Editorial

February was a quieter month with regard to meetings and conferences than usual.

We were able to put this time to great use and to progress on a number of key priorities of our 2010 work plan.

The preparations for the Dementia in Europe magazine are progressing well and thanks to Julie’s efforts, the next edition again promises to be full of interesting initiatives and interviews with policy makers from different European countries. Our campaign to make dementia a European and national priority thus continues to show results.

With the return of Dianne after a prolonged sickness leave, we were also able to advance on our European dementia ethics project. We were able to find experts from different countries for both our working group on assistive technologies as well as the Steering Committee of the project and Dianne finalised a first literature review on the issue of assistive technologies. We will report in more detail on this work in next month’s newsletter after the working group has met in Brussels on 8 and 9 March.

The conference planning and the changes to our Internet site are also going according to plan and later this month, we will be launching the abstract submission and registration forms for the 20th Alzheimer Europe conference in Luxembourg. I am delighted that thanks to the support of the European Commission, we will be able to offer registration at EUR 240, a much reduced rate compared to previous years.

The growing role of Alzheimer associations is again highlighted in February’s issue. You will find news on our Dutch colleagues partnering with the Ministry of Health in the development of new outcome indicators for dementia care, whereas the President of the French association participated in an evaluation meeting of the French Alzheimer’s Plan.

The variety of research articles this month is again highly impressive. Yet at the same time, a report in the UK underlined the lack of funding for research into the causes and a cure for Alzheimer’s diseases compared to other conditions.

And last but in no ways least, we report on the European Parliament confirming John Dalli from Malta as the new Health Commissioner and we sincerely hope that we will be able to count on his continued support for our important cause.

Jean Georges
Executive Director
European Alzheimer’s Alliance

In February Nessa Childers, MEP (Ireland) joined the European Alzheimer’s Alliance.

With her support, the number of Members of the European Parliament who have pledged their support to Alzheimer Europe by joining the European Alzheimer’s Alliance has been increased to 42. Alzheimer Europe can now count on the support of Members of the European Parliament from six of the seven political groups and from 15 of the 27 Member States of the European Union.

The members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance are the following:

**Belgium:**
Brepeels Frieda (Greens/EFA), Ries Frédérique (ALDE), Staes Bart (Greens/EFA), Sterckx Dirk (ALDE)

**Cyprus:**
Triantaphyllides Kyriacos (GUE/NGL)

**Czech Republic:**
Cabrnoch Milan (ECR), Kohlicek Jaromir (GUE/NGL), Roithova Zuzana (EPP)

**Denmark:**
Schaldemose Christel (S&D)

**Finland:**
Jaakonsaari Liisa (S&D), Jäätteenmäki Anneli (ALDE), Pietikäinen Sirpa (EPP)

**France**
Audy Jean-Pierre (EPP), De Veyrac Christine (EPP), Griesbeck Nathalie (ALDE), Grossetête Françoise (EPP), Morin-Chartier Elisabeth (EPP)

**Germany**
Niebler Angelika (EPP), Roth-Behrendt Dagmar (S&D), Ulmer Thomas (EPP), Weisgerber Anja (EPP)

**Greece**
Kopka Maria Eleni (S&D), Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou Rodi (EPP)

**Ireland**
Aylward Liam (ALDE), Childers Nessa (S&D); Crowley Brian (ALDE), McGuiness Mairead (EPP), Mitchell Gay (EPP)

**Italy**
Panzeri Pier Antonio (S&D), Toia Patrizia (S&D)

**Luxembourg**
Luling Astrid (EPP)

**Netherlands**
De Lange Esther (EPP), van Nistelrooij Lambert (EPP), Wortmann-Kool Corien (EPP)

**Portugal**
Coelho Carlos (EPP)

**Slovakia**
Mikolask Miroslav (EPP), Zaborska Anna (EPP)

**United Kingdom**
Hall Fiona (ALDE), McAvan Linda (S&D), Moraes Claude (S&D), Simpson Brian (S&D), Watson Graham (ALDE), Willmott Glenis (S&D)

Alzheimer Europe


Highlights of the Alzheimer Europe recommendations on good end-of-life care for people with dementia have been published in the Journal of Nutrition, Health & Aging. The recommendations were drawn up by the Alzheimer Europe working group on end-of-life care (see below) to “provide a basis for understanding and action with regard to end-of-life care not only for family caregivers but also for professionals, policy makers and anyone with an interest in palliative care”.

The recommendations cover issues such as:

- Dignity
- Treatment
- Care
- Consultation
- Discrimination
- Support
- Training
- Wishes of the person with dementia
- Funding
- Information
- Legislation.

The working group consisted of Sigurd Sparr (Nasjonalforeningen Demensforbundet, Norway); Dianne Gove (Alzheimer Europe, Luxembourg); Ana Bernardo (Hospital Residencial do Mar, Portugal); Mary Cosgrave (Beaumont Hospital, Ireland); Iva Holmerová
(Gerontologické centrum, Hungary); Sabine Jansen (Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft e.V., Germany); Birgitta Martensson (Association Alzheimer Switzerland); Barbara Pointon (Ambassador for the Alzheimer’s Society, UK) and Catalina Tudose (Romanian Alzheimer Society, Romania).

2 February 2010: Alzheimer Europe collaborates with Belgian authorities on survey on the societal aspects of dementia

Belgium, as the forthcoming EU Presidency of the European Union (second semester of 2010) identified the challenge of dementia as a priority of its work programme and commissioned the King Baudouin Foundation to carry out a survey on the views of Alzheimer associations on the societal aspects of dementia.

Alzheimer Europe partnered in this survey and collaborated both on the development of the survey as well as the data gathering from national Alzheimer societies.

The survey aims at identifying examples of best practice with regard to the involvement of people with dementia as citizens in local communities, policies and services for people with dementia living with their families or living alone and support and training for family caregivers.

The survey responses will be analysed by Murna Downs, the chair in dementia studies at the University of Bradford and the results will be presented at a conference at the end of 2010.

Alzheimer Europe Networking

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

On 4 February (Brussels, Belgium), Annette attended the Think Tank of the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA).

On 18 February (Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Jean met with representatives from Association Luxembourg Alzheimer and the University of Luxembourg for an exchange on the upcoming Alzheimer Europe conference in Luxembourg.

On 23 February (Brussels, Belgium), Annette attended the Carers Interest Group meeting on the EU 2020 strategy.

On 24 February (Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Jean met with Visual Online to discuss changes to the Alzheimer Europe website.

On 25 February (Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Krasimira Yordanova from Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria paid a visit to the Alzheimer Europe offices.

European developments

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

9 February 2010: European Parliament confirms new European Commission and approves a set of principles for cooperation between the two institutions

At its plenary sitting of 09 February 2010, the European Parliament approved the new European Commission led by President José Manuel Barroso, clearing the way for the EU executive to take office after nearly four months behind schedule.

The new European Commission was voted by 488 votes to 137, with 72 abstentions: 14 of the 27 Commissioners have been reappointed with different portfolios. Of particular interest to the activities of Alzheimer Europe and our member organisations are the following appointments:

- John Dalli (Malta) is the new Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy;
- Laszlo Andor (Hungary) is the new Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
- Máire Geoghegan-Quinn (Ireland) is the new Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science;
- Former Information Society Commissioner Viviane Reding (Luxembourg) has been reappointed with the Justice, Fundamental Rights and Citizenship portfolio and
- Former Health Commissioner Androulla Vassiliou (Cyprus) has been given the Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth portfolio.
The new Commission will have a 5-year mandate and stay in office until 31 October 2014.

With regards to the new provisions of the Lisbon Treaty which entered into force on 1 December 2009 and which establishes a new institutional balance, the European Parliament voted at the same time on a set of key principles to govern the cooperation between the Assembly and the Commission.

The European Parliament and the European Commission are currently revising the Framework Agreement that defines the relations between the two institutions, including their political responsibilities, the flow of information and legislative coordination.

Policy Watch

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

2 February 2010: UK report highlights underfunded dementia research

The results of the report “Dementia 2010 – The economic burden of dementia and associated research funding in the United Kingdom” considers the costs of dementia, the costs of cancer and cost comparisons across diseases as well as dementia research funding. Rebecca Wood, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Research Trust highlighted the report’s findings that:

- Every person with dementia in the UK costs the economy GBP 27,647 each year which is more than a UK median salary
- Government charitable spending on dementia research is 12 times lower than that on cancer, despite patients with cancer costing the economy GBP 5,999 per year.

And she concluded that “If we spend more proportionate sum on dementia research, we could unleash the full potential of our scientists in the race for a cure. Spending millions now really can save us crippling multi-billion pound care bills later.”

The Health Economics Research Centre at the University of Oxford produced the report, having been commissioned to do so by the Alzheimer’s Research Trust.

9 February 2010: Development of dementia guidelines to commence in the Netherlands

The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports has announced that “Zorgstandaard dementia” (are standard) will be developed, which will include a set of outcome indicators for dementia care. This should result in a solid financial base for the purchase of integrated care for people with dementia in 2012.

The guidelines will be developed with Alzheimer Nederland, together with professionals and care providers and should integrate existing professional guidelines (eg. On medical diagnosis, good collaboration practice) with the patient’s wishes, evidence based intervention and good practice guidelines. This will result in an Intergrated Care Standard which will help all parties from pre-diagnosis, through the progression of the disease to the end stage.

10 February 2010: UK government care bill could result in extra care costs for local authorities

Local authorities in the UK have expressed their concern that the proposed Personal Care at Home Bill could result in their having higher care costs. Under the proposals people with “critical needs” will be able to receive free care and others will be entitled to “re-ablement” such as adaptations to their homes. Current applicants who pay for their care may be entitled to this free care, but it remains unclear how this would be funded. Concerns have also been raised about how the eligibility criteria would function.

24 February 2010: US Legislation introduced to create national office leading government efforts to treat and prevent Alzheimer’s disease

Legislation which would create the first US national office responsible for leading government efforts to treat and prevent Alzheimer’s disease has been proposed by Senators Evan Bayh and Susan Collins. The newly formed office would by within the Department of Health and Human Services and its objective would be “to coordinate and oversee federal research on Alzheimer’s disease to develop a plan to combat the disease and eventually develop a cure.”
Members’ News

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

31 January 2010: New director appointed for France Alzheimer

Thierry Jarlet, a former Director of Communication and Administrative Affairs of the Commission Nationale Informatique et Libertés (CNIL), and Consultant on the theme of efficacy creation of value versus ethics/authenticity, has commenced work in his new role of Director General for France Alzheimer.

11 February 2010: France Alzheimer participates in review of the implementation of the French Alzheimer’s Plan

The French Alzheimer’s Plan was launched two years ago. At a review meeting, the president of the Association France Alzheimer, Arlette Meyrieux, represented people with dementia and their families to the President of the Republic, Nicolas Sarkozy. Whilst the training of caregivers by the Association had been implemented, she expressed her concern that, two years on, families’ needs are not being met as they are not seeing the effect of the Plan in their everyday lives. In particular, delays in other measures (such as the monitoring of the health of caregivers and in the training of professionals in the care of Alzheimer’s disease) were resulting in a lost opportunity to improve the lives of people with dementia and their carers.

Ms Meyrieux called for regional committees to monitor the implementation of the Alzheimer Plan.

11 February 2010: Britt Ekland supports the re-launch of the Alzheimer’s Society “Old Jewellery Appeal”

The Alzheimer’s Society has re-launched it’s appeal for people to donate old jewellery to the organisation. The Society has run this appeal the last 18 years with the help of London jeweller Nicolas Mullings, who is also an Ambassador for the Society. The jewellery is collected then turned into funds for the Society.

The actress Britt Ekland, who is an Alzheimer’s Society Patron and whose mother had Alzheimer’s disease, has supported this appeal. Ms Ekland said “My mother was struck by dementia in her early 60s and was ill for eleven tortuous years”

“We all have odd bits of jewellery or even costume jewellery that’s no longer in style that could be donated. Get a head start on spring cleaning to help Alzheimer’s Society defeat dementia by donating your old and unwanted jewellery today.”

22 February 2010: Swedish Alzheimer Association organises information lecture and local Alzheimer association chairman attracts media attention

The Swedish Alzheimer Association (Alzheimerföreningen) together with the local association in Borlänge held a successful lecture evening with more than 500 people attending. Lecturers were given by professor Arne Brun and PhD Sebastian Palmqvist as well as Swedish actor Sven Wollter.

Great media interest has been achieved by the appointment of the new chairman in the local Alzheimer association in Dalarnas län, Borlänge. Mattias Karlsson, who is only 28 years old, has been interviewed on the radio and newspapers as it is unusual to have such a young person in this position. Mattias’ father was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease two years ago, aged 52 and this has motivated Mattias into action. Information can be found on his blog: mlesliek@hotmail.com and also on facebook: Alzheimerföreningen i Dalarnas län where the local organisation has a page.

Mattias Karlsson

Thierry Jarlet

Britt Ekland
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.

29 January 2010: Study examines the effect of magnesium on memory function in rats

A study suggests that learning abilities, working memory and short and long-term memory in rats can be enhanced by increasing the level of brain magnesium. This increase was achieved using a newly developed magnesium compound, magnesium-L-threonate, MgT.

The study was conducted by Dr Inna Slutsky, Tel Aviv University’s Sackler School of Medicine and colleagues and was published in the journal Neuron.

29 January 2010: Clinical trial for potential dementia drug to commence

Allon Therapeutics Inc. has announced that enrolment has begun for a human clinical trial of its drug davunetide. The trial, which follows successful human efficacy and safety Phase II trials in people with amnestic mild cognitive impairment, will compare multi-dose safety, tolerability and pharmacokinetic profile in 10 participants.

30 January 2010: Study identifies drugs which may help in the detection of Alzheimer’s disease

A study has highlighted two drugs, (the benzimidazole derivatives lanzoprazole and astemizole) as potential positron emission tomography (PET) radiotracers in the early detection of Alzheimer’s disease.

Further investigations have been called for. The study was published in the Journal of Alzheimer’s disease and carried out by researchers from the International Center for Biomedicine and the University of Chile, in collaboration with the Center for Bioinformatics of the Universidad de Talca.

1 February 2010: Netherlands study examines level of dietary intake by people with dementia in different day care settings

A study which compared dietary intake of older people with dementia receiving day care at regular day care facilities or at green care farms in the Netherlands suggests that intake was higher in the green care farms.

The research was carried out on over 50 people and published in the journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging.

8 February 2010: Study examines the dietary pattern of people with questionable dementia

A study on some 285 community dwelling Chinese people aged 60 and over found that those people who had questionable dementia had lower intakes of vegetables, fruits and fluid than those participants who were cognitively normal.

The study was conducted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong and published in the journal of Nutrition, Health and Aging.

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

8 February 2010: Study examines effect of cannabinoids on Alzheimer’s disease

A study on the effect of cannabinoids (compounds present in Cannabis) on the memory of genetically modified mice found that mice treated with the cannabinoid HU210 performed no better in memory tests than the untreated mice. In addition, the researchers found that the HU210 treated mice had the same plaque formation and density of neurons as the control group.

The study was led by Dr Weihong Song with researchers from the University of British Columbia and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and published in the journal Current Alzheimer Research.

9 February 2010: Study examines the variable memory performance in people with behavioural variant fronto-temporal dementia

An Australian study which investigated the variability in memory performance in people with behavioural variant fronto-temporal dementia (bvFTD) found evidence for “an underlying memory deficit in “real” or progressive behavioural variant fronto-temporal dementia (bvFTD) similar to Alzheimer disease, though the groups differed in orientation scores, with patients with bvFTD being intact. Exclusion solely based on impaired neuropsychological memory performance can potentially lead to an under diagnosis of FTD.”
The study was led by Prof. John R. Hodges, Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute, Cnr Barker St and Easy St, Randwick, Sydney and published in the journal Neurology.

10 February 2010: Potential Alzheimer’s drug commences clinical trials

Clinical trials have commenced of a lead compound, Posiphen, to treat people with the early stages of Alzheimer’s disease. The compound has been shown, in cell cultures of normal mice, transgenic mice with Alzheimer’s disease and Down Syndrome mice, to inhibit the production of amyloid-b precursor protein, which has been linked to Alzheimer’s disease.

The trial will measure in the cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) and blood plasma of amnestic mild cognitively impaired (MCI) patients the biochemical changes that are associated with AD and correlate them with the pharmacokinetics of the drug and its metabolites.

11 February 2010: Study examines the relationship between vision and dementia

A study, which examined the extent to which poor vision and treatment for visual disorders affect cognitive decline, found that “untreated poor vision is associated with cognitive decline, particularly Alzheimer’s disease.” The research was conducted on over 600 elderly US participants with normal cognition at baseline.

The study was carried out by the University of Michigan, USA and published in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

14 February 2010: Study on the brains of people with fronto-temporal dementia identified gene mutation associated with an increased risk of the disease

A study found that a specific gene was increased with an increased risk of fronto-temporal dementia (FTD). Gene mutations were found on chromosome 7 on the brains of people with FTD. Some individuals with FTD also have another mutation known as GRN and researchers believe that the newly identified gene accelerates the harm caused by GRN mutation, making the disease progress faster.

16 February 2010: Study examines gene associated with Alzheimer’s disease and cognitive function in younger people

Epsilon 4 is a variant of the gene apolipoprotein E (APOE), the presence of which is considered a risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease. Researchers examined the link between epsilon 4 and head injuries and found that young people from the military who had experienced head injuries and who carried this gene fared better in cognitive tests than those who did not carry the gene.

The research was led by Duke Han, assistant professor of neuropsychology at Chicago’s Rush University, USA.

18 February 2010: Potential diagnostic tool for Alzheimer’s disease developed

A new method which enables a calculation of the volume of the hippocampus to be made has been developed by using MR images. In the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease the measurement of the hippocampus can be useful as it can be one of the first areas to show the loss of brain cells. The new calculation is quick (3 minutes), accurate and automatic and therefore could be beneficial in offering a way to diagnosis Alzheimer’s disease which currently can be lengthy and not always reliable. Further tests are being carried out on its operational reliability.

The development of this tool is part of the EU funded research project, Predict AD, which “aims to develop a standardised and objective solution that would enable an earlier diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease, improved monitoring of treatment efficacy and enhanced cost-effective diagnostic protocols.” Organisations involved with the development are VT Technical Research Centre (Finland), GE Healthcare (Sweden), Imperial College London (UK), University of Eastern Finland (Finland) and Righospitalet Copenhagen (Denmark).

24 February 2010: Drug used for immune system treatment may have potential as a treatment for Alzheimer’s disease

A study has found that the brains of mice which modelled Alzheimer’s disease had fewer lesions after the mice had received the drug Rapamycin. The mice also exhibited fewer learning and memory deficits than at the start of the study. The drug Rapamycin has been used to help stop the immune system from attacking transplanted organs.
The study was led by Salvatore Oddo, assistant professor in the Department of Physiology of the UT Health Science Center San Antonio and published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

29 February 2010: Study examines incidence rates of dementia in people aged 90 and older

A study on 350 people which examined incidence rates of dementia in people aged 90 years and older (including estimates for centenarians) has found that “incidence of all-cause dementia is very high in people aged 90 years and older and continues to increase exponentially with age in both men and women.”

The study, conducted by Maria Corrada and colleagues from the University of California, USA, was published in the journal Annals of Neurology.

Dementia in Society

Articles here include coverage of dementia in the media, for example on television and in films.

1 February 2010: Sir Terry Pratchett gives Dimbleby lecture on assisted suicide

“Shaking hands with death” was the title of the lecture author, Sir Terry Pratchett, gave at the 2010 Dimbleby lecture. He called for an assisted suicide tribunal to be set up whereby people could apply for permission to end their lives at a time of their own choosing. He said the tribunal would “act for the good of society as well as that of the applicant … and ensure they are of sound and informed mind, firm in their purpose, suffering from a life threatening and incurable disease, and not under the influence of a third party.”

Of the medical profession he said “It seems sensible to me that we should look to the medical profession, that over the centuries has helped us to live longer and healthier lives, to help us die peacefully among our loved ones in our own home without a long stay in God’s waiting room … We should aim for a good and rich life well lived and, at the end of it, in the comfort of our own home, in the company of those who love us, have a death worth dying for.”

Sir Pratchett, who has fronto-temporal dementia, explained, “if I knew that I could die at any time I wanted, then suddenly everyday would be as precious as a million pounds. If I knew that I could die, I would live.”

15 February 2010: Actor Simon Callow talks about Alzheimer’s disease and raises awareness of the need for research

Actor Simon Callow has spoken movingly about his experience of his mother having Alzheimer’s disease and also his friend, play agent, Peggy Ramsay. In the newspaper article he reflects on the events which led to his mother being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease and also of his reaction to his mother’s behaviour, saying “One watches. One waits. One tries to be there for her. And one peers into one’s own future, and trembles.”

He also explained “It is unclear whether she still knows who I am. She says less and less to me, concentrating on running her tongue around her lips, an exploration that never loses its fascination. The other day, experimentally, I said to her: “Do you ever see Simon?” To my astonishment, she replied immediately: “Yes. I saw him twice. But he wasn’t coming to see me, he came to see that the others were all right.” “Did you mind?” “No, he had to do what he did.” “How was he?” “Tired. He works very hard. But he was well.”

Mr Callow also explained the particular concern the symptoms associated with dementia have for actors “For those of us who get by on our wits — writing, learning, framing opinions, expressing experience — this is an unspeakable horror. “O! let me not be mad, not mad, sweet heaven.” Acting, contrary to popular belief, is all about thinking. If the brain fails us even a little — a forgotten line, a missed cue — we go into a funk. And to watch these bright, forceful, intelligent women clouded over and mentally expunged by this malign spell has been nearly unendurable. But of course it affects everyone: one in 14 people over 65, one in five over 80.”

At the end of his article Mr Callow talks about the importance of research and in particular of the Edinburgh-based project: “The Disconnected Mind” which traces mental development and cognitive abilities, by retesting people whose IQ tests were recorded in 1947 (when the participants were 11 years-old). The project also factors in social background and diet.
22 February 2010: Study investigates public stigma relating to Alzheimer’s disease

A study conducted in São Paulo, Brazil, on 500 individuals measured stigma by interviewing participants to assess three dimensions of stigma: stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. The researchers found that “dimensions of stigma were highly prevalent in relation to Alzheimer’s disease” and called for interventions to overcome the negative effects associated with stigma.

The study was carried out by Sergio Blay and Erica Peluso and published in the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry.

25 February 2010: Awards given for medical research in Alzheimer’s disease

Recognition of new approaches to Alzheimer’s research was given to four researchers who received MetLife Foundation Awards for Medical Research into Alzheimer’s disease. Awards were given to Todd E. Golde, professor of neuroscience at the University of Florida and Edward H. Koo, professor of neuroscience at the University of California who identified the “gamma-secretase modulators that decrease production of the highly toxic 42 amino acid form of ABeta and also to Eckhard Mandelkow, director of the Max-Planck-Institute for Molecular Biology in Hamburg, Germany and Eva-Maria Mandelkow, principal investigator of the Max-Planck Institute, who have been “seeking therapies through analysis of the pathological folding of tau protein.”

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.


“Fast Facts: Dementia”, by Lawrence J Whalley and John CS Breitner has been published by Health Press. Chapters are included on:

- Basic neuroscience
- The aging brain
- Symptoms, signs and course
- Neuropsychiatric complications
- Clinical examination and investigations
- Principles of care and treatment
- Pharmacological treatment
- Epidemiology of the dementing illnesses
- Hypotheses on the causes of Alzheimer’s disease
- Future treatments.


1 February 2010: Hints for carers book published

“10 Helpful Hints for Carers – Practical solutions for carers living with people with dementia” provides practical solutions, ideas and practical information for carers. The book contains advice on:

- Relaxing environments
- Aggression
- Agitation and/or anxiety
- Depression
- Hallucination
- Sleeplessness
- Wandering and
- Organisations that can help.

The book costs GBP 7.50 and is published by the Dementia Services Development Centre, the University of Leeds and the University of Stirling.
1 February 2010: Short video about dementia available on you tube

A sensitive short video (9 minutes) which shows a day in the life of a grandmother, who has dementia, has been released on you tube. It conveys the feelings of confusion, anxiety and distress experienced by the grandmother as she tries to prepare a meal for her granddaughter. It also highlights the concern and upset which the family feel.

The video was produced by Vinn Bay and Tee Boon Leng for a video competition as part of the Alzheimer’s Disease International conference 2009.

1 February 2010: Specialised furniture designed to help people with dementia

A specialised range of bedroom and lounge furniture has been designed to “aid residents with dementia in their daily activities”. The range includes specific design features on:

- Drawers - Scooped fronts to enable easy viewing of contents
- Wardrobes – motion sensor lighting to illuminate objects
- Lounge furniture –1950s style to create a reminiscent environment for current residents.

The Dementia Range has been developed by the company, YTM Furniture, who are based in West Yorkshire, UK and who have supplied the care sector for nearly 30 years.

3 February 2010: UK paper considers variations in approach to dementia diagnosis, care and policy across the EU

A policy brief entitled “A problem shared is a problem halved? Dementia: Learning opportunities from Europe” has been published by the International Longevity Centre – UK (ILC-UK), written one of their Senior Researchers, Sally-Marie Bamford.

The brief considers dementia in terms of:

- The EU context and the emerging role of the EU institutions
- How the efficacy of policy interventions of Member States is assessed
- The reconciliation by policy-makers of requirements and funding

The author highlights the following priorities for action:

- Recognition at EU level of the fundamental human rights of people with dementia
- The use of the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being as a tool for awareness raising and exchange of good practice for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias
- Implementation of the European Council conclusions to develop quality frameworks for medical and care services for people with dementia
- The need for a Communication to call upon Member States to present National Action Plans
- The promotion of awareness and understanding of dementia by the EU
- A continuation of EU cross-cutting and interdisciplinary research.

8 February 2010: EU Commissioner for health and consumer policy launches webpage

John Dalli, the new EU Commissioner for health and consumer policy has launched his webpage which includes information on his mandate, team, background as well as news bulletins.

18 February 2010: European Patients’ Forum launches new website

The European Patients Forum (EPF) has launched its redesigned website (www.eu-patient.eu) to offer a rich source of information for patient and patient organisations within Europe. Improvements have been made on the navigational tools to provide easier accessibility for users with disabilities.

28 February 2010: Leaflet launched to help improve dementia care in hospitals

A booklet entitled “This is me” is designed to give medical staff information about each patient admitted to hospital. It has been compiled by the Alzheimer’s Society with the Royal College of Nursing. Basic details are covered such as the patient’s name, address, contact, hobbies, things that worry the patient, their eye sight and hearing capabilities, and mobility and sleep patterns.

The publication follows a report in November 2009 which highlighted that people with dementia spend longer in hospital than other
admitted for similar reasons and people with dementia leave hospital in a worse condition than when they arrived.

TV presenter Angela Rippon highlighted the problem her mother (who lived with dementia) had in hospital in that she would often be rude or aggressive to nurses. This made the nurses distressed. Ms Rippon said “The trouble is that student nurses don’t get any training in dealing with dementia specifically. Most of them haven’t had any experience of it and don’t recognise it, let alone know how to deal with it.”

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Maria do Rósario Zincke dos Reis (Portugal)

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**Call for abstracts for 20th AE Conference in Luxembourg is now open**

Please us the possibility of submitting your abstract via the Alzheimer Europe website on: www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences

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**We welcome abstracts for the following subjects:**

**People with dementia and their carers**
- Education and training of people with dementia and their carers
- Relationships and sexuality
- New technologies in the home
- Proxy decision making - Giving a voice to people with dementia

**Professional carers**
- Innovative care services
- Avoiding neglect, coercive measures and abuse
- Caring professions and their training
- New technologies for the caring professions

**Medical professionals and researchers**
- Involving people with dementia and their carers in research
- Communicating research results and managing expectations
- Disclosing a diagnosis to people with dementia and their carers
- Dementia research made easy

**Policy makers**
- Successful campaigning
- National dementia strategies
- Financing care and dementia research
- Policies supporting people with dementia and their carers
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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 March 2010</td>
<td>AE Staff Meeting (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)</td>
<td>AE Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 March 2010</td>
<td>COFACE meeting on the wellbeing of families in Europe, today and tomorrow (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 March 2010</td>
<td>Eurofound seminar on the company strategy in Europe: flexibility and social dialogue (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 March 2010</td>
<td>AE Working group on the ethical aspects of assistive technologies (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Dianne, Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 March 2010</td>
<td>Steering Committee of the European Dementia Ethics Network (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Dianne, Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–12 March 2010</td>
<td>ADI Conference (Thessalonica, Greece)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 March 2010</td>
<td>GSK Health Advisory Board (London, United Kingdom)</td>
<td>Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 March 2010</td>
<td>Meeting with International Longevity Centre (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Annette</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future Conferences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24-27 June 2010</td>
<td>1st International Congress on controversies in longevity, health and aging (CoLONGY), <a href="http://www.comteclmed.com">www.comteclmed.com</a></td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8-11 September 2010</td>
<td>International Conference on evidence-based policy in long-term care, <a href="mailto:islconference2010@lse.ac.uk">islconference2010@lse.ac.uk</a></td>
<td>London, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 September 2010</td>
<td>26e Congrès de la Société de Psychogériatrie de Langue Francaise (SPLF), <a href="http://www.nexcom-events.com">www.nexcom-events.com</a></td>
<td>Limoges, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9 October 2010</td>
<td>Gemeinschaft leben, <a href="http://www.deutsche-alzheimer.de">www.deutsche-alzheimer.de</a></td>
<td>Braunschweig, Germany</td>
</tr>
<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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