Editorial

January marked the start of the Spanish EU Presidency, which has declared one of its aims as being to “foster a Europe of rights and freedoms, a Europe for all citizens”. To realise this aim, the Spanish Presidency has outlined various initiatives which we report on in this newsletter.

It is greatly encouraging to hear this month that Cyprus has started discussions on the development of a Strategic Plan for Alzheimer’s disease.

At the same time, the necessity for a strong implementation programme of any such plan is highlighted by the findings from the National Audit Office in the UK which has called for urgent action to ensure that the English Strategy is implemented effectively. The appointment of Professor Alistair Burns as the Director for the English Dementia Strategy could not be more timely and we wish him well in his task.

Alzheimer Europe’s member organisations have been busy during January. Following a comprehensive survey, the Alzheimer’s Society (UK) has been raising awareness of the concerns people have for standards of care. We also bring news from our members in Belgium, Cyprus, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Scotland and Sweden.

At Alzheimer Europe we have been busy continuing to develop our website and the e-shop has been launched, making it possible to purchase Alzheimer Europe publications online. In addition, we have updated the national dementia plans section and the ethics section of our website.

January also saw the launch of two Commission financed projects, the PharmaCog and RightTimePlaceCare projects in which Alzheimer Europe has been asked to collaborate. We report in more detail on both in this newsletter.

We are of course also delighted that this newsletter is the first of 2010 which we are able to produce thanks to the operational grant provided by the European Commission through the public health programme of the European Union.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Neil Hunt, who has left his position of Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Society, every success in the future. Neil, a Board member of Alzheimer Europe, has been highly supportive of Alzheimer Europe’s work.

Jean Georges
Executive Director
Alzheimer Europe

1 January 2010: Alzheimer Europe starts year with operating grant from the European Commission

The 2010 Work Plan of Alzheimer Europe has received significant financial support (EUR 250,000) from the public health programme of the European Union and the organisation will be able to carry out the following activities in 2010 thanks to this support:

- the development of a European Dementia Ethics Network with a focus on the ethics of dementia research and assistive technologies,
- the continuation of its legal rights project which will result in national reports on the guardianship systems in the Member States of the European Union,
- a survey on the involvement of people with dementia in the activities, campaigning and decision making bodies of its member organisations,
- the further development of a European Dementia Observatory and the communication on relevant policy and scientific developments in the field of dementia,
- the organisation of the 20th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Luxembourg from 30 September to 2 October 2010.

Finally, the association will also be able to deal with a number of organisational issues such as the development of a new strategic plan and a financial diversification strategy, an outreach programme towards Alzheimer associations not currently members of the organisation and the development of strategic partnerships with other associations active in the field.

19 January 2010: Alzheimer Europe starts involvement on RightTimePlaceCare project

Alzheimer Europe was asked to participate in an advisory capacity in a European project entitled RightTimePlaceCare coordinated by the University of Witten/Herdecke and financed under the 7th Framework Programme of the European Union.

The project will describe and analyse the European health, social care and welfare systems, advocacy and informal caregiver support systems for patients/consumers with dementia and intersectorial communication.

A European survey will assess the factors influencing the time of admission to long-term institutional nursing care facilities, investigate living conditions and gather clinical data of patients/consumers with dementia and their informal caregivers in long-term formal professional home care and institutional nursing care facilities, and the related economic impact.

Consecutively best practice strategies will be developed for intersectorial arrangements needed to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of integrated health care in European dementia care systems, and recommendations for best practice models or interventions in long-term care facilities.

Apart from the University of Witten/Herdecke (Germany), the following centres will be involved in the three year project:

- Maastricht University (Netherlands),
- Lund University (Sweden),
- University of Manchester (United Kingdom),
- University of Turku (Finland),
- University of Tartu (Estonia),
- Gerontópole of the University of Toulouse (France) and
- Fundació Privada Clinic per la Recerca Biomedica (Spain).

Jean Georges attended the launch meeting of the project on 19 January 2010 in Brussels.

29 January 2010: Alzheimer Europe launches e-shop facility on website

Since the launch of the completely revised website in October 2009, Alzheimer Europe has continued its development.

In January an e-shop facility was launched, enabling visitors to purchase Alzheimer Europe publications online, the policy in practice section was updated to include new information on the status of national dementia plans in Cyprus as well as Switzerland and members of the Steering Committee of the European Dementia Ethics Network were identified and included on the website.
Alzheimer Europe Networking

On 7 January (London, UK) Jean participated in the launch of the PharmaCog project.

On 7 January (London, UK) Jean met for an exchange with AE Chair Maurice O’Connell.

On 11 January (London, UK) Jean attended the EMEA workshop on “New developments in dementia of Alzheimer’s type”.


On 18 January (Luxembourg, Luxembourg) Jean met with Alain Tapp from the Luxembourg Alzheimer’s association to discuss the preparations of the 2010 Conference in Luxembourg.

On 19 January (Brussels, Belgium) Jean attended the launch meeting of the RightTimePlaceCare project.

On 20 January (Brussels, Belgium) Annette and Jean met Brendan Barnes, EFPIA Director for Multilateral Issues and Health Policy to discuss EU developments in AD.

Visit the newly launched e-shop on the publications section of the Alzheimer Europe website on: www.alzheimer-europe.org

Pharmacog

PharmaCog is a European project funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative, a new and unique partnership between the European Commission and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. Due to the importance of this project, we will dedicate a special section of our newsletter to developments in this project.

1 January 2010: Europe launches EUR 20 million academic-industry collaboration to tackle drug discovery in Alzheimer’s disease

PharmaCog short for “Prediction of cognitive properties of new drug candidates for neurodegenerative diseases in early clinical development” a cross party project, co-coordinated by GlaxoSmithKline R&D and the Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France, started its activities on 1 January 2010 thanks to significant funding (EUR 20.2 million) from the Innovative Medicines Initiative. Its launch marks the start of the most ambitious European project for tackling bottlenecks in Alzheimer’s disease research and drug discovery.

This hugely ambitious project brings together top scientists from 12 academic institutions, 11 global pharmaceutical companies, 5 small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) with patient representation from Alzheimer Europe.

It is hoped that by the end of this 5-year project, PharmaCog will have
a) validated the tools necessary to streamline AD drug discovery and accelerate effective medicine to patients,
b) set the standard for European drug discovery providing optimised and validated protocols
c) provided the infrastructure to sustain world class drug discovery in Europe and
d) disseminated the obtained results from health professionals to patients.

Ultimately PharmaCog should provide the tools needed to define more precisely the potential of a drug candidate, reduce the development time of new medicines and thus accelerate the approvals of promising new medicines.

The PharmaCog consortium consists of the following partners coming from 10 different EU Members States:
1. Alzheimer Europe (Luxembourg),
2. AstraZeneca (United Kingdom),
3. Boehringer Ingelheim (Germany),
4. Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France),
5. Eli Lilly and Company (United Kingdom),
6. Exonhit Therapeutics (France),
7. F. Hoffman-La Roche (Switzerland),
8. GlaxoSmithKline (United Kingdom),
9. H. Lundbeck (Denmark),
10. Innovative Concepts in Drug Development (France),
11. Innovative Health Diagnostics (France),
12. Institut d'Investigacions Miomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer (Spain),
13. Institut de Recherche Servier (France),
14. Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (France),
15. Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche “Mario Negri” (Italy),
16. Janssen Pharmaceutica (Belgium),
17. Merck (Germany),
18. Novartis Pharma (Switzerland),
19. Ordine Ospedaliero di San Giovanni di Dio Fatebenefratelli (Italy),
20. Qualissima (France),
21. SAS Alzprotect (France),
22. UCB Pharma (Belgium),
23. Universidad de Murcia (Spain),
24. Università degli Studi di Foggia (Italy),
25. Università degli studi di Verona (Italy),
26. Universität Leipzig (Germany),
27. Universitätsklinikum Essen (Germany),
28. Université de la Méditerranée, Aix-Marseille II (France),
29. Université de Lille 2 (France).

Alzheimer Europe will represent the interests of people with dementia and their carers in this consortium and ensure the dissemination of research results to a lay audience. PharmaCog will also work closely with the European Medicines Agency, as an associated partner of this project, to share project progress and discuss the implications for drug development in Europe.

**European developments**

Here we report on developments from the European institutions which may impact people with dementia and/or their carers.

**1 January 2010: Spanish Presidency of the EU presents its priorities**

On 1 January, Spain took over the Presidency of the EU from Sweden.

This Presidency set out the following 4 priorities:

- the full implementation of the Treaty of Lisbon,
- the coordination of economic policies to promote recovery and sustainable growth throughout Europe,
- strengthening of the European Union’s foreign policy to turn it into a real global player,
- fostering a Europe of rights and freedoms at the service of citizens.

Of interest to Alzheimer Europe and its members, under the heading ‘A Europe of rights and freedoms, a Europe for all citizens’, various initiatives will be implemented:

- **A more democratic Europe with the participation of its citizens – the legislative initiative**: Member State citizens may urge the Commission to formulate legislative proposals on matters they consider should be regulated at European level. The Spanish Presidency will promote the approval by the European Parliament and the Council of a regulation establishing the conditions and procedures required to channel this initiative.

- **The Charter of Fundamental Rights**: The Treaty of Lisbon incorporates the Charter of Fundamental Rights, establishing its legally binding nature.

- **Accession to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental
**Freedoms**: to put Europe at the forefront in the defence and promotion of human rights, the Presidency will begin the EU accession process to the Council of Europe’s European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

- **Reinforcing Europe’s social dimension**: within a context of economic crisis that tests the social cohesion and the welfare achieved by European societies, the Union should be a guarantee of protection for its citizens. The Communication the Commission will submit on the new 2011-2015 European Social Agenda will complement the content of the EU 2020 Strategy, incorporating social protection, inclusion and integration.

These priorities are framed within the Trio of Presidency consisting of Spain, Belgium and Hungary and will continue the work developed by Sweden.

Other initiatives will include:

- **Social and demographic changes** have major implications for social protection systems. Joint work to set forth common objectives, established within the framework of the open coordination method, will be promoted. A White Paper on Ageing in Europe and a European Active Ageing Programme should be published.

- **European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity**: the Presidency will submit to the Commission and the Member States the conclusions drawn at the European Forum of Social Tourism held in Spain, gathering the support to the Commission’s decision of declaring 2012 as the European Year for Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

- **Public health innovation**: the Presidency will promote e-health, will foster patients’ quality and security improvement initiatives and the work conducted by the High Level Public Health Group.

- **Research**: the Presidency will move ahead in the development of the European Research Area (ERA), proposing short and medium-term policies to further coordination amongst the various bodies involved. The initiative will address partnership, European research infrastructures, joint programming in research areas of special interest and improved ERA governance and follow-up. Progress will also be made on aspects related to research centres excellence and universities modernisation.

**11 January 2010: European Medicines Agency organises stakeholder meeting on new dementia developments**

At a meeting organised by the European Medicines Agency in London, experts discussed the latest developments as to potential biomarkers for the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and for the use of such biomarkers for the assessment of disease progression.

Experts provided overviews on CSF, blood based and neuroimaging biomarkers and their potential use in clinical trials.

Jean Georges represented Alzheimer Europe at this meeting.

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www.alzheimer-europe.org

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**20 January 2010: European Ombudsman re-elected by the European Parliament**

The European Parliament has re-elected Nikiforos Diamandouros (Greece) as European Ombudsman. Mr Diamandouros, who has occupied this function since 1 April 2003, will remain in the post.

The European Ombudsman is nominated by the European Parliament after each election and for the duration of its mandate (5 years). The mandate ends at the end of the legislature but can be renewed.

The Ombudsman’s task is to guarantee that the principles of transparency and good administration are adhered to. He protects European citizens in cases of injustice, discrimination, abuse of power, failure to respond, and delay of information. This is an important role as it protects citizens in cases of bad administration from the European institutions and bodies.
21 January 2010: Hearings for the European Commissioner-designates take place

Throughout January the Commissioner-designates hearings before the relevant European Parliament Committees took place. At its meeting of 21 January, the Conference of Presidents discussed the hearings and Jerzy Buzek, European Parliament President, announced the 25 assessment letters he had received from the EP committees were positive.

A final vote on the Commission is to be held on Tuesday 9 February, during the plenary session in Strasbourg.

Policy Watch

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

5 January 2010: Report highlights the need to address “looming dementia crisis” in Canada

The Canadian Alzheimer’s Society published “Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society”, a comprehensive report which covers the anticipated challenges such as:

- The health burden of dementia for Canada 2008-2038 (including a rise from 480,600 people with dementia in 2008 to 1,125,200 people with dementia in 2038 and also an increase of informal care provided annually for people with dementia from 231 million hours in 2008 to 756 million hours in 2038).
- The economic consequences of dementia for Canada 2008-2038 (rising from CAD 15 billion in 2008 to CAD 153 billion in 2038).
- The cumulative consequences of dementia over a 30-year period (being CAD 872 billion).

The report contains recommendations that would make up the components of a comprehensive National Dementia Strategy including:

- An accelerated investment in all areas of dementia research
- A clear recognition of the important role played by informal caregivers
- An increased recognition of the importance of prevention and early intervention
- Greater integration of care and increased use of chronic disease prevention and management
- A strengthening of Canada’s dementia workforce.

The report was produced by risk Analytica (a risk management firm) in collaboration with the network of researchers and clinicians of the Canadian Alzheimer’s Society and can be viewed on the Society’s website.

14 January 2010: Implementation of dementia strategy assessed by national audit office

A year since the English Dementia Strategy, “Living Well with Dementia” was launched, the National Audit Office has published a report on its implementation. The Audit Office has identified key risk areas and made recommendations where it considers action is urgently needed. The report lists the following:

**Risk A: On the Strategy**

Although the Strategy focuses on outcomes and was developed with strong consultation and consensus, the information on current and future costs and benefits, and sources of savings, remains inadequate and there is a risk that decisions made locally on prioritisation and service design will not be sufficiently well-evidenced or informed.

The Department of Health should improve the completeness and robustness of its impact assessment, building in more evidence on expected efficiency savings. It should publish the results, including results from modelling the impact of different scenarios for demand and eligibility criteria in 2010.

The Department of Health should evaluate and promulgate examples of good practice in achieving cost-effective improvements in delivery of dementia services.

**Risk B: On Leadership**

National and regional leadership is strong and should be strengthened further with the appointment of a national clinical lead, but at the local commissioning and provider level much more needs to be done to identify and support leaders who have the skills to ignite passion, pace and drive. Workforce capacity and capability was a serious concern in 2007 and continues to be a weakness in the implementation planning. Unless significant progress is made on leading this at the national level, the implementation of the Strategy is likely to be compromised.

Every acute hospital should identify a clinical leader for dementia by 31 March 2010. Primary
Care Trusts should likewise appoint a lead commissioner for dementia care and, through contracts, should require evidence that acute hospitals and other providers of care have a lead person with responsibility for improving dementia care.

The Department of Health should include in the Workforce Development Action Plan a timetable for incorporating dementia awareness and care into pre-registration medical and nursing training.

The Department of Health should put in place by the end of 2010 an accreditation scheme for dementia training for healthcare professionals, which will allow accredited training to count towards their professional development.

**Risk C: On Delivery**

The lack of strong levers for improving dementia care means there is a risk that NHS and social care delivery organisations will not give it the priority status expected by the Committee and the general public, and service improvements will lag well behind the desired pace.

The Department of Health should identify ways to provide greater leverage for improvement in dementia services between now and the next Spending Review. As a minimum, they should find a way of ensuring that Primary Care Trusts commission sufficient memory services, which are based on best practice and accredited by the Memory Service National Accreditation Programme.

Following completion of the baseline review exercise in March 2010, 7 the Department of Health should ensure that the next key performance indicator for Deputy Regional Directors of Social Care focuses on outcomes.

The Department’s Dementia Strategy Implementation Team should assess the potential of new quality levers such as Patient Reported Outcome Measures to apply to NHS dementia care. It should also work with the Care Quality Commission to ensure that the system for assessing care homes includes evidence about user experience such as direct measures of the quality of life of people with dementia.

Primary Care Trusts should use their commissioning framework and contracts with Acute and Foundation Trusts to ensure full participation in the National Clinical Audit of Dementia Services from 2010.

The Department of Health should, by 30 April 2010, provide an open online database of local performance information by publishing the agreed dementia metrics on the Dementia Portal, and allowing localities to upload their data, benchmark their performance and provide accountability to the public and partners.”

Mr Amyas Morse, head of the National Audit Office said “The Department of Health stated in October 2007 that dementia was a national priority and brought forward a widely supported strategy in February 2009 to transform the lives of people with dementia. The action however, has not so far matched the rhetoric in terms of urgency. At the moment this strategy lacks the mechanisms needed to bring about large scale improvements and without these mechanisms it is unlikely that the intended and much needed transformation of services will be delivered within the strategy’s five year timeframe.”

**19 January 2010: UK Health Minister announces plan of action to protect vulnerable adults**

Following the 2009 national consultation period on the Government guidance on safeguarding published in 2000, in which 12,000 people took part, the UK Minister of State for Health, Phil Hope, announced a plan of action to protect vulnerable adults. Three initiatives will be developed:

a) The establishment of an Inter-Department Ministerial Group on safeguarding vulnerable adults whose role is to: (i) determine policy and work priorities, (ii) provide a strategic and co-ordination role and (iii) provide public and parliamentary advocacy for this policy area.

b) The introduction of new legislation to strengthen the local governance of safeguarding by giving safeguarding adults boards statutory status.

c) The launch of a programme of work with representative agencies and stakeholders to support effective policy and practice in safeguarding vulnerable adults.

In the Autumn of 2010, a comprehensive, multi-agency guidance is to be delivered which should clearly set out the roles and responsibilities for all those involved in safeguarding vulnerable adults.

**23 January 2010: UK Health Minister announces Director for the English Dementia Strategy**

UK Care Services Minister, Phil Hope, announced that Professor Alistair Burns is to be the newly-appointed Director of the English Dementia Strategy.
Professor Burns, currently professor of old age psychiatry at the University of Manchester and Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, UK, said: “In the past few years, there has been a great deal of public interest in dementia and several influential initiatives, in particular the national dementia strategy. The challenge now is to build on this to make a real positive difference to people with dementia, their families and carers. I very much look forward to working with colleagues to realise this ambition.”

**Members’ News**

In this section we report on our members’ latest initiatives and work.

**January 2010: Federazione Alzheimer Italia launches database on services in Lombardy**

In March 2006 Federazione Alzheimer Italia, in cooperation with the Istituto di Ricerche Farmacologiche “Mario Negri” (Milan), launched a project called: “Censimento e valutazione dei Servizi e delle Strutture per la cura e l’assistenza ai malati con demenza in Lombardia” (Census and evaluation of the services and the structures for the cure and the care of people with Alzheimer’s disease in Lombardy).

The project aimed to address the lack of information about the disease and to provide precise and detailed information regarding the support and services available to people with the disease and their families in Lombardy (North of Italy).

The database of available services has been launched in January 2010 and 338 structures have been included, in particular 80 Alzheimer Evaluation Units (UVA), 81 Care Homes (RSA), 12 Alzheimer Day Centres (CDA) and others.

**January 2010: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland supports research into care interventions for people living with early onset dementia**

A PhD student, Caroline Kilty of Cork Institute Technology, Ireland, has begun a qualitative research project examining the topic of early on-set dementia (EOD) and interventions that may be of benefit.

The aim of the research, which will be supported by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, will be to identify ideas for improvements in order to inform future research in the area while developing suitable interventions which can be used in caring for people with early on-set dementia.

The student will incorporate a number of qualitative research tools into her study including face to face surveys with people living with EOD and their carers; group activity sessions incorporating a control group; and a home based study that will access those unable to attend day care or group sessions.

The ‘Movement to music’ group activity sessions in particular will take place over six weeks and will comprise a mixture of music, gentle exercise and social games. These group sessions will aim to improve the quality of life for younger people with dementia who can benefit from the physical exercise and movement to music as well as the added benefit of time spent in a social situation with others in a similar situation.

The eventual aim of the qualitative research will be to develop and pilot new cost effective care interventions that can be used with the client alone or in conjunction with a family member and will be feasible for use in mainstream service provision.

**5 January 2010: Alzheimer’s Society calls on politicians to address dementia in their election manifestos**

The Alzheimer’s Society has called on political parties to address the following in their election manifestos:

- **Details of how they will develop a quality care service.** This must include guarantees that every person with dementia: can expect trained professionals who understand how to deliver quality care and support to people with dementia; can expect the NHS and social care service to work closely to support people to live their lives as independently as possible; and, with their carers, can receive the care and support they need to live well at any stage of their journey.

- **A guarantee that the Attendance Allowance will not be scrapped** - This is an invaluable benefit that gives people with dementia and their carers the choice, flexibility and control to shape their own care. Alzheimer’s Society research found overwhelming opposition to the idea of abolishing the
Attendance Allowance and moving the money into care services.

- **Dementia research made a higher priority.** Dementia research is drastically underfunded. The government invests eight times less in dementia research than cancer research. Developing new treatments has the potential to significantly reduce the number of people with dementia. Existing research expenditure needs to be reallocated to ensure dementia research receives the same investment as other major conditions.

These calls follow the findings of the Society’s surveys of (i) nearly 1,500 carers and people with dementia in which concerns regarding the standards of care were highlighted (only 23% of respondents believed their care needs were met) and (ii) 150 members of Parliament which found 81% of MPs recognising that social care funding should be a high priority for their party.

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

**January 2010: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland secures funding to develop palliative care intervention model**

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland is excited to announce it has been successful in securing dedicated palliative care research funding from the Irish Hospice Foundation’s Local Research Grant fund.

The proposed research project entitled, “Opening Conversations – Developing a model for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland of best practice palliative care interventions for people with dementia and their carers” will be led by Dr. Una MacConville, University of Bath, and is part of an overall commitment by the Alzheimer Society of Ireland to support work in the development of palliative care for people living with dementia.

The proposed research aims to develop a model of best practice to integrate palliative care interventions into the Alzheimer Society of Ireland service planning (needs assessment and devising care plans) and will contribute significantly to the organisation’s capacity to continue its programme for developing palliative care for people with dementia.

The developed model will be based on international best practice examples and evidence based research and will prompt key learnings for policy and practice in this area. A number of interventions will then be pilot tested by ASI staff trained in palliative care, in specific service centres (Day care, home care, carer support).

**11 January 2010: Pancyprian Alzheimer Association to cooperate on the development of the Cyprus Strategic Plan for Alzheimer’s disease**

The Minister of Health of Cyprus, Dr. Christos Patsalides, pledged his support in the fight against Alzheimer Disease at a meeting requested by the President of the Pancyprian Alzheimer Association, Ms. Noni Diakou, on 11 January 2010. During the meeting, the Minister of Health asked colleagues from the Ministry, under the guidance of the director of the Mental Health Services, Dr. Yiannis Kalakoutas, to closely cooperate with the Pancyprian Alzheimer Association in order to prepare the Cyprus Strategic Plan for Alzheimer.

At the meeting, Professor Magda Tsolaki, President of the Greek Association of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders was present and the Minister of Health asked her to act as an advisor towards the successful preparation of the Cyprus Strategic Plan. The Minister of Health suggested the creation of a national committee to attend to this important call.

The Minister of Health reiterated his support towards the preparation of the Cyprus Strategic Plan for Alzheimer at an official lunch hosted by the Rotary Club in Nicosia, on 14 January 2010.

**13 January 2010: Alzheimer Scotland allocated a share in lottery funding**

In order to improve support for carers in Scotland, over GBP 1 million has been allocated between five organisations by the Big Lottery Fund Scotland. Alzheimer Scotland Action on Dementia will receive GBP 234,929 to produce a carer resource guide for the Highland region and "a report to highlight models of good practice and recommendations to overcome barriers and identify a new practice model."

Henry Simmons, Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland said: "This funding will be absolutely invaluable to the many people who care for someone with dementia in the Highlands."
Carers are often faced with social isolation, particularly so in remote and rural areas; this support will help them to stay involved in community life and reassure carers that they do not have to cope with dementia on their own."

There are some 660,000 carers in Scotland and the remaining funds will go to:

- a) the Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland organisation which will fund a new web-based training package for carers (GBP 109,000),
- b) a University of Stirling initiative that will help to improve the lives of 1,000 older carers who look after a person with dementia (GBP 306,876),
- c) the Renfrewshire Carers’ Centre which will develop an emergency planning database (GBP 273,639) and
- d) the Princess Royal Trust for Carers (GBP 229,148).

Big Lottery Fund Scotland chairwoman, Alison Magee, explained: "With this GBP 1m investment the Big Lottery Fund wants to support people who are at risk of becoming isolated and left to cope on their own without the emotional support or practical information they require."

**15 January 2010: Statutory bodies of Alzheimer Portugal take office**

Following the elections on 14 November 2009, members of the newly elected statutory bodies of Alzheimer Portugal took office on 15 January 2010 for a term of three years (2010-2012 inclusive).

Some of the previous members from the Board have been retained, including its President Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis (also current member of the Alzheimer Europe Board, elected in 2008).

The candidacy for the next three years took into consideration the work that has been initiated, most notably with regard to the completion of the Alapraia Project - a nursing home directed to people with dementia - and of all tasks that relate to this project, namely operation and financing, which poses a great challenge for the next three years.

Besides ensuring the continuity of the work done by the previous members, the new statutory bodies also add new elements, with technical and work expertise, providing added values for the success of the Alapraia Project.

**26 January 2010: Neil Hunt leaves position of Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Society**

After nearly seven years in the role as Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Society, Neil Hunt left the position. On his departure, he said:

"I have decided that after nearly seven years in post, now is the time to seek new challenges.

The dementia agenda has changed beyond all recognition in recent years. No longer will this condition be ignored in the way it once was. I am confident that as a health priority we see a new determination to address the challenges it brings to individuals, families and to us all as a nation.

"Alzheimer’s Society has also been substantially remodelled. It is a stronger, more confident organisation with a clear management line embracing all branches, staff and volunteers, enabling it to rise to the challenge of meeting the needs of 700,000 people. I will miss the job but this is the time to leave."

Alastair Balls, Chair of Alzheimer's Society, said:

'Neil has made a tremendous contribution to Alzheimer's Society and to people living with dementia. The National Dementia Strategy for England and the similar plans for Wales and Northern Ireland are testament to his outstanding energy and vision. The whole Society wishes him well in his next role."

Ruth Sutherland, Chief Operating Officer of Alzheimer's Society will become Acting Chief Executive until a replacement is appointed.

Alzheimer Europe, who has enjoyed a strong and productive collaboration with Neil in his role as Alzheimer Europe Board member since 2008, would like to take this opportunity to wish Neil every success in his new challenges.

**29 January 2010: Belgian Alzheimer association’s “bulk mail” initiative a success**

Employees and volunteers of the Belgian Alzheimer association, La Ligue Alzheimer, worked hand in hand during January to make their “2010 bulk mail” initiative a success. Their teamwork ensured that thousands of letters and colourful leaflets with the 2010 agenda of La Ligue Alzheimer’s activities were sent to families and professionals. The envelopes included information on dates, themes and meeting
points for conferences, Alzheimer Cafés, training sessions and discussion groups.

The bulk mail was the result of considerable preparatory work by the organisation which included finding themes and speakers for the conferences, booking premises for the Alzheimer Cafés and updating documents. Having gathered all the information, volunteers Paulette, Louis and Guy folded leaflets, glued stickers and stamps and posted the letters.

Members’ forthcoming events

February 2010: Swedish Alzheimer association prepares training courses for dementia nurses

Following on from their successful educational courses on dementia in 2009, Alzheimerföreningen i Sverige will run further courses in February, March, April and May. Each three-day course accommodates up to 25 nurses and lectures are offered by some of Sweden’s most respected scientists with topics such as ethics and treatment being covered.

In addition, the association is preparing to continue with their information nights around Sweden.

15 February 2010: Alzheimer Scotland will organise information day on money and legal matters for people with dementia, their carers and families

Alzheimer Scotland will be hosting a “Money and Legal Matters Information Day” where, during a series of workshops, experts will discuss amongst other things:

- how people with dementia can be involved in planning their own care and support
- how they can make their wishes known when planning for the future
- the social security benefits and other kinds of financial help available to people with dementia and their carers
- paying for care at home or in a care home
- rights to community care services
- power of attorney
- guardianship and intervention orders

- adult support and protection.

Alzheimer Scotland will be available for information and support.

The event costs GBP 5.00 and will take place on 15 February and bookings can be taken until 10 February 2010.

5 May 2010: Alzheimer Society of Ireland will organise fund-raising cycle challenge in Cuba

In order to raise awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and funds for the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, the Cuba Cycle Challenge 2010 will take place from 5th to 13th May. The 8-day, fully supported point-to-point road 325 km road tour can be completed by anyone of average fitness after training.

Science Watch

This section has a selection of the most recent published research on dementia, including research on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of the disease.

4 January 2010: Study identifies new compounds in snowdrop plants which may be beneficial in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers obtained 17 alkaloids (naturally occurring chemical compounds which contain nitrogen) from two types of winter snowdrop plants (galanthus nivalis and galanthus elwesii). Three of the identified alkaloids were new to science. The alkaloid isolated in the galanthus elwesii species is a “licorine” alkaloid and some derivatives of licorine are known to be able to inhibit the enzyme acetylcholinesterase. This enzyme plays a detrimental role in Alzheimer’s disease as it degrades the neurotransmitter acetylcholine and therefore the researchers hope to investigate whether the newly identified alkaloid may prove to be useful in the treatment of the disease.

Alkaloids already found in the botanical family to which these two plants belong (Amaryllidaceae) are acetylcholinesterase (ACE) inhibitors, such as galantamine which is used to treat mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease.

The research was carried out by the University of Barcelona (UB).
4 January 2010: Study investigates the interactions between HIV infection, ageing and brain function

A study has found that the brain blood flow values in people with HIV were “significantly reduced compared to uninfected controls”. The levels were found to be equivalent to readings for uninfected individuals 15 to 20 years older. The blood flow was measured by using a non-invasive technique known as arterial spin labelling.

Participants with HIV had greater blood flow increases than the control group when asked to perform visual tasks, which suggests that the brain had to work harder. The researchers concluded that HIV infection, or its treatments, are prematurely ageing the brain.

Led by Beau Ances, MC, PhD, assistant professor of neurology at Washington University, St Louis, USA, the research was published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

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

6 January 2010: Study examines the relationship between electromagnetic waves and Alzheimer’s disease

Research on mice suggests that long-term (two 1 hour periods each day for nine months) exposure to electromagnetic waves associated with cell phone use may actually protect against, and even reverse, Alzheimer’s disease. Researchers found that if the exposure began in early adulthood that cognitive ability appeared to be protected and in older mice memory problems appeared to disappear when exposed to the waves.

Further research will be carried out.

The study, led by University of South Florida researchers at the Florida Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC), was published today in the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease.

8 January 2010: Study examines the effect of health cocktail drink on the memory of people with Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers found a “significant improvement in the delayed verbal recall task” in people with Alzheimer’s disease who had received the drink “Souvenaid” once a day for 12 weeks compared to those who had not. The study consisted of 225 people with Alzheimer’s disease, some of whom received Souvenaid, others receiving a control drink. Souvenaid includes the ingredients omega-3 fatty acids, uridine, choline, B vitamins and antioxidants.

Led by Professor Richard Wurtman of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA, the research has been published in the January 2010 edition of the Journal of the American Alzheimer’s association.

10 January 2010: Study investigates effects of chemical found in seaweed on Alzheimer’s disease

Researchers found that the chemical “homotaurine” (which is found in seaweed) may have a beneficial effect for people with Alzheimer’s disease. Led by Giovanni Scapagnini of Molise University, Italy, the study was presented at a geriatric medicine convention in Rome. Some 2,000 people from Europe and the US participated in the study which was conducted over an 18-month period.

11 January 2010: Study examines the association between diabetes mellitus and dementia

A study on the risk that diabetes plays in the conversion from mild cognitive impairment to dementia found that “diabetes mellitus increases not only the risks of dementia and mild cognitive impairment but also the risk of progression from such impairment to dementia”.

The study was carried out by Alzheimer’s Research Trusts scientists at King’s College, London, UK and published in the British Journal of Psychiatry.

11 January 2010: Study examines the effects of a health warning on the use of antipsychotic drugs for people with dementia

Researchers who analysed data of atypical antipsychotic drug use in the US between 2003 and 2008 found a decline in the use of atypical medications within one month of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issuing an advisory regarding the risks of such medication in the treatment of elderly people with dementia. The advisory, issued in April 2005, requested that drug manufacturers include a warning regarding with the medication regarding the increased risk of death being associated with using atypical antipsychotics to treat behavioural symptoms in older people with dementia. The decline in the use of atypical
medications continued to the end of 2008 (when the study finished) and contrasts with the increased rate of atypical drug usage from January 2003 to March 2005.

**12 January 2010: Study examines the role that blood pressure drugs may have in the prevention of Alzheimer’s disease**

Researchers from Boston University School of Medicine, US, have found that “angiotensin receptor blockers are associated with a significant reduction in the incidence and progression of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia compared with angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors or other cardiovascular drugs in a predominantly male population”.

The study was published in the British Medical Journal.

**12 January 2010: Study compares the prevalence of subtypes of depression with different types of dementia**

Researchers who compared the prevalence of subtypes of depression in people with Alzheimer’s disease, vascular dementia and unspecified dementia, found that depressive disorders are more prevalent in vascular dementia in comparison with the other two types.

The study was led by Ruby C. Castilla-Puentes, Director, Post-Marketing Safety Expert, Johnson & Johnson, Pharmaceutical Research and Development and published in the Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association.

**12 January 2010: Study examines early dementia diagnosis in relation to the risk of suicide and euthanasia**

Researchers have found that there is a need to develop protocols to monitor and manage suicide risk, which will assist specialists when conveying the diagnosis of dementia. This is because diagnosis of dementia occurs earlier and this, together with an absence of any effective treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia, results in a potential risk of suicide and/or requests for physician-assisted suicide.

The study was led by Brian Draper, School Psychiatry, University of South Wales, Sydney, Australia and published in Alzheimer’s and Dementia, The Journal of the Alzheimer’s Association.

**13 January 2010: Study examines the relationship between the loss of smell and Alzheimer’s disease in mice**

A study on mice has found a link between a loss of smell and the build up of amyloid protein in the brain (associated with Alzheimer’s disease). The researchers found that Alzheimer’s disease pathology occurs first in a region of the mouse brain responsible for smelling and coincided with the mice having abnormal abilities to smell. This led to the conclusion that olfactory dysfunction may become a diagnostic tool for Alzheimer’s disease.

The research was conducted by the NYU Langone Medical Center, USA and published in the Journal of Neuroscience.

**13 January 2010: US drop in federal funds impacts Alzheimer’s disease research funding**

A study shows that “After a decade of doubling, the rate of increase in biomedical research funding slowed from 2003 to 2007, and after adjustment for inflation, the absolute level of funding from the National Institutes of Health and industry appears to have decreased by 2% in 2008.”

Speaking of the impact upon research funding for Alzheimer’s disease, Bill Thies, chief medical and scientific officer of the Alzheimer’s Association, Chicago, Illinois said, “You might as well go and buy a couple of lottery tickets – that’s got the same chance of funding your lab...The investment in Alzheimer disease is simply inadequate for the size of the public health issue that is going to present to the world.”

The study was carried out by researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center, New York, USA and published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

**13 January 2010: Study suggests link between gene variation and a slower memory decline, lower incident dementia and Alzheimer’s disease risk**

A study suggests that there may be an association between a particular variation (V405) of the gene choleteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) and a slower memory decline and lower incident dementia and Alzheimer’s disease risk.

The study was carried out by researchers from Yeshiva University and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA and published in...
**14 January 2010: New technique identified which may help early diagnosis and subsequent treatment of Alzheimer’s disease**

A study on mice and rats has enabled researchers to identify a new technique which enables retinal cell death to be measured in real time. It is hoped that this technique could be particularly useful in early diagnosis of neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s disease and subsequently, assessing treatment.

The research was led by Professor Francesca Cordeiro, Glaucoma and Retinal Neurodegeneration Research Group, UCL Institute of Ophthalmology, University College London, UK and published in the journal Cell Death and Disease.

**17 January 2010: Study illustrates how zebra fish respond to drugs may help researchers understand human response to drugs**

Zebra fish have a similar brain chemistry to humans, therefore, how the fish respond to certain drugs may help researchers predict how humans will respond to the same drugs. Two research teams (one led by Peterson from the Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts, USA, and one from led by Alexander Schier at Harvard University) found that “each drug had its own fingerprint in terms of what kinds of behaviour it produced. And drugs with similar fingerprints tended to tweak the same molecular pathways, which suggests zebra fish behaviour is a good indicator for how a drug will change chemistry in the human brain.” The teams identified chemicals that might treat, inter-alia, Alzheimer’s disease.

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

[www.alzheimer-europe.org](http://www.alzheimer-europe.org)

**18 January 2010: Study examines the effect of excess copper and iron in the ageing process**

A study suggests that whilst copper and iron are useful during reproductive years, that as the ageing process takes place, an excess of these metals causes oxidant damage and that symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease and heart disease become exacerbated.

This led the research team to review ways in which intake of the harmful substances could be reduced.

The research was led by George Brewer, Departments of Human Genetics and Internal Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, USA and published ahead of print the journal Chemical Research in Toxicology and also as a press release on the American Chemical Society’s website.

**20 January 2010: Study examines the effect consumption of blueberry juice has on memory**

A study in which volunteers with early memory decline drank the equivalent of 2-2.5 cups of commercially available blueberry juice (which contains phytochemicals) every day for a two-month period found that they displayed “significant improvement on learning and memory tests” compared to the control group.

The study was carried out by researchers from the University of Cincinnati and the Canadian Department of Agriculture and published in the Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry.

**25 January 2010: Study examines the role of the protein FKBP52 plays in Tau function**

Abnormalities of Tau proteins can be associated with Alzheimer’s disease. In a study which examined whether there was a relationship between the binding protein, FKBP52, and the Tau function, it was found that FKBP52 “binds directly and specifically to Tau” and that an “over-expression of FKBP52 in differentiated PC12 cells prevented the accumulation of Tau which resulted in reduced neurite length.” Researchers concluded that...
these findings could indicate a role for FKBP52 in Tau function.

Carried out by Etienne-Emile Baulieu, Institut National de la Santé, Paris, France, and colleagues, the research was published in the journal of the Proceedings for the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

25 January 2010: USD 10 million grant awarded for frontotemporal dementia research

The US National Institutes of Health have awarded USD 10 million to researchers at the University of San Francisco in order to investigate how to “use new imaging techniques to illuminate the changes that occur in the brain” as frontotemporal dementia progresses. The imaging project will be obtained in various ways: through structural magnetic resonance imaging, position emission tomography, measurements of blood content in the brain and diffusion tensor imaging.

The researchers hope that this study will result in biomarkers for diagnosis being identified, offer a method for tracking the impact of experimental drugs and even lower the cost of clinical trials.

The Mayo team of researchers will work on this study, known as the Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration Neuroimaging Initiative, and will be led by David Knopman MD.

25 January 2010: Study examines the effects of resistance training and tone exercise training on cognitive functions in elderly women

A twelve month study on 155 elderly (65 to 75 years old) women which examined the effects of resistance and/or exercise training on cognitive function found that “resistance training benefitted the executive cognitive function of selection attention and conflict resolution” among the women. Executive cognitive functions are considered to be necessary for independent living.

The study was led by Dr Teresa Liu-Ambrose, assistant professor in the Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia, Canada and published in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

25 January 2010: Study examines the relationship between physical activity and cognitive impairment

A study in Bavaria, Germany, which monitored physical activity and cognitive function found that moderate or high physical activity in the elderly to be associated with a reduced incidence of cognitive impairment after two years.

The study (INVASTE) led by Thorleif Etgen, Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, Technische Universität München, Germany, was carried out on nearly 4,000 participants aged over 55 years and it was published in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

27 January 2010: Study examines dementia and mortality in people with Down syndrome

A study of dementia and mortality in people with Down syndrome may suggest a link between the early onset of menopause and the development of dementia at a younger age. This is because researchers found a that: “age at menopause in women with Down syndrome is a determinant of age at onset of dementia and mortality”.

The study was carried out by Antonia MW Coppus (Erasmus Medical Centre, Rotterdam, the Netherlands) and colleagues and published in the Journal of Alzheimer’s disease.

30 January 2009: Study examines brain activity and internet usage

The results of a study which examined the brain activity in people who had used the internet and in those who had not, suggest that internet use “triggers centers in the brain that control complex reasoning and decision-making”. The lead author, professor Dr. Gary Small, UCLA Memory and Ageing Centre, concluded that “a simple, everyday task like searching the Web appears to enhance brain circuitry in older adults, demonstrating that our brains are sensitive and can continue to learn as we grow older”.

The small study was conducted on 24 volunteers, aged 55-76 by researchers from the UCLA Memory and Ageing Centre and published on the website of Assisted Living.

28 January 2010: Study on mice creates neurons from skills cells

A study on mice has managed to genetically re-programme skins cells into neurons. In the study “skins cells were infected with a genetically modified virus that inserted genes into the cells DNA. The researchers began by introducing 19 genes that are known to be switched on when mice stem cells first differentiate into neurons during embryonic development”. After a week, the researchers found that some of the skin cells had become fully-functioning neurons.

The study could have far-reaching implications for diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease and the researchers are now focusing on carrying out the tests on human cells.
12 January 2010: Ex-talk show host, Sir Michael Parkinson, talks of his experience with dementia and the importance of dignity in care

In his capacity as the UK government's Dignity Ambassador, Sir Michael Parkinson has written a report about his experience of caring for his mother who had dementia and highlighted the importance of dignity in care for older people. He said: "I gained first hand experience of the National Health Service and care services during my mother's illness with dementia. It struck me that whilst there are some excellent examples of care, where people are given the dignity and respect they need and deserve, much more needs to be done."

18 January 2010: Musicians raise awareness of Alzheimer’s disease

Bass guitarist, Stuart Hamm and musician Andy Edwards have recorded an album and shot a video to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease. Andy's mother, Avis, (aged 67) was diagnosed with dementia a year ago and this motivated him to write the music and ask Stuart Hamm if he would play on the album. “Into my distance” has three instrumental tracks and is available as a video on YouTube. Proceeds from the video will be donated to the Alzheimer Research Trust.

New resources and publications

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

15 January 2010: UK Report identifies challenges regarding long-term care for older people

“Devolution’s impact on low-income people and places” is a paper which reports on the impact of devolution within the UK as well as policy developments including those in the area of long-term care for older people. The researchers found:

- The challenges faced by different parts of the UK in terms of demand for long-term care among older people to be similar.
- Delivery of long-term care to be largely in the hands of local authorities, except in Northern Ireland. A side divergence in need, ability to
pay and provision across local authorities within each country exists.

- Devolved countries cannot pursue long-term care policies that are wholly independent of the UK Government.
- Devolved administrations are at a disadvantage in developing long-term care policy because they do not have sufficient resources to conduct large-scale evaluations. The DWP and devolved administration do not tend to work closely in the development of policies.

The report also highlights the fact that “the Welsh approach to social care for older people has enabled local authorities to level out care charges and reduce costs for those on lower incomes. whereas Scotland has a more universal approach which is more comprehensive and costly”.

Carried out by Jim McCormick and Anne Harrop, the report is published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

27 January 2010: Training video launched

On a training video about the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people (LGBT), Roger Newman (pictured left) movingly speaks about his experience of firstly caring for his partner, David, who had dementia and subsequently caring for Michael who had cancer. Roger highlights the importance of care staff giving recognition and respect to the relationship the carer and patient have. The video talks through:

- The change in David’s behaviour and diagnosis
- Deciding how to care for David
- The anxieties faced by LGBT people going into care
- Roger’s experiences of residential care with his partner
- Working with the home to make it a more inclusive environment
- Making the decision to disclose their sexuality to care professionals
- Being respected in the care package.
### AE Calendar

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE Representative</th>
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<tr>
<td>4 February 2010</td>
<td>EFPIA Think Tank (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 February 2010</td>
<td>Second meeting of the Advisory Group preparing the Belgian EU Presidency conference on dementia (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 February 2010</td>
<td>Steering Committee meeting of PharmaCog project (London, UK)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 February 2010</td>
<td>Sounding Board of Interlinks project (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 February 2010</td>
<td>Advisory Meeting of Recognition programme (London, UK)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
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### Future Conferences

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>27 February-2 March 2010</td>
<td>18th European congress of psychiatry, <a href="http://www.kenes.com/epa">www.kenes.com/epa</a></td>
<td>Munich, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 March 2010</td>
<td>25th International Conference of Alzheimer’s Disease, <a href="http://www.adi2010.org">www.adi2010.org</a></td>
<td>Thessaloniki, Greece</td>
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<td>26 April 2010</td>
<td>25ème Colloque Médecine et recherche sur la maladie d’Alzheimer de la Fondation Ipsen</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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<td>12-14 May 2010</td>
<td>7th Biennial Conference Barcelona/Pittsburgh, <a href="http://www.fundacioace.com">www.fundacioace.com</a></td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 June 2010</td>
<td>1st International Congress on controversies in longevity, health and aging (CoLONGY), <a href="http://www.comtecnmed.com">www.comtecnmed.com</a></td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-11 September 2010</td>
<td>International Conference on evidence-based policy in long-term care, <a href="mailto:ltdconference2010@lse.ac.uk">ltdconference2010@lse.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-21 October 2010</td>
<td>Coming of Age: Dementia in the 21st Century, <a href="http://www.dementia.stir.ac.uk">www.dementia.stir.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21-23 October 2010</td>
<td>10th Congress of European society for clinical neuro-pharmacology, <a href="mailto:ivan.rektor@fnusa.cz">ivan.rektor@fnusa.cz</a></td>
<td>Zagreb, Croatia</td>
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The Alzheimer Europe newsletter arises from the 2010 Work Plan of Alzheimer Europe, which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme.