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18 June: Norway gets a new Dementia Strategy
24 June: EC holds meeting of government dementia experts
26 June: Our Policy Officer position is closed
26 June: Our Dementia In Europe magazine is out
29 June: Glasgow Declaration attracts high level support
30 June: We say farewell to Annette Dumas

Editorial
Welcome!
I’d like to start off by saying that we regret to announce the departure of Annette Dumas from Alzheimer Europe as of 30 June. Annette has held the role of EU Public Affairs Advisor at AE since 2006, on a consultancy basis. She was particularly instrumental in supporting our campaign to make dementia a European priority and in working with the European Alzheimer’s Alliance. I thank her for her many outstanding contributions and wish her every success in the future.

In other AE news, the latest edition of our Dementia in Europe Magazine is now available for purchase via our website, and applications have now closed for the position of Policy Officer. We will review these and contact applicants to arrange interviews in the coming weeks.

In AE conference news, the option on hotel rooms for 25AEC this September has now ended. I would therefore strongly urge you to book your room if you have not yet done so. There is very limited space due to this period being extremely busy in the city of Ljubljana.

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On the policy front this month, great news from Norway! The Norwegian Ministry of Health has released a new Dementia Strategy for 2020. The news has been met with huge enthusiasm from our Norwegian member, whose tireless campaigning has helped ensure this outcome.

On the EU front, I attended a meeting of governmental experts on dementia, organised by the Health Directorate General of the European Commission. Participants were given an update on the first WHO Ministerial Conference on Dementia and a briefing on the G7 initiative and the Global Action Against Dementia. For my part, I updated the group on AE’s activities and on the Glasgow Declaration campaign.

Speaking of the Glasgow Declaration, I am delighted to see it continuing to attract high profile support in the form of European and international policymakers and organisations. It has also been signed by in excess of 2,500 individual to date. I am very grateful to all signatories for their support and would encourage any of you who have not yet signed to do so and to share the campaign with your networks. If you want to help us gather signatures, why not follow the example of AE Vice-chair Iva Holmerová and her Palliare colleagues, who arranged a “Glasgow Break” for delegates at their conference in Prague this month to sign the Declaration. What a great idea!

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to offer huge congratulations to Agnes Houston, Vice-chair of our European Working Group of People With Dementia (EWGPWD) on the news of her MBE, awarded this month in the Queen’s annual Birthday Honours list.

I can’t believe the year is halfway through already. I wish you all a great start to part two of what has so far been a very productive year.

Jean Georges
Executive Director
17-18 June: Delegates at Palliare conference take a “Glasgow Break”

On 17 and 18 June at the Postgraduate Institute of Health Care Education in Prague, Czech Republic, the Palliare Project held a conference on Best Practice Statement Consensus. The first results of the project on care for persons in the advanced stages of dementia were presented, from eight European countries (the seven countries involved in the project, plus Belgium).

During the conference Alzheimer Europe (AE) Vice-Chairperson, Iva Holmerová, who is involved in the project and helped organise the event, arranged for delegates to take a “Glasgow Break” – a coffee break in which they were invited to sign the Glasgow Declaration. The 53 signatures gathered brings the total of individual signatures to exactly 2,500 at the time of writing.

The Palliare Project team is led by Professor Debbie Tolson from the Alzheimer Scotland Centre for Policy and Practice at the University of the West of Scotland. It consists of members from seven European countries: Scotland, Czech Republic, Spain, Finland, Sweden, Slovenia and Portugal.

Palliare is funded by the ERASMUS+ Programme and aims to strengthen interprofessional collaboration in dementia care, facilitated through a virtual international Community of Practice (CoP). This learning environment hopes to bring together people with a common interest in sharing and learning from one another and to champion evidence-informed improvements in advanced dementia care and family caring.

http://www.uws.ac.uk/schools/school-of-health-nursing-and-midwifery/research/palliare/

17 June: EWGPWD member Nina Balackova talks at Palliare conference

On 17 June at the Palliare conference in Prague, Nina Balackova gave a speech about her experience of living with dementia, called “Our voices have to be heard”.

Ms Balackova, a member of Alzheimer Europe’s European Working Group of People With Dementia (EWGPWD) was very well received and her speech was praised on Twitter by delegates as being “inspiring”, “brilliant open and honest”.

26 June: Applications close for Alzheimer Europe Policy Officer position

On 26 June, applications closed for the position of Policy Officer at Alzheimer Europe (AE).

Since the official announcement of the position on 29 May via our website, newsletter and social media accounts, a total of around 50 applications have been received. These will now be reviewed and interviews will take place in the coming weeks.

26 June: Alzheimer Europe publishes new issue of the Dementia in Europe magazine

AE released issue 20 of its Dementia in Europe magazine on 26 June. The new issue begins with news of AE activities such as the creation of an Expert Advisory Panel and the launch of the Glasgow Declaration campaign.

On the policy side, there is an interview with EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis, who discusses the Commission’s ongoing dementia programmes. There is also coverage of the implementation of the Irish national dementia strategy, the launch of Malta’s new strategy and the goals of Luxembourg’s EU Presidency term. This section also covers a recent WHO meeting where delegates called for global action on dementia.

Issue 20 includes a Spotlight on Slovenia as a prelude to AE’s 25th Annual Conference that will take place in Ljubljana in September 2015. This section features an interview with the Health Minister, a profile of Spominčica (Alzheimer Slovenia), expressions of support from Slovenian MEPs and a personal account of living with dementia.

The Dementia in Europe magazine is available for sale on the Alzheimer Europe website.


29 June: Glasgow declaration continues to attract high level support

This month, we were delighted to continue the trend of high profile support for our #GlasgowDeclaration, with yet more policymakers and organisations joining the ranks of those who believe #dementiamatters:

On 2 June, MEP Sean Kelly (EPP, Ireland) gave us his support. Mr Kelly has been a member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) since he signed the European Dementia Pledge in the run up to the May 2014 European Parliament elections.

Slovenian Health Minister, Milojka Kolar Celarc lent her support to the Declaration on 17 June, just days after we received signatures from two Slovenian MPs, Ivan Hršak and Franc Jurša.

We have also received support from five new organisations this month; two European and three national:
Slovenia’s Institute for Social Assistance at Home (DEOS)
Belgium’s SAO Stichting Alzheimer Onderzoek - FRA Fondation Recherche Alzheimer
Bulgaria’s National Patients’ Organization (NPO)
European Federation of Associations of Families of People with Mental Illness (EUFAMI)
European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS).

At the time of writing we have signatures from 2,509 individuals, 62 organisations and 61 policy makers (including 52 MEPs).

We are very grateful to all signatories for their support.

In other Glasgow Declaration news, in advance of our conference in Ljubljana in September we have created a QR code (pictured), linking to the online signature page, to ensure access is as quick and easy as possible for delegates to sign their support. Feel free to use it before then!

We are also delighted to have received the final elements of the online sign up from our German and Turkish members. The German version is already available on our website and the Turkish version will be available in the coming days. Our Finnish member, Alzheimer Society of Finland (Muistiliitto) has informed us that while the Declaration itself is available in Finnish on their website, the related sign up will not be available until after the summer.

The Glasgow Declaration is seeking a European Dementia Strategy and national strategies in every country in Europe. Signatories also call upon world leaders to recognise dementia as a public health priority and to develop a global action plan on dementia.

If you have not already signed, please do so today by clicking on the below button. We need your support!

30 June: We advise you to book accommodation for 25AEC now!

On 30 June, the option Alzheimer Europe (AE) had on conference hotel rooms for our 25th Annual Conference (25 AEC) ran out. If you are joining us for 25AEC and have not yet booked your hotel room, space will fill up very quickly due to another large conference in Ljubljana on the same dates, so please book quickly!

If you have not yet booked your travel, please be informed that the Star Alliance member airlines have been appointed as the Official Airline Network for 25AEC. For information on how to benefit from the discounted rate click here: http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/2015-Ljubljana/Travel-booking-information

Alzheimer Europe and Alzheimer Spominčica also provide reduced rates for students and for delegates from low and middle income countries. One day registrations and Gala dinner registrations are also available. For more information on the registration fees, click here: http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/2015-Ljubljana/Registration-fees

The detailed conference programme and abstracts for 25AEC, which will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 2 to 4 September, are available on our website: http://alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/2015-Ljubljana/Detailed-programme-and-abstracts

30 June: Farewell to Annette Dumas

Alzheimer Europe (AE) regrets to announce the departure of Annette Dumas. Financial pressures and budget constraints made it unfortunately impossible for us to continue our collaboration with her on a consultancy basis.

Annette held the role of EU Public Affairs Advisor of the organisation from April 2006 until 30 June 2015. In this role, she was particularly instrumental in supporting our campaign to make dementia a European priority and in working with the European Alzheimer’s Alliance of Members of the European Parliament with an interest in dementia.

We would like to thank her for her many outstanding contributions and wish her every success in the future.

DONATE NOW!
Help us make dementia a priority

EU Projects

4 June: Joint legal and ethical workshop for AETIONOMY project held

On 4 June, a joint legal and ethical workshop was held in Hannover in the context of the AETIONOMY project whose overall aim is to identify subgroups of dementia and Parkinson’s disease, based on the underlying genetic or molecular causes of the variants in order to allow tailored therapies. Dianne made a presentation on issues related to informed consent to research by people with dementia. There were interesting debates between legal and ethics experts as well as clinicians and representatives from pharmaceutical companies and biobanks.

9 June: EMIF holds 4th commercialisation workshop

The EMIF partners held their 4th workshop on commercialisation and exploitation on 9 June in Zaventem, Belgium. The delegates continued to develop principles on how the EMIF platform might operate after the end of project funding.
The day began with presentations on the external landscape and opportunities with post-authorisation studies but also on clinical trials and pharmacovigilance. These were followed by breakout sessions that evaluated business models that can be used and how EMIF services could be marketed, packaged and delivered.

24 June: Working group explores views of people with dementia and carers on outcome measures

A meeting was held in Brussels (Belgium) on 24 June 2015 in connection with a JPND-funded project organised by INTERDEM to explore whether existing outcome measures reflect the needs and priorities of people with dementia and their carers.

Alzheimer Europe Networking

On 1 June 2015 (Glasgow, UK) Jean attended the Alzheimer Scotland conference “Global Progress, Local Impact” to mark the launch of Dementia Awareness Week.

On 2 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette attended the EP Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders.

On 2 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium) Dianne and Annette attended the “MEPs meet EUGMS” meeting.

On 3 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette participated in E. Gentile (MEP) Health Discussions.


On 4 June 2015 (Hannover, Germany) Dianne attended the legal and ethical issues workshop of the AETIONOMY project.

On 9 June (Zaventem, Belgium) Alex attended a meeting of WP15 of the EMIF project.

On 9 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette participated in the European Patients’ Forum Public Affairs Group meeting.

On 11 and 12 June (Kuopio, Finland) Jean attended the 7th Kuopio Alzheimer’s Symposium.

On 11 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette participated in EFPIA’s Think Tank.

On 11-12 June 2015 (Ljubljana, Slovenia) Gwladys had a meeting with suppliers of the AEC2015.

On 12 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette participated in GSK Health Advisory Board meeting.

On 15 June (Brussels, Belgium) Kate attended a presentation by Janssen Research and Development.

On 15 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette attended the IMI Stakeholders meeting.

On 15 and 16 June (Brussels, Belgium) Kate attended a Patient Advocacy Engagement Workshop on Social Media Strategy, organised by Janssen.

On 15 and 16 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium) Dianne attended a two-day event to mark the 10th world elder abuse awareness day.

On 16 and 17 June 2015 (Copenhagen, Denmark) Gwladys went for a site inspection of venues for AEC2016.

On 22-24 June (Ghent, Belgium) Alex attended the 2nd General Assembly of the EMIF project.

On 24 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium) Dianne and Ana attended a meeting in connection with the INTERDEM work on outcome measures.

On 24 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Annette attended the Interest Group Access to Healthcare meeting.

On 24 and 25 June (Luxembourg, Luxembourg) Jean attended a meeting of government experts on dementia convened by the European Commission.

On 29 June-1 July (Brussels, Belgium) AE Board and staff members attended a lunch debate at the European Parliament, an AE Board meeting and Company Roundtable and Public Affairs meetings.
European Alzheimer’s Alliance

2 June: MEP Sean Kelly signs the Glasgow Declaration

On 2 June, MEP Sean Kelly (EPP, Ireland) signed the Glasgow Declaration.

Mr Kelly is one of a total of 52 MEPs supporting the declaration at the time of writing.

He is one of the 106 current members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), having signed Alzheimer Europe’s European Dementia Pledge during the run up to the European Parliament elections in May 2014.

http://alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/Glasgow-Declaration-2014/Signatories-Policy-makers

3 June: MEP Elena Gentile organises second Health Discussion

On 3 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), MEP Elena Gentile co-organised a second “Health Discussion” with CPME (the Standing Committee of European Doctors).

Ms Gentile, a member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), wanted to hear the EU was addressing alcohol abuse and Alzheimer’s disease. She also wanted to hear how TTIP (the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) was dealing with health, how CPME was engaging in ethical and transparent physicians-industry relationships and what were the organisation’s concerns about standardisation.

MEP Giovanni La Via, Chair of the Environment Committee in the European Parliament (EP), highlighted the need to work together to address the challenges of the healthcare systems and listen to the voice of civil society. He briefly mentioned the ongoing health discussions (clinical trials and medical devices).

The participants also heard from ACN (Active Citizens’ Network) about the new Interest Group they have set up in the European Parliament - an Interest Group on ‘European Patients’ Rights and Cross-Border Healthcare’. This new group will seek to strengthen the protection of patients’ rights in the EU.

The other MEPs present at the meeting were Olga Sehnalova and Damiano Zoffoli - both are members of the EAA.

Annette Dumas attended the meeting on behalf of AE.

EU Developments

2 June: MEPS meet with EUGMS (European Union of Geriatric Medicine Society)

On 02 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), Sirpa Pietikainen (MEP) organised a meeting between MEPS, EUGMS (The European Union of Geriatric Medicine Society) and EU stakeholders working on elderly, care and health issues. The aim of the meeting was to see how Members of the European Parliament and like-minded
stakeholders could work more closely with EUGMS to adapt policy to the demographic and social challenges.

Besides Alzheimer Europe, Alojz Peterle (MEP), Lambert van Nistelrooij (MEP), AGE Platform EU, Eurocarers, European Commission representatives (DG Social Affairs and DG SANTE) shared their respective work on the elderly and presented the ongoing EU initiatives that can support discussions. Annette and Dianne participated in the meeting.

2 June: EP Interest Group on Mental Health, Well-being and Brain Disorders meets

On 2 June in Brussels, Belgium, MEP Nessa Childers chaired the European Parliament (EP) Interest Group meeting on Mental Health, an event co-organised with the European Brain Council (EBC) to discuss the need for improved treatment of brain disorders as well as unmet medical needs.

The starting point was that most EU citizens diagnosed with a mental disorder do not find any appropriate treatment, be it for geographical or financial reasons, or because of stigma, as many of them will not dare speaking openly about their condition. The treatment of brain disorders misses the point that patients want to get back to work. The presentations and discussions made it clear that more basic and clinical research was needed. Brain research regrettably lags behind other fields of research. The conclusion of the event was that structural changes were needed to develop improved treatments for brain disorders. Annette attended the meeting.

3-4 June: Patients’ and Consumers’ Working Party (PCWP) of European Medicines Agency meets in London

The PCWP of the European Medicines Agency met for a two-day meeting in London on 3 and 4 June. The group decided its working methods for 2015 and decided on the membership and functioning of 5 topic groups dedicated to the impact of patient involvement, the visibility of patient input on Agency activities, training, social media and the involvement of younger people and children.

The different scientific committees of the Agency also provided updates on their activities, before the group discussed its involvement in the guidelines on the summary of clinical trials results for laypersons and in the assessment of benefit/risk at EMA.

Andrea Furia-Helms of the FDA attended the meeting and gave an interesting update of the US agency’s engagement with patients.

The second day was a joint meeting with the Healthcare Professionals’ Working Party where the European Commission of off-label use, the EU network strategy and the EU Clinical Trial Portal were discussed.

Jean Georges represented Alzheimer Europe, a full member of the PCWP, at the meeting.

9 June: EPF organises its Public Affairs Group meeting

On 9 June in Brussels, Belgium the European Patients’ Forum (EPF) organised its Public Affairs Group meeting.

The EPF’s work on patient discrimination in education and employment was discussed and the findings of a Eurofund study on employment opportunities for people with chronic diseases was presented to fuel the discussions.

The EPF’s work on e-health and patients’ survey on quality of care were presented and discussed. The EPF was also keen to discuss with the participants what in their views constituted a bona fide patient organisation.

A representative from Philips addressed patient safety. Annette Dumas attended for AE.

11 June: EFPIA organises industry/patients Think Tank

On 11 June in Brussels, Belgium, the EFPIA Think Tank was an opportunity for patient and industry representatives to discuss a number of different initiatives and brainstorm on specific topics.

On the agenda were EFPIA’s Health Collaboration Summit, discussions on Big Data, industry transparency campaigns. Annette participated in the meeting on behalf of AE.

15 June: IMI Stakeholders meeting includes a parallel session on Big Data

On 15 June in Brussels, Belgium, the IMI Stakeholders meeting organised a parallel session on “Enabling technologies: better health outcomes through Big Data”. Big Data will be the topic of a call for proposals later this year and the purpose of this session was to present the IMI consultation on this topic.

The consultation is looking for stakeholders’ input on the scope and desired impact of IMI in maximising the potential of big data in healthcare. The ROADS project would be a new potential program that would give an additional focus on Big Data and real world evidence, safety and outcomes. Alzheimer’s disease is a disease area that will be considered in the project.

Annette attended the meeting for AE.

15 June: Pierre Meulien named as new Executive Director of IMI

On 15 June the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) named Pierre Meulien as its new Executive Director.

Dr Meulien comes to IMI from Genome Canada and will take up his new duties in mid-September. He brings with him a wealth of experience working in academia, the pharmaceutical industry and research-funding organisations on both sides of the Atlantic. The news was announced at IMI’s annual Stakeholder Forum in Brussels.
15-16 June: Two-day event held in Brussels to raise awareness of the abuse of older people

On 15 and 16 June, a two-day event was held to mark the 10th world elder abuse awareness day. This event was jointly organised by the Council of Europe, the European Commission, Age Platform and ENNHRI.

The aim was to take stock of European and international action to tackle elder abuse and better protect and promote the rights of older people. There were numerous eminent speakers who argued in favour of the better use and identification of gaps in existing international and human rights instruments to protect older people from abuse.

Several sub-groups of older people, including women, people with dementia and people with disabilities, were identified as being particularly vulnerable to such abuse. It was agreed that it may be especially difficult for people who are dependent on others for their care to seek help.

Dianne attended the meeting on behalf of AE.

24 June: EP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare meets

On 24 June in Brussels, Belgium the EP Interest Group on Access to Healthcare organised a meeting to give an update of the group’s work. Participants were Health Attachés of national Permanent Representations to the EU, patient organisations, industry representatives, consultancy agencies. Interest Group Vice-Chairs, C. Busoi (RO), A. Kovatchev (BG), K. Kadenbach (AU) and B. Borzan (SI) presented the reasons for setting up such a group.

Stanimir Hasardjieff, Secretary General of the Patient Access Partnership (PACT) presented the Partnership’s objectives, its collaboration with the Interest Group and gave a short insight into the Partnership first steps : the mapping of access to healthcare in the 28 Member States. Prof. Kyriakos Souliotis presented some facts about access and talked about the survey PACT will launch to get a broad picture from the Member States. Access to healthcare will be explored through the 5A’s principle : availability, adequacy, accessibility, affordability and appropriateness. For the time being, to validate the questionnaire, a pilot cross sectional design study, is being carried out in France, Romania and Cyprus.

Annette attended the meeting.

24-25 June: Governmental experts on dementia meet in Luxembourg

On 24 and 25 June, the Health Directorate General of the European Commission convened for the fifth time a meeting of governmental experts on dementia.

Tarun Dua from the WHO gave an update on the first WHO Ministerial Conference on Dementia and John Rouse from the UK Department of Health briefed the group on the G7 initiative and the Global Action Against Dementia. Other updates were provided by the representatives of the Italian, Luxembourg and Dutch Presidencies, by DG Research & Innovation and the European Medicines Agency about ongoing activities, research and projects in the field of dementia.

A tour de table of country representatives focused on national developments in Bulgaria, Cyprus, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

The group also discussed the next steps in the development of the Second Joint Action on Dementia which will be coordinated by the Scottish Government on behalf of the United Kingdom and had a first round of discussions on the importance of post-diagnostic support and on national initiatives in this field.

Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe attended the meeting and updated the group on the organisation’s activities with a special focus on Alzheimer Europe’s work on national care pathways and the Glasgow Declaration calling for the development of a European dementia strategy.

On 29 May in Ascona, Ticino, Switzerland, at the Monte Verità convention center, looking over the beautiful landscape of Ascona and the Lago Maggiore, the delegates of the Association Alzheimer Suisse came together for their annual meeting.

It was the last meeting for Birgitta Martensson as Executive Director, as she will retire at the end of the year. The afternoon was dedicated to Ms Martensson and her fourteen years in the past. It was pointed out by various speakers that without her, the association would not be in such a strong position. Ms Martensson - experienced in the marketing industry - joined the head office in 2001 and has guided the association with diplomacy and power of persuasion, sometimes having occasion to make tough decisions. In a country like Switzerland, with its strong federal structure, much intuition is required to get all Canton members on board.

Ms Martensson’s main aim in recent years was to have a National Dementia Plan in place, a goal which was achieved when the Swiss plan was adopted last year.

Congratulations from Alzheimer Europe (AE) were delivered by Chairperson, Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein, who highlighted that over the past years her experience...
from Switzerland – at the heart of Europe, surrounded by EU countries – has been extremely valuable for AE.

Ms Martensson was elected to the board of Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI) in April, at their conference in Perth, Australia. At this farewell event, she received thanks for her work and for her dedication, which is further demonstrated by the fact that she will continue to contribute to the Alzheimer movement in the coming years.

30 May: Romanian Alzheimer Society hosts “Grandparents Club”

On 30 May more than 50 people attended a “Grandparents Club” organised by the Romanian Alzheimer Society. Vice-President, Maria Moglan made a presentation on “Signs and symptoms of depression in older adults and the elderly”.

https://www.facebook.com/pages/Societatea-Romana-Alzheimer/13697036583004

1 June: Alzheimer Scotland welcomes 550 delegates for flagship national conference

To mark the beginning of Dementia Awareness Week 2015, Alzheimer Scotland organised its national conference under the theme “Global Progress – Local Impact”. The event was opened by Henry Simmons, the Chief Executive of Alzheimer Scotland and representatives of the Scottish Dementia Working Group and the National Dementia Carers Action Network.

To show the continued commitment of the Scottish Government to dementia, Jamie Hepburn, MSP and Minister for Sport, Health Improvement and Mental Health delivered the keynote lecture in which he highlighted the progress achieved under the country’s dementia strategy.

The conference also provided an opportunity to show the international dimension of dementia with contributions from Glenn Rees, Chair of Alzheimer’s Disease International, Gerry Martin, CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Lisbet Rugtvedt, Secretary General of the Norwegian Health Association, Jeremy Hughes, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Society and Jean Georges, President, Maria Moglan of the Alzheimer Europe.

Gerry Martin participated in the Third International Symposium on Advances in Socio-Mental Health Research in Alzheimer’s.

In addition, participants could choose from a range of interesting and interactive workshops on different topics: Scottish innovation and improvement approaches, dementia friends, acute care, therapeutic interventions, citizenship and rights, arts and technology.

On a lighter note, the conference also tried to set a Guinness world record by capturing the biggest “mug shot” (pictured, above) of all participants in the audience raising their Alzheimer Scotland mugs for a photo.

1 June: Romanian Alzheimer Society attends Dacia Foundation event

On 1 June, the Dacia Foundation organised an event titled “80 years young – we receive youth, but old age must be conquered”.

Mrs Elena Dobrica, Coordinator of the Romanian Alzheimer Society’s Memory Centre, attended the event.

http://fundatiadacia.org/proiecte/80-de-anii-de-tinerete/

3 June: Romanian ELMI online carers course launches

This month, an Enhancing Labour Market Integration of elderly family carers through skills improving (ELMI) course kicked off in Romania, at a meeting held by the Romanian Alzheimer Society’s Memory Centre.

The course is an on-line training course for informal (family) carers of elderly people, with a special focus on the care of older persons with Alzheimer’s dementia. The course aims to equip informal carers with skills in elderly care, allowing them to face the challenges of this role. It also seeks to facilitate professionalisation and integration in the labour market.

The themes broached in the training program concern elderly care (nutrition, communication etc.), problems generated by the most frequent pathologies (with a special focus on Alzheimer’s dementia), stress prevention and support from social services.

The training course which in the original Italian version has 18 didactic modules (60 hours) - will be fully adapted for Romania. Two modules are also to be piloted in Poland and the Czech Republic.

http://www.elmicourse.eu/moodle/

8 June: CEAFA participates in an International Symposium

On 8 June Jesus Rodrigo, CEAFA Executive Director and member of the Board of Alzheimer Europe (AE) participated in the Third International Symposium on Advances in Socio-Mental Health Research in Alzheimer’s.

During his speech, Jesus explained the proposals and recommendations for the development of the “Alzheimer’s State Policy” in Spain, following the example
of its neighbouring countries, which already have National Dementia Plans in place.

Participants learned about developments in the field of socio-health research in other countries such as the UK, the US and Portugal.

More than 200 people gathered at the symposium, which was also attended by Her Majesty Queen Sofia of Spain.

12 June: SDWG members recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours list

The Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) was thrilled with the news that members Nancy McAdam and Agnes Houston were recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Ms McAdam received a British Empire Medal and Ms Houston was awarded an MBE. Both women are delighted.

Agnes Houston, from Coatbridge in Scotland, UK has a diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease and has spent the last 8 years campaigning on issues including better training of health professionals and raising awareness of the sensory impairments often experienced by people with dementia. Agnes was Chair of the SDWG from 2010 until 2012 and is currently Vice Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe (AE)'s European Working Group of People With Dementia (EWGPWD). She has spoken at national (UK) and international conferences and has been involved in a variety of projects and training initiatives around dementia.

Nancy McAdam lives on the Black Isle, near Inverness in Scotland, UK. She has a diagnosis of vascular dementia and has also spent a number of years campaigning on both local and national issues. She is involved heavily in the Highland Dementia Working Group as well as the SDWG. Ms McAdam was Chair of the SDWG Transport Sub-Group that produced a booklet on Travelling with Dementia, published in 2014. She has also spoken at conferences at home and abroad.

Both women are looking forward to attending the 25th AE Annual Conference (25AEC) in Slovenia in September and celebrating their award with their international friends.

Read Ms Houston's blog entry about her award here:
http://www.onourradar.org/dementia/2015/06/16/i-was-humbled-and-honoured-to-be-given-an-mbe-for-my-services-to-dementia

17 June: Alzheimer Scotland welcomes first Scottish survey into attitudes towards dementia

On 17 June the results of the Scotland-wide survey “Attitudes to dementia” were published in a report. Alzheimer Scotland responded to the report:

Alzheimer Scotland welcomes this detailed and comprehensive survey of Scotland’s attitudes towards dementia. As well as the importance of the findings themselves, ‘Attitudes to dementia’ is a vital piece of awareness-raising in its own right; reflecting the aims of our ongoing Let’s talk about dementia campaign and other positive messaging around the condition and those affected by it.

There are currently 90,000 people living with dementia and that number is expected to double by 2030. Dementia is therefore the most significant public health issue for Scotland. ‘Attitudes to dementia’ shows that three quarters of the public have had direct contact with someone with dementia. The survey offers invaluable insight into what Scotland knows and thinks about dementia, who we turn to for information and help, and who the public think should be responsible for delivering and funding care.

One of the most heartening aspects of the survey is the response to questions about supporting people with dementia in the community. The vast majority of us are willing to help a neighbour with dementia and over 60% of us believe that someone with dementia can live life to the full. Most of us believe that shops and other businesses should train their staff to better help people with dementia.

Becoming a Scottish Dementia Friend will help you understand more about dementia and the small things you can do to help people with the condition. This could be helping someone find the right bus or being patient in a shop queue if someone with dementia is taking longer to pay. Every action counts. It’s quick and easy to become a Dementia Friend online – visit http://www.DementiaFriendsScotland.org/

The full survey report can be downloaded here:

23 June: Spominčica is invited to meet with the Slovenian President

On 23 June, Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica) received an invitation from the Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor. Eight members of Spominčica, including two people with dementia and their carers, are invited to join President Pahor in his office next month, to present their Memorandum on dementia and to speak about the 25th Alzheimer Europe Annual Conference (25AEC). President Pahor last year accepted accepted honorary patronage of the conference.

23 June: France Alzheimer colloque minutes available online

The minutes of the research meeting of France Alzheimer are now available online.

The “Colloque Recherche et Politiques Publiques - Les actes disponibles” took place on 21 May in la Pitié-Salpêtrière.

http://www.francealzheimer.org/colloque-recherche-et-politiques-publiques
Muistiliitto concludes that “despite the lack of strong overall evidence, many of the interventions have had a positive effect at an individual level”. For any queries, contact:
Anita Pohjanvuori (Specialist), Alzheimer Society of Finland - anita.pohjanvuori@muistiliitto.fi

24 June: Alzheimer Uniti Italy stresses importance of cultural activities for people with dementia

"Culture for Alzheimer's" is one of the mottos of Alzheimer Uniti (AU) Italy. AU believes that cultural experiences for people with dementia - art, music and literature - stimulate memory, expressiveness and language, while also providing enjoyment.

With this in mind, AU brought people attending the Alzheimer Day Center of the Fondazione Roma Sanita to a new exhibit in Rome on “The Baroque”. They were shown previously selected sculptures and paintings from the baroque period in Rome and had the opportunity to examine and talk about the art works that they saw. This is part of the “museum therapy” project.

In addition, AU launched a new course of violin-based music lessons this month, for people attending the Center. Participants learn the basics of how to hold and play the violin, guided by a music therapist and a professional violinist.

Finally, AU organised a poetry workshop at which a famous poet read her poetry, discussed it with the group (bringing memories to the surface - pictured) and then helping the group to write their own poetry.

25 June: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland reports on Forget the Stigma campaign

It is possible to live well following a diagnosis of dementia as our powerful advocates are proving every day as they help to bring dementia out of the shadows by speaking, writing and opening up about the condition. However, stigma is still a significant obstacle to the well-being and quality of life of those with dementia and their families. Discrimination, devaluation and stereotyping sadly remain an everyday reality for people with dementia of all ages. Wholly inappropriate negative public images, stereotypes and terms associated with dementia still prevail while fear and shame associated with the condition means there is a reluctance to engage with those of us who have been diagnosed with the condition.

As a result, advocates, and their family carers, experience anger and hurt due to diminished social networks and negative social encounters. During the
month of June The Alzheimer Society of Ireland launched the “Forget the Stigma” campaign. The campaign seeks to rally the public to sign up to a simple, three-step challenge which asks people to learn the facts of dementia, thereby debunking the myths, to listen to people with dementia and link up with them.

There are 48,000 people in Ireland living with the condition - a figure set to treble in a generation. Our hope is the “Forget the Stigma” campaign, which features real people; mums, dads, sisters and brothers, will encourage a re-examination of the value placed on people with dementia and their carers by both policymakers and the general public.

We hope that by placing people with dementia at the centre of this campaign and telling their stories, the public will understand that dementia is not a condition exclusively of older age, and it affects each person in different ways. We hope the campaign will also demonstrate just how valuable a contribution people with dementia can make to society.

If you want to help to end the stigma surrounding dementia then please sign up to our campaign and ask your friends and family to do the same. It’s time to forget the stigma of dementia.

To sign up to our campaign please visit http://bit.ly/1FqQJXe or follow #forgetthestigma

Policy Watch

14 May: Irish Parliament holds debate on National Dementia Strategy

On 14 May there was a debate in the Irish Parliament on the country’s first National Dementia Strategy.

Minister of State Kathleen Lynch provided an update on the implementation of the National Dementia Strategy and 17 cross party TDs (Members of Parliament) then made statements on dementia and the strategy.

A number of important issues were highlighted during this debate including the need for additional resources to ensure the National Dementia Strategy is fully implemented, the importance of dementia-specific home care and the need for timely diagnosis and appropriate post-diagnosis support.

4-5 June: Switzerland hosts German speaking dementia symposium

On 4 and 5 June in the Swiss capital of Bern a symposium on “The Challenges of Dementia” was organised by the Swiss department of internal affairs (Eidgenössisches Departement des Innern EDI, Bundesamt für Gesundheit), in the context of ongoing cooperation between health ministers of German-speaking European countries. Switzerland, Austria, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein and Germany contributed to the programme.

In his introductory speech, Swiss Health Minister Alain Berset highlighted the importance of learning how to live with dementia, as an ageing society.

Alzheimer Europe (AE) Chairperson Heike von Lützau-Hohleibn was honoured to speak on behalf of the organisation about its importance for people living with dementia in Europe. Heike pointed out how essential it is to have strong advocacy for all people with dementia in Europe, in both rich and poor countries. She spoke about the Glasgow Declaration - as did others in attendance – and reported that its significance was in no doubt among participants.

The topics of the first day of the symposium were: the involvement of people with dementia (Rita Schwager and Birgitta Martensson gave an impressive dialogue on this), prevention, the “actual” knowledge as well as the hopes in the field of dementia, how to live at home with dementia and how to cooperate in dementia care.

On the second day, participants deepened their understanding of the topics broached on day one via workshops, coming up with a series of requirements. These were presented in a general discussion afterwards.

A dialogue about the ethical questions around dementia showed the audience some of the difficulties and the wide variety of answers to such questions.

The programme was interspersed with theatrical scenes by the “Hirntheater” (brain theatre), as well as music.

Heike evaluated the symposium: “it showed the different steps of the participating countries, the variety of programs that were developed and implemented.”

“It is important to learn from one another”, she concluded, but there cannot be “one-to-one copying” - countries need to adapt different ideas and approached to suit their own culture and structures.

18 June: Norway gets a new National Dementia Strategy

The Norwegian Health Association has for a long time promoted the need for a new National Dementia Strategy, to continue after the current one ends in 2015. The Association is therefore very pleased that on 18 June the Norwegian Ministry of Health released a new Dementia Strategy 2020.

To get input and advice for this new strategy the Ministry, in partnership with the Norwegian Health Association, among others, organised dialogue conferences across the country for people with dementia, their families, volunteers and scientists.

In the consultation letter, Norwegian Health Minister Bent Høie (pictured, meeting people with dementia and caregivers to get advice on the new dementia strategy) says: “The aim of Dementia Plan 2020 is to create a society that takes care of and integrates people with
dementia in the community. To reach these goals, we will contribute to greater transparency and greater knowledge of dementia. Anyone who has dementia and their families will be met with understanding and respect.”

A short version of the draft is also available, and is adapted for people with dementia and cognitive decline.

25 June: US Senate makes history with 60% increase in AD research funding

On 25 June, the US Senate Appropriations Committee approved an historic 60% increase – an extra USD 350 million (equivalent to EUR 312 million) – for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) research. If passed into law, this would be the largest increase in AD funding to date. Currently AD receives USD 586 million in funding.

http://www.alz.org/news_and_events_senate_makes_history.asp

Science Watch

14 May: Analysis of health insurance data suggests preventive effect of diabetes medication on dementia

A meta-analysis has concluded that giving people with type 2 diabetes an antidiabetic – pioglitazone - reduces their risk of developing dementia. The analysis, conducted by neurologist Michael Heneka and demographers Anne Fink and Gabriele Dobihammer at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), was published in the Annals of Neurology on 14 May.

Drawing on data from 2004 to 2010 – provided by the German public health insurance company AOK and comprising information about diseases and medication related to more than 145,000 men and women aged 60 and over – the DZNE found that “treatment with pioglitazone showed a remarkable side benefit. It was able to significantly decrease the risk of dementia...The longer the treatment, the lower the risk.”

The DZNE noted that risk reduction was most noticeable when the drug was administered for at least two years. It also said that diabetics given this treatment developed dementia less often than non-diabetics.

“Prospective clinical trials are needed to evaluate a possible neuroprotective effect in these patients in an ageing population”, the report emphasizes.


1 June: Protein involved in AD may disrupt sleep-associated memory

Sleep disruption associated with the accumulation of beta-amyloid protein in the brain - linked to Alzheimer’s disease (AD) - may cause memory problems in healthy older adults, concludes a study published in the journal Nature Neuroscience on 1 June.

Researchers at UC Berkeley, California, led by neuroscientist, Professor Matthew Walker, studied the ability of 26 healthy adults, between ages 70 and 79, to remember word pairs before and after a night’s sleep. Their research showed that the extent of beta-amyloid accumulation in the brain predicts a reduction in slow wave brain activity during non-rapid eye movement (NREM) sleep and an increase in memory impairments.

The authors suggest that this accumulation disrupts slow wave brain activity during sleep and this protein induced disruption, in turn, directly impairs long-term memory consolidation.

Alzheimer’s Society (UK) commented that while this small study of older people without dementia suggests the beta-amyloid build-up in the brain is linked to sleep disruption and poorer memory, the evidence “isn’t strong enough to prove it actually causes these problems”. More research is needed in bigger groups, to gain a better understanding of whether poor sleep contributes to the development of memory problems.

http://www.nature.com/neuro/journal/v16/n7/full/nn.4035.html

1 June: Researchers find lymphatic vessels linking brain to immune system

In a study published on 1 June in the journal Nature, a team of scientists at the University of Virginia (UVA) have determined that the brain is directly connected to the immune system by previously undiscovered lymphatic vessels.

The team, lead by Professor Jonathan Kipnis of the UVA Department of Neuroscience and director of UVA’s Center for Brain Immunology and Glia (BIG), were extremely surprised at their own discovery. Prof. Kipnis commented:

“I really did not believe there are structures in the body that we are not aware of. I thought the body was mapped,” he said. “I thought that these discoveries ended somewhere around the middle of the last century. But apparently they have not.”

The team believes their discovery changes entirely the way neuro-immune interaction is perceived and that for every neurological disease with an immune component, these newly discovered vessels could play a “major role”.

As to how the brain’s lymphatic vessels managed to escape the notice of scientists until now, Prof. Kipnis described them as being extremely well hidden, noting that they follow a major blood vessel down into the sinuses - an area which he commented is very difficult to image.

The unexpected presence of these lymphatic vessels raises new questions, both about the workings of the brain and the diseases affecting it:

“In Alzheimer’s, there are accumulations of big protein chunks in the brain”, Prof. Kipnis said: “We think they may be accumulating in the brain because they’re not being efficiently removed by these vessels.” He noted that the vessels look different with age, so the role they play in aging is another avenue to explore.
This discovery could potentially have profound effects on the study and treatment of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease, multiple sclerosis and autism.

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/vaop/ncurrent/full/nature14432.html

9 June: Roche is considering reinstating trials on AD drug

Swiss pharmaceutical company, Roche is considering reinstating testing of its experimental Alzheimer’s disease (AD) drug. The drug, gantenerumab had failed in an initial study and the phase III clinical study was discontinued last December.

Following promising early results in trials of a similar drug, aducanumab from Biogen (reported by AE on 20 March), Roche may re-run its own trial with a higher dose and other adjustments to the study.

Like Biogen’s drug, gantenerumab is an antibody that targets the beta amyloid protein.

9 June: FDA approves Phase Ila Clinical Trial for Stemedia AD therapy

On 9 June, Stemedia Cell Technologies, Inc. received the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)’s investigational new drug (IND) approval for a Phase Ila clinical study using its allogeneic stem-cell therapy for Alzheimer’s disease (AD).

The clinical trial, titled “A Phase Ila Multicenter, Randomized, Single-blind, Placebo-controlled, Crossover Study to Assess the Safety, Tolerability, and Preliminary Efficacy of a Single Intravenous Dose of Allogeneic Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Subjects with Mild to Moderate Dementia Due to Alzheimer’s Disease”, will be US-based.

10 June: Study finds gene mutation blocks prion disease in cannibalistic tribe

A study, published on 10 June in the journal Nature says that gene mutation protected a small group of the Fore tribe in Papua New Guinea from a rare form of dementia called kuru, as well as various other neurodegenerative diseases. Kuru - only found in this tribe - is similar to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), a prion disease that spontaneously strikes about one person in a million each year.

Kuru was first observed in the mid-twentieth century among the Fore people. At its peak in the late 1950s, the disease killed up to 2% of the group’s population each year.

Scientists later traced the illness to ritual cannibalism, in which tribe members ate the brains and nervous systems of their dead. The tribe has since ended the cannibalistic practice.

Previous studies have noted that some people seem less susceptible to prion diseases if they have an amino-acid substitution in a particular region of the prion protein — codon 129. In 2009, a team led by Professor John Collinge, Director of the MRC Prion Unit at University College London (UCL) and Head of the Department of Neurodegenerative Disease at the UCL Institute of Neurology found another protective mutation among the Fore, in codon 127.

Prof. Collinge is also the lead author of the most recent analysis which shows that the amino-acid change that occurs at codon 127, replacing a glycine with a valine, has a different and more powerful effect than the substitution at codon 129. The codon 129 variant confers some protection against prion disease only when it is present on one of the two copies of the gene that encodes the protein. But transgenic mice with the codon 127 mutation were completely resistant to kuru and CJD regardless of whether they bore one or two copies of it.

The researchers say that the mutation in codon 127 appears to confer protection by preventing prion proteins from becoming misshapen.

Prof. Collinge and his colleagues are continuing their work, looking at the mutant protein’s structure and how it might shield against various diseases.

http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v522/n7557/full/nature14510.html

11-13 June: University of Eastern Finland organises 7th Kuopio AD symposium

The 7th Kuopio AD Symposium took place from 11 to 13 June 2015 and was opened by Prof. Hilkka Soininen, Dean of the University of Eastern Finland and Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe who provided an update on the organisation’s Glasgow Declaration and its campaign to make dementia a European priority.

This year’s symposium was entitled “From mechanisms to prediction and intervention of Alzheimer’s disease” and gave the opportunity to world renowned specialists to present their latest findings. A number of EU projects in which Alzheimer Europe is involved were well represented at the meeting with presentations from Johannes Streffer, Janssen about EMIF (European Medical Information Framework), from Miia Kivipelto, Karolinska Institutet about EPAD (European Prevention of Alzheimer’s dementia) and from Jyrki Lötjönen, VTT about PredictND.

The abstracts of the symposium can be found at: http://www2.uef.fi/kkuopioadsymposium/

12 June: GSK organises its Health Advisory Board meeting

On 12 June 2015 (Brussels, Belgium), GSK organised its Health Advisory Board meeting. The patient organisations who participated in the meeting were: Coalition for Health (CZ), International Brain Tumor Alliance, EFA (European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients’ Associations), EGAN (Patients Network for Medical Research and Health), European Patients’ Forum, European Institute of Women’s Health, Lupus Europe and the European Patients’ Forum.

The aim of the meeting were for GSK to present the company’s work and strategy and for the patient representatives to exchange and comment on GSK’s strategy. Annette attended the meeting. 
A review, funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and carried out by researchers at the University of East Anglia (UEA)’s Norwich Medical School in the UK, highlights the need for more clarity on post-operative care for people with dementia, who experience a hip fracture. The review, “Enhanced rehabilitation and care models for adults with dementia following hip fracture surgery” was published on 15 June by the Cochrane Collaboration - an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation. Over 40% of all people with hip fractures also have dementia, but there is currently no conclusive evidence and therefore no proper guidance on care for this group of people says Dr Chris Fox, who led the review. The UEA research team set out to assess the effectiveness of different types of care – including rehabilitation strategies that are designed specifically for people with dementia, as compared to “usual care”. Data was taken from five clinical trials involving 316 people with dementia, who also had a hip fracture. The studies looked at how hospital patients are cared for, as well as how patients who are subsequently discharged and cared for at home. The team found the quality of available evidence in all of the studies to be “very low”. “We reviewed all the evidence that currently exists, but found it to be sadly lacking. For example, none of these trials told us anything about quality of life. What this tells us is that there is still a lot of uncertainty about how to care for a common comorbidity in elderly people.” He and his team conclude that further study is urgently needed, so as to provide NHS staff with guidance on hospital care and families, carers and care-home workers with guidance on home care for this “particularly vulnerable” group of people, “to allow the best outcome and avoid wasting resources on interventions of no benefit”.

http://www.cochrane.org/CD010569/DEMENTIA_rehabilitation

**Dementia in society**

**12 June: Jeremy Hughes awarded CBE in Queen’s Birthday Honours**

Jeremy Hughes, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer’s Society (UK), was awarded a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in this year’s Queen’s Birthday Honours list. The list was published in the UK on 12 June.

Reacting to his award, Mr Hughes said:

“I am deeply honoured by this award and proud of the fantastic work carried out by Alzheimer’s Society. It has been a privilege to lead and support the charity’s volunteers and staff as well as more than 10,000 Dementia Friends Champions across the country. Together we have created over one million Dementia Friends who are fundamentally changing the way people affected by dementia are seen and supported.”


**New Publications & Resources**

**5 June: ADI releases report on nutrition and dementia**

A new report from Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI), published on 5 June, looks at the main issues affecting women in relation to dementia from an international perspective.

The report examines the effect of gender on three specific groups: women living with dementia; women caring for people with dementia in a professional caring role; women undertaking an informal caregiving role for someone with dementia.

The report also focuses on cross-cutting issues, including factors affecting women in low and middle income countries (LMICs); family structures and kinship; and the effects of migration.

http://www.alz.co.uk/women-and-dementia

**5 June: Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease published**

This month, the 2nd volume of the Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease (JPAD) for 2015 was published.

JPAD publishes reviews, original research articles and short reports to help improve knowledge in the field of AD prevention including neurosciences, biomarkers, epidemiology, public health, physical cognitive exercise, nutrition, risk and protective factors, drug development, trials design and health economic outcomes.

http://www.jpreventionalzheimer.com/current-issue.html

**9 June: EPF announces communications training in September**

On 9 June, the European Patients’ Forum (EPF) announced a new training on Strategic Communication, which will take place in Brussels from 21 to 2 September in Brussels, Belgium.

The objective of the training is to strengthen the capacity of 10 EPF members in communication, making effective use of appropriate media and communication tools to support their advocacy work.
The training is open to any organisation that:

- is a member of EPF
- does not benefit from the EPF National Capacity-Building Programme
- commits to completing the activities of the training
- commits to sending a representative (staff, Board member, volunteer) who plays a specific role in communications. Applications will close on 10 July.

http://www.eu-patient.eu/Events/upcoming-events/cbp-strategic-communication-module/

10 June: INTERDEM has a new website

On 10 June, INTERDEM (a pan-European network of researchers on early detection and psycho-social interventions in dementia) announced its new website

www.interdem.org

Contact Alzheimer Europe

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

Alzheimer Europe Board

Chairperson: Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein (Germany); Vice-Chairperson: Iva Holmerová (Czech Republic); Honorary Secretary: Charles Scerr (Malta); Honorary Treasurer: Maria do Rosário Zinke dos Reis (Portugal); Members: Marie-Odile Desana (France), Sabine Henry (Belgium), Gerry Martin (Ireland), James Pearson (UK - Scotland), Sirpa Pietikainen (Finland), Jesús Rodrigo (Spain), Helga Rohra (Germany), Štefanija Lukč Zlobec (Slovenia).

Alzheimer Europe Staff

Executive Director: Jean Georges; Project Officer: Ana Diaz; EU Public Affairs Advisor: Annette Dumas; Communications Officer: Kate Ellis; Director for Projects: Dianne Gove; Conference and Event Coordinator: Gwladys Guillory; Finance Officer: Stefanie Peulen; Director for Communication: Alex Teligadas; Administrative Assistant: Grazia Tomasini.

AE Calendar 2015

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