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Editorial
Our new offices are becoming quite popular. In March, we hosted various meetings here, including the latest gathering of the EWGPWD Executive. We also attended the Springfield Conference in Geneva, the launch of the PredictND project and the EFID Awards Ceremony - which yielded a prize to one of our member associations.

You may already have noticed that AE has changed its policy on publications: all issues of the Dementia in Europe magazine and all AE yearbook and reports up to 2012 are now available for free download on the AE website.

We were also very pleased to pass the milestone of 1,000 Twitter followers during March. We can now claim a worldwide Twitter network and send antipodal greetings to our 1000th follower, @DementiaService (Alzheimer’s Auckland) in New Zealand.

In Brussels, we would like to thank the seven MEPs and candidates who signed the European Dementia Pledge, bringing to 22 the total number of signatories. We encourage our readers to contact their MEPs and make them aware of this opportunity to make a difference. Meanwhile, the Commission published the official version of the 3rd Health Programme - which will determine the framework for EU health policy until 2020 - and also announced an expansion of the European Brain Project.

Dr Dennis Gillings, the G8 World Dementia Envoy, said in a recent interview that dementia can be cured by a significant increase in clinical trials, which in turn should be less regulated to allow for higher participation. AE fully supports increased funding for dementia research and I hope that Dr Gillings will be equally forthcoming about social care improvements for people with dementia and their families - a less glamorous yet pressing topic that was not mentioned during the interview.

In our member countries, Portugal has open two more Memory Cafes and a new live online dementia advice service has launched in the UK. Our colleagues in Scotland won a European award for excellence and Norway continues to build new programmes to help people with dementia. In Slovenia, representatives from our member association discussed restrictions of freedom with the government ombudsman and also released a new issue of their news magazine. Finally, a campaign in Germany is underway to bring about much-needed improvements in long-term care.

We also report on two educational opportunities, including a unique graduate degree programme that can be tailored to students, healthcare professionals or non-specialists. You can also read about various new and interesting resources, such as a website for early onset dementia and a mobile phone app that provides brain stimulation.

I will conclude by reminding our readers that there only a few weeks left until 30 April - the deadline for submitting abstracts the 24th Annual Conference of Alzheimer Europe in Glasgow.

Jean Georges
Executive Director
1 March: AE calls for abstracts for Glasgow conference

Alzheimer Europe and Alzheimer Scotland are accepting abstracts for the upcoming 24th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Glasgow until 30 April 2014. Abstracts for oral and poster presentations are welcome in the following categories:

- Care: Home care, Hospital care, Palliative care, Residential care.
- People: Dementia-friendly communities, Involving people with dementia, Peer support groups, Perceptions and image of dementia.
- Policy: Dementia strategies, Post-diagnostic support, Prevention, Socio-economic cost of dementia and financing of care.
- Rights: Consent and advance directives, Ethics, Proxy decision-making, Rights and responsibilities of people with dementia.

Guidelines for writing and submitting abstracts are available on the Alzheimer Europe website.

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/2014-Glasgow/Call-for-abstracts

3-4 March: EWGPWD Executive holds meeting in Luxembourg

The members of the Executive of the European Working Group of People with Dementia met at the Alzheimer Europe (AE) offices in Luxembourg on 3-4 March. Helga Rohra (Chairperson) and Vice Chairpersons Nina Balackova and Jean-Pierre Frognet attended in person, while Vice Chairperson Agnes Houston joined the meeting via Skype. Caregivers Marie-Anne Schreder and Jan Zámyslický were also present.

The meeting began with feedback from the 2013 AE Conference in Malta and a discussion about presentation topics for the Glasgow Conference. The group also discussed their wish to enhance the involvement and support of the national Alzheimer associations that nominate all EWGPWD members. Internal and external communications were also on the agenda, as the members talked about setting up a private Facebook page and updating the Group’s leaflet.

They also conferred with Alzheimer Europe colleagues about contributing articles to AE’s publications. The delegates also discussed the growing role of EWGPWD members in AE work, such as the Clinical Trial and Ethics projects. Finally, they talked about the upcoming elections in the European Parliament and also in the EWGPWD.

The next meeting - with all EWGPWD members - will take place in May 2014 in Luxembourg.

10 March: Annette Dumas attends EFPIA Think Tank meeting

On 10 March, Annette attended the EFPIA Think Tank meeting in Brussels. The meeting was around the EFPIA initiative “Health and Growth” that seeks to implement a positive agenda for pharmaceuticals in Europe.

17 March: AE makes publications available for free download

This month Alzheimer Europe has made all 16 issues of the “Dementia in Europe” (DIE) magazine as well as all AE yearbooks and reports up to and including 2012, available for free download on the AE website.

The magazines can be found here:

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Publications/Dementia-in-Europe-Magazines

The yearbooks can be found here:

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Publications/Dementia-in-Europe-Yearbooks

The reports can be found here:

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Publications/Alzheimer-Europe-Reports

24 March: Alzheimer Europe has 1000 Twitter followers

On 24 March 2014, Alzheimer Europe’s Twitter account, in existence for less than a year, reached 1000 followers.

Since our very first Tweet on 21 June 2013, we have Tweeted 950 times, approximately 3.5 Tweets per diem.

Thank you for following us! @AlzheimerEurope

twitter.com/AlzheimerEurope

AE Projects

4 March: AFE-INNOVNET seeks new partners for project on age-friendly environments

On 4 March, AFE-INNOVNET (an EU-funded project) announced a call for new partners for its “Thematic Network on Innovation for Age-Friendly Environments”. The two year project has four overarching goals:

- Mobilise local and regional authorities and other stakeholders to benefit from each other’s experience and work together to promote initiatives on age-friendly environments across Europe.
- Develop methodologies to help assess the socioeconomic impact of age-friendly environments and the benefits of involving older people in developing solutions.
• Develop a repository of best practices in innovative solutions for age-friendly environments.
• Launch an EU Covenant on Demographic Change, using the model of the existing Covenant of Mayors on sustainable energy.

The project is currently composed of 28 partners from 16 EU countries, including Alzheimer Europe. It is coordinated by AGE Platform Europe, a network of more than 165 organisations of people aged 50+ representing more than 30 million older people across Europe.

AFE-INNOVNET will open to new partners in April 2014. Interested parties are invited to visit the project website or contact Julia Wadoux at julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu or telephone +32 2 280 14 70.

www.ageplatform.eu

18 March: EMIF communications team meets in Brussels

On 18 March, Alex Teligadas attended a meeting of EMIF’s work package 16. The participants discussed ongoing tasks centred on the overall project Communication Plan. These include updates to the project website, development of the internal and external newsletters and production of a family of video clips to promote awareness and increase knowledge of the EMIF project.

www.emif.eu

18 March: Official launch of PredictND project

On 18 March the PredictND project, co-funded under the European 7th Framework Programme (FP7), was officially launched. The project is being coordinated by VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland and will run for four years. On 13 and 14 March, Jean Georges and Dianne Gove from AE attended the project launch in Espoo, Finland.

• VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
• GE Healthcare (UK)
• Imperial College London (UK)
• The University of Eastern Finland
• Rigshospitalet (Denmark)
• VU Medical Center Amsterdam (the Netherlands)
• The University of Perugia (Italy)

800 patients in four hospitals in Kuopio (Finland), Copenhagen (Denmark), Amsterdam (the Netherlands) and Perugia (Italy) will be participating in the project, which aims to develop and validate new procedures for the earlier diagnosis of memory disorders and for detecting individuals at high risk of developing memory disorders.

"Alongside the better prediction of memory disorders, PredictND wants to provide a completely new approach for clinicians to systematically manage the information load that they are facing in current clinical practice", says Dr Jyrki Lötjönen, Scientific Coordinator, VTT. "For that, we intend to transfer state-of-the-art computer-based technologies, for example for image analysis and machine learning, to a modern hospital environment in order to assist clinicians in their daily work. At the earliest, the new diagnostics tool could enter the market in a couple of years."

Hilkka Soininen, professor of neurology at the University of Eastern Finland, says: "The innovation of the project is to test the decision-making tool for the detection and differentiation of memory diseases at earliest phases. Detecting signs of progressive memory disease in time will allow earlier interventions and treatments. Tools which support decision-making will be common into tomorrow’s clinical practice. These tools can help a clinician to extract the most important information and profiles among the multitude of data."

AE will be a partner in dissemination and outreach activities. Other partners in the project are:
Members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at 72, representing 23 Member States of the European Union and all seven political groups in the Parliament. Alzheimer Europe would like to thank the following MEPs for their continued support of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance:


European Alzheimer’s Alliance

31 March: Seven more signatures for European Dementia Pledge

There have been seven more signatures for AE’s European Dementia Pledge during the month of March, bringing the total number of signatories to 22:

- Antoniya Parvanova, MEP (Bulgaria)
- Sirpa Pietikäinen, MEP (Finland)
- Nessa Childers, MEP (Ireland)
- Pat The Cope Gallagher, MEP (Ireland)
- Marisa Matias, MEP (Portugal)
- Anna Lo, MLA (Northern Ireland, UK)
- Peter Cranie (England, UK)

The European Dementia Pledge is a simple commitment by MEP candidates to support the campaign to make dementia a priority in the new European Parliament.

Alzheimer Europe wishes to thank all the signatories and invites all other candidates for the 2014 European Parliament elections to sign the European Dementia Pledge, to show their commitment to people with dementia and their carers.

The list of signatories to date can be found here:


The pledge can be found here:

www.alzheimer-europe.org/content/download/55310/392618/file/2014%20European%20Dementia%20Pledge.pdf

DONATE NOW! Help us make dementia a priority

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Donation

EU Developments

10 March: EC publishes a short guide to Horizon 2020

The European Commission has published a 38-page booklet called “Horizon 2020 in brief. The EU Framework Programme for Research & Innovation”. The booklet describes - in simple terms - the structure and aims of the new EU research programme and also how to apply for funding.

The booklet is available for free download on the EU Bookshop website:

pbk0134137/CatalogCategory...

18 March: MEP Sârbu receives reply from Commissioner Tonio Borg

On 18 March, Tonio Borg - European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy - replied to a written question from Daciana Octavia Sârbu, MEP (Romania) and member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance.

Ms Sârbu wrote that according to research findings published in the JAMA Neurology journal, DDT levels detected in blood drawn from Alzheimer’s sufferers are three times as high as in the case of those unaffected by the disease. Scientists believe that this chemical may contribute to the development of amyloid plaques, which are harmful to neurons.

In view of this, MEP Sârbu asked:

- Can the Commission say whether pesticides used in the EU contain DDT?
- Is DDT still used in any of the EU Member States?

Mr Borg replied that there are no pesticides (i.e. plant protection products as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 or biocides as defined in Regulation (EU) No 528/2012) authorised in the EU which may contain the
active substance DDT (1,1,1-Trichloro-2,2-bis-(4-chlorophenyl)ethane). He added that the use of any pesticide containing DDT is prohibited in the EU.


19 March: MEP Abela Baldacchino receives reply from Commissioner Tonio Borg

On 19 March, Claudette Abela Baldacchino, MEP (Malta) received a reply to her written questions from Tonio Borg, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy.

MEP Abela Baldacchino noted that around 7.3 million people in the EU have some form of dementia, a figure which is expected to double over the next 20 years as life expectancy increases. At present, there is no known cure for the disease. In 2011, the Commission launched ALCOVE (Alzheimer Cooperative Valuation in Europe), a joint action project between Member States aimed at improving knowledge of dementia and its consequences while promoting the exchange of information to preserve the health, quality of life, autonomy and dignity of people with dementia. She then formulated the following questions:

- Can the Commission provide updated statistics on the incidence rate of dementia in the different Member States?
- What programmes are in place to fund and encourage research in the field of dementia?
- Can the Commission provide information on the results of the ALCOVE project, and say what action it is taking to follow up on these outcomes?

Commissioner Borg said that the EC intends to collect data on dementia from all EU Member States and the EEA/EFTA countries as from 2018 in the framework of the pilot morbidity data collection.

The Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7, 2007-2013) dedicated EUR 555 million to research on dementia-related diseases. The Commission also supports the EU Joint Programming Initiative on Neurodegenerative Disease Research, in particular Alzheimer’s, a Member States-led initiative coordinating efforts across countries. Since 2011, this initiative has committed EUR 75 million to joint actions.

Dementia research is also supported by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a public-private partnership between the EU and pharmaceutical industry. The IMI call of December 2013 includes the establishment of a “European Platform to Facilitate Proof of Concept for Prevention in Alzheimer’s Disease” (EUR 53 Million). Neurodegenerative diseases, often associated with dementia, will also be a priority of the new Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 (IMI2), whose proposed EU contribution is approximately EUR 1.6 billion. Horizon 2020, the new EU Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), will provide further opportunities for dementia research.

The results of the European Joint Action on dementia, Alzheimer Cooperative Valuation in Europe (ALCOVE), are published in a synthesis report. The Joint Action has produced recommendations on data collection, timely diagnosis, ethical and legal aspects, behavioural and psychological symptoms and limitations on the use of antipsychotic drugs. The outcomes of the project have been presented to the Member States. Follow-up activities are currently being considered.


20 March: The Human Brain Project adds partners

The EU’s Human Brain Project (HBP) has added new partners to its ongoing mission to create the world’s largest experimental facility for brain research, including the diagnosis and treatment of brain diseases and the development of brain-like computing systems.

HBP was launched in October 2013 as one of the biggest European research initiatives with a EUR 1 billion budget. There are currently 32 partners from 13 countries who will carry out specific research tasks in one of the six HBP platforms: Neuroinformatics, Brain Simulation, High Performance Computing, Medical Informatics, Neuromorphic Computing and Neuroinformatics.

www.humanbrainproject.eu

21 March: Commission publishes its third Health Programme

On 21 March, the European Commission published its Third Health Programme for 2014-2020. This document will determine the framework for EU health policy until 2020. The programme will focus on four key areas:

- Disease prevention, especially for diseases caused by lifestyle factors like tobacco or alcohol use, unhealthy foods or a sedentary lifestyle.
- Better preparation for health emergencies, especially across borders.
- Promoting innovation in the health sector.
- Improving access to quality health services.

According to Mr Tonio Borg, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, the four principal objectives of the plan are as follows:

- Reduce health inequality across regions and Member States.
- Increase the sustainability of national healthcare systems.
- Encourage innovation in the healthcare sector.
- Reduce cross-border health risks.

The document is available for download in all EU languages on the website below:

Members’ News

1 March: Live Online Advice on dementia from Alzheimer’s Society UK

In March, Alzheimer’s Society, UK launched a new “Live Online Advice” service on their website.

Helpline Advisers are available Monday to Friday 9am – 12pm (GMT) to discuss concerns about and to give information on all forms of dementia. They can advise users (in English) on:

- Understanding dementia
- Treatments
- How to get help locally
- Maintaining independence
- Financial and legal matters
- Caring for people with dementia
- Changes in relationships and behaviour
- Community care
- Long-stay care.

The Helpline Advisers will accept questions from anywhere in the world, but may not be able to provide country-specific answers outside the UK.

15 March: Alzheimer Portugal and partners open new Memory Cafes

The Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa - one of the most important and well known institutions of the Portuguese third sector – has opened two new Memory Cafes in Lisbon, in cooperation with private company Sonae and Alzheimer Portugal.

The “Memory Cafe” concept launched in Portugal in April 2013 and was immediately successful, demonstrating the social relevance of this initiative for people with dementia. It is part of a broader project called “Cuidar Melhor” (Better Care) which also has the support of several institutional partners and three municipalities of the District of Lisbon: Cascais, Oeiras and Sintra.

“Memory Cafe” is a meeting place for people with memory problems or dementia, as well as for their family members and caregivers. In these Cafés, users can exchange experiences and receive practical information and emotional support. This is an international and widespread concept, particularly in the UK.

The meetings are led by health professionals with the support of trained volunteers in an informal and protected setting, contributing to the improvement of quality of life and reduction of social stigma and isolation. There are now three Memory Cafes in Lisbon and another in Cascais and meetings take place one Saturday per month at each locale.

21 March: New issue of Spominčica-Alzheimer Slovenija magazine released

On 1 March, Spominčica - Alzheimer Slovenija published 18,000 copies of the new issue of Spominčica Magazine. This was distributed together with “Naša žena” (Our woman) - the most popular women’s and family magazine in Slovenia - and also to influential Slovenian politicians and all members of the association.

The front cover of the 24-page issue features Bojan and Mihela Španja. Bojan is Slovenia’s representative of the European Working Group of People with Dementia. This is the first time that a person with dementia appears on the front cover of the magazine, which includes an interview with the couple.

This issue also features an article about seven people with dementia from different European countries. These people, along with representatives from Spominčica, all met at Alzheimer Europe’s 23rd Annual Conference in Malta in October 2013.

Readers will also find a wealth of advice on how to prevent dementia and also what families can do when faced with a diagnosis of dementia.


24 March: Spominčica meeting with Slovenian Human Rights Obudsman

On 24 March, Slovenian Human Rights Ombudsman, Vlasta Nusdorfer and Information Commissioner Natasa Pirc Musar met with members of Spominčica to discuss the restrictions of freedom of people with dementia in Slovenian institutions.

All parties agreed that human rights, in particular respect and freedom for people with dementia in institutions, as well as general awareness about dementia are paramount to progress and will continue to fight for these rights, as well as to disseminate information as widely as possible.

25 March: Alzheimer Scotland and partners win an EFID Award

On 25 March, Alzheimer Scotland, in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council and NHS Lanarkshire, earned an EFID Award for their project “Dementia is everyone’s business - North Lanarkshire Partnership” during a ceremony in Brussels.

During the ceremony, the European Foundations’ Initiative on Dementia (EFID) rewarded a total of ten European projects that promote the integration and support of people with dementia and their carers in the local community through a large range of activities.
The Scottish project encourages shops, businesses and organisations to learn about dementia and to do simple, practical things that make an enormous difference to people with dementia, so as to help them remain a part of their community. The project proactively engages with shops, businesses and opens not just doors, but hearts and minds, and raises awareness of dementia, its impact on people, families and carers and the importance of citizens and community connections.

The award was received by Arlene Crockett, Alzheimer Scotland’s Deputy Regional Manager, Glasgow, East Dunbartonshire & Lanarkshire. She said: “Thanks to the EFID Award, we are now developing ‘Dementia - is everyone’s Business’ with our BME Communities and other Faith Communities living in North Lanarkshire. We hope to share our progress at the Alzheimer Europe Conference in Glasgow later this year.”

Arlene is pictured here with Paul Callaghan from North Lanarkshire Council and can be reached at acrockett@alzscot.org

25 March: German campaign calls for long-term care reform

The German Alzheimer Society and the social association VdK have launched a national campaign to reform the government’s long-term care policy.

The contribution rate for long-term care insurance was recently increased by 0.5%, with an agreement that the new funds would be used for long-term care reform. However, the government now wants to divert 0.1% of these funds for overall financing of the care programme – thus significantly reducing the scope of much-needed reforms. The campaign partners maintain that the funds are urgently needed to define a new concept of long-term care.

The campaign was launched during a recent press conference in Berlin. Ulrike Mascher, President of VdK, explained that a major reform of the long-term care statute is long overdue. She added that the last few years have been practically wasted in terms of care, as fundamental issues have still not been addressed.

Heike von Lützau-Hohlbien, Chair of the German Alzheimer Society, said: “We have 1.4 million people with dementia who need time-intensive support, monitoring and supervision, none of which are sufficiently addressed in the current long-term care policy. Most of these people are supervised and cared for by relatives - often with great hardship and sacrifice - who also need recognition and individually tailored support.”

The German Alzheimer Society and VdK have filed a campaign petition at the German Parliament. They hope to collect 50,000 signatures by 21 April 2014, which would lead to a public hearing.

www.deutsche-alzheimer.de/uber-uns/aktuelles/artikelansicht/artikel/beider-pflege-muss-jetzt-handelt-werden.html

26 March: Norway’s “Activity Friends” programme will help people with dementia

The Norwegian Health Association is starting a new programme called “Activity Friends”, a befriending service for people with dementia.

People living with dementia often say that being active and involved throughout the day makes it easier to live with the condition. Participating in leisure and everyday activities is important but can also be difficult to manage if memory fails and one starts to doubt one’s ability to stay active.

Many people with dementia can, with a little bit of support and assistance, still participate in activities they always have enjoyed. These can be quite ordinary things, like working in the garden, going for walks, having a coffee at the coffee bar, chopping wood, shopping, singing in a choir or other similar activities.

The Norwegian Health Association already provides basic training and guidance for volunteers who seek to help people with dementia to participate in mutual leisure interests. Now, the association is hiring 12 regional coordinators to implement the project and support and supervise the volunteers over the next four years.

Activity Friends is one of the initiatives funded by the 2013 telethon of the Norwegian public broadcaster.

Policy Watch

7 March: Ireland completes consultation on advance healthcare directives

On 7 March, Ireland’s Ministry for Health closed the public consultation on legislating for advance healthcare directives, or living wills.

The consultation was launched on 4 February with the following explanation from Minister James Reilly: "Advance healthcare directives represent an important means by which people can exercise their autonomy, which is an integral component of a patient-focused model of healthcare. Given that there is currently no specific legislation pertaining to advance healthcare directives in Ireland, incorporating provisions for advance healthcare directives into the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill 2013 represents an efficient and practical method of consolidating the law in this area”.

The purpose of the bill is to provide a modern statutory framework that supports decision-making by adults and that enables them to retain the greatest amount of autonomy possible in situations where they lack or may shortly lack capacity. The bill proposes to change the existing law on capacity, shifting from the current “all or nothing” status approach to a “flexible functional” one, whereby capacity is assessed on an issue and time-specific basis.

The advance healthcare directive has been recognised as an expression of an individual’s autonomy and as a useful tool in enabling the individual to maintain some level of control over medical treatment into the future, when he
or she lacks the capacity to express autonomous preferences.

The document text was drafted by several organisations including the Alzheimer Society of Ireland. The consultation document can be seen on the society’s website.


www.dohc.ie/press/releases/2014/20140204.html

19 March: Landmark UK Supreme Court ruling on restriction of freedom

On 19 March seven UK Supreme Court justices analysed the cases of three disabled people living in care facilities - two sisters with learning difficulties and a man with cerebral palsy. They ruled that all three had been illegally deprived of their freedom under the Mental Capacity Act (2005). The ruling overturned prior decisions by the Court of Appeal.

Speaking after the ruling, Lady Hale, deputy president of the Supreme Court said: "It is axiomatic that people with disabilities, both mental and physical, have the same human rights as the rest of the human race". She continued, "It may be that those rights have sometimes to be limited or restricted because of their disabilities, but the starting point should be the same as that for everyone else. This flows inexorably from the universal character of human rights, founded on the inherent dignity of all human beings." The fact that disabled people might be deprived of liberty in care facilities where living arrangements were comfortable made no difference, she said, adding: "A gilded cage is still a cage".

She also commented that disability did not entitle the state to deny disabled people their human rights, but rather that it placed a duty on the state to cater for disabled people.

Chief Executive of the charity Mind, Paul Farmer said the judgement provided "much-needed clarity on a hugely complicated issue". He added: "We call on the government to urgently issue clear guidance to care providers and local authorities so that they can implement this judgment."


23 March: World Dementia Envoy calls for large expansion of clinical trials

Dr Dennis Gillings was appointed World Dementia Envoy by Prime Minister Cameron in February 2014. On 23 March, he spoke to The Telegraph newspaper about his mandate to lead global efforts to tackle dementia.

Dr Gillings pointed out that society needed to "activate" on behalf of those with dementia and "dramatically speed up" research efforts in order to secure a breakthrough - an indicator that he will act to multiply clinical trials for potential dementia medicines.

He also suggested that regulators should simplify the process of accessing clinical trials: "I think we could learn a lot from the way we responded to HIV. Treatment came through the system very quickly, because restrictions were relaxed in order to ensure access to drugs more quickly. Without that effective treatment might have been delayed 10 years."

He added "I would like to see far more people with dementia being put into clinical research trials, so that once we find a drug is safe we introduce it to a wider population earlier. With HIV the patients themselves were the activists - with dementia it is different so we need communities and families to activate on their behalf."

Finally, the World Dementia Envoy noted that "the political will" was in place to tackle the disease but said his new role would be seeking "dramatically increased investment" in research from the pharmaceutical industry.

The complete article can be seen on The Telegraph's website.

www.telegraph.co.uk/health/elderhealth/10714039/Thousands-of-dementia-sufferers-should-be-offered-drug-trials.html

Science Watch

1 March: “Senior Moments” not necessarily a sign of dementia

“Senior Moments” are typically characterised by memory lapses such as the inability to remember where one’s car is parked or losing one’s house keys only to find them in an unexpected place, hours later. Though many people may worry that these moments are sure signs of the onset of dementia, a study, published in the March-April issue of the Annals of Family Medicine says that only around one in five people who deal with these memory lapses end up being diagnosed with serious neurological disorders, including Alzheimer’s disease.

German researchers from Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein and Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf followed just over 350 adults aged 75 years or more, with mild cognitive impairment at the baseline, for three years. The participants’ cognitive functions were then tested by observing whether or not they were capable of learning new material that included such activities as memorising lists to help test memory and depression levels.

Findings showed that in approximately 42% of the participants, cognitive functions had gone back to normal, while 36% of them showed the same mild cognitive impairment symptoms and 22% of the participants developed dementia.

The team also added that close to 21% of the people who experienced symptoms often fluctuated between normal and mild cognitive impairment. Researchers believe this may be due to an increased depression risk with the development of dementia.

www.annfammed.org/content/12/2/158
5 March: ADAD pathology slows down when symptoms appear

A study from the University of Melbourne (Australia) shows that the rate of neurodegeneration slows when symptoms of Autosomal-Dominant Alzheimer's disease (ADAD) appear. Results also showed that rapid neuronal damage begins 10-20 years before the appearance of symptoms.

ADAD is an inherited form of the disease that accounts for around 1% of all AD cases. In this study, scientists collected cerebrospinal fluid (CSF), blood and in vivo amyloid imaging cross-sectional data at baseline in individuals with ADAD that were also part of the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network.

The results showed reduced concentrations of CSF amyloid and also elevated concentrations of CSF tau, ptau and VILIP-1, all markers of neurofibrillary tangles and neuronal death in ADAD. These were seen 10-20 years before their estimated age at symptom onset (EAO) and before the detection of cognitive deficits.

The next part of the study will involve a clinical trial with two new drugs in American, Australian and British people with ADAD.

www.stm.sciencemag.org/content/8/226/226ra30

5 March: Alzheimer’s disease deaths may be vastly under-reported in US

Researchers at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago have completed a study into the number of deaths caused by Alzheimer’s disease in the US. The study report was published online in the journal Neurology on 5 March.

“Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias are under-reported on death certificates and medical records,” said Dr Bryan James, the study’s lead author. “Death certificates often list the immediate cause of death, such as pneumonia, rather than listing dementia as an underlying cause.”

Data for the study came from 2,566 persons aged 65 years and older (mean 78.1 years) and none of the participants had dementia at the start of the study. They were tested annually for dementia with identical annual diagnostic assessments. A total of 559 participants (21% of the study group) developed Alzheimer’s disease during the course of the study, and the average time span from diagnosis to death was just under four years. Of those who died during the study, 398 (36.5%) had Alzheimer’s disease.

According to Dr James, the findings would translate to a figure six times higher than the one reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), based on death certificates. This could mean that the disease is responsible for as many deaths as heart disease or cancer.

www.neurology.org/content/82/12/1045

DONATE NOW!

Help us make dementia a priority

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Donation

9 March: New blood biomarkers predict MCI and AD symptoms

A research team from Georgetown University Medical Center has developed a simple blood test that predicts whether a healthy person will develop mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or Alzheimer’s disease within three years.

The test is based on a panel of ten different lipid molecules in the blood that act as biomarkers, or signposts that indicate the future appearance of symptoms. The results are based on a five-year clinical trial on 525 participants aged 70 or older, who gave blood samples upon enrolling and also at later points. During the study period, 74 participants developed amnestic mild cognitive impairment (aMCI) or mild Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Among this group, 46 were diagnosed upon enrollment while 28 “converters” developed the symptoms later.

In the third year, the researchers chose a sub-group of 53 participants who developed aMCI or AD (including 18 converters) and 53 healthy controls to participate in the biomarker discovery phase of the study. According to Dr Howard Federoff, Project Leader and Professor of Neurology at Georgetown, “the lipid panel was able to distinguish with 90% accuracy these two distinct groups: cognitively normal participants who would progress to MCI or AD within two to three years, and those who would remain normal in the near future.”

Prof. Federoff explained that drug trials to slow or prevent dementia have failed mainly because the drugs were evaluated too late in the disease process. However, this study shows that a relatively simple blood test can detect dementia at the preclinical level, i.e. before the appearance of symptoms.

He added that: “We consider our results a major step toward the commercialization of a preclinical disease biomarker test that could be useful for large-scale screening to identify at-risk individuals. We’re designing a clinical trial where we’ll use this panel to identify people at high risk for Alzheimer’s to test a therapeutic agent that might delay or prevent the emergence of the disease.”

The results of this study were published in Nature Medicine and have received much media attention since their publication. Various researchers and scientists have remarked that the results will need to be replicated and verified in further populations.

www.nature.com/nm/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nm.3466.html

12 March: HRT linked to possible dementia risk reduction

According to a study published in the journal Plos One on 12 March, hormone replacement therapy (HRT) may help reduce the risk of developing dementia or mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

The study of 45 post-menopausal women, chiefly undertaken by Stanford University School of Medicine, California found that HRT prevented degeneration in key brain regions of women who were at heightened risk of dementia, if given shortly after menopause. “Heightened risk” was determined as having a history of major
depression, having a first-degree relative with the condition or having the ApoE4 allele gene.

Brain scans were done at the start of the study and these were compared to subsequent scans two years on. The comparison indicated that metabolic activity in the medial prefrontal cortex was better preserved in those women who remained on hormone therapy throughout the study, as opposed to those who came off it.

The study used two drugs, estradiol in pure form and a mixed medication including part estradiol. The pure estradiol had the most positive effect.

Dr Doug Brown, Director of Research & Development at Alzheimer’s Society, UK said that the small study size and the fact that no-one in the study experienced cognitive decline despite being at risk made it hard to draw any steadfast conclusions. “On the basis of this research we wouldn’t recommend women taking HRT with the aim of reducing their risk of developing dementia, but it would be interesting to see more research in this area.”

www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0089209

12 March: Study finds no proven benefit to home visits for older people

On 12 March the Public Library of Science (PLOS) published a report by Oxford University and University College London, detailing their analysis of research conducted over the past 20 years into home visits for older people. They examined the impact of these visits on mortality rates, falls, the risks of injury and illness, rates of hospitalisation or institutionalisation and the overall quality of life.

Analysing 64 randomised controlled trials, mainly in the UK, United States and Canada, involving just under 29,000 people aged over 65 and living independently, they found no clear evidence for the benefits of preventative home visits to help improve the lives and independence of older people.

Sean Grant, from Oxford University’s Centre for Evidence-Based Intervention stressed that the report is not implying that those people who currently have access to home care visits should have this service withdrawn. He pointed out that “It is possible that some programmes may provide some benefit. In the light of this review, however, policymakers, professionals and families should carefully consider the alternatives when making decisions about effective means of support”.

www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0089209

16 March: Possible new therapeutic target for Alzheimer’s disease

A team of US researchers from the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, the Medical University of South Carolina and American Life Science Pharmaceuticals have completed a study focusing on cathepsin B gene knockout or its reduction by an enzyme inhibitor which blocks the creation of key neurotoxic pGlu-Aβ peptides linked to Alzheimer’s disease. The study was published on 16 March in the online Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

The researchers said that E64d, a compound shown to inhibit cysteine proteases, and cathepsin B gene knockout both resulted in improved memory deficits in an AD mouse model and that these findings support continued development of cysteine protease inhibitors as drug targets for Alzheimer’s disease.

Lead study author Vivian Hook, chair of American Life Science Pharmaceuticals’ scientific advisory board noted that E64d has already been shown to be safe in clinical trials of patients with muscular dystrophy and would, therefore, likely prove safe for treating Alzheimer’s disease as well.

The team hopes to launch Phase 1 human clinical trials in the near future with a modified version of the drug.

www.j-alz.com/node/344

17 March: COPD and the risk for Mild Cognitive Impairment

A study published in the JAMA Neurology journal on 17 March has linked COPD (Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) with an increased risk of mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Researchers from the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Florida, US completed their study using 1,400 randomly chosen Minnesota residents, between 70 and 89 years old.

“We found that COPD was associated with problems with attention, planning and problem-solving, but not with memory,” said study co-author Michelle Mielke, an associate professor with the division of epidemiology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, US.

The researchers concluded that: “Our findings highlight the importance of COPD as a risk factor for MCI, and may provide a substrate for early intervention to prevent or delay the onset and progression of MCI.”


18 March: Eye variations may indicate early AD

A recent study on rat models shows that eye abnormalities may help reveal features of early-stage Alzheimer’s disease.

Investigators at the Cedars-Sinai Regenerative Medicine Institute in Los Angeles used high-resolution imaging techniques, correlated with variations of the eye structure, to identify initial indicators of the disease in rat models and also human retinas from donors with Alzheimer’s disease.

The results are based on cellular changes in the retinal pigment epithelial layer (at the back of the eye) and the varying thickness of the choroidal layer, which holds blood vessels that provide nutrients to the retina. The researchers observed tissue degeneration in both areas, along with a decline in visual function. This is consistent with a previous Cedars-Sinai study that showed amyloid build-up in the eyes of a similar animal model.

This project was led by Dr Shaomei Wang, Associate Professor in the Regenerative Medicine Institute and Department of Biomedical Sciences at Cedars-Sinai. She said that “by using the eye as a window to brain activity and function, we may be able to diagnose patients sooner
and give them more time to prepare for the future. Options may include earlier enrolment in clinical trials, developing support networks and dealing with any financial and legal matters.”

www.iovs.org/content/55/1/523

19 March: Study into protective capacity of REST on the aging brain

Researchers from Harvard Medical School, led by the school’s Professor of Genetics, Bruce Yankner, have conducted a study into the effects of the gene regulator REST (Repressor Element 1–Silencing Transcription factor), using mouse models and human brain tissue samples. They believe that the study shows REST to be a distinguishing factor in determining whether neuroprotection or neurodegeneration will take place as the brain ages.

The study, published in the journal Nature on 19 March, found that REST, which had previously been thought to be active only during fetal brain development and indeed becomes dormant shortly after birth, is in fact activated again later in life. According to the researchers, this reactivation happens to protect the normal aging brain from various stresses, including the abnormal proteins that are associated with neurodegenerative diseases. Specifically, they found that REST turns off genes that contribute to brain cell death and also to the amyloid plaques and neurofibillary tangles that are associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

For those who develop Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, however, it seems that REST does not function in the same way. The researchers noted that the gene regulator was lost before reaching its intended destination in the critical brain regions of people with dementia.

www.nature.com/nature/journal/v407/n6893/full/nature00163.html

24 March: Serious Games may have therapeutic value for AD

A recent study by an international research team reveals that Serious Games (SG) may offer very useful tools for professionals involved in the care of people with Alzheimer’s disease and related diseases (ADRD).

Serious Games are digital applications specially adapted for purposes other than entertaining, such as rehabilitation, training and education. Recently, there has been an increase of interest in the use of SG targeting patients with ADRD. However, this field is completely uncharted, and the clinical, ethical, economic and research impact of the employment of SG in these target populations has never been systematically addressed.

In this study, scientists analysed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of employing SG with patients with ADRD in order to provide practical recommendations for the development and use of SG in these populations. These analyses and recommendations were gathered, commented on and validated during a workshop at the 2013 Clinical Trial of Alzheimer’s Disease (CTAD) conference and endorsed by stakeholders in the field.

The results revealed that SG may well be beneficial. However, more interdisciplinary work should be done in order to create SG specifically targeting these populations. Furthermore, in order to acquire more academic and professional credibility and acceptance, it will be necessary to invest more in research targeting efficacy and feasibility. Finally, the emerging ethical challenges should be considered a priority.

The study team was headed by Dr Philippe Robert, Professor of Psychiatry at the Nice School of Medicine (France).

www.journal.frontiersin.org/journal/10.3389/fnagi.2014.00054/full

25 March: Diabetes drug reduces beta amyloid in mouse models

A research team from Boston University School of Medicine (BUSM) has shown that pramlintide, an existing diabetes drug, reduces beta amyloid in the brain and improves learning and memory in mouse models.

The study also showed that humans with Alzheimer’s disease have a lower blood level of amylin than healthy people. Pramlintide is the manufactured equivalent of amylin, a naturally occurring peptide in the human pancreas.

Dr Wendy Qiu, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Pharmacology at BUSM, is the senior author of this paper. She said: “Surprisingly, injections of amylin or pramlintide into the AD models reduced the amyloid burden as well as lowered the concentrations of amyloid-beta peptides (Aβ), a major component of AD in the brain.” She added that pramlintide can easily cross the blood/brain barrier and has shown favorable safety profile for diabetes patients.

www.nature.com/mp/journal/mp201417a.html

28 March: Max Planck Society and University College London partnership

On 28 March the Max Planck Society and University College London announced the opening of their newly established “Max Planck UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing Research”.

The central goal of the Centre is to better understand the causes of psychiatric disorders as well as the causes of differential cognitive development in adulthood and old age.

Scientists at the Centre will relate data on the structure and functioning of the brain to detailed behavioral observations of individuals and deduce prognoses for their development. The Centre’s findings will provide information on how cognitive functioning can be maintained into old age, and on how psychiatric disorders can be better recognised and treated more efficiently.

The Centre has two sites, one in London and the other in Berlin.
Dementia in Society

19 March: Women are more at risk from AD than breast cancer

A new report from the American Alzheimer’s Association concludes that women aged 60 and older have a one in six chance of getting Alzheimer’s disease in their lifetime, i.e. twice the likelihood of developing breast cancer.

These results come from a survey of 3,000 women commissioned by the association. Alzheimer’s disease currently affects more than five million Americans, of which two thirds are women. The report also shows that women are disproportionately affected when it comes to caring for those who are living with Alzheimer’s disease: 60% of caregivers are women and the care they give is more intensely physical and emotional.

The Alzheimer’s Association recommends that women begin reducing risk factors early in life. Suggestions include developing “healthy brain habits” which would include staying mentally, socially and physically active and adopting a “brain healthy” diet low in fat and cholesterol. Finally, important numbers such as cholesterol, blood sugar levels and blood pressure should be monitored closely.

www.autumnleaves.com/women-alzheimers-like-ly-breast-cancer/

21 March: Comments from “Letters, Life and Love Stories” concert

“Letters, Life and Love Stories”, a concert organised by Alliance Scotland, Scottish government project “Dementia Carer Voices”, Regular Music and Celtic Connections and involving artists such as Emma Pollock, Hue & Cry and Eddi Reader, took place in January this year at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

An exhibition at the concert venue gave carers attending the event the opportunity to voice their thoughts on what caring means to them, by adding a leaf to the “Letters, Life and Love Stories Tree”. All of the comments left on the tree were collected and subsequently published online on 21 March.

www.alliance-scotland.org.uk/download/library/lib_532c31a2ea7b/

Education and Training

24 March: New online training aims to help patient advocates

A new online, interactive training programme called “eMEET” (Medicine Evaluation Educational Training online), designed to help patient advocates better influence decisions related to access to new medicines, was launched on 24 March by Eli Lilly and Company.

Developed in collaboration with experts in the fields of patient involvement and health technology assessment (HTA), the training resource is designed to help patient advocates navigate information about medicines development, evaluation and assessment.

www.meetforpatients.com

28 March: New Master’s Degree programme in pharmacovigilance and pharmacoepidemiology

The European programme in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology (Eu2P) has opened registration for a Master’s Degree programme in pharmacovigilance and pharmacoepidemiology for the academic year 2014-15.

The degree course can be tailored for students, healthcare professionals or non-specialists and the final degree is jointly delivered by the following Eu2P partners:

- Université Bordeaux Segalen (France)
- Erasmus Universitair Medisch Centrum (The Netherlands)
- Fundació Institut Català de Farmacología - Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain)
- University of Hertfordshire (UK)
- Università di Verona (Italy)
- Utrecht Universiteit (The Netherlands)

The deadline for applications is 22 June 2014. Eu2P also offers short courses and PhDs. Details of all courses offered as well as information on how to apply can be found on the project website.

The Eu2P training partnership is composed of seven Universities, the European Medicines Agency, the French Medicines Agency and fifteen Pharmaceutical Companies from the European Federation Pharmaceutical Industries Association (EFPIA).

The Université Bordeaux Segalen is the coordinating institution for the whole Eu2P programme that includes a Master, Certificates and a PhD in Pharmacovigilance and Pharmacoepidemiology.

www.eu2p.org/

31 March: University of Tasmania relaunches online dementia course

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre of the University of Tasmania is launching the second edition of its online “Understanding Dementia” course.

The course, which lasts for nine weeks and is free of charge, is designed to be accessible and appealing to people from diverse backgrounds. It addresses the foremost issues surrounding dementia, providing avenues for discussion and rich global networking opportunities to engage with this major international health issue.

The course imparts knowledge to improve quality of life across the trajectory of dementia for people with the condition, their families and their carers. Finally, the
course provides an opportunity to engage with the perspectives of an international community, without requiring exams or assignments. Further information is available on the university’s website. www.utas.edu.au/wicking/wca/mooc

New Publications & Resources

4 March: VPH-DARE@IT project releases first newsletter

The VPH-DARE@IT project team released its first external newsletter on 4 March. The bi-annual newsletter will feature project progress and developments, partner activities and events, global news items about dementia-related research and articles and current research papers from our consortium and wider network.

The “Virtual Physiological Human: DementiA Research Enabled by IT” project aims to provide a systematic, multifactorial and multiscale modelling approach to understanding dementia onset and progression and enable more objective, earlier, predictive and individualised diagnoses and prognoses of dementias to cope with the challenge of an ageing European society. The main objectives of the five year project are shown below:

- Deliver a systematic, multifactorial and multiscale modelling approach to understanding dementia.
- Explore the lifestyle and environmental factors that predispose it to its development.
- Deliver more objective and accurate differential diagnosis than what is available thus far in Europe.
- Shorten the current average 20-month time lapse between the onset of cognitive and memory deficits and its specific clinical diagnosis.

The VPH-DARE@IT consortium is composed of 20 partners from 8 European countries. It is coordinated by Prof. Alejandro Frangi, Professor of Biomedical Image Computing at the University of Sheffield (USFD) in the UK.

Comments, feedback or suggestions can be addressed to contact@vph-dare.eu and the newsletter can be downloaded at the project website.

www.vph-dare.eu

10 March: GE Healthcare designs free “MIND” app

Designed by neurologists, the GE Healthcare MIND (Make an Impact on Neurological Disorders) app was launched on 10 March, to coincide with Brain Awareness Week.

Through the use of music and art, the app provides brain stimulation for people with various neurological conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease. It also offers a variety of tips and advice on how caregivers can better support those for whom they are caring. In addition, GE hopes that it will help to strengthen the bond between patient and caregiver through the sharing of the app’s features.

www.mindonlinecampaign.com/

10 March: Launch of UK website for young onset dementia

YoungDementia UK launched its new website on 10 March. The aim is for it to become “a primary source of information on support services, care homes, resources and advice about living well with young onset dementia”. It also includes a young onset dementia specific support service listing, and a resource section full of useful blogs, books and websites relating to young onset dementia.

YoungDementia UK is an organisation working to increase awareness and support for people with young onset dementia. Based in Oxfordshire, England, the organisation holds regular events in the local area, and will hold its first national conference on 30 September in Oxford.

For more information about YoungDementia UK and their events, visit the website:

www.youngdementiauk.org/

19 March: New UK report on living well with dementia

On 19 March, a new report suggesting ways of living well with dementia was published online by independent healthcare company, Red and Yellow Care in association with Alzheimer’s Society.

Gleaned from the input of various professionals in the field as well as people with dementia and their carers, the “six paths to a good life with dementia” suggested in the report are:

- Respecting identity,
- Embracing now,
- Sustaining relationships,
- Valuing contrast,
- Supporting agency and
- Maintaining health.

The full report is available for free download or to order in hard copy from:

www.redandyellowcare.com/goodlife

31 March: Trinity College Dublin releases dementia animation series

Ten quirky animated videos addressing common concerns about memory loss and dementia have been developed by researchers in Trinity College Dublin in a bid to allay fears about memory loss, promote brain health and tackle the stigma associated with dementia.
The films address common fears about memory loss and dementia and also provide practical advice about how to improve your brain health. Topics covered in the films include: When should I be concerned about my memory? What can you do to keep your brain healthy? What’s the difference between Alzheimer’s disease and dementia?

Speaking about the project, Principal Investigator Dr Sabina Brennan commented: “We hope that this series of short films will encourage people to be proactive about their brain health, make important lifestyle changes that reduce risk factors, learn strategies that support declining abilities and seek medical advice in order to facilitate early intervention and diagnosis. The two-minute films are surprisingly fun and entertaining to watch so we hope that people of all ages will share them online with family and friends.”

The FreeDem films project has been developed by the NEIL Programme (Neuro-Enhancement for Independent Lives) at Trinity’s Institute of Neuroscience with funding from GENIO. The videos are available to view for free online at http://freedemliving.com

A DVD containing all 10 films can be purchased from the Trinity Library Shop by emailing library.shop@tcd.ie or by calling 00 353 1 8962308.

The free films can also be embedded within websites or used as a resource for training and education. Interested parties may email Dr Brennan at brennas1@tcd.ie for a free non-commercial license.


“The Forgetful Elephant”, an illustrated children’s book by Irene Mackay, was published as an eBook with worldwide distribution on 31 March.

Taking inspiration from questions asked by the young granddaughter of a dementia patient Ms Mackay, who trained as a professional Home Support Worker with Alzheimer Scotland, wrote the book to try and help families cope when faced with the distress of talking to children about memory loss and dementia.

The author, whose mother was diagnosed with vascular dementia some years ago, said: “Having first-hand experience of this life-changing condition, I am passionate about raising awareness of memory loss. It can be difficult to explain to a small child what is happening to a grandparent, parent or sibling. This book shows how even the very young can maintain meaningful relationships with loved ones suffering from dementia”.

Further information about “The Forgetful Elephant” and links to purchase it in print or eBook format are available on the author’s website.

www.irenemackay.com/forgetful-elephant/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 April</td>
<td>European Parliament event “Fighting against Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia” hosted by UK MEP Marina Yannakoudaki (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette, Jean</td>
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<td>3-4 April</td>
<td>EU Summit on Chronic Diseases organised by the European Commission</td>
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<td>7 April</td>
<td>Meeting of the EMIF WP16 communications team (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>“Twitter Academy” training session sponsored by Lilly (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-9 April</td>
<td>5th Global Forum on Incontinence (Madrid, Spain)</td>
<td>Dianne, Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 April</td>
<td>European Parliament Interest Group on Carers meeting (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>22nd annual colloquium of the Ligue Alzheimer ASBL on the topic «L’Éthique à la recherche du bien-être» (Huy, Belgium)</td>
<td>Dianne</td>
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## Future Conferences

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>8 April</td>
<td>Third national Creative Dementia Arts Network conference</td>
<td>Oxford, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>22nd annual colloquium of the Ligue Alzheimer ASBL on the topic «L’Éthique à la recherche du bien-être»</td>
<td>Huy, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-4 May</td>
<td>29th ADI Conference, <a href="http://www.adi2014.org">www.adi2014.org</a></td>
<td>San Juan, Puerto Rico</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-11 May</td>
<td>8th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CO Ny), <a href="http://www.comtamed.com/comp/2014/">www.comtamed.com/comp/2014/</a></td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<td>16-17 May</td>
<td>The Alzheimer’s Show, <a href="http://alzheimershow.co.uk/">http://alzheimershow.co.uk/</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 May-3 June</td>
<td>EFNS-ENS Joint Congress of European Neurology 2014, <a href="http://www.jointcongressofeuropeanneprology.or">www.jointcongressofeuropeanneprology.or</a></td>
<td>Istanbul, Turkey</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-14 June</td>
<td>12ème Réunion francophone sur la maladie d’Alzheimer et les syndromes apparentés</td>
<td>Montpellier, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-27 June</td>
<td>International Dementia Conference, “Risky Business 2 - this time it’s personal!”, <a href="http://www.dementiaconference.com/call-for-papers">www.dementiaconference.com/call-for-papers</a></td>
<td>Sydney, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-9 July</td>
<td>9th FENS Forum of Neuroscience, <a href="http://forum.fens.org/2014">http://forum.fens.org/2014</a></td>
<td>Milan, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-17 July</td>
<td>AAC Conference 2014, <a href="http://www.aiit.org/aac">www.aiit.org/aac</a></td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-22 October</td>
<td>24th Alzheimer Europe Conference “Dignity and autonomy in dementia”, <a href="http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences">www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences</a></td>
<td>Glasgow, United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>20-23 June 2015</td>
<td>1st Congress of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), <a href="http://www.eaneurology.org/berlin2015">www.eaneurology.org/berlin2015</a></td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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The Alzheimer Europe newsletter arises from the 2014 Work Plan of Alzheimer Europe, which has received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Health Programme.