delusions or hallucinations.”


2 July: Small-scale study claims novel memory game has potential to improve memory in people with MCI

On 2 July, researchers from the University of Cambridge published an article on their assessment of a “brain training software” in The International Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology.

The small scale study included 42 patients aged 45 and over, with amnestic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI). aMCI has been previously described as a transitional stage between healthy aging and dementia and is characterised by memory difficulties.

The participants of the study were randomly assigned to either a cognitive training (a memory game on iPad) or a control condition in which they visited the memory clinic as usual. The memory game consisted of eight hours of gameplay during four weeks.

Before and after the training period, the participants underwent a series of cognitive tests and self-assessment questionnaires. These included paper and pencil tests on memory and cognition as well as assessments on self-confidence and self-rated memory ability.

Although larger trials including active control groups are needed to strengthen the findings, results showed positive effects on episodic memory along with high levels of enjoyment and motivation. Another assessed aspect was that self-confidence and self-rated memory ability improved over time, according to the researchers.


LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

29 May: Idalina Aguiar, member of the EWGPWD writes about Laughter Therapy

I usually say “Laughter is the music of the spirit” and it is really good to laugh. Last month I participated in a Memory Cafe session about Laughter Therapy, with Marla Jasmins, a laughter therapist. This therapy gives us an immediate comfort, physically and psychologically, it helps us to relax, to tolerate daily problems, and activate good things in our brain.

I describe myself as a person that loves to laugh, and nowadays, I know that laughter and good moods give me strength to overcome my everyday challenges, because it relaxes me and helps me see things in other perspectives. I am thinking of having structured sessions with a laughter therapist, because I think this therapy can have benefits for me, in helping me live well with dementia.
This month I had the honour to participate in an EWGPWD meeting. As well as the hard work we do, I can laugh with my friends from EWGPWD. Even if I need help to remember what I did in those kind of meetings, it is interesting to be conscious that the faces and names of my friends from the EWGPWD are more and more familiar to me.

Meanwhile, I have a blog, where I want to talk about my daily experiences and particularly my experience in EWGPWD, with the objective of perpetuating my memories: http://mymemoryidalina.blogspot.pt/

Idalina is supported by her daughter Nelida, to whom we are grateful for her help in translating Idalina’s words to English.

22 June: Helen Rochford Brennan participates in “Don’t Judge” project

It was all systems go for the 5th and 6th Class’ wonderful Junior Entrepreneur “Don’t Judge” project at St Attracta’s National School, Charlestown, Mayo, Ireland.

The keynote speakers were myself discussing disability and dementia and Freya O’Hora - a Leaving Cert student who has written books on Autism. It was great to share our personal stories along with some fantastic courageous children in the school.

The children and staff were so welcoming especially Ms McDonagh who worked with the children on the project.

As an advocate it’s important I try to educate children on the illness, thereby creating awareness. They are the ones who will help remove stigma. We must start with children at Primary level as people are being diagnosed younger.

It was the most wonderful experience for me and the children were so engaging. These children are our future leaders and I have no doubt they will change the world’s view on dementia and disability, they took the initiative to get the conversation started. Believe me, this was a project with a difference!

DEMENTIA IN SOCIETY

13 June: ADI publishes report of its 2017 conference in Kyoto, Japan

News from the 32nd International Conference of Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI)

On 13 June, Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) published the report of its 32nd International Conference (ADI 2017), which took place in Kyoto, Japan at the end of April. ADI gave a special mention and thanks to the Alzheimer’s Association Japan for hosting the conference, which was attended by 3,000 delegates from over 70 countries across the globe.

ADI 2017 explored global examples of dementia-friendly communities, the latest in dementia care and research and the ways in which ADI and its membership can take action to support the global plan on dementia adopted by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017.

Each day of the conference was opened by a person with dementia, and a number of workshops, presentations and other activities were led by people with dementia from around the world. Chris Roberts, Vice-Chair of Alzheimer Europe’s European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) opened day two (pictured), talking about dementia-friendly communities and initiatives in the UK.

Read the full conference report on the ADI website: https://goo.gl/EKndKS

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

1 June: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research publishes “Community care for people with dementia”

The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria, has published “Community care for people with dementia: A handbook for policymakers”. This publication emerged from work carried out by a focus group of experts in the field of dementia care, commissioned by the Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and chaired by Kai Leichsenring, Executive Director at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria. The focus group, which met during 2016, was part of a measure to inform the development of a Swedish Dementia Strategy. Alzheimer Europe Director for Projects Dianne Gove was involved in this work.

http://www.euro.centre.org/data/1496045513_79833.pdf

2 June: New report identifies lessons from Australia in supported decision-making

A new report on “Supported Decision-making: Learning from Australia” has been published. The author, former Director of Public Policy for Alzheimer Scotland Jan Killeen, draws on observations from a six-week research trip the author conducted in Australia in autumn-winter
2016, enabled by a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust Travelling Fellowship Award.

Australia is piloting supported decision-making projects in response to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UN CRPD), which came into force in 2008. The UN CRPD requires all signatory States to ensure decision-making support is provided for all adults with cognitive disabilities who need it, no matter how severe their disability. Supported decision-making aims to give people with cognitive disabilities more control over their own decisions through the process of good support.

“Many people I spoke to reported that they are often hampered by the lack of legal authority to access essential information to help the ‘decision-maker’ weigh up options and arrive at choices. This is also recognised as a major barrier in the UK for family members and friends who have multiple and sometimes complex tasks in providing care and support. Too often they are forced into making an expensive yet unnecessary application for guardianship” writes Jan Killeen.

The report describes different models of supported decision-making that Jan witnessed, and makes a series of recommendations aimed at the UK and devolved governments, as well as other statutory bodies and civil society. Recommendations directed to the Scottish Government endorse the proposals advanced in the Mental Welfare Commission’s report “Mental Health and Capacity Law: the Case for Reform” published on 31 May 2017.

One of the report’s key recommendations for the UK is for provision for the appointment of a ‘registered supporter’, who would be authorised to access data-protected information to support a person with cognitive disability to make decisions. Northern Ireland already has this in place through its Mental Capacity Act 2016, as does the State of Victoria in Australia.

Read Jan Killeen’s report here: https://goo.gl/7Dq7cR


5 June: DSDC working on app to improve environments for people living at home with dementia

The design team at Stirling University’s Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC) – a.k.a. The Dementia Centre - is creating the first app of its kind to digitally assess how suitable a residence, care facility or other environment is for older people and those living with dementia.

The dementia database, called IRIDIS, will make a simple assessment of a person’s home and recommend changes that can be made to the building.

The free homeowner app will address physical aspects of design which impact upon older people’s quality of life and their ability to live more independently. This includes lighting, colour contrast and noise.

It will be available to download from Thursday 21 September 2017, World Alzheimer’s Day.

http://dementia.stir.ac.uk/blogs/dsdc-news/2017-06-05/IRIDIS

5 June: Lancaster University launches new Palliative Care MOOC

Lancaster University On 5 June, Lancaster University in the UK launched its new Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Palliative Care. The University had previously launched such a course, providing free online training for health and social care workers, patients, carers and academics from across the world. The success of this initial course has led to the launch of this second MOOC.

Access the new MOOC here: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/palliative

14 June: AGE Platform Europe launches updated toolkit on “Dignity and wellbeing of older persons in need of care”

AGE Platform Europe has launched an updated version of this toolkit, aimed at policymakers and practitioners who want to evolve towards ensuring the wellbeing and dignity of older persons in need of care. It shows how they can adopt a rights-based approach in long-term care policies and daily practice.

http://publications.age-platform.eu/opcare-toolkit/

JOBS OPPORTUNITIES

20 June: ADI seeks Director of Policy, Communication and Publications and Deputy CEO, as well as a temporary Communication support

The Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) team in London is recruiting. There is an opening for a Director of Policy, Communication and Publications and Deputy CEO. This person will oversee all communications and publications, as well as doing policy work to make government dementia plans a reality around the world and deputising for the CEO as required.

ADI is also looking for someone to help on a temporary basis in August and September 2017 with Communications and Administration.

For the above positions, the candidate would need to have the ability to work in the UK. More information about both roles, and the application form, can be found at http://www.alz.co.uk/jobs and the deadlines for applying are in early July.
### AE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-4 July</td>
<td>Field visit for 27th Alzheimer Europe Conference (Berlin, Germany)</td>
<td>Jean and Gwladys</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 July</td>
<td>EPAD TDC certification visit (Glasgow, UK)</td>
<td>Cindy</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-20 July</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (London, UK)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 July</td>
<td>Meeting with MSD (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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### CONFERENCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6 July</td>
<td>4th International Conference on Neurodegenerative Disorders and Stroke, <a href="http://stroke.cmesociety.com/">http://stroke.cmesociety.com/</a></td>
<td>Frankfurt, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-13 July</td>
<td>Workshop on Computational Neuroscience, <a href="https://amiexcompnumeuro.net/">https://amiexcompnumeuro.net/</a></td>
<td>Marseille, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-20 July</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC), <a href="https://www.alz.org/aaic/">https://www.alz.org/aaic/</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>23 July</td>
<td>International Academy on Nutrition and Aging conference (IANA2017), <a href="https://goo.gl/KqCBPY">https://goo.gl/KqCBPY</a></td>
<td>San Francisco, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-27 July</td>
<td>World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics (IAGG), <a href="https://www.iagg2017.org">https://www.iagg2017.org</a></td>
<td>San Francisco, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12 September</td>
<td>18th International Conference on Alzheimer’s Drug Discovery, <a href="https://www.alzdiscovery.org/events/event/18th-international-conference-on-alzheimers-drug-discovery">https://www.alzdiscovery.org/events/event/18th-international-conference-on-alzheimers-drug-discovery</a></td>
<td>New Jersey, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 September</td>
<td>Innovations and state of the art in dementia research, <a href="http://alzheimers-dementia.org/">http://alzheimers-dementia.org/</a></td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>16-18 October</td>
<td>9th International Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease &amp; Dementia, <a href="http://alzheimers-dementia.conferenceseries.com/">http://alzheimers-dementia.conferenceseries.com/</a></td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-21 October</td>
<td>9th Dementia Conference, ASK 2017 for dementia friendly society, <a href="http://www.spomincica.si">www.spomincica.si</a></td>
<td>Terme Catež, Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 November</td>
<td>Clinical Trials on Alzheimer’s Disease (CTAD), <a href="http://www.ctad-alzheimer.com/">http://www.ctad-alzheimer.com/</a></td>
<td>Boston, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-5 November</td>
<td>20th Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Alzheimer’s Disease International, <a href="http://www.alzi.or.id">www.alzi.or.id</a></td>
<td>Jakarta, Indonesia</td>
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<td>11-15 November</td>
<td>47th Annual Meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, <a href="https://goo.gl/6mWv1a">https://goo.gl/6mWv1a</a></td>
<td>Washington DC, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-16 Feb 2018</td>
<td>8th International Conference on Pharmacoeconomics of Alzheimer’s Disease (IPECAD), <a href="http://www.ipecad.org">www.ipecad.org</a></td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-3 March 2018</td>
<td>Nutrition and maintaining functions with aging (IANA 2018)</td>
<td>Miami, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-18 March 2018</td>
<td>AAT-AD/PDFTM Focus Meeting on Advances in Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Therapies</td>
<td>Torino, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>22-25 March 2018</td>
<td>12th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy)</td>
<td>Warsaw, Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-6 October 2018</td>
<td>Croatian Congress on Alzheimer’s Disease with International participation, CROCAD-18</td>
<td>Novigrad, Croatia</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-31 October 2018</td>
<td>28th Alzheimer Europe Conference “Making dementia a European priority”</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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Contact Alzheimer Europe:
Alzheimer Europe: 14, rue Dicks (L-1417), Luxembourg; info@alzheimer-europe.org, www.alzheimer-europe.org

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27th Alzheimer Europe Conference
Care today, cure tomorrow
Berlin, Germany
2–4 October 2017
www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences  #27AEC