Welcome!

We are just getting back to normal after our conference in Glasgow, hosted together with Alzheimer Scotland. The theme, “Dignity and autonomy in dementia” attracted more than 800 delegates, including 44 people with dementia. We are delighted with the outcomes and in particular with the signing of the historic “Glasgow Declaration”, which calls for the creation of a European Dementia Strategy and national strategies in every country in Europe.

A meeting of our European Working Group of People with Dementia also took place in Glasgow. The group confirmed Helga Rohra as its Chairperson and appointed three Vice-Chairpersons: Hilary Doxford, Agnes Houston and Helen Rochford-Brennan.

As ever, the Board and Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place the day of the conference opening. A new Board was elected and we welcomed Alzheimer Bulgaria as a full member of Alzheimer Europe.

Our members have had a busy few weeks as well, with World Alzheimer’s Day on 21 September meaning lots of national events throughout September and in some cases, into the beginning of October as well.

The European Alzheimer’s Alliance has been growing in strength this month, also. The bureau, consisting of the Chairperson and five Vice-chairs, was confirmed and the Alliance also gained two new members from Slovenia. This means all eight Slovenian MEPs are now EAA members; a “full house”, previously achieved by Ireland also.

Also at a European level, the Commission has published a report on its initiative into Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. There was much relief among the public health community, at President Juncker’s decision to repatriate medicines to the health portfolio. This was one of several reshuffles made prior to his proposed Commission being accepted by the European Parliament.

On the policy front, new funding was announced in Norway and Denmark. In the UK, the Mayor of London announced plans to create an international dementia research institute, while the Department of Health set up a new dementia platform, aiming to speed up research. There has also been a controversial policy put in place in England, rewarding GPs to make a dementia diagnosis.

Last but certainly not least, the scientific community welcomed the news of the Nobel Prize for Medicine being awarded one half to American-British scientist, John O’Keefe, and the other half jointly to Norwegian couple, May-Britt and Edvard Moser for their efforts in discovering a “GPS” system in the human brain. The award was particularly exciting for those with an interest in dementia, as Prof. O’Keefe is currently carrying out research into Alzheimer’s disease.

On that exciting note, I wish you all a fantastic autumn!

Jean Georges
Executive Director
24th AE Conference

20 October: Alzheimer Europe holds successful 24th Annual Conference

Alzheimer Europe held its 24th Annual Conference in Glasgow during 20-22 October 2014 under the motto “Dignity and autonomy in dementia”. This year’s conference was co-organised with Alzheimer Scotland and attracted more than 800 delegates, including 44 people with dementia. The programme included some 190 speakers and 170 poster presentations.

The conference opened with welcome speeches by Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein and Henry Simmons, the respective Chairs of Alzheimer Europe and Alzheimer Scotland. They were followed by Jeanette Maitland from the National Dementia Carers Action Network and Henry Rankin, Chair of the Scottish Dementia Working Group. In turn, they described their groups’ efforts to support carers of people with dementia and to readjust to daily life after a diagnosis of dementia. Geoff Huggins, Acting Director of Health and Social Care Integration in the Scottish Government, was the keynote speaker for the evening. His presentation, “A rights based approach to developing and implementing Scotland’s National Dementia Strategy”, highlighted many aspects of the strategy that was first implemented in 2008. The opening ceremony concluded with the official signing of the Glasgow Declaration by the speakers and also John Laurie, Convener of Alzheimer Scotland.

On the following day, the first plenary session was chaired by Charles Scerri, General Secretary of the Malta Dementia Society, with a focus on “Promoting a rights-based approach to dementia”. Colin McKay, Chief Executive of the Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland, presented Scotland’s national human rights plan and its implications for people with dementia. He was followed by Matthias Kloth, Administrator in the Directorate General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe. He spoke about the organisation’s promotion of human rights of older persons, including activities of the European Court of Human Rights. Grainne McGarrick, Manager for Research and Policy Advocacy at Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, presented the UN Disability Convention as an instrument for people with dementia and their carers. The last speaker was Maja Groff, Senior Legal Officer at the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law. Ms Groff spoke about globalisation and the protection of vulnerable adults abroad, including various solutions offered by the Hague 2000 Convention.

The second plenary session, chaired by Henry Simmons, consisted of presentations and a round table discussion on dementia strategies and policies. Alex Neil, Scotland’s Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, opened the session with a rousing speech about the importance of involving people with dementia in all aspects of policymaking. He also became the first European Minister to sign the Glasgow Declaration. The next speaker was Jürgen Scheftlein, Policy Officer in the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Health and Consumers. He gave an overview of EU policies on dementia, such as the ALCOVE project and EIP-AHA - the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

Impressions from the 24th Alzheimer Europe Conference
Mr Simmons then presented the participants of the round table discussion: Geoff Huggins, Dorothee Knauf-Hübel (Head of the Division de la Médecine Curative at the Luxembourg Ministry of Health), Benoit Lavallart (responsible for the French Alzheimer plan among the Ministries of Health, Social Affairs and Research), Charles Scerrl and Marc Wortmann (Executive Director of ADI). They discussed the challenges of sharing best practices among countries that have varying cultures and definitions of patient needs and expectations. They also spoke about implementing dementia strategies in small countries such as Luxembourg and Malta. The panelists agreed that a successful dementia strategy requires political commitment at the highest levels, including long-term funding. Finally, they expressed their support for the Glasgow Declaration: a European Dementia Strategy would clearly be beneficial in countries that lack a strategy, but also as a benchmark where strategies are already in place.

Plenary session 3 focused on involving people with dementia and was chaired by Daphne Wallace, who is living with dementia herself. The first speaker was Helga Rohra, Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), who spoke about the changes in how people with dementia are perceived since her own diagnosis seven years ago. She was followed by Amy Dalrymple (Head of Policy for Alzheimer Scotland) who explained how the organisation’s “8 Pillars Model” is developing into an integrated health and social care model of support for people with dementia. Marie-Jo Guisset from the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer presented the activities of EFID, the European Foundations Initiative on Dementia. She focused on the “EFID Awards”, a campaign to reward local initiatives that promote social inclusion of people with dementia. The final speaker was Prof Myra Vernoij-Dassen, Director of Nijmegen Alzheimer Centre in the Netherlands. She presented INTERDEM - a European network of researchers on early detection and psycho-social interventions in dementia - and expanded on the group’s current focus on dignity and the role of stigma in dementia. The last plenary session was chaired by Henry Simmons and concentrated on innovation and care. Prof Debbie Tolson, Director of the Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice, showed examples of practice innovation in policy development, evidence-informed care and enabling the work force to become agents of change. She was followed by Dianne Gove, Director of Projects for Alzheimer Europe, who presented AE’s new report on improving continence care for people with dementia living at home. Hugh Masters, interim Associate Chief Nursing Officer for Scotland, explained how specialist nurses and dementia champions are driving change in acute hospital care for people with dementia. The final presentation was made by Dr Kai Saks, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Tartu, Estonia. She presented the findings of the “RightTimePlaceCare” project, which developed best practices for the transition from formal professional home care to institutional long-term nursing care facilities.

Conference delegates were also able to attend 28 parallel sessions about legal, ethical and scientific aspects of living with dementia, including four sessions dedicated to Alzheimer Scotland’s activities. In addition, three special symposia focused on clinical trials, nutrition and cognitive function and the activities of the EWGPWD.

The conference ended with an invitation to attend the 25th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Slovenia. This was followed by closing remarks from Henry Simmons and Iva Holmerova, Vice-Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe. The 24th Alzheimer Europe Conference received funding from the European Union in the framework of the Public Health programme.

20 October: Alzheimer Europe members call for a European dementia strategy

Alzheimer Europe (AE) is glad to announce the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration during its Annual General Meeting on 20 October 2014. The declaration was adopted unanimously by delegates from 26 AE member organisations. Following the meeting, the declaration was signed by Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein, Chair of Alzheimer Europe and Henry Simmons, Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland. They were followed by Alex Neil, Scotland’s Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, who became the first European Minister to sign the declaration.

In broad terms, the Glasgow Declaration calls for the creation of a European Dementia Strategy and national strategies in every country in Europe. The signatories also call upon world leaders to recognise dementia as a public health priority and to develop a global action plan on dementia.

Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, said: “In Europe, there are many good examples of collaborative initiatives on dementia. The time has come now to bring these initiatives together under a comprehensive European strategy. The new Commission President should appoint a Commission official to coordinate all ongoing EU initiatives and link them with
global developments by the G7, G20 or the World Health Organisation.”

Glasgow Declaration

Alzheimer Europe, its member organisations and the undersigned associations and individuals commit ourselves fully to promoting the rights, dignity and autonomy of people living with dementia. These rights are universal, and guaranteed in the European Convention of Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Civil and Political Rights, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

We affirm that every person living with dementia has:
1. The right to a timely diagnosis;
2. The right to access quality post diagnostic support;
3. The right to person centred, coordinated, quality care throughout their illness;
4. The right to equitable access to treatments and therapeutic interventions;
5. The right to be respected as an individual in their community.

We welcome the growing recognition of dementia as a public health priority on a national and European level and call upon European governments and institutions to recognise the role that they have in ensuring that these rights of people living with dementia are respected and upheld. In particular, we:

1. Call upon the European Commission to:
   1. Develop a European Dementia Strategy;
   2. Designate a high level EU official to coordinate the activities and research in the field of dementia of existing programmes such as Horizon 2020, the Ambient Assistant Living Programme, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, the Joint Programme on Neurodegenerative diseases research and the Innovative Medicines Initiative;
   3. Set up a European Expert Group on Dementia comprised of Commission officials, representatives of Member States and civil society to exchange best practices;
   4. Financially support the activities of Alzheimer Europe and its European Dementia Observatory and European Dementia Ethics Network through its public health programme.

2. Involving people living with dementia and their carers in the development and follow up of these national strategies;
3. Support national Alzheimer and dementia associations.

We welcome the international recognition of dementia as a global priority and acknowledge the work of Alzheimer’s Disease International and the G7 group of countries in driving forward global action on dementia and call upon the international community to:

1. Build on the success of European collaboration on dementia and involve European initiatives in the development of a global action plan on dementia,
2. Include and consult Alzheimer associations and people with dementia in the decision making process and definition of a global research agenda;
3. Adopt a holistic approach to research priorities to include psycho-social, care, socio-economic and health systems research to ensure that research aims to benefit people living with dementia now, as well as people who will do so in years to come;
4. Substantially increase the funding dedicated to all areas of dementia research;
5. Promote dementia as a priority in other international bodies including among the G20 group of countries, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations.

22 October: Slovenia will host 25th AE conference in 2015

The 25th Alzheimer Europe conference will be held from 2 to 4 September 2015 in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in partnership with Spominčica (Alzheimer Slovenia). An official invitation was extended at the closing of the 24th conference by Spominčica’s President, Štefanija Lukić Zlobec.

25-26 September: Helga Rohra is star speaker at EAHSA conference

The Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), Helga Rohra, was the star speaker at European Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (EAHSA) conference in Amsterdam, held on 25 and 26 September. The focus of the conference was on innovative pathways in ageing.

The message given was that the future means a shift from the medical approach that is finding cures to a more caring approach for people with dementia. What was innovative about this conference, according to Ms Rohra, was the fact that the topic of dementia played leading role for the first time at what is a largely economic-focused conference.
The voice of people with dementia stressed their demands and the need of creative solutions in the future, she said and she summarised her experience there, saying that “people with dementia make me feel humble”.

The next Conference of EASHA will take place in Lyon, France in 2016 and will once again welcome the voices of people with dementia.

3 October: Pasqual Maragall Foundation holds Bioethics summit

The Pasqual Maragall Foundation organised a summit titled “Ethical Challenges of Future Alzheimer’s Disease Clinical Research” to discuss the new challenges posed by Alzheimer’s disease preventive clinical trials in at risk, asymptomatic people. It was held in Barcelona, Spain on 3 October.

The symposium brought together international scientists such as Drs Reisa Sperling, John Morris and Craig Ritchie, among others; members of regulatory agencies including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the European Medicines Agency (EMA); representatives of pharmaceutical companies and the two main patient advocacy associations Alzheimer Europe (AE) and Alzheimer’s Association.

The importance of preventive clinical trials was highlighted during the meeting, as was the potential effectiveness of drugs against Alzheimer’s disease if given years before the onset of symptoms. According to Dr José Luis Molinuevo, Pasqual Maragall Foundation’s scientific director and organiser of the summit, “these new trials open a range of ethical questions that need to be answered, for example, the handling of information concerning predictive biomarkers or to which extent is it reasonable to expose asymptomatic people to the risks of prevention trials”. According to Dr Molinuevo, the ethical implications of preclinical observational studies and preventive trials “have to be addressed with clear protocols agreed upon by all,” and “should aim to benefit society as a whole.”

There was general consensus on the need to perform preventive trials despite their higher cost and longer duration. On the other hand, the associated ethical issues such as selection and potential stigmatisation of participants need to be discussed in depth. Faced with these challenges, Dr Jordi Cami, director general of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation stressed the Foundation’s commitment to pursuing the search for answers and stressed the importance of establishing clear rules and methodologies because “there are still many aspects open”.

AE’s Executive Director, Jean Georges attended and presented the findings of the organisation’s five-country survey on public perceptions on the value of diagnosis and predictive testing.

1-4 October: 14th Croatian Congress on Alzheimer’s disease held

From 1 to 4 October the Croatian Society for Alzheimer’s Disease and Old Age Psychiatry, CMA and the Croatian Society for Neuroscience held their 14th Croatian Congress on Alzheimer’s Disease (CROCAD 14) in the town of Brela.

Alzheimer Europe (AE) Executive Director, Jean Georges attended and presented AE’s campaign to make dementia a European priority. He was surprised and delighted to receive an award from the conference organisers for AE’s contribution to helping people with dementia.

15 October: Carers Interest Group meeting held

The meeting was chaired by three Interest Group Chairs: MEPs Marian Harkin, Jean Lambert and Heinz Becker.

Niclas Jacobsson (Representative of the Swedish Government and member of the SPC-WG-AGE) presented the long-term (LTC) care situation in Europe (diversity of LTC provision and variations in percentage of GDP spending on LTC across the Member States). He then presented the challenges and gaps identified for LTC provision (the demographic challenge leading to a potential increase in LTC needs and simultaneous decrease in working age population, risk of neglect and abuse, the dwindling supply of potential carers, the quality challenge of LTC provision as well as the financial challenge). Improving LTC could come from the containment of the growth in needs (prevention, notably through active and healthy ageing and Age Friendly Environments, rehabilitation and re-enablement to reverse and mitigate the course of frailty, functional limitations and disability), raising productivity (potential of technology, integrated health and social care, improvement of the supply and retention of formal carers, support for informal carers, quality monitoring as secondary prevention) and enabling the elderly to self-manage (age-friendly adaptations of older people’s homes, ICT and new assistive devices to include self-monitoring, self-management and self-care). Innovative social investments may help close the gap through re-engineering social protection against the risk of LTC dependency, provision of flexible, reduction of frailty and functional limitations. N. Jacobsson finally presented some follow-up ideas presented in the report: the OECD to develop comparative data of LTC support in the Member States, EU funding for network to assess cost-effectiveness of innovative LTC approaches, integrated strategies for secondary and tertiary prevention of frailty.

Annette Dumas participated in the meeting for AE.

17 October: General Direction for local powers, social action and health of the Wallonia Public Service meets with AE

The General Direction for local power, social action and health of the Wallonia Public Service invited Alzheimer Europe to present their activities at European level and hear about the EU past, on-going and future initiative in dementia.Annette Dumas represented Alzheimer Europe.
18 October: EWGPWD member Raoul Grönqvist reports on Finland’s “Memory Activists”

On 18 October, Raoul Grönqvist, member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and his wife and carer, Milja Ahola sent the following report to their EWGPWD colleagues in lieu of their attending the meeting in Glasgow on 19 October. It concerns “Memory Activists - the Finnish working group of people with dementia and their caregivers”:

“During its first year of activity the group has worked enthusiastically and with impressive results.

1) In a meeting in February the group drafted a commentary titled “Every person with dementia and their caregivers has a right to be informed about the nearest memory association”. In the commentary the group highlighted the importance of peer support and pinpointed some of the challenges in getting information about local memory associations.

The commentary has been published on the website of the Alzheimer Society of Finland (Muistiliitto) and the local associations have used it for local advocacy. In addition, two members of the group handed it over to Tuula Haatainen, the deputy CEO of the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities.

The group also decided on a new name and motto: Memory Activists – Active participants in society.

2) In an April meeting, the Memory Activists discussed the positive and negative attitudes associated with the disease and generated story ideas for the September issue of the Magazine of Alzheimer Society of Finland.

The work resulted in a story about tracking devices entitled “Living my own life – despite the disease”. In the story, people with dementia and their family members tested tracking devices and shared their experiences.

3) In the August meeting, the Memory Activists discussed the criteria for good care. Their opinions and experiences were presented to the working group that is currently drafting an updated version of these criteria. The Alzheimer Society of Finland will publish them in 2015 and the document will be used as a tool by staff working with people with dementia.

4) In September, the president of Alzheimer Society of Finland, MP Merja Mäkiäalo-Ropponen presented commentary from the Memory Activists in the Finnish Parliament. Parliament was discussing a proposal for a new law regarding rights of self-determination of people with dementia.

5) The Alzheimer Society of Finland published a Memory Activists’ commentary on the Memory Week (Finnish version of World Alzheimer’s Month). The commentary was titled “Who owns my life?” and emphasised the importance of listening to people with dementia, when making decisions concerning them.

The group will meet for the next time in December.

19 October: New European Working Group of People with Dementia meets in Glasgow

The European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) began its second two-year term of office at a meeting held on 19 October 2014 in Glasgow. During this meeting, the group welcomed two new members and elected a Chairperson and three Vice-Chairpersons to the new Executive Board. The group expects to receive additional members in the near future.

Members of the EWGPWD (2014-2016)

Chairperson: Helga Rohra (Germany)
Vice-Chairperson: Helen Rochford Brennan (Ireland)
Vice-Chairperson: Hilary Doxford (UK - England)
Vice-Chairperson: Agnes Houston (UK - Scotland)

Members: Nina Baláčková (Czech Republic), Raoul Grönqvist (Finland), Rozel Snell (Jersey).

The European Working Group of People with Dementia was launched by Alzheimer Europe and its member associations in early 2012. The group is composed entirely of people with dementia who are nominated by their national Alzheimer associations. They work to ensure that the activities, projects and meetings of Alzheimer Europe duly reflect the priorities and views of people with dementia. The group operates independently, with members electing their own Board and setting an agenda of activities. The Chairperson is also an ex-officio member on the Board of Alzheimer Europe with full voting rights.

During the group’s first term of office (2012-2014), the members of the EWGPWD actively participated in two Alzheimer Europe conferences and gave keynote presentations in the European Parliament. They attended various international dementia events and also gave numerous interviews, both in their countries and internationally.

The EWGPWD wishes to thank outgoing members Ingegård Pousard (Sweden), Bojan Španja (Slovenia), Dermod Slevin (Ireland), Stig Atle Aavik (Norway) and Daphne Wallace (UK - England) for their strength, enthusiasm and determination during the first term of office of the group.
20 October: AE elects new Board

Alzheimer Europe (AE) is pleased to present the members of its new 2014-2016 Board, following the elections that took place during AE’s Annual General Meeting on 20 October 2014.

- Chairperson: Heike von Lützau-Hohibein (Germany)
- Vice-Chairperson: Iva Holmerová (Czech Republic)
- Honorary Secretary: Charles Sceni (Malta)
- Honorary Treasurer: Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis (Portugal)
- Members: Marie-Odile Desana (France), Sabine Henry (Belgium), Gerry Martin (Ireland), James Pearson (UK - Scotland), Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland), Jesús Rodrigo (Spain), Štefanija Lukić Zlobec (Slovenia).

The Office holders and Members of the Board were elected by representatives from Alzheimer Europe’s full member associations that took part in the Annual General Meeting. They are joined by Helga Rohra, Chairperson of the EWGPWD, an ex-officio Member of the Board with full voting rights. The new AE Board will serve a two-year term and will hold its first meeting in December 2014.

Alzheimer Europe wishes to thank outgoing Board members Patrick Maugard (France), Maurice O’Connell (Ireland) and Henry Simmons (UK - Scotland) for their active participation and invaluable contributions toward AE’s work.

20 October: Alzheimer Europe holds Annual General Meeting

Alzheimer Europe held its 2014 Annual General Meeting in Glasgow, Scotland on 20 October 2014. The meeting was attended by representatives from 29 full member and two provisional member associations, as well as various guests.

The delegates reviewed and adopted AE’s 2013 Annual and Financial reports and voted to appoint new members to the Alzheimer Europe Board. The Board Officers all retained their seats and AE is pleased to welcome all the new members. See also the related article in this issue.

Delegates also voted in favour of Alzheimer Bulgaria being accepted as a full member of Alzheimer Europe. AE has a total membership of 36, with 33 full members and three provisional members.

Following a review of 2014 activities, the delegates unanimously adopted the “Glasgow Declaration” - a document that calls for the creation of a European Dementia Strategy and national strategies in every country in Europe. The signatories also call upon world leaders to recognise dementia as a public health priority and to develop a global action plan on dementia. See also the related article in this issue.

Finally, delegates reviewed and approved the 2015 Work Plan and Budget. The next Annual General Meeting will take place in Ljubljana (Slovenia), which is also the venue for the 25th Alzheimer Europe Conference on 2-4 September 2015.

20 October: Dementia in Europe issue 18 has been released

Alzheimer Europe released issue 18 of Dementia in Europe magazine on 20 October.

The first section of the new issue looks at AE activities, such as the Public Affairs Meeting that led to the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration. It also includes the activities of the first term of office of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the relaunch of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA).

The Policy Watch section features Norway's Minister of Health discussing the country’s future dementia strategy as well as coverage of the first Global Dementia Legacy event in London – including an exclusive interview with Dr Dennis Gillings. This section also covers Scotland's first international dementia conference, which took place in June 2014. In the News section, we cover the successful Dementia Friends campaign in the UK and also an assortment of news items from AE’s member associations.

The Special Section is dedicated to Scotland, host country of the 24th Alzheimer Europe Conference. This includes highlights of the Scottish national dementia strategy, statements from Scotland’s new MEPs, a profile of Alzheimer Scotland and personal accounts of people living with dementia and caring for people with dementia. Issue 18 of Dementia in Europe magazine is available for sale on the Alzheimer Europe website.

22 October: Alzheimer Europe releases report and guidelines on continence care

On 22 October, Alzheimer Europe (AE) released a new report entitled “Improving continence care for people with dementia living at home”.

The report provides information about continence and dementia, explaining how the continence care of people with dementia living at home should be understood in the more global context of the long-term care of people with complex care needs. It also explores the experience and challenges faced by people with dementia and continence problems who live at home and also those of informal carers. This is followed by statements from people with
dementia and their carers, highlighting their needs and desire in relation to continence care and in the wider context of their rights as equal and valued citizens. The guidelines are designed to address a wide audience and are hopefully accessible to many people with dementia and their carers. They may also serve as a useful source of support or tool to help health and social care professionals to consider some of the issues which are specific to the continence care of people with dementia within the community setting, as opposed to in residential or nursing care.

Dianne Gove, Director for Projects for Alzheimer Europe, said: “Continence care must respond to the needs and wishes of people with dementia to travel and to play an active role in the local community and wider society”. This project was a joint effort between Alzheimer Europe and SCA. Alzheimer Europe is very grateful for the funding received from SCA and for the fruitful collaboration between our two organisations.

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**Alzheimer Europe Networking**

On 1-2 October (Brela, Croatia) Jean attended the Croatian Congress on Alzheimer’s Disease CROCAD – 14 and presented Alzheimer Europe’s campaign to make dementia a European priority.

On 1-3 October (Brussels, Belgium) Dianne attended the AFE-Innovnet consortium meeting and the “dementia friendly cities” workshop.

On 3 October (Brussels, Belgium) Annette met Patrice Audibert (Assistant to MEP Frédérique Ries) and Elaine Kennedy (Assistant to MEP Nessa Childers) to discuss the European Alzheimer’s Alliance.

On 2-3 October (Tampere, Finland) Ana participated in a meeting for project proposal organised by the Tampere University of Applied Sciences and the Tampere Unit for Computer-Human Interaction University.

On 3 October (Barcelona, Spain), Jean attended a symposium on the ethical challenges of future Alzheimer’s disease clinical research organised by the Pasqual Maragall Foundation.

On 8-9 October (Copenhagen, Denmark) Dianne took part in an expert seminar on “Future Medicine in the Human Brain Project, Privacy, data federation, brain signatures & personalised medicine”.

On 10 October (Hannover, Germany) Ana attended the 1st AETIONOMY External Legal and Ethical Advisory Board Meeting.

On 14 October (Brussels, Belgium) Annette met Keith Taylor, MEP and European Alzheimer’s Alliance Vice Chair, and his assistant, Joanna Sprackett, to discuss Keith’s role in the Alliance, answer his questions on dementia and plan the Alzheimer Europe’s lunch debate he will host on 02 December.

On 15 October (Brussels, Belgium) Annette participated in the Carers Interest Group meeting in the European Parliament when the Social Protection Committee Working Group on Ageing and European Commission joint report ‘Adequate social protection for long-term care needs in an ageing society’ was presented and discussed.

On 15 October (Brussels, Belgium) Annette attended the Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between generations meeting in the EP.

On 17 October (Jambes, Belgium): Annette met representatives of the General Direction for local powers, social action and health of the Wallonia Public Service.

On 19 October (Glasgow, UK) Alzheimer Europe organised a meeting of its European Working Group of People with Dementia.

On 20 October (Glasgow, UK) the Alzheimer Europe Board met and organised its Annual General Meeting.

On 21 October (Glasgow, UK) Dianne and Ana attended the INTERDEM workshop “Dementia Outcome Measures: Charting new territory”.

On 20-22 October (Glasgow, UK) Alzheimer Europe Board and staff members attended the 24th Alzheimer Europe Conference.

On 23 October (Glasgow, UK) Ana attended a discussion meeting on Scotland’s National Dementia Strategy.

On 23 and 24 October (Stirling, UK) Jean attended an Ideas Lab and a meeting of the International Advisory Board of the Dementia Services Development Centre.
European Alzheimer’s Alliance

1 October: Françoise Grossetête meets with participants from “Meetings without Frontiers”

Since 2012, France Alzheimer Vaucluse and Alzheimer Gesellschaft München (Germany) have been organising their “Meetings without Frontiers” («Recontre sans frontières – Begegnung ohne Grenzen»). These two organisations have joined forces to organise a holiday for people with dementia and their carers away from their familiar environment. After France hosting the first reunion (2012) and Germany the second (2013), the groups decided to organise the third one in Belgium. Twenty-four Germans and 20 French thus came to Durbuy (Belgium) at the end of September, beginning of October.

This initiative, organised by national Alzheimer associations, is unique in Europe. The meetings are an occasion for people with dementia and their carers to share their experiences and learn how other countries support people with dementia and their carers. Many local community activities are organised (visits to local Alzheimer associations, markets, farms, towns, etc.). The participants stay in a rented house where they share the cooking, play games, dance, etc. It is a great opportunity for all participants to break away from their daily routines and enjoy themselves.

Apart from various activities organised in and around Durbuy, one of this year’s highlights was the invitation made by Françoise Grossetête, MEP (EPP, France), Chairperson of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) to meet the group in the European Parliament. Despite a very busy agenda, Ms Grossetête took the time to hear testimonies from people with dementia and their carers. They were keen to explain their needs and suggest areas for action for the policy makers.

Ms Grossetête presented her work on dementia in the European Parliament and explained what actions the European institutions are taking on dementia. Magda Aelvoet, former Belgian MEP and Minister, Board Member of the King Baudouin Foundation, was also invited to present the Foundation’s work in the field of dementia.

The participants were delighted to have been invited to the European Parliament and to speak directly to a policy maker.

15 October: Bureau of European Alzheimer’s Alliance confirmed

This month Françoise Grossetête, Chairperson of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) since its beginnings in 2007, re-affirmed her desire to continue in her role during the current term (2014-2019). We have also had confirmation from two further Vice-Chairs, Sirpa Pietikainen and Frédérique Ries, which completes the EAA Bureau, as follows:

- Chairperson: Françoise Grossetête (EPP, France)
- Vice-Chairperson: Nessa Childers (S&D, Ireland)
- Vice-Chairperson: Marisa Matias (GUE-NGL, Portugal)
- Vice-Chairperson: Sirpa Pietikainen (EPP, Finland)
- Vice-Chairperson Frédérique Ries (ALDE, Belgium)
- Vice-Chairperson: Keith Taylor (Greens/EPF, UK)

The EAA is a non-exclusive, multinational and cross-party group of MEPs committed to supporting Alzheimer Europe and its members in making dementia a public health priority.

www.alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice/European-Alzheimer-s-Alliance

27 October: All eight Slovenian MEPs are now in the EAA

On 21 and 27 October respectively, Slovenian MEPs Patricija Sulin and Romana Tomc (EPP) joined the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), thereby making a “full house” of all current MEPs in Slovenia having committed to making dementia a European priority.

EU Projects

1-3 October: AFE-Innovnet holds dementia friendly workshop in Brussels

From 1 to 3 October 2014, AFE-Innovnet held its consortium meeting followed by the “dementia friendly cities” workshop. This started with a field trip to Kortrijk to hear about the “reminiscence promenade”. There were several presentations of dementia friendly initiatives in Belgium, Spain and Scotland and Dianne Gove presented Alzheimer Europe’s work on the ethical issues linked to the perception and portrayal of dementia. The “missing persons project” presented by the Chief of the Missing Persons Unit was particularly interesting as some of the experience shared could probably be easily applied in other countries.

10 October: AETIONOMY Legal and Ethical Advisory Board holds 1st External Advisory Meeting

The 1st AETIONOMY External Legal and Ethical Advisory Board Meeting took place in Hannover, Germany on 10th October. The meeting was hosted by University of Hannover. Three external experts from Sweden, the UK and Belgium were invited to the meeting and contributed to the discussions. During the meeting, the two deliverables that have to be prepared for 2014 were presented. The first deliverable refers to the Data Transfer Framework and deals with the conditions under which the AETIONOMY partners, currently holding patient personal...
data may process and transfer the relevant data to the AETIONOMY project. The second deliverable refers to Data Protection, and deals with the legal, organizational and technical measures needed to safeguard the integrity and privacy of the data once the data has been transferred to the repository. In the meeting the involvement of people with dementia and their carers in the AETIONOMY project was also discussed. This meeting was attended by Ana Diaz.

13 October: NILVAD protocol appears in BMJ

NILVAD protocol: a European multicentre double-blind placebo-controlled trial of nilvadipine in mild-to-moderate Alzheimer’s disease

Introduction: This study is a European multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial investigating the efficacy and safety of nilvadipine as a disease course modifying treatment for mild-to-moderate Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in a phase III study that will run for a period of 82 weeks with a treatment period of 78 weeks.

Methods and analysis: Adult patients, males and females over 50 years with mild-to-moderate AD as defined by the National Institute of Neurological and Communicative Disorders and Stroke/Alzheimer’s disease and Related Disorders Association (NINCDS-ADRDA) criteria, will be included in the study. It aims to recruit a total of 500 patients with AD; 250 in the nilvadipine group and 250 in the placebo group. Participants will be randomised to receive nilvadipine, an 8 mg overencapsulated, sustained release capsule, or a matching overencapsulated placebo (sugar pill) for a period of 78 weeks of treatment. The primary efficacy outcome measure in this study is the change in cognitive function as assessed by the Alzheimer’s disease Assessment Scale (ADAS-Cog 12) from baseline to the end of treatment duration (78 weeks). There are two key secondary outcome measures, the Clinical Dementia Rating Scale Sum of Boxes (CDR-sb) and the Disability Assessment for Dementia (DAD). If a statistically significant effect is seen in the primary outcome, CDR-sb will be considered to be a coprimary end point and only the DAD will contribute to the secondary outcome analysis.

Ethics and dissemination: The study and all subsequent amendments have received ethical approval within each participating country according to national regulations. Each participant will provide written consent to participate in the study. All participants will remain anonymised throughout and the results of the study will be published in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Trial registration number: EUDRACT Reference Number: 2012-002764-27.

http://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/10/t002764.full?keys&type=ref&ijkey=y53W6GCP93JL

14 October: EFID launches survey on dementia friendly communities

The European Foundation’s Initiative on Dementia (EFID) is undertaking an analysis of concepts and practices of dementia friendly communities and similar initiatives across Europe. The work is being carried out by the Mental Health Foundation, the leading UK charity working in mental health, dementia and learning disabilities.

EFID is seeking the views and experiences of individuals and organisations across Europe regarding dementia friendly communities. This survey will inform the development of practical information, guidance and examples to support good practice and to encourage the development of dementia friendly communities and similar initiatives across Europe.

The survey is planned to run until 14 November. If you are interested in taking part, please click here.

15 October: AGE Intergroup meeting

This meeting was organised by MEPs Heinz Becker, Ivo Vaigl and Josef Weidenholzer. The aim was to discuss how to join forces to re-establish the EP Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (the so-called ‘AGE Intergroup’). The mission of this Intergroup that was established in 1982 is to move forward to address demographic change in Europe.

At the time of the meeting, there were many interest Groups in competition in the EP and the deadline to rally sufficient support for an Intergroup to be established was the following week. Ten MEPs participated in the meeting to show their support to this Intergroup and explain why such an Intergroup was necessary. Their overarching preoccupations were: maintain solidarity between generations, avoid generational conflicts between young people and seniors, consider the diversity among elderly people, ensure human rights and dignity of older people are respected.

Demographic challenges are high. The Intergroup should help find solutions that are fair to all generations: develop a society for all ages and change attitudes (like ageism). Annette participated in the meeting.

3 November: PredictND questionnaire prize winners announced

We would like to thank everyone who completed the PredictND questionnaire at our conference in Glasgow. Your contribution is very useful to the PredictND project, which aims to develop a low-cost battery of tests for the early detection of people at high risk of developing dementia.

36 completed questionnaires were received. Two winners were drawn by Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe:

- the free subscription to the next Alzheimer Europe conference to be held in Slovenia won by Fiona Dendy (ticket number 14).
- the free Alzheimer Europe 2015 publications were won by Reinhard Guss (ticket number 5).

Congratulations to the winners!
2 October: EMA adopts landmark policy for 2015

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has decided to publish the clinical reports that underpin the decision-making on medicines. Following extensive consultations held by the Agency with patients, healthcare professionals, academia, industry and other European entities over the past 18 months, the EMA Management Board unanimously adopted the new policy at its meeting on 2 October.

The policy will enter into force on 1 January 2015. It will apply to clinical reports contained in all applications for centralised marketing authorisations submitted after that date. The reports will be released as soon as a decision on the application has been taken.

The new EMA policy will serve as a useful complementary tool ahead of the implementation of the new EU Clinical Trials Regulation that will come into force after May 2016. The EMA expects this new policy to increase trust in its regulatory work. As it should allow the general public to better understand the Agency’s decision-making processes.

The policy does not replace the existing EMA policy on access to documents. It will be reviewed in June 2016 at the latest.


15 October: Head of DG SANCO, Paola Testori Coggi resigns

On 15 October, Paola Testori Coggi, resigned from her position as Director General of the European Commission's Directorate General for Health and Consumer Affairs (DG SANCO) following a disciplinary investigation into a possible breach of internal procedures.

Her resignation, which has been accepted by the Commission, takes effect on 31 October. An acting director general will then be appointed until the recruitment process is completed for a permanent replacement for Ms Testori Coggi.

20 October: European Commission publishes report on dementia

The Commission has published a staff working document which reviews progress since the adoption of its “European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias” launched in 2009.

The report outlines the various work strands on the initiative’s four strategic objectives: early diagnosis, improving epidemiological knowledge and coordination of research, sharing best practices and respecting the rights of people with dementia.

It concludes that the initiative has prompted a significant number of activities in dementia at EU-level and in Member States, and has helped counter the stigmatisation of dementia.


22 October: European Commission confirmed and medicines remain with DG SANCO

The new European Commission (EC), presented by President Jean Claude Juncker in September, was confirmed by a vote of consent from the European Parliament (EP) on 22 October with 423 votes (of 751) and is active from 1 November.

Mr Juncker had to replace one candidate commissioner – the Slovenian Alenka Bratusek - and had to reshuffle some portfolios in order to receive the green light for the new EC.

One of the main points he made in his announcements about the re-shuffling was that responsibility for medicines and pharmaceutical products will stay with the Directorate-General for Health (DG SANCO), “because I agree...that medicines are not goods like any other.” This news was met with relief by the public health community in Europe.


Members’ News

29 September: ALA inaugurates newly refurbished day care centre

On 29 September, the "Association Luxembourgoise Alzheimer" (ALA) held an inauguration ceremony for the newly reopened day care centre “Gënzelgold” in Dahl, in the north of the country.

Originally opened in April 2000, the centre was renovated From December 2013 to June 2014 the centre was refurbished, to the tune of EUR 700,000 (EUR 55,000 was contributed by the Slovenian Alenka Bratusek - and had to reshuffle some portfolios in order to receive the green light for the new EC.

Today, the "Gënzelgold" has a capacity of 14 visitors per day. It is open from Monday to Friday, and on Saturdays and holidays.

2 October: Memory Walk takes place during CROCAD-14 conference

During the CROCAD-14 conference, a memory walk was organised by the Croatian Association for Alzheimer's Disease and Old Age Psychiatry, CroMA (Croatian Medical Association) in Brela, Croatia, on 2 October.
20 October: Alzheimer Bulgaria becomes a full member of AE

At Alzheimer Europe's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20 October in Glasgow, Scotland, votes were cast in favour of Alzheimer Bulgaria becoming a full member of the organisation.

23-25 October: German Alzheimer Association’s 8th conference held

"Dementia – there's something to do for everybody" was the theme of the 8th Conference of Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft (German Alzheimer Association), which took place in the city of Gütersloh from 23 to 25 October. Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein, President of the association, reminded participants of its beginnings 25 years ago. Since that time the situation has changed very much.

The public, media, and politicians know much more today - though not enough - about dementia and the problems of people living with dementia and their families. Nevertheless there is much to be done: Timely diagnosis and treatment according to the standards of the medical professions, counselling about medical, legal and social aspects of dementia, high quality of ambulance services. The goal is to reach a high quality of life for people with dementia and their carers in the midst of society.

More than 700 participants attended a multitude of lectures, symposia and workshops. The local Alzheimer Association and the initiative "We dance again" organised a "flashmob" in the city’s main square. More than 300 persons, among them people with dementia and their carers as well as shoppers and passers-by, sang and danced and had a lot of fun.

Flashmob video: http://www.gueterslohtv.de/#

Information about program and abstracts: www.demenz-kongress.de

24 October: Polish Alzheimer’s Association elects new board

On 24 October, the Polish Alzheimer's Association announced that it has a newly elected board and that Alicja Sadowska has been re-elected as its Chairperson. The board has been elected for 3 years, until 2017.

27 October: Spominičica receives Norwegian grant

Spominičica (Alzheimer Slovenia) has been successful in its application for funds from Norway Grants, in the framework of the “Educational Program and Home Aid Group for People with Dementia”.

The aim of the programme is to prepare a training programme for the provision of active home help to persons with dementia as well as a pilot project with educational workshops and a home help group.

Policy Watch

26 September: Greek dementia action plan launch is a success

The Athens Association of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders, in collaboration with the Greek Ministry of Health, organised a launch event to officially present the final draft of the Greek Dementia Strategy on 26 September. The event took place in one of the two major Athens Cultural Halls and was attended by more than 2,000 people.

The Minister for Health attended, along with other high-ranking government officials, representatives of most of Greece’s political parties, as well as the Church. Representatives of other Greek Alzheimer’s Associations also attended.

At the beginning of the event, a one-act play about the everyday life of a wife with dementia and her caregiver husband was highly praised by the audience.

Well-known Greek television reporters presented the programme and helped organise a panel. A caregiver account was heard and commented on by the experts of the panel and people from the audience. John Kyriopoulos, Professor of Health Economics also gave a speech about the financial and social aspects of Alzheimer’s disease.

It was the first time, after many years of various kinds of actions, that an event was so widely publicised in the media and so was a very good occasion to promote public awareness and draw interest in the increasing need to develop a Dementia Strategy in Greece. The President of the Athens Alzheimer’s Association, Dr Paraskevi Sakka, declared in her speech that it is high time for Greece to implement a comprehensive Dementia Strategy.

Iva Holmerová, Vice-Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe (AE) attended the event.

1 October: Norwegian funding allocated and research projects launched

The first funds from last year’s telethon in Norway are now being allocated by the Norwegian Health Association. The event raised EUR 26 Million for the work against dementia. Approximately EUR 10 Million of these funds are earmarked for research.

Four research projects have recently received a total of EUR 4.3 Million through the organisation’s dementia programme, “Demensforskningsprogrammet”. The programme emphasises cooperation between researchers from different academic backgrounds. The projects that have received funding are:

"Molecular mechanisms in delirium and dementia: Identification of potential therapeutic targets", PA Farrukh Abbas Chaudhry, University of Oslo. This project is
about the relationship between acute confusion in the elderly and the development of subsequent dementia.

“New Biomarkers for early detection of Alzheimer’s disease”, PA Anders Martin Fjell, University of Oslo. This project is about brain changes: The difference between normal aging and Alzheimer’s disease.

“The Norwegian COgnitive impairment After STroke (COAST) study”, PA Ingvild Saltvedt, Norwegian University of Science and Technology NTNU. This project is about increasing the knowledge of cognitive impairment after stroke.

“Identifying genetic risk of dementia: from gene discovery to clinical implications”, PA Ole A. Andreassen University of Oslo. This project is about genetic factors surrounding Alzheimer’s disease and dementia and asks what role inheritance plays.

8 October: Denmark invests EUR 13M in dementia

On 8 October, Danish Prime Minister, Helle Thorning-Schmidt announced an investment of EUR 13 Million to support people with dementia in Denmark.

8 October: London Mayor plans international dementia research institute

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson has unveiled his ambitions to establish an "international dementia research institute" in London. Mr Johnson called on pharmaceutical companies and charities to join forces with the UK government to fund and participate in the new institute at a City Hall meeting on 8 October.

"An International Dementia Research Institute based here would boost our life sciences’ offer, with enormous potential to deliver benefits for patients, families and other carers, while delivering huge savings to the economy," he said.

University College London has already expressed interest in hosting the possible institute.

17 October: Bundestag strengthens care law but ignores DALZG request

In Berlin on 17 October, the Federal Republic of Germany (the Bundestag) passed a “nursing enhancement” law ("Pflegestärkungsgesetz" or PSG). The aim is to provide more money for nursing and care, so as to improve conditions for patients, relatives and carers.

An earlier request made by the German Alzheimer Society (DALZG) and many other actors, to include a new definition of the concept of dependency was, however, ignored.

The DALZG says discrimination against people with dementia in long-term care will continue as a result. It also fears that the implementation of the new long-term care plan will not, in fact, increase funding in areas where it is most needed and that things will not change much.

The support and care of people with dementia, they say, requires special skills and without recognition of this, care will remain second-class.

22 October: English GPs to be paid GBP 55 per dementia diagnosis

GPs in England are to be paid GBP 55 (EUR 70) for each patient they diagnose with dementia, NHS England announced on 22 October.

The aim of the six-month GBP 5M (EUR 6.38M) scheme is to increase the number of patients receiving treatment for dementia and to raise the dementia diagnosis level to two thirds of those with the condition by 2015.

Some practices are diagnosing far fewer than this, and NHS England believes this new incentive will reward them for getting nearer to that level.

NHS England said it was "not just payment for diagnosis" and GP practices would have to form a detailed plan and show improving diagnosis rates.

There were mixed reactions to the plans:

Prof. Sir Simon Wessely, President of Royal College of Psychiatrists, said “at the moment evidence favours either improving social care, or investing in research to find new treatments that actually modify the course of the disease. Until that happens I can see little point in this initiative.”

The Alzheimer’s Society (UK), however, said that “there is a long tradition of supporting GP practices to tackle neglected areas. People worried about their memory and their carers deserve that support.”

29 October: MRC unveils new UK platform to speed up dementia research

A new dementia platform was launched by the Medical Research Council in the UK on 29 October, aiming to speed up the search for effective dementia treatments. The multimillion-pound collaboration between industry and academia brings together researchers from UK universities and pharmaceutical companies to discuss better diagnosis initiatives, treatments and understanding of dementia and its progression.

“Dementias Platform UK” will look at the causes of dementia across a range of neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and Motor Neurone Disease, following millions of pounds of investment from the UK government for new technologies.

23 September: Sugar consumption may be linked to memory problems

Sugar consumption affects memory and is linked to brain inflammation in juvenile rats, researchers at the University of Southern California (USC), USA claim. Their study, published on 23 September in the journal,
1 October: Neuroticism in women may play part in developing dementia

Researchers at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, have published a study, which concludes that middle-aged women with certain personality traits such as introversion and neuroticism may be at increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease. Their findings were published in the journal, Neurology on 1 October.

The study followed 800 women, with an average age of 46 when the study began, during a 38 year period. The women were given personality tests to measure their levels of neuroticism and extraversion and asked to report feelings of stress across their lifetime.

The study found that those with higher levels of neuroticism were at increased risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease, but that the link between neuroticism and the condition depended on high levels of long-term stress.

Dr Clare Walton, Research Manager at the Alzheimer’s Society (UK) said that women shouldn’t take this research to mean that if they feel stressed they’re necessarily at higher risk of dementia. She pointed out that the research doesn’t show that neuroticism alone increases the risk, but rather that it suggests personality traits like neuroticism are linked to the experience of long term stress, which in turn contributes to the development of dementia.

“We need more research to untangle whether personality also plays a role. While we can’t control all the sources of everyday stress, we can develop coping strategies to deal with them and we’re funding research to help explore how this could help with reducing risk of dementia.”

http://www.neurology.org/content/83/17/1538.short?sid=82ee76a7-50d9-465f-9730-a3aaa221277c

6 October: Nobel prizewinner now researching Alzheimer’s disease

The Nobel Prize for Medicine was awarded on 6 October, with one half to John O’Keefe, and the other half jointly to Norwegian married couple May-Britt Moser and Edvard I. Moser. It was awarded for their discoveries of cells that constitute a “GPS” (Global Positioning System) in the brain, helping us navigate, while also storing memories in space and time.

Both May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser are recipients of European Research Council (ERC) grants, and all three prizewinners have participated in EU-funded research projects.

American-British scientist, John O’Keefe, Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London (UCL), took the opportunity to speak of his current research:

“I am particularly interested in Alzheimer’s disease and have been for some time now. It turns out that this part of the brain is one of the first areas that’s attacked by Alzheimer’s disease. So we can now use some of the basic understanding of this part of the brain to ask...what is going wrong with these special cells in the hippocampus at the very earliest stages?”

For more on the Nobel Prize: http://www.nobelprize.org/

12 October: Scientists replicate human brain cells for use in AD research

Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston have managed to create human brain cells that develop the tell-tale structures of Alzheimer’s disease (AD), in a petri dish. Their research was published in the journal, Nature on 12 October.

The key, said lead researcher, Rudolph E. Tanzi, was a suggestion by his colleague Doo Yeon Kim to grow human brain cells in a gel, where they formed networks, like in an actual brain. They gave the cultivated neurons genes for AD. Within weeks they saw plaques forming and then tangles, which are the defining features of AD.

The petri dish system lacks certain crucial components, like immune system cells, that appear to contribute to the devastation once AD sets in, but it allows the quick, cheap and easy testing of new drug candidates that might stop the progression.

Dr Tanzi is now embarking on an ambitious project to test 1,200 drugs on the market and 5,000 experimental ones that have finished the first phase of clinical testing. This project would be impossible with mice, for which each drug test takes a year. With their petri dish system, Dr. Tanzi said, “we can test hundreds of thousands of drugs in a matter of months.”

www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature13800.html

21 October: Walnuts may help prevent Alzheimer’s disease, study finds

A new animal study published in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease reveals potential brain-health benefits of a walnut-enriched diet. Researchers suggest that a diet including walnuts may have a beneficial effect in reducing the risk, delaying the onset, slowing the progression of, or preventing Alzheimer’s disease (AD).
The research, led by Dr Abha Chauhan, head of the Developmental Neuroscience Laboratory at the New York State Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities (IBR), found significant improvement in learning skills, memory, reducing anxiety, and motor development in mice fed on a walnut-enriched diet. The team used wild mice as well as mouse models genetically altered to be vulnerable to developing AD.

The researchers suggest that the high antioxidant content of walnuts may have been a contributing factor in protecting the mouse brain from the degeneration typically seen in AD, of which oxidative stress and inflammation are prominent features.

They examined the effects of dietary supplementation on mice with 6 percent or 9 percent walnuts (equivalent to 1 ounce and 1.5 ounces of walnuts per day, respectively, in humans). This research stemmed from a previous cell culture study led by Dr. Chauhan that highlighted the protective effects of walnut extract against the oxidative damage caused by amyloid beta protein. This protein is the major component of amyloid plaques that form in the brains of those with AD.

Prof. Clive Ballard of the Alzheimer’s Society commented, however, that as the research was carried out on mice, the benefits of a walnut-rich diet cannot be said to be certain in humans and that further research is needed.

30 October: Researchers claim discovery of cause of common dementia

Researchers at the Krembil Neuroscience Centre, Canada, claim to have discovered a major cause of “common dementia”. Their research was published on 30 October in the journal, Annals of Neurology.

In approximately 50 percent of older people, the white matter of the brain (nerve fibres) shows up as damaged on computerised tomography (CT) scans and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans. For most people, these changes are harmless but previous studies have established that the more white matter disease (leukoaraiosis) present in the brain, the more likely people are to have symptoms of dementia such as cognitive impairment or changes in behaviour.

What was not understood is why leukoaraiosis develops - the assumption having been that it might be the result of the natural aging process.

The researchers conducted an intensive study to observe the development of leukoaraiosis over a short period of time, rather than on an annual basis - the interval at which previous studies have performed repeat brain imaging. The study involved five patients with leukoaraiosis undergoing detailed MRI scanning of their brains every week, for sixteen consecutive weeks.

Lead study author, Dr. Daniel Mandell, Neuroradiologist, Joint Department of Medical Imaging, Toronto Western Hospital said he and his colleagues were surprised by what they found: “The findings suggest that the tiny, silent strokes are likely much more common than physicians previously appreciated, and these strokes are likely a cause of the age-related white matter disease that can lead to dementia.”

Dementia in Society

30 September: YoungDementia UK holds first national conference

On 30 September, YoungDementia UK in association with the Journal of Dementia Care held their first national conference in Oxford, England. The theme of the conference was, "A Life Worth Living: Young Onset Dementia Services and Support".

The level of interest exceeded expectations, with over 220 people attending. Speakers included people living with young onset dementia, family members, and professionals from the UK and abroad.

Personal experiences and practical ways of living well with dementia were shared as were exemplary young onset dementia support services. The need for a national young onset focus was highlighted and participants identified issues needing national attention.

“Alternatives to home” began with Chris Roberts (pictured, left) who was diagnosed with dementia in his early 50s. He has already chosen a care home to live in that provides WiFi, one of his key requirements. Chris was followed by speakers from two exceptional young onset specific residential schemes based in the UK and Australia; both focus on maintaining the person’s independence and connections to their local community. A Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project session enabled people living with dementia to collectively identify priorities for change on a national level.

Key messages included:

- Young onset dementia must not be ignored. Latest estimates state that 42,325 people in the UK are living with young onset dementia.
- The Netherlands is 20 years ahead of the UK in its young onset service provision, but the average length of time to get a dementia diagnosis is still 4.4 years.
- GPs need to be educated about young onset dementia so they recognise and diagnose it earlier.
- When a person is diagnosed, there is a need to maintain normality of life and independence and families need continuity of support.
- Networking is vital. We must learn from each other.
- There is a need for collective action. By connecting, so much can change.

YoungDementia UK summed up the event, saying “the conference was enlightening, educational and moving in equal measure. The national issues will be acted upon and further national young onset dementia networking events will take place – this 2014 conference is just the start”.

To download the presentations from the conference, click here.
5 October: Carey Mulligan joins memory walk with her grandmother

British Hollywood actress and Alzheimer's Society ambassador, Carey Mulligan, best known as the star of such movies as Drive (2011) and The Great Gatsby (2013) joined over 1,700 participants at a Memory Walk in Swansea, Wales on 5 October.

As well as taking part in the 10km walk, the Bafta award-winning actress opened the event. Ms Mulligan walked alongside her mother, Nano Mulligan and her grandmother, Margaret ("Nans"), who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2002. Margaret lives in a care home in Pontardawe, Wales.

Ms Mulligan said: “It has been inspirational to see so many people of different ages come together today to fight dementia. I only ever had experience with Nans’ and how she went through it, but when you meet other people, you realise how different it is from person to person. It’s such an individual thing and that’s a reminder about how unique everyone is and how important it is to respect each person for who they really are.”

7 October: UK airline to improve flights for passengers with dementia

On 7 October, the website, “Reduced Mobility Rights” reported that one of the UK’s biggest long-haul airlines has begun working with dementia awareness group, Purple Angel to try to improve the flight experience of passengers with dementia.

Airports and airlines do not currently provide custodial care or stay with the passenger with dementia on the aircraft or in the gate area prior to departure or during a layover. Gate changes, flight delays, and diversions are some of the situations that can lead to confusion or disorientation.

On 7 October: UK airline to improve flights for passengers with dementia


21 October: ADI celebrates its 30th anniversary

On 21 October, ADI celebrated its 30th anniversary. The Organisation was formed in Washington, USA in 1984, aiming for “a better life for people with dementia and their carers”. ADI now has more than 80 member associations, worldwide.

29 October: UK report says dementia is leading cause of female deaths

For the second consecutive year, dementia has been recorded as the leading cause of death for women in the UK. The findings, reported by the Office of National Statistics (ONS) cover deaths in England and Wales during 2013.

A total of 31,850 deaths due to Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias were recorded for 2013, while heart disease deaths totalled 26,075 and strokes 20,706.

Dementia kills more than three times as many women as breast cancer and thousands more than heart attacks or strokes, the report states.

Dementia ranks third in the causes of male deaths, at 15,262, while lung cancer killed 16,818 men and heart disease, the biggest killer, was the cause of 37,797 male deaths.

Improved care means people are more likely to survive heart attacks and more people take statins to prevent them in the first place. Meanwhile, dementia rose to 6% of male deaths (from 2%) and to 12% of female deaths (from 5%).

The ONS report said: “Some of the rise over the last few decades may also be attributable to a better understanding of dementia. This means that doctors may be more likely to record dementia as the underlying cause of death.” They continue, saying “the figures highlight dementia as a huge problem that we cannot shy away from any longer.”

www.ons.gov.uk/ons/dcp/171778_381807.pdf

New Publications & Resources

1 October: Luxembourg Family Ministry launches dementia website

On 1 October, UN “Older Persons Day”, Luxembourg’s Family and Integration Ministry launched a new website giving information on the subject of dementia. It includes videos of testimonials, tips and useful web links.

French version: http://vivreavecunedemence.lu/

German version: http://newenmadementia.lu/

6 October: Interdem members release two dementia awareness videos

On 6 October, members of Interdem (a pan-European network of researchers on early detection and psycho-social interventions in dementia) shared two videos made to help raise awareness of dementia around Europe.

The first was a video produced as part of a national dementia training programme in Ireland:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=V90CFkX0oE8&feature=youtu.be

The second was released on World Alzheimer’s day and was made pro-bono by the combined efforts of Austria’s largest mobile phone company and a young PR firm in Austria, in collaboration with non-profit organisation, MAS Alzheimerhilfe. The message of the video, which is in German, is that “Memories fade. Man remains”:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ULU0h2E9Kts

Both videos, along with an earlier effort by Bournemouth University Dementia Institute in May 2014, can be found on the Interdem website: www.interdem.org/ISBN/
7 October: New dementia book published by Prof. Julian Hughes

Over the summer, Professor Julian Hughes, from Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust and Newcastle University, England had a new book published, entitled “How We Think About Dementia”. The book discusses issues around ageing, personhood, rights, ethics, the arts and what they mean in terms of care for people with dementia.

www.jkp.com/catalogue/book/9781849054775

20 October: The Council of Europe introduces its TV news programme

The Council of Europe wrote to Alzheimer Europe (AE) on 20 October, announcing that it currently makes a television news programme «The Journal» summarising the main events and activities of the week involving the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights.

In the expectation that AE’s members and other newsletter readers might be interested in keeping up to date with this news, they informed us that the latest edition can be accessed via the home page of the Council of Europe’s website:

http://hub.coe.int/

World Alzheimer’s Day

18-21 September: AMPA organises Gala Dinner and Memory Walk

In Monaco, AMPA (Association Monégasque pour la recherche sur la maladie d’Alzheimer) organised a Gala Dinner, which took place on 18 September. The gala aimed to raise funds to help « fight the disease of the century » and to raise awareness of dementia.

AMPA’s Vice-President, Professor Alain Pesce, spoke to local television at the event. In the interview, Prof. Pesce explained that one in two people living with dementia in Monaco are unaware of it. He stressed the lack of medical treatment but he was also keen to stress that there are plenty of non-medical options to alleviate some of the symptoms and also to help with prevention.

The television report on the gala dinner can be found here (in French):

http://www.monacochannel.mc/Chaine/Monaco-Info-Le-Reportages/Video/Soirée-de-gala-contre-l-Alzheimer-a-Monaco

AMPA also organised a Memory Walk on 21 September, to raise awareness of dementia, particularly among young people. It was in partnership with the “Direction de l’Éducation Nationale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports”.

The walk began at Midday at the Place du Palais and culminated in a Zumba party at Larvotto beach.

The television report on the Memory Walk can be found here (in French):

www.monacochannel.mc/Chaine/Monaco-Info-Le-Reportages/Video/Une-marche-solidaire-pour-les-malades-d-Alzheimer-a-Monaco

20-21 September: Memory Walks take place in 15 Portuguese towns

Memory Walks were held in 15 Portuguese towns, including Madeira Island and the Azores, on 20 and 21 September in celebration of World Alzheimer’s day (WAD). Thousands of people came together for the 4th annual Alzheimer Portugal Walk. This year, there were record numbers of participants and participating towns.

The media has become more interested in dementia-related matters and this was a perfect event to enhance public awareness of Alzheimer’s disease as well as for fund-raising. Alzheimer Portugal is very proud of this success.

21 September: The Alzheimer’s Society encourages people to join annual Memory Walk

More than a fifth of people do not think it is possible to reduce their risk of developing dementia, according to a YouGov poll commissioned by the Alzheimer’s Society.

Despite growing evidence that simple lifestyle factors can improve our chances of avoiding dementia, the poll found that 22 per cent of the general public are unaware of this and could be putting themselves at risk.

Alzheimer’s Society is calling on people to take action now and has revealed five simple things people can start doing straight away to reduce their risk of the dementia. The most important of which is to take regular exercise. The results and tips are released as Alzheimer’s Society encourages people to sign up to its annual flagship fundraising event, Memory Walk.

Ruth Langsford, Alzheimer’s Society Ambassador and presenter of ITV’s This Morning and Loose Women, said:

‘My wonderful dad had dementia, so naturally I have concerns that I might get it too. Like a worrying number of us, I didn’t realise until recently that there are simple things you can do to reduce your risk, such as exercising regularly. Now I try to eat healthily, keep active and go on long walks with our dog, Maggie. This September I’m bringing my dog to Alzheimer’s Society’s Memory Walk as it’s the perfect way to get some gentle exercise, whilst raising money for the charity and remembering dad.’

Alzheimer’s Society recommends the following five simple things you can start doing now to reduce your risk of developing the condition:

- Exercise
- Eat Mediterranean food
- Manage other health conditions like type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure
• Avoid smoking
• Use it or lose it (exercise your brain)

Dr Clare Walton from Alzheimer’s Society said:

‘800,000 people in the UK have a form of dementia but with no cure yet, we need a significant public health effort to attempt to reduce the number of future cases of the condition.

‘We know that what is good for your heart is good for your head and there are simple things you can start doing now to reduce your risk of developing dementia. Regular exercise is a good place to start as well as avoiding smoking and eating a Mediterranean diet.

‘It is never too early to start making healthier choices that could help your memory - whether that’s hitting the gym or just walking instead of catching the bus, it all helps.’

Memory Walks take place around the UK throughout the autumn to raise money for people affected by dementia and their carers. It is a day to walk, share and celebrate someone special and everyone walks with one common goal: to defeat dementia. From shorter walks no longer than a mile to walks as far as 10k there is something on offer for everyone.

21 September: France Alzheimer celebrates WAD

Twenty years after the first World Alzheimer’s Day, the fight against this illness has become a public health issue. The united struggle involves all the relatives of a person with dementia, whatever their age. On this particular day, 21 September, France Alzheimer wants to remind everyone of their duty there the disease is concerned. Therefore, the association chose for this year’s instalment, the theme of intergenerational links in caring for persons with the disease.

Many conferences and debates were organised throughout France, in the presence of families and professionals involved in the fight against the disease. The commitment of the local associations of France Alzheimer does not end there. There were also public surveys, sporting events, animation stands and memory walks to show solidarity. Lastly, more than 300 information and public awareness sessions were organised throughout France at the end of September.

More information about the 21st edition of France’s World Alzheimer’s Day celebrations can be found at: journenmondiale.francealzheimer.org

21 September: Italy’s Alzheimer Uniti organises activities for WAD

Alzheimer Uniti Italy held their 16th annual congress, entitled National Dementia Plan: hopes and reality in the Campidoglio, Rome on 21 September.

The new plan was discussed and commented upon by all the professionals involved: medical doctors, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists, volunteers and caregivers. In addition, other subjects about dementia were discussed by the various experts.

Then, in honour of the occasion, a new Alzheimer Cafe was inaugurated in the historic center of Rome (near Parliament). There was also a table set up in a piazza, with volunteers giving out information about dementia, accompanied by the music of a Carabinieri brass band.

Affiliated associations of AU in other cities engaged in their own, similar activities. Finally, a group of people with dementia and their caregivers as well as volunteers from all over Italy went to the Vatican to participate in a Papal Audience in St Peter’s Square. The events were well-attended and enjoyed by all.

21 September: Alzheimer Bulgaria WAD press conference attracts Ministry representatives

For World Alzheimer’s day, Alzheimer Bulgaria traditionally holds a press conference, which this year, for the first time, attracted representatives from the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

Unfortunately, Bulgarian MEP Andrey Kovachev, a member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance, was unable to attend though he sent his support in the form of a letter.

Alzheimer Bulgaria also set up an information stand in a public park in Sofia, handing out brochures, newsletters and balloons to help raise awareness. Medical students gave a talk there and did short cognitive tests for some older passers-by.

Meanwhile, in the city of Plovdiv, a group of young people celebrated WAD by playing football for charity.

21 September: Finland celebrates “Memory Week”

Finland celebrates “Memory Week” (a local variation of World Alzheimer’s Day) in September.

The week was filled with a variety of activities from The Finnish Alzheimer Association, Muistiliitto’s 43 member associations. The message of the week was to “Take Care!”

Activities included:

• Local associations all around Finland arranging memory walks, memory cafes and lectures.
• Memory services were organised on 21 September in cooperation with the Evangelical Lutheran church. The Church council published guidelines for the memory-friendly service and Muistiliitto is hoping this will start a new tradition.
• Memory Activists, Finland’s dementia working group, published a statement insisting that there is life beyond a diagnosis of dementia.
• Kaisa Lintulahji, a committed and active volunteer, was named “memory friend of the year”.

21 September: Royal support for Luxembourg WAD Memory Walk

Hereditary Grand Duke Guillaume and Princess Stéphanie of Luxembourg showed their support in the capital to two causes on Saturday by taking part in not one but two solidarity marches. Raising awareness and compassion was the aim of the marches, which took place in Luxembourg City. They were: the “Memory Walk”, dedicated to people with dementia and the “Unity Walk” raising awareness for Parkinson’s patients.

The “Memory Walk” was part of World Alzheimer Day and by showing solidarity with people living with dementia, the royal couple hoped that their presence helped to raise funds and support research into a cure.

21 September: Memory Walks take place all over Slovenia

To celebrate the World Alzheimer Month 2014, Spominčica (Alzheimer Slovenia) and local Alzheimer organisations organized memory walks dedicated to this year’s theme “Dementia: Can we reduce the risk?”. In the capital of Slovenia, Ljubljana, a memory walk was organised on 21 September under the sponsorship of the town mayor, Zoran Janković. On a sunny, warm Sunday morning, we gathered in the city park near the centre of the town, around booths with Spominčica publications, t-shirts with our logo, balloons, apples, cookies and much more.

The programme started with a music duet and a pantomime performer. A speech was given by Spominčica President, Štefanija Lukić Zlobec. Many people joined, from volunteers, patients and their relatives and carers to Sunday passers-by. We then walked to the Town Hall where we were welcomed by the mayor of Ljubljana.

21 September: Greece celebrates World Alzheimer’s Day

During September, events that were open to the public and free of charge were organised by the Greek Association of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders to celebrate World Alzheimer’s Day (WAD). The following events took place:

An awareness week (2 to 7 September): Alzheimer Hellas took part in the events called “Balkan square” that were organised by the Municipality of Neapolis. Alzheimer Hellas had its own stand, providing information to the public.

Information stand (15 to 19 September): In the heart of the city of Thessaloniki, in Aristotelous square, Alzheimer Hellas had an informational stand. Our trained personnel were able to provide the general public with reliable information about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. At the same time, a short test was done on some members of the older population.

“Dementia. Ethical Dilemmas and New Technologies” 19 and 20 September: Alzheimer Hellas - in cooperation with the Angelopoulos Foundation, research programs (ASPAD and EnNOISS-AUTH) and the Panhellenic Institute of Neurodegenerative Diseases (P.I.N.Dis.) - organised a two day scientific conference on “Dementia-Ethical Dilemmas and New Technologies” in Thessaloniki. The conference, attended by physicians, lawyers, social workers and other health professionals, dealt with Alzheimer’s disease and the contribution of new technologies and interventions that can support people with dementia and their caregivers.

The opening ceremony of the conference, on 19 September, was dedicated to the celebration of WAD. A short speech was given about new data on dementia. Also, a well-known journalist talked about his personal experience as a caregiver. The local authorities were present and the audience had the chance to participate in the programmed music festivities.

Press Conference in Athens 25 September: The Panhellenic Institute of Neurodegenerative Diseases (P.I.N.Dis.) and its scientific director, Mrs Magda Tsoiaki (Neurologist-Psychiatrist) held a press conference on newer developments in Alzheimer’s disease on ways to meet today’s challenges.

Participation in an Alzheimer’s Conference in Crete 26 to 28 September: Participation in the Pan-Cretan Alzheimer’s Conference that took place in Iraklion, Crete. Alzheimer Hellas’ scientific director, Mrs Magda Tsoiaki (Neurologist-Psychiatrist) and members of the Saint Helen’s Day Care Centre personnel informed the audience of the conference on new data concerning non pharmacological cognitive treatments.

Throughout September:

One TV and one radio spot that were specially designed for WAD were broadcast from the local and national TV and radio stations. The speaking for the radio spot was done by a famous Greek actor.

In addition, the Association was present through interviews on TV and in radio programs, raising public awareness. Our events had media coverage.

Scientific articles and initiatives of our two day care centres in Thessaloniki were also published in newspapers, internet news, health sites and newsletters.
21 September: Alzheimer Croatia raises political and public awareness

Numerous activities held by Alzheimer Croatia during World Alzheimer’s Month (WAM), ranging from Alzheimer’s Cafés to a multimedia theatre performance in Zagreb Concert Hall, “Lisinski” significantly raised political and public awareness about the need to develop a National Plan to fight Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in Croatia. Focused campaigns on advocacy and public awareness reached nearly 50 percent of Croatian media audiences. Events in eight Croatian cities were covered by sixteen public speeches and two Memory Walks attracted 1500 people, to whom 1000 leaflets and brochures were given.

Under the high auspices of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Dr Ivo Josipović and the auspices of counties and cities, WAM activities took place in Croatian regions in which 44 percent of the people with AD in the country are resident. As a result, Alzheimer Croatia made further steps to develop a national network of regional Alzheimer’s associations. The first two are established in cities of Lipik and Dubrovnik and others are to follow. Wider activities throughout this year, in which Alzheimer Croatia is celebrating its 15th anniversary, have contributed to its membership almost doubling, today counting more than 1000 family caregivers, volunteers and medical specialists.

New contacts with leading national and regional health and social departments, as well as several public forums with medical and social specialists during WAM in Croatia have meant that dementia is one of the top national priorities, on which the whole of society must act.

This was a big challenge and a great opportunity for Alzheimer Croatia to introduce and advocate for the development of a Croatian national strategy/plan to fight AD.

21 September: Norway holds annual awareness campaign event

Once a year Norwegian Health Association has a campaign to raise awareness and funds for dementia research and local activities. The week-long event, called “Demensaksjoner” in Norwegian, takes place in September and coincides with World Alzheimer’s Day on 21 September. Fundraisers were mobilised and open meetings were held in local communities across the country. This year’s campaign resulted in more than 130 press clippings from local and national media.

The funds raised will help improve the lives of persons with dementia and their carers. Seventy percent of the funds will go to research. Thirty percent will be allocated to local activities.

During the campaign the organisation also awarded dementia prizes in all 19 Norwegian counties. These awards are given to people who have distinguished themselves in different capacities concerning dementia. Among the prize-winners were three who persons with dementia.

“We will continue raising money for this important research, while awaiting a coordinated effort by politicians”, said General Secretary Lisbet Rugtvedt.

Pictured is Liv Elde Mikkelsen, who herself has dementia and has been a spokesperson since 2008. For this, she received the dementia prize in Hedmark county.

21 September: Ireland marks WAD with Public Information Events

Public Information Events took place throughout Ireland around World Alzheimer’s Day (WAD). Events took place in Dublin, Cork, Navan and Monaghan where each venue had over 100 attendees. Smaller events also took place in local communities around the country. At the Monaghan event (pictured) there were almost 180 people in attendance including Eugene Cummins, Chief Executive, Monaghan County Council and Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht as well as several elected representatives.

To coincide with these information talks, ASI produced new information materials developed in partnership with the Irish Dementia Working Group. These new resources cover topics such as, what to do after a diagnosis, how to live well day-to-day, driving and dementia and include a new help-card to support people when they are out and about in their community. Copies are available on www.alzheimer.ie Or by calling the helpline number in Ireland 1800 341 341.

ASI produced two radio adverts, which ran on national and regional radio for two weeks from 15 to 26 September. One advert featured the voice of Seamus Cunningham, who has Alzheimer’s disease and the other featured his daughter, Denise. This was the first time ASI produced a radio advert that featured a person with dementia talking about their diagnosis. ASI also launched two new short films about living with dementia. These films had been viewed over 125,000 times online, at the time of writing, since their launch on 17 September. If you would like to watch these films please visit www.youtube.com/user/AlzheimerIreland

29 September: Morocco’s 1st AD platform announced at WAD dinner

Morocco’s first platform to host support and research for Alzheimer’s disease will be operational in Essaouira in April 2015. The announcement was made during a dinner on 24 September, presided over by Prince Albert II of Monaco to celebrate the 20th World Alzheimer Day, with the participation of Andre Azoulay, adviser to the King of Morocco and founder of the Essaouira-Mogador association and Catherine Pastor, President of AMPA Monaco.
On the occasion, Mrs Pastor welcomed the partnership with the Foundation Essaouira Mogador association, the Association Southeast Alzheimer Morocco chaired by Professor Kissani, Director of the Neurological department at Mohammed VI hospital in Marrakech.

The centre will develop its activities in five disciplines:

- A memory consultation service to identify, guide and support patients and their families.
- A research department to develop medical research and help to better a better understanding of the disease in Morocco.
- A platform for home listening and information.
- A place to live.
- Stimulation to develop patient autonomy and a friendly space to contribute to the social integration of patients.

Professor Kissani, in conjunction with the team of Neurology Mohammed Ben Abdallah Essaouira hospital, will provide medical and scientific supervision of the centre with the support of various institutions mobilised by the Mediterranean Alzheimer’s Alliance, based in Monaco.

Contact Alzheimer Europe:

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

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### AE Calendar 2014

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>5-7 November</td>
<td>G7 Legacy Event “New care and prevention models” (Tokyo, Japan)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>European Commission workshop on “Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing” (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12 November</td>
<td>OECD workshop on “Enhancing translational research and clinical development in Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia” (Lausanne, Switzerland)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>13-14 November</td>
<td>Second meeting of the European Commission Group of governmental experts on dementia and EU Presidency Conference on dementia (Rome, Italy)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-18 November</td>
<td>PACE consortium meeting (Manchester, UK)</td>
<td>Dianne, Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 November</td>
<td>NILVAD Steering Committee meeting (Munich, Germany)</td>
<td>Ana, Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-25 November</td>
<td>European Medicines Agency Workshop on Alzheimer’s disease (London, UK)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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### Future Conferences

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>7-9 November</td>
<td>17th Asia Pacific Regional Conference of Alzheimer’s Disease International, <a href="http://www.aprc2014-india.com/">http://www.aprc2014-india.com/</a></td>
<td>New Delhi, India</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-12 November</td>
<td>Alzheimer and the Mediterranean: Working together for a better understanding, <a href="http://www.alzheimerportugal.org">www.alzheimerportugal.org</a></td>
<td>Lisboa, Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-22 March 2015</td>
<td>AD/PD - 2015, The 12th International Conference on Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease, www2.kenes.com/adpd/pages/home.aspx</td>
<td>Nice, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>23-26 April 2015</td>
<td>6th Panhellenic Interdisciplinary Conference on Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders in combination with the 1st Mediterranean Conference on Neurodegenerative Diseases</td>
<td>Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
</tr>
<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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25th Alzheimer Europe Conference
Dementia: putting strategies and research into practice
Ljubljana, Slovenia / 2–4 September 2015
Mark the dates!

www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences

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.