Editorial

With 2009 coming to a close, I am absolutely delighted that the promising signals for action on dementia at European level given at the beginning of the year seem to have been realised, with the European Commission, Parliament and Council all calling for concrete action to be taken.

In December, the interest continued, with the European Commission carrying out discussions on how to proceed with their Alzheimer’s initiative and the Competitiveness Council presenting its conclusions on the joint programming of research activities in Alzheimer’s disease.

A highlight of December for me was attending the 20th anniversary celebrations of the German Alzheimer Society. It was inspiring to hear about the achievements of the organisation, which have been brought about by their members’ unflagging commitment and dedication.

We also bring news on our members’ activities from Greece, where a new day care centre has opened, the UK, where an e-learning programme on dementia has been developed, from France Alzheimer which organised their annual conference in December and also from Switzerland, where the national association has been busy producing a new publication and gathering support for their dementia manifesto.

It is greatly encouraging to be able to report on the news that John Bowis, a former MEP and member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance, has accepted to become Ambassador of the Alzheimer’s Society. Such support is essential for our cause.

The Alzheimer Europe Board met this month and was satisfied that, despite a difficult financial year, Alzheimer Europe had managed to implement its 2009 workplan.

December also saw the launch of both the 2009 Yearbook as well as the fourth issue of the Dementia in Europe magazine. The 2009 Yearbook provides comparative information on the legal systems in 31 European countries with regard to consent, advance directives, access to information and diagnosis and end-of-life issues. I am very pleased that both these publications have been warmly received.

I hope you enjoy this month’s edition of our newsletter and take this opportunity to wish you a happy New Year.

Jean Georges
Executive Director
Two new publications now available from Alzheimer Europe:

The Dementia in Europe magazine (issue 4)
Issue 4 reports on the European Parliament’s lunch debate on European action on dementia, the European Alzheimer’s Alliance, the Dementia Ethics Network, Alzheimer Europe’s 19th Annual conference, The Dutch national dementia plan, the exchange of best practices on dealing with behaviour symptoms at home, the Swedish Presidency Conference on dignified ageing, the situation for people with dementia in Ireland as well as the European celebrations on World Alzheimer’s Day.

(EUR 5.00 including postage and packing)

2009 Dementia in Europe Yearbook
The Yearbook provides information on dementia with regard to the legal systems in 31 European countries and includes topics such as:
- consent
- advance directives
- access to information
- diagnosis
- end-of-life issues

The Yearbook also contains Alzheimer Europe’s annual report for 2008.

(EUR 28.00 including postage and packing)

To order please contact Alzheimer Europe, 145 route de Thionville, L-2611 Luxembourg, Tel: (+352) 29 79 70, Luxembourg or e-mail info@alzheimer-europe.org
European Alzheimer’s Alliance

The European Alzheimer’s Alliance brings together Members of the European Parliament committed to support Alzheimer Europe and its members to make dementia a public health priority in Europe.

11 December 2009: Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Member of the European Parliament for Finland, joins the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Anneli Jäätteenmäki, Member of the European Parliament for Finland has joined the European Alzheimer’s Alliance. She is affiliated with the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) and a Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs as well as of the Delegation for relations with the United States.

Alzheimer Europe

This section has updates on Alzheimer Europe’s projects, meetings as well as other news about Alzheimer Europe.

7 December 2009: The Alzheimer Europe Board reviews the activities of Alzheimer Europe during 2009 and the work plan of 2010

The Alzheimer Europe Board met in Brussels, Belgium on 7 December 2009. In relation to 2009 the Board discussed:

1. European developments:
   a) The European Alzheimer Initiative, which consists the Council recommendation, the Commission Communication and the European Parliament’s Resolution. The Board highlighted how members’ organisations benefit from regular updates on these initiatives

b) The European Commission, Commissioner designates.

2. Alzheimer Europe’s current projects including:
   a) The newly-launched and well-received website. The Board were updated on ongoing development ideas of the site, which will include the 2010 conference abstracts and registration section (becoming active January 2010), facility for visitors to make donations and/or buy Alzheimer Europe publications (December 2009) and an expansion of the Living with dementia and Ethics sections of the website.

b) The Dementia Ethics Network. The Board was presented with the results of the work carried out so far within the Network framework. For example, this area is being developed on the website (to include a database of existing publications, a forum and for this area to be translated into German).

c) The 2009 Dementia in Europe Yearbook and the Dementia in Europe magazine (issue 4), both of which were presented to, and warmly received by the Board.

d) The European Alzheimer’s Alliance. At the end of the last Parliamentary session the Alliance had successfully secured the support of 65 MEPs, 41 of whom were re-elected. Alzheimer Europe is preparing to confirm support and/or approach the newly-elected MEPs to ensure the Alliance continues to build on its earlier successes.

e) The role of an advisory panel within Alzheimer Europe was considered in terms of the panel’s expectations and Alzheimer Europe’s requirements.

3. Alzheimer Europe finances. The Board was delighted that despite a difficult financial year, Alzheimer Europe had managed to carry out the 2009 work plan. This included the publication of the 2009 Dementia in Europe Yearbook, which had not received funding, (although it had in previous years), from the European Commission.

4. The 2010 work plan, which includes Alzheimer Europe’s 20th conference in Luxembourg and the 2010 budget, (which is supported by the European Commission).

5. The Elections of the new Board, which will take place in 2010.

7 December 2009: Issue 4 of the Dementia in Europe magazine launched

Alzheimer Europe launched the 4th edition of the Dementia in Europe magazine which reports on the:

- European Parliamentary lunch debate regarding the swift European action on dementia
- Achievements of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance
- Development of the newly-formed Dementia Ethics Network
• 19th Annual Alzheimer Europe Conference which was held in Belgium
• Dutch national dementia plan
• Exchange of best practices on dealing with behaviour symptoms at home
• Swedish Presidency Conference on dignified ageing
• Situation for people with dementia in Ireland
• European Alzheimer associations’ celebrations for 2009 World Alzheimer Day.

The magazine also has a contribution by Hasse Hansson and his wife Birgitta, who describe their experience of living with dementia in Sweden.

7 December 2009: Alzheimer Europe launches 2009 Yearbook

The 2009 Dementia in Europe Yearbook presents the results of the Alzheimer Europe project on healthcare and decision-making in dementia, as well as the 2008 Annual Report of the organisation. The Yearbook provides information on dementia with regard to the legal systems in 31 European countries and includes topics such as:

- consent
- advance directives
- access to information
- diagnosis
- end-of-life issues.

Forewords are provided by Vladimír Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, and Claude Moraes, Member of the European Parliament and Member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance.

Mr Moraes recognises the value of the Dementia in Europe Yearbook when he states: “The findings contained in this Yearbook will provide important information to policy makers from all European countries”.

Alzheimer Europe Networking

On 27 November (Brussels, Belgium), Annette met with an intern from Europabio to discuss her assignment: ‘Bridging the healthcare information gap between EuropaBio and policy makers’.

On 2 December (Berlin, Germany), Jean attended the 20th anniversary celebrations of the German Alzheimer’s Association.

On 2 December (Berlin, Germany), Jean met representatives of Bayer Healthcare.

On 4 December (Luxembourg, Luxembourg) Jean and Julie met with the publishers Binsfeld.

On 7 December (Brussels, Belgium), the Alzheimer Europe Board met.

On 8 December (Brussels, Belgium), Annette and Pekka Laine (AE Board member) meet the assistant of Anneli Jaatteenkäki, MEP.

On 9 December (Brussels, Belgium) Annette attended the Preparatory Meeting for the Belgian Presidency Conference on Alzheimer’s disease.

On 14 December (Luxembourg, Luxembourg) Jean attended the European Commission Preparatory Meeting, “Joint Action on Dementia”.

European developments

Here we report on the developments from the European institutions (for example the European Commission, European Parliament etc) which may impact on dementia.

24 November 2009: Commission launches consultation on EU 2020: a new strategy to make the EU a smarter, greener social market

The Commission issued a public consultation document on giving the EU economy a brighter future through the EU 2020 Strategy.

As outlined in the new Commission’s Political Guidelines, EU 2020 will aim to deliver a greener and socially inclusive growth. The new Strategy will build on the achievements of the Lisbon Strategy, while learning its lessons.

The consultation paper sets out a vision on how EU 2020 will focus on:

- entrenching recovery from the crisis and helping to prevent a similar one in the future
- three thematic objectives: creating value through knowledge, empowering people in inclusive
societies, and creating a competitive, connected and greener economy.

The Commission intends to present a formal proposal for the EU 2020 strategy early in 2010, with a view to the EU’s Heads of State and government adopting the strategy at their spring 2010 meeting.

The consultation deadline is 15 January 2010.

1 December 2009: Council of Ministers adopts conclusions on healthy and dignified ageing

Following on from the conclusions made in September at the Swedish Presidency Conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing, the Council of Ministers took the decision to adopt them at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs (EPSCO) Council meeting on 30 November – 1 December 2009.

The Council Conclusions on Healthy and Dignified ageing emphasised, inter-alia, that “Many diseases, in particular Alzheimer’s and other neurodegenerative diseases, affect the individual as well as relatives and friends. In this respect, dignity in care and quality of life for those who are among the most vulnerable require special attention. Therefore, there is an increased need to develop support for informal or family carers.”

The Council invited the Member States to:

- Make, or continue to make the issue of healthy and dignified ageing one of their priorities for the coming years
- Adopt an approach that shifts the focus toward preventative measures as a strategy to improve quality of life and reduce the burden of chronic diseases, frailty and disability
- Address the potential workforce shortages in the health and social services sectors, and the ageing of this workforce, through lifelong learning, the development of professional skills and the implementation of policies and working methods, including human resource management and increased efforts concerning vocational training, that make work in the care sector more attractive. Such measures could also contribute to attracting more men to work in the care sector

And invited the commission to:

- Review ongoing activities in the field of healthy and dignified ageing, including existing work on benchmarks and indicators, and if appropriate, come forward with an action plan for further activities in 2011, which will promote dignity, health and quality of life for older persons
- Support future actions to promote healthy and dignified ageing at Community, national and local levels, while respecting the competence of the Member States
- Develop awareness-raising activities to promote active ageing, including a possible European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012.

1 December 2009: Council rejects compromise on the proposal on cross-border healthcare

At the Employment and Social Affairs Council meeting, a blocking minority (Spain, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Greece and Romania) rejected the compromise proposal on cross-border healthcare put forward by the Swedish Presidency.

The Directive now has to go through a second reading in the European Parliament.

Spain, who will hold the Presidency of the EU at the beginning of 2010, is openly opposed to the whole directive.

3 December 2009: Competitiveness Council presents its conclusions on the joint programming of research activities in Alzheimer’s disease

The Competitiveness Council of 3 December 2009 presented its conclusions on the joint programming of research activities in Alzheimer’s disease.

The Member States do recognise the need to adopt specific national plans and strategies for Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders in order to alleviate the burden on society in general and on healthcare systems.

They also emphasise that the joint programming in research on neurodegenerative diseases will contribute to the reduction of fragmentation of research efforts of the Member States and encourage the pooling of skills, knowledge and resources, to advance research on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The Member States are now invited to:

- develop a common vision on how cooperation and coordination in the field of research at the European level can improve knowledge, prevention,
diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases, in particular Alzheimer's,

• Develop a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) establishing medium to long term research needs and objectives. The SRA should be further developed towards an implementation plan,

• support the work of the newly established Management Structure mandated to establish common conditions, rules and procedures for cooperation and coordination and to monitor the implementation of the SRA,

• jointly implement the SRA,

• Explore with the Commission possible initiatives to assist Member States in developing and implementing the common research agenda.

The European Commission is invited to act as a facilitator; explore how to contribute with complementary measures to the SRA and to its implementation plan via EU funding instruments; look into possible forms of consultation and cooperation with scientifically-advanced groupings at international level; regularly report to the Council and the European Parliament on the progress and results of this initiative.

We provide full references to articles on our website. Please visit the completely revised Alzheimer Europe website on:

www.alzheimer-europe.org

10 December 2009: European Council calls for a new EU 2020 strategy

At its meeting of 10/11 December, the European Council called for a new EU 2020 strategy. This is a follow-up of the Lisbon strategy that was launched ten years ago to face the EU challenges.

In view of the economic and social impact of the crisis, the challenges posed by ageing populations, increasing inequalities and climate change, the EU will evaluate the impact of the Lisbon strategy and propose a way forward. The aim is to further improve competitiveness and increase the EU’s sustainable growth potential. The policies must be refocused towards long-term reforms.

Time will now be dedicated to defining the elements of such a strategy for the EU 2020: ensure sustainable public finances while preserving investment and social welfare, establish inclusive and efficient labour markets, strengthen the internal market and exploit the reciprocal benefits of external trade and openness. The enhancement of the knowledge base in our economies, including research and innovation will also be addressed. Every effort will be made to ensure economic, social and territorial cohesion and gender equality.

The European Council also calls for a new reflection on the methodology to be used with a more efficient and transparent governance structure, the monitoring and evaluation of policy measures, the improvement of the coordination of economic policies, the best way of using country recommendations to strengthen the link between national and EU measures, the enhancement of national ownership through more active involvement of social partners as well as of regional and local authorities.

The next steps are to have a full discussion in the European Council 2010 Spring meeting.

In the meantime, the European Commission has launched a consultation on the future strategy.

10 December 2009: European Commission launches database providing all the projects which are co-funded by the Commission under the Health Programmes

The European Commission has launched a database of all projects which are co-funded by it under the first and second health programmes. The database, which can be found on the Commission’s website (http://ec.europa.eu/eahc/projects/database.html) gives information on the various projects such as the level of EC Contribution, the general objectives and expected achievements of each project.

14 December 2009: The European Commission discusses how to proceed in their Alzheimer’s initiative with Member States

The European Commission organised a meeting on 14 December to discuss with representatives of Member States on how best to progress with their planned Alzheimer’s initiative in respect of the Joint Action.

The following Member States were represented: Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, Slovak Republic, Sweden and the UK with Finland submitting a document to the meeting in which the country expressed its interest in this type of collaboration.

Delegates discussed:
• Financing and calls for new projects. The financing of the Joint Action will need to follow the same procedure as all public health projects. The call for new projects will probably be launched before the end of the year and the deadline for submitting the project will be in March or April 2010. Only Member States can coordinate a Joint Action, but it may be possible for Member States to involve researchers or NGOs from their respective countries in the application.

• Coordination of the project. France will be the coordinator of this Joint Action as well and coordinate with Member States in order to submit the application in time for the Commission deadline.

• Topics for discussion. It was also suggested to concentrate on the following topics for discussions between Member States:
  a. Early detection
  b. Prevention, health determinants and promotion of healthy brain lifestyle
  c. Epidemiology and registration
  d. Network of rights and autonomy
  e. Coordination with Joint programming initiative
  f. Training and workforce issues
  g. Best and bad practices – Dementia care models.

Alzheimer Europe was represented by Jean Georges, Executive Director and Charles Scerri, Board member of Alzheimer Europe, represented Malta at the meeting.

15 December 2009: European Commission presents results of the consultation on the EU healthcare workforce

The European Commission has published a report on its public consultation on the Green Paper on the European Workforce for Health. The consultation sought to gather various stakeholders’ views on a wide range of issues connected with the healthcare workforce and prepare for the care of an ageing population. It ended in April 2009.

The participants agreed with the point made in the Green Paper that the growing shortage of health workers is a central problem for health systems. To address these challenges, they propose that a cross cutting approach would be necessary, taking into account not just delivery of healthcare but the development of human resources, education and training strategies as well as EU employment, social affairs, internal market and cohesion policies.

There is consensus across the EU that effective and efficient health systems, with the capacity to improve health and prevent disease, depend on having a high quality, efficient health workforce with the right skills throughout the EU.

The Commission will now reflect on the results of this consultation to see how the EU can contribute to tackling the challenges facing the European workforce for health. The Commission is invited to consult and cooperate closely with stakeholders, in order to propose the best alternatives for EU action.

At the same time, the Commission consultation document on the future “EU 2020 Strategy” recognises that health and healthcare play a key role in generating new types of job.

And the political guidelines for the next Commission point to the health and social sector, including services to the elderly, to be a driver for the creation of many thousands of jobs and one of the routes to economic recovery.

16 December 2009: EESC adopts its opinion on the Commission’s Communication on Alzheimer’s disease

At its plenary sitting of 16 December, the Section for Employment, Social Affairs and Citizenship of the European Economic and Social Committee adopted its opinion on the Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council on a European initiative on Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

In its conclusions, the EESC welcomes the Commission’s Communication on a European Initiative on Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. It recognises it is an issue of critical importance in Europe which has implications for individuals, families and society, given the ageing population.

Although the primary responsibility for tackling dementia and providing care lies with the member states, the EESC welcomes the attention drawn by the communication to the role of the EU in enhancing national progress.

The EESC recommendations:
• European Commission to supports awareness campaigns to improve public
knowledge of dementia in order to increase timely diagnosis and to reduce stigma.

- Greater breadth in the range of research areas for support.
- European Commission to implement the Joint Programming in research in good time.
- Open method of coordination to be extended to health so that the Commission can actively encourage the development of specific national strategies and quality frameworks for dementia.
- Commission to promote widely the use of the Health Programme to develop models of care and to actively work with national governments on the use of the European Structural Funds to develop and implement training in dementia care at local level in acute, long term care and in the community.
- Support for the establishment of a European Network using the facilities provided by the Health Programme.
- Dissemination and implementation of the Communication at local, national, EU and international levels in collaboration with Alzheimer organisations, national governments, the Commission and other appropriate bodies, including the EESC.

The rapporteur was Ms O'Neill.

22 December 2009: Call for proposals in the area of public health

Following the publication by the European Commission of the Work Plan for 2010 for the implementation of the second programme of Community action in the field of health, the Executive Agency for Health and Consumers (EAHC) has published calls for proposals for projects, operating grants, conferences and joint actions.

The proposals should:

- Address important problems in the European public health
- Be in line with the Commission’s priorities expressed in the Work Plan
- Concentrate on aspects of public health that cannot be achieved on a national level and
- Ensure a significant impact across the EU.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 19 March 2010.

Policy Watch

In this section you can find articles on various national policies and initiatives which can have an impact on issues surrounding dementia.

17 December 2009: Public consultation launched on the Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey, launched a public consultation on the Palliative and End of Life Care Strategy for adults in Northern Ireland. Mr McGimpsey said “Most of us now live longer than ever before; however more of us as we age, have to live with the consequences of chronic conditions. In this context, good palliative and end of life care is increasingly an essential part of health and social care.”

The consultation document focuses on the: (i) development, (ii) commissioning, (iii) delivery, (iv) care pathway and (v) an action plan for/of quality palliative and end of life care.

The consultation period runs until Friday 19 February 2010.

We provide full references to articles on our website. Please visit the completely revised Alzheimer Europe website on: www.alzheimer-europe.org

Members’ News

Alzheimer Europe’s members are working continuously to ensure that people with dementia and their carers are having their needs both heard and met. In this section we report on our members’ latest initiatives and work.

19 November 2009: Alzheimer’s Society and health insurance company commit to work together to improve the care of people with dementia

The Alzheimer’s Society and the private health insurance company Bupa have signed a memorandum of understanding which officially marks their commitment to work together in order to improve the quality of life for people with dementia. The document states: ‘The two organisations are well placed to work together in planning and delivering more integrated care throughout the dementia journey, which both believe to be essential’.
It is envisaged that best practice in dementia care can be delivered by working closely together and through developing joint programmes. The first initiative has already taken place with the launch of the Dementia Champions programme across 130 specialist Bupa care homes. The Society is also the nominated charity for the Bupa Great Run Series.

The memorandum of understanding was signed by Neil Hunt, Chief Executive of the Society and Mark Ellerby, Managing Director of Bupa Care Services.

Mark Ellerby said: ‘This partnership with Alzheimer’s Society is a positive step and will help the Society to put more of its research into practice – and that's good news for all our residents and their families.’

Neil Hunt said: ‘As the leaders in the fight against dementia Alzheimer’s Society is committed to a vision of a radically improved world for people with dementia, but we can’t do this alone. This partnership will offer opportunities to learn, raise the bar in dementia care, and take this vision forward.’

22 November 2009: Inauguration and promotion of Greek day care centre carried out

The Greek Association of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders inaugurated the new Day Care Centre “Saint John” in the city of Thessaloniki for people with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

The project was implemented under the 2000-2006 National Strategic Reference Framework (operational programme “Health and Welfare 2000-2006”) and co-financed by European funds (80%) and national funds (20%).

The “Saint John” Day Care Centre is a 5 storey building located in the eastern side of Thessaloniki, ensuring that its users remain at the very heart of the local community and offers the following services:

- Diagnosis and detection of needs of patients with Alzheimer’s disease
- Individual care plans
- Social skills training for patients with Alzheimer’s disease
- Therapeutical interventions (speech therapy, physiotherapy etc)
- Provision of information and psychological support for families and caregivers
- Informational programmes for the community in order to tackle stigma and social exclusion related to Alzheimer’s disease.

Several initiatives for the people with dementia and for the community have been carried out to highlight the opening of the Day Care Centre. A big social event was held on the 12th of November that was especially designed to inform the presidents of the Open Care Community Centres (KAPI) for the Alzheimer’s disease and the services provided by the Greek Association of Alzheimer’s disease. The Open Care Community Centres (KAPI) have been in existence for more than 20 years and offer a range of social facilities and events that are targeted mainly to older populations. The event was attended by the presidents of KAPI of Thessaloniki prefecture who were provided with a wide range of information regarding the Alzheimer’s disease and the services we offer that could help the older population.

To promote the new Day Care Centre and make it known to the general public, the Greek Association gave people with dementia several visits to the museums of Thessaloniki and tours by special museum guides in the four most popular museums of the city (the Archaeological museum, the Byzantine museum, the State museum of contemporary art and the Folk museum). In addition, the Greek Association of Alzheimer’s disease organised an excursion to a nearby Monastery in Veria, where the participants had the chance to enjoy a guide of the picturesque area. Finally, people with dementia had the chance to watch a theatrical play in the State theater of Northern Greece in Thessaloniki.

1 December 2009: The Alzheimer Society co-develops an e-learning programme providing information about dementia

The Alzheimer Society and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) have developed an e-learning programme to provide a general introduction to dementia. The programme is designed to be accessible to a wide audience, from family carers to health and social care professionals, who come into contact with people with dementia.

The programme has been designed to make learning about dementia as enjoyable as possible. It allows users to interact with the content and includes video, audio and graphics to make the content come alive. In particular, there is a considerable amount of new video footage shot by the Society and SCIE in which people with dementia and carers share their views and feelings on camera.
1 December 2009: Greek Association of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders carries out awareness-raising campaign

Following the launch of their information campaign for the community in October 2009 (which included the provision of information sets, speeches and free memory testing), the Greek Association of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders has continued to target specific groups to increase their knowledge of dementia, raise awareness of the Association’s services and fight social exclusion of people with dementia. The Association targeted:

- Pharmacies – within a month the Association estimates that almost 1,000 pharmacies were informed about the disease and the services offered by the Association. This successful campaign continued throughout 40 municipalities of Thessaloniki who were informed by psychologists about Alzheimer’s disease.
- Police force – in order to carry out their work, police officers need to be informed about how to handle with sensitivity people with dementia.
- Social services sector - including the public corporations, the Hellenic Telecommunications Organisation, post offices, tax offices and banks.
- Clergy – the Association’s psychologists gave speeches to the priests and the general public in churches.

The Association found that the participation of the public to be really impressive and the Association hopes that this campaign will send out a strong message that dementia, and more specifically Alzheimer’s disease, is and should be a matter of great interest to their community.

We provide full references to articles on our website. Please visit the completely revised Alzheimer Europe website on:

www.alzheimer-europe.org

2 December 2009: The German Alzheimer Association celebrates its 20th anniversary

The German Alzheimer Association, (Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft), celebrated its 20th anniversary at a ceremony in Berlin which was attended by some 120 people.

20 years ago “Alzheimer’s disease” and “dementia” were practically unknown in Germany. Only a few regional Alzheimer Associations and self help groups existed. In 1989 members of these organisations, as well as carers, experts from psychiatry, social work and care, came together to create a national organisation. The goals were to (a) develop self help groups and counselling all over Germany, (b) coordinate activities on a national level and (c) influence national policies.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Secretary of State from the Ministry of Health said that the German Alzheimer Association had helped to tear down walls of help-and speechlessness. The representative of the Ministry of Family and Seniors, which has supported the Association since 1999, said that the information services of the German Association, as well as its contributions towards the reform of the Long-term care insurance, were especially appreciated.

Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, reminded participants that the German Alzheimer Association has been a member of Alzheimer Europe since 1992 and had successfully organised the Alzheimer Europe Conference “Bridges into the Future” 2000 in Munich. In addition, Mr Georges said that members from the German Association had been involved in various European working groups on dementia.

Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein, chairperson of Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft said: “We have achieved a lot, but there is still much to do in the future.”

4 December 2009: John Bowis accepts invitation to be Ambassador of the Alzheimer’s Society

John Bowis, former MEP for the UK and former member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance in the European Parliament, has accepted to become Ambassador of the Alzheimer’s Society.

The Alzheimer’s Society is the UK’s leading care and research charity for people with dementia and those who care for them. It is a member of Alzheimer Europe.

16 December 2009: France Alzheimer presents the projects chosen for research funding at its national conference

France Alzheimer’s national conference took place in Toulouse, France. The conference...
A presentation on the consideration of the burdens on caregivers, in particular the financial burden.

Workshops dedicated to a) the care of sick people and b) research on prevention, diagnosis and advances in research on younger onset dementia.

A presentation of the projects chosen for research funding. France Alzheimer has awarded EUR 1,100,000 to twelve team projects over a two year period including:

- A EUR 200,000 award to the project by Martin Holzenberger, which will examine how insulin and growth factors similar to insulin could provide new therapeutic targets in Alzheimer's disease.
- A EUR 100,000 award to the project Pascale Piolino which aims to develop a new and original method for improving the storage of new information and access to older memories.

A complete list of winners of the 2009 call for proposals is available in the News section of the France Alzheimer website.

22 December 2009: Download of Alzheimer Switzerland’s publication on prevention of Alzheimer’s disease now available

“Prevention Alzheimer” is a new publication by Alzheimer Suisse which includes information on the importance of:

- Healthy eating
- Training your brain
- Taking regular exercise
- Staying socially active.

The brochure can be downloaded (in German and/or French) from the website of Alzheimer Suisse.

22 December 2009: The Swiss Alzheimer Association secures over 25,500 signatures to their manifesto

The Swiss Alzheimer Association has now generated over 25,500 signatures to their dementia manifesto “Priority Alzheimer”. The manifesto includes calls for the promotion of early detection of dementia, as well as the widening of the range and availability of care and support for people with dementia. The Association uses the Manifesto to highlight the need for action. Switzerland has 104,000 people living with dementia and this is expected to rise to 300,000 by 2050.

Currently, there are two motions in relation to dementia before the Swiss Parliament which should be discussed in the first half of 2010. One canton (Vaud) has announced the launch of an Alzheimer plan. The manifesto, motions and supporting statements can be found (in German) on the Alzheimer Suisse website.

Members’ forthcoming events

January 2010: Alzheimer Switzerland out reach programme to be extended

Following the successful out reach programme “Alzheimer InfoMobil” (in which the supermarket chain Migros allowed Alzheimer Suisse to park in front of their supermarkets in the canton of Bern and distribute information on Alzheimer’s disease); Alzheimer Suisse plans to continue the programme in other areas. Over 40,000 four-page flyers have been distributed so far.

Science Watch

This section reports on the most recent published research on dementia, (including prevention, treatment and diagnosis) in scientific journals.

1 October 2009: Study investigates the clinical course of advanced dementia

Researchers who collected data on nursing home residents with advanced dementia and their health care proxies found that pneumonia, febrile episodes and eating problems were frequent complications in people with advanced dementia and that these complications were associated with a high 6-month mortality rate. Distressing symptoms and burdensome interventions are also common. People with dementia who have health care proxies who have an understanding of the prognosis and clinical course were found to be likely to receive less aggressive care near the end of life.”

The study was carried out on 323 nursing home residents with advanced dementia over an 18-month period in 22 nursing homes and published in the New England Journal of Medicine.
25 November 2009: Study suggests potential protective role of vitamin D for people with dementia

A US study on elderly people receiving home services from 2003 to 2007 found a potential protective role of vitamin D for people with dementia. The study, which examined the status of vitamin D, dementia and cranial MRI indicators of cerebrovascular disease (CVD), found that “vitamin D insufficiency and deficiency was associated with all-cause dementia, Alzheimer's disease, stroke (with and without dementia symptoms) and MR indicators of CVD”. These findings led researchers to conclude that vitamin D has a potential vasculoprotection role.

Researchers from Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA carried out the study, which was published in the journal Neurology (November 25, 2009).

1 December 2009: Study finds a link between apathy and some people with dementia

A study carried out on 176 people who had either Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia or mixed dementia, found that in those people with dementia whose brain’s white matter had changed in a particular way are more likely to be apathetic than those people who do not have these changes. This has led the researchers to conclude that there is a biological reason for the apathy, irrespective of the type of dementia a person has.

Further research has been called for. The study was carried out by the Sahlgrenska Academy and Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden.

1 December 2009: Study examines the impact of green tea chemicals on the production of amyloids

Researchers from the Boston Biomedical Research Institute (BBRI) and the University of Pennsylvania found that when both weak and a strong amyloid structures were exposed to the green tea component, Epigallocatechin gallate (EGCG), that the weak amyloid structure dissolved but that the strong amyloid structure transformed to a stronger version. When the amyloid structures were exposed to a combination of the EGCG and DAPH-12 all the amyloid structures broke apart and dissolved.

The researchers have called for further studies to be carried out.

2 December 2009: Study commences to examine the relationship between bilingualism and Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers have started recruiting participants for a study to investigate whether there is a link between bilingualism and Alzheimer’s disease. The researchers hope to establish if previous studies, which have suggested that people who are bilingual tend develop symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease later than people who are monolingual, can be verified. The sample will consist of bilingual and monolingual people in North Wales and will be led by Professor Linda Clare (Bangor University, Wales). The research has been awarded GBP 488,000 by the Economic and Social Research Council.

4 December 2009: Study suggests the length of amyloid fibrils is connected to the fibrils’ toxicity

Researchers at the University of Leeds found that amyloid fibrils are toxic and that the shorter the fibre, the more toxic it is. Prior to this research it had been thought that the fibrils were inert, but had toxic phases during their formation. The study was published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry and led by Professor Sheena Radford, Astbury Centre for Structural Molecular Biology and the Faculty of Biological Sciences.

The researchers called for more studies to be carried out.

9 December 2009: Study appears to help memory impaired rats recover their ability to learn

Following on from a study which showed that damage to the subiculum (a structure connected to the cortex of the brain) of rats led to deterioration of the hippocampus and problems with learning, researchers, who wanted to find if repairing the hippocampus would restore memory functions. Those rats who had damaged subiculums and were given cell transplants were found to perform as well on maze tests and spatial learning tests as rats who had not had their subiculums damaged. The rats with damaged subiculums but who did not receive cell transplants did not perform well on the memory tests.

The study was published in the Behavioral Neuroscience (2009: 123, Issue 6 (December) journal and carried out by researchers from the National Institute for Mental Health and Neuro Sciences and National Centre for Biological Sciences (Tata Institute for Fundamental Research) Bangalore, India.
9 December 2009: Evaluation of potential Alzheimer drug published

The drug bapineuzumab is thought to reduce the levels of toxic amyloid protein (which is in turn believed to play a significant role in Alzheimer’s disease). Bapineuzumab was evaluated in a multiple ascending dose, safety and efficacy Phase 2 study on people with mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease.

The study concluded that "the primary efficacy outcomes were not significant. Potential treatment differences in the exploratory analyses support further investigation of bapineuzumab in phase 3 with special attention to APOE e4 carrier status.”

The Research was led by Dr Stephen Salloway, director of the Butler Hospital Memory and Ageing Program and published in the journal Neurology.

11 December 2009: Study suggests a link between a delay in the ageing process of mice and the onset of Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers found that if the ageing process was slowed down in mice which were prone to develop Alzheimer’s disease, that the symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease did not appear. The ageing process was slowed by lowering the activity of the “insulin-like growth factor 1” (IGF-1) signalling pathway, which plays a role in lifespan and youthfulness.

The research was carried out by the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, California, USA and published in the journal Cell.

12 December 2009: Pilot study examines the effect of participation in social services activities has on brain function in older adults

A study which examined the effect that participation had in the “Experience Corps” (a national volunteer service programme that trains senior citizens to help children in urban public schools with reading and other skills), found that cognitive function improved and that this was associated with changes in brain activation patterns. These outcomes were measured by using cognitive function tests and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scans.

The research was led by Michelle C. Carlson, PhD and carried out at the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, USA.

12 December 2009: Study evaluates imaging technique effectiveness in the Prediction of Progression to Symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease

In order to determine whether preclinical Alzheimer’s disease, as detected by the amyloid-imaging agent Pittsburgh Compound B (PiB) in cognitively normal older adults, is associated with risk of symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease, researchers carried out a study on 159 participants, who, at baseline had a Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) of 0. By following up scans with annual clinical and cognitive assessments for progression to very mild dementia, the researchers concluded that the imaging agent PiB is associated with progression symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease.

The research was led by J C Morris and colleagues at the Washington University, St Louis, USA and published in the Archives of Neurology.

15 December 2009: US Government agency approves dissolving Alzheimer’s drug

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the drug Aricept (donepezil hydrochloride) in the form of orally disintegrating tablets (5mg and 10mg) for the treatment of symptoms associated with dementia. The tablets are designed to make the medication easier to take for people who have difficulty in swallowing, as they dissolve on the tongue.

The drug is manufactured by Mutual Pharmaceutical of Philadelphia.

15 December 2009: Phase II trial for high dosage of drug against Alzheimer’s disease halted

ELND005 is a compound being developed for the potential treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. Following a review of the ongoing ELND005-AD201 phase II study, and, in concurrence with the Independent Safety Monitoring Committee (ISMC), Elan Corporation plc and Transition Therapeutics Inc have halted the study in the two higher dose groups (1,000 mg and 2,000 mg dosed twice daily). This follows the findings that “greater rates of serious adverse events, including nine deaths, were observed among patients receiving the two higher doses. A
direct relationship between ELND005 and these deaths has not been established."

The study will continue unchanged for people assigned to the lower dosage (250 mg twice daily) and placebo groups.

**16 December 2009: Results of phase III trial of Alzheimer’s drug published**

The Phase III trial results of the drug Tarenflurbil, an amyloid β42 (Aβ42) lowering agent, did not slow cognitive decline or the loss of activities of daily living in people with mild Alzheimer’s disease. The results have been published in the December 2009 edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

The aim of the study was to see the effect of the drug on cognition and activities of daily living. To measure this, researchers used the Alzheimer Disease Assessment Scale-Cognitive Subscale (ADAS-Cog, 80-point version) and the Alzheimer Disease Cooperative Studies- activities of daily living (ADCS-ADL) scale. They found that over an 18 month period there was no deterioration or improvement in those people receiving the drug compared to the placebo group.

**16 December 2009: Study examines the ability to alternate tasks and brain activity**

In order to understand why some elderly people are able to maintain mental function and others lose this capacity, researchers decided to establish whether high performers had youthful brains free of changes by age or whether they were able to compensate for their ageing brain.

The researchers asked participants to carry out two tasks at once and then measured their brain activity (EEG). They found that high performers’ brains had aged, but that they were able to compensate by accessing the reasoning part of the brain, the frontal lobes.

Led by Dr John Foxe, the research was carried out by the Nathan Kline Research Institute, Orangeburg, New York, USA and published in the journal Human Brain Mapping.

**16 December 2009: Study examines the role of appetite hormone with Alzheimer’s disease**

Leptin is a protein hormone that plays a key role in regulating appetite and metabolism. Researchers set out to relate baseline circulating leptin concentrations in individuals without dementia to incident dementia and Alzheimer’s disease and carried out regular brain scans on 198 older volunteers after measuring their leptin levels. Over a twelve year follow up period, the researchers found that there was an association between circulating leptin and “a reduced incidence of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease and with cerebral brain volume in asymptomatic older adults”.

Led by Dr Sudha Seshadri of the Boston University Medical Center, USA, the research was published in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA).

**16 December 2009: Study suggests amino acid found in food may increase the risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease**

Mice, which were fed on a diet high in methionine (an amino acid found in red meats, fish, beans, eggs, garlic, lentils, onions, yogurt and seeds), were found to have increased levels of amyloid plaque (associated with Alzheimer’s disease) in their brains compared to a control group of mice.

The research was led by Domenico Praticò, Temple University, USA and published in Current Alzheimer Research.

**20 December 2009: Study investigates particular type of memory failure with early Alzheimer’s disease**

Semantic memory is knowledge gathered over the course of a lifetime which enables recognition of a person and can be triggered through name, voice or face. Researchers found semantic memory for famous people declined in people with mild cognitive impairment or early Alzheimer’s disease whereas in healthy subjects it did not. Further research is required to see whether semantic memory tests could become a diagnostic tool for Alzheimer’s disease.

The research was carried out by Dr Joubert, University of Montreal, Department of Psychology, Canada, and published in the Canadian Journal on Ageing.

**23 December 2009: Study examines the relationship between herbal product and cognitive decline**

The herbal supplement ginkgo biloba is often advertised to have preventative age-related cognitive decline properties. A study in which participants were either given a twice-daily extract of ginkgo biloba or
placebo did not result in less cognitive decline in older adults (either with normal cognition or with mild cognitive impairment).

The US research was carried out by Steven T Dekosky and colleagues and published in the Journal of the American Association.

29 December 2009: Review paper published summarising the progress that has been made in the field of mild cognitive impairment

Researchers have published a review paper which summarises the progress and challenges that remain in the field of mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Researcher Ronald Petersen, neurologist and director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centre, said: “Over the past decade, we've come to realise that MCI may represent the very earliest clinical features of Alzheimer’s disease. Most studies have demonstrated that individuals with MCI have an increased risk of developing Alzheimer's disease within two to five years.”

The review noted that the growing interest in MCI has led to a variety of drug treatment trials with the aim of slowing progression of MCI to Alzheimer’s disease and Dr Petersen summarises the progress over the last ten years as “significant”.

The review was carried out by researchers from the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centre and published in the Archives of Neurology.

We provide full references to articles on our website. Please visit the completely revised Alzheimer Europe website on: www.alzheimer-europe.org

Dementia in Society

In this section we report on how dementia is portrayed by the general media (for example, on television and in films).

30 November 2009: President Reagan’s son continues to raise awareness of Alzheimer’s disease

During the US National Alzheimer’s Awareness month (November), Michael Reagan, the son of former US President, Ronald Reagan, is continued to raise awareness of the disease by appearing on TV. He reminded the audience that “every 70 seconds, somebody is diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease” and explained the painful experience of watching his father’s progression with the disease “seeing him going from riding a horse to being at home sitting in a chair, where all that he can do is play with puzzles – first 500 piece puzzles, then 200-piece puzzles and then 100-piece puzzles; watching my children Cameron and Ashley doing children’s picture books with their grandfather. And seeing the devastating effect it has not only on the person who has it, but also on the family.”

Michael Reagan encouraged people with dementia and their carers to “come out from behind the curtains and admit it, like my father admitted in 1994, that the disease is in the family. Don’t hide a loved one. Be honest with your friends. Be honest with your family. You can’t hide from it. What you need to say is what can I do to help? Try to get people, your family members into the clinical trials, going to www.clinicaltrial.gov and see a trial that best fits your family member or a friend and get them in because if we don’t get people into these trials, we’re not going to have a cure in the future.”

10 December 2009: Documentary shown on Alzheimer’s disease and singing

The documentary “Wonderland: Alzheimer’s – The Musical” which reported on seven different couples experiences of Alzheimer’s disease was aired on 10 December 2009. The couples were connected by the fact that they all sing in the same singing group (the Alzheimer’s Society runs the service “Singing for the brain” for people with dementia and their carers). The programme was a poignant look into the impact that living with dementia can have. It also showed that people with dementia can often remember the words to songs, even though their memory becomes impaired for other activities.

Directed by Joseph Bullman, “Wonderland: Alzheimer’s – the Musical” was broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

14 December 2009: TIME magazine lists the discovery of new Alzheimer’s genes among their “top 10 medical breakthroughs 2009”

As part of its “Top 10 of everything” list, TIME magazine has listed, under the top 10 medical breakthroughs 2009, the genes CLU and PICALM, the discover of which, says TIME, is the first of its kind for 15 years.
Researchers, led by Prof Julie Williams (Alzheimer’s Research Trust’s Chief Scientific Adviser), uncovered the two genes in September. Prof Williams explained “Both CLU and PICALM” highlight new pathways that lead to Alzheimer’s disease. The CLU gene produces clusterin which normally acts to protect the brain in a variety of ways. Variation in this gene could remove this protection and contribute to Alzheimer’s development. PICALM is important at synapses – connections between brain cells – and is involved in the transport of molecules into and inside of nerve cells, helping form memories and other brain functions. We know that the health of synapses is closely related to memory performance in Alzheimer’s disease, thus changes in genes which affect synapses are likely to have a direct effect on disease development.”

15 December 2009: Documentary about care homes aired

Business man, Gerry Robinson, presented the two-part documentary “Can Gerry Robinson fix Dementia Care Homes?” by highlighting how dementia is fast becoming “everybody’s problem” and visiting a number of care homes, seeing the care and conditions in which some people with dementia live.

Mr Robinson, whose father had dementia, hoped that the programme “will make people realise that, in dementia care homes, it isn’t the quality of the curtains or the colour of the carpet or even the fact that it doesn’t smell that are important. Those aren’t the things that matter. What matters is the loving care that is given. When people are angry and frustrated and they shout, sometimes strike out, that is not the dementia. That’s the frustration that goes with not being heard.”

Revealing that profit margins for care homes can be as high as 30%, Mr Robinson said that with a quarter of a million people living in care homes in the UK, the care industry is worth around GBP 6.5 million. He said “I have a problem with the profit motive only when the profit is earned as a result of skimping and cutting back. If you run a home very successfully then the economics also work for you because people want to leave their loved ones there.”

The programmes were produced by Open University and aired on the BBC.

New resources and publications

By reporting on recently published books, reports and information videos on dementia we hope to offer updates on the current resources available to anyone who is affected by dementia.

November 2009: Report published on the Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research

Following the Ministerial Summit on Dementia Research which was held in July 2009 and organised by the Department of Health (England) and the Medical Research Council, a report has been published by the International Longevity Centre UK.

The report contains:

1) A foreword by the Minister of State for Care Services, Phil Hope.
2) Summaries of the presentations given at the Summit: The aim of these, said Baroness Greengross (who opened the event) was “to identify gaps in existing knowledge and prioritise new areas for research investment.” Topics covered included A carer experience; Dementia: the Challenge for the UK; A View from Europe; Various Research presentations on cause, cure and care of dementia.
3) Summaries of the round-table debates on the cause, cure and care of dementia.
4) Key messages from the plenary sessions on the priorities and the barriers to research and the proposed solutions including:
   a) A national register of patients attending memory clinics and standardised minimum assessments
   b) Wider public, political and healthcare service engagement
   c) Incentivising interdisciplinary networks
   d) Raising research capacity, especially young researchers
   e) Targeted funding and facilitation of funding applications
   f) New collaborations, especially with the pharmaceutical industry
   g) Research culture from point of diagnosis onwards including care homes/general hospital
   h) Cochrane reviews for qualitative studies on care
   i) Embedding evaluation into service development.
1 December 2009: Personal experiences of dementia shown on UK website

Healthtalkonline.org is a website which facilitates the sharing of people’s experiences of health and illness by videos or by text. A team of academics based in the Department of Primary Care, Oxford, England, has created each of the 50 sections, which includes one on dementia. Each section contains interviews with people who have had a particular disease, or cared for a person with a particular disease and the site now has over 2,000 videos.

The site was set up by Oxford GP, Dr Ann McPherson who, recovering from breast cancer, found herself wanting to know how other people felt.

Dementia can be found under the Nerves and brain section and contains areas on:

- Signs of dementia
- Getting diagnosis
- Becoming a carer
- Treatment for Alzheimer’s disease
- Wandering
- Friends and family
- End of life.

1 December 2009: Findings published on the training of care home staff on communication with “talking mats” for people with dementia

“Talking mats” were developed by Joan Murphy of the University of Stirling, Scotland and designed to help people with dementia communicate. The mat set, which consists of three symbol sets, a textured mat, a booklet about the mats, and a dementia specific leaflet. Training has been carried out for care home staff to enable them to use this communication system and a report has been published on the training of the staff with the mat system which highlights that:

- Confident staff who had management support were more likely to do well in training and implement new practice.
- Training of this kind is more effective when delivered to a group of staff in one care home. Talking Mats can benefit at all stages of dementia, but it is especially difficult to interact with residents in the later stages of the disease and staff require support and time to establish therapeutic approaches.

1 December 2009: Consensus statement published on ethics and capacity in older people with mental disorders

A Consensus Statement on Ethics and Capacity in older people with mental disorders has been developed by the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) Section of Old Age Psychiatry. The Statement “offers to mental health clinicians caring for older people with mental disorders, caregivers, other health professionals and the general public, the setting out of and discourse in ethical principles which can often be complex and challenging, supported by practical guidance in meeting such ethical needs and standards, and to encouraged good clinical practice.” It also serves to addresses one of the WPA Action Plan 2008-2011 aims “to promote the highest ethical standards in psychiatric practice and advocate the rights of persons with mental disorders in all regions of the world”.

Dianne Gove, Information Officer, Alzheimer Europe, participated in the development of the Statement which has been published in the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

22 December 2009: The European Commission launches updated and revised health website

The Public Health Directorate of the European Commission launched its updated and revised website which is now organised under 8 main themes:

- Steering EU public health
- Ensuring health security
- Taking action against diseases
- Health in the society
- Fostering good health
- Improving healthcare
- Indicators and data
- Assessing risks.

Press materials, videos, events, key documents, publications and consultations are to be found under the “related information” section of the site.
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Visit the completely revised AE website on: www.alzheimer-europe.org
AE Calendar

The following meetings will be attended by representatives of Alzheimer Europe:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE Representative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 January 2010</td>
<td>Pharmacog Launch Meeting (London, United Kingdom)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 January 2010</td>
<td>European Medicines Agency “New developments in dementia of Alzheimer’s type” (London, United Kingdom)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 January 2010</td>
<td>Health Consumer Powerhouse meeting in the European Parliament: &quot;How to Cure the EU Patient Information Gap&quot; (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 January 2010</td>
<td>Launch Meeting of RightTimePlaceCare (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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Future Conferences

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Place</th>
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<tr>
<td>10 March 2010</td>
<td>18th European congress of psychiatry, <a href="http://www.kenes.com/epa">www.kenes.com/epa</a></td>
<td>Munich, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 March 2010</td>
<td>Advances in Alzheimer Therapy, <a href="http://www.internationalspringfieldsymposium.com">www.internationalspringfieldsymposium.com</a></td>
<td>Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 June 2010</td>
<td>1st International Congress on controversies in longevity, health and aging (CoLONGY), <a href="http://www.comtecmed.com">www.comtecmed.com</a></td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-11 September 2010</td>
<td>International Conference on evidence-based policy in long-term care, <a href="mailto:ltcconference2010@lse.ac.uk">ltcconference2010@lse.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 September – 2 October 2010</td>
<td>20th Alzheimer Europe Conference &quot;Facing Dementia Together&quot; <a href="http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences">www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences</a></td>
<td>Luxembourg, Luxembourg</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21 October 2010</td>
<td>Coming of Age: Dementia in the 21st Century, <a href="http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk">www.dementia.stir.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-23 October 2010</td>
<td>10th Congress of European society for clinical neuropharmacology, <a href="mailto:ivan.rektor@fnusa.cz">ivan.rektor@fnusa.cz</a></td>
<td>Zagreb, Croatia</td>
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