Editorial

Welcome!

We kicked off the month of July with a series of meetings in Brussels, starting with an AE Board meeting. During the meeting, we sadly had to say goodbye to Gerry Martin, who officially left his position as CEO of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland on 31 July and so also left his position on our Board. Gerry is going to pursue a new opportunity, which I wish him all the very best with.

Next up was an AE lunch debate focussing on global action against dementia, held at the European Parliament. I’d like to thank all participants for helping make it a big success, but particularly the speakers - Raj Long, Dr Tarun Dua and Gill Ayling - and to MEP Heinz K. Becker, who hosted the Lunch Debate and MEP Sirpa Pietikainen, who gave the closing summary.

We then held a company round table, which is always an excellent opportunity to hear from some of our sponsor companies about their activities, as well as updating them on our own projects. I was pleased to have this opportunity to introduce our new Alzheimer’s Association Academy, the first of which will be held in Brussels in December.

Finally, we held a Public Affairs meeting, with member representatives, AE staff and a member of the European Working Group of People With Dementia (EWGPWD) coming together to exchange views and to update us and each other on national efforts.

On the policy front, Luxembourg began its EU Presidency on 1 July, placing dementia squarely on the agenda by naming it as a priority. We look forward to seeing what work will be done and how it will be continued by the Netherlands, who have also pledged to make dementia a priority in 2016. It is great to see dementia firmly on the European agenda and we hope our Glasgow Declaration will help push dementia further up that agenda and ensure a more cohesive effort. With 21 more organisations signing this month alone, the Declaration is certainly getting plenty of support. To ensure further attention and support, we have just launched a “Thunderclap” campaign, which will go out on World Alzheimer’s Day (21 September). I urge you to join - see our article on the Glasgow Declaration this month for information.

Later in the month, we received the good news that Helga Rohra, EWGPWD Chairperson, has been appointed “Commitment Ambassador” for people with dementia in Germany. I would like to congratulate her and I am sure she will do the role justice.

In other good news, you will have read much in the media these past few days about Lilly’s Alzheimer’s disease (AD) drug, solanezumab. The results, presented at AAIC 2015 in Washington on 22 July, seem to be cause for cautious optimism, but there is a secondary analysis of the data only and have not yet been published in a peer-reviewed journal. I look forward to the final results being published next year.

Finally, I want to remind you that there are only three weeks left to register online for our conference, 25AEC, so I urge you to book now to avoid disappointment. See you there!

Jean Georges
Executive Director
29 June: Alzheimer Europe holds a Board meeting

The Alzheimer Europe (AE) Board members held a meeting on 29-30 June in Brussels. The Board discussed various financial and operational matters, including preparations for the 25th Alzheimer Europe Conference that will take place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 2-4 September 2015. The next meeting of the Board will take place on 2 September in Ljubljana.

30 June: AE lunch debate focuses on global action against dementia


Dr Tarun Dua, Medical Officer for the Programme for Neurological Diseases and Neuroscience, WHO, was the first of three speakers. She presented “Dementia as a global priority for the World Health Organisation and report on the First Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia”

She noted that the number of people with dementia worldwide has tripled since 1950 and will almost triple again by 2050. Currently, there are some 47 million people living with dementia. Dementia clearly has a huge economic impact, which in 2010 was estimated at USD 604 billion or EUR 545 billion. This amounts to 1% of global GDP (gross domestic product), making dementia the equivalent of the world’s 18th largest economy.

There is also an uneven distribution in the societal costs of dementia, as the cost for informal care is predominant in countries with lower income. A growing and ageing population will only increase the reliance on informal care.

Dr Dua summarised the current state of affairs as follows: dementia is a major cause of disability in later life that is under-diagnosed or diagnosed late worldwide. There is currently no cure and medicines play only a limited role, while a substantial proportion of care takes place outside the formal health sector. Current care needs include early diagnosis, symptom management, and long-term support.

As a response to these needs, Dr Dua presented several WHO dementia activities, particularly the First Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia in March 2015. The conference delegates issued a call to action that included the following points:

- Raise the priority accorded to global efforts to tackle dementia.
- Advance prevention, risk reduction, diagnosis and treatment of dementia.
- Facilitate technological and social innovations to meet the needs of people living with dementia and their caregivers.
- Facilitate the coordinated delivery of health and social care for people living with dementia.

Dr Dua added that the WHO will establish a Global Dementia Observatory that will provide data and analyse trends in dementia burden and response.

The second speaker was Dr Raj Long, UK Government Director for Integrated Development and Senior Regulatory Officer for Integrated Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Dr Long described the bottlenecks in developing medicines for dementia, citing an overall success rate of only 0.5% versus an average 4.1% rate for the entire pharmaceutical industry. This is being addressed by a new international expert group that...
aims to remove obstacles and improve on current methods of drug development.

The final speaker was Gill Ayling, Deputy Director of Global action against dementia in the UK. Ms Ayling explained that the efforts of the WHO and Global action against dementia are in step with similar efforts funded by the EU. Ms Ayling also reminded the delegates that no single country, organisation or sector can "solve" dementia on its own; dementia does not recognise national boundaries, status or wealth - and neither will the solutions.

Mr Becker thanked the speakers for their informative presentations. He was joined by Ms Pietikäinen, who said that people with dementia must not be considered as second class citizens and that they should be involved in all of these projects. She also praised Alzheimer Europe and its members for their tremendous work to support people with dementia, adding that they deserve all the funding and resources we can give them.

Delegates at the lunch debate included MEPs Deirdre Clune (Ireland) and Ivo Vajgl (Slovenia), representatives from the pharmaceutical industry and the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), as well as delegates from 23 Alzheimer Europe member associations.

Alzheimer Europe’s next lunch debate will take place in December 2015 at the European Parliament.

30 June: AE hosts Company Round Table

On 30 June, Alzheimer Europe (AE) hosted a Company Round Table meeting in Brussels. Eight representatives from six sponsor companies, seventeen representatives from AE member organisations, six AE Board members and four AE staff members attended.

AE Chair, Heike von Lützau-Hohibein welcomed participants and introduced AE Executive Director, Jean Georges, who updated participants on some important EU and global developments in the dementia field: the WHO Ministerial conference in Geneva earlier this year, the World Dementia Council, a recent meeting between AE and INTERDEM with the Cabinet of the EU Health Commissioner, the creation of an EU Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia and the Joint Action on Dementia.

AE Director for Communication, Alex Teligadas gave a short presentation on the Glasgow Declaration campaign and on progress being made towards gathering 10,000 signatures by 30 November 2015. Meeting participants were encouraged to sign during the meeting and AE is grateful to those who did so.

AE Project Officer, Ana Diaz presented an overview of the ongoing Clinical Trial Watch project, detailing some of the key points. One of the most important points, she said, is the database of clinical trials (CTs) for use by people with dementia and their carers. She mentioned the involvement of four people with dementia in the process of creating and testing the database template, so as to try to ensure it is as user-friendly as possible. The template was finalised and agreed in May this year. Ana will now look at the CT registry to see which CTs match AE’s criteria. She also gave a brief update on AE’s Guidelines Watch project.

Robert Kroes from Lilly presented two projects his company has worked on, in the area of helping people living with dementia to find suitable CTs. His presentation was very well received and led to a lively question and answer session.

Jean took the floor a second time, introducing AE’s new Alzheimer’s Association Academy (AAA), the first of which will be held in Brussels on 1 and 2 December. The idea, he said, is to bring together as many of AE’s member organisations as possible, for an interactive event with presentations, discussions and exchanges of ideas. Jean also gave an update on the European Dementia Monitor.

1 July: AE invites members to Public Affairs meeting

On 1 July, Alzheimer Europe (AE) hosted a Public Affairs meeting in Brussels. Twenty five representatives from AE member organisations, five AE staff members and one member of the European Working Group of People With Dementia (EWGPWD) were in attendance.

AE Chair, Heike von Lützau-Hohibein welcomed participants and remembered our late colleague and friend Alicja Sadowska, who was Chairperson of Alzheimer Poland. Mirka Wojciechowska, who was a close friend of Alicja’s, also thanked members for their support and condolences.

AE Executive Director, Jean Georges kicked off the meeting by asking participants for feedback on the presentations given during the Company Round Table the previous afternoon - on the Dementia Monitor, Clinical Trial Watch (CTW) and Guideline Watch. Mirka wondered what the aim of the CTW is and to what extent this is relevant to people with dementia and their carers. Jean explained that from his experience on the AE Board, it is often difficult for national organisations to get up-to-date information about ongoing clinical research and that AE felt it would be more efficient to look at this information at a European level. He also clarified that the main aim of the project is not to facilitate trial recruitment but to keep AE members informed about ongoing trials in their own countries and throughout Europe.

Discussions ensued about the information that participants receive from trials once the trial is finalised and about other issues linked to recruitment that may make access difficult for people with dementia in some countries. Agnes Houston, Vice-Chair of the EWGPWD informed delegates that the Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) has developed a document on “Core principles for involving people with dementia in research”, which she thought could prove useful for researchers:

Jean went on to talk about AE’s new strategic plan, as the current one comes to an end this year. AE is looking for feedback from its members on how satisfied they are with the projects and activities that AE has carried out over the last 5 years, to help develop the new Plan for 2016-2020 and to this end, delegates were provided with a questionnaire to complete. There was also some discussion around AE’s conferences and AGMs, regarding the possibility of separating the two in the future. Feedback on this was mixed.

Jean then handed over to AE Communications Officer, Kate Boor Ellis and Director for Communication, Alex Teligadas, who presented plans for increasing the number of signatories on the Glasgow Declaration and gave a summary of the campaign so far. Alex and Kate invited member representatives from Greece, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia to share their success stories. Member representatives from Scotland (Jim Pearson) and Ireland (Joanna Joyce) also shared their plans for getting further support from their countries.

AE Project Officer, Ana Diaz then took the floor, presenting the work being done on the 2015 Yearbook on Dementia friendly communities. Ana explained that the yearbook will be similar in methodology and format to the one published in 2014 and that the EWGPWD will also participate in the yearbook this year. Mirka (Poland), Birgitte Volund (Denmark) and Kirsti Kuustera (Finland) presented the national responses and findings from their questionnaires. Interesting discussions around “Dementia Friends” programmes emerged from this in the afternoon.

To close the meeting, all members present gave an update on their national campaigning activities, after which Heike thanked participants and closed the meeting.

Members are invited to Brussels on 1 and 2 December, to participate in our “Alzheimer’s Association Academy”, in lieu of a Public Affairs meeting. We look forward to trying out this new, more interactive format.

16 July: Alzheimer Europe publishes new dementia strategies map

On 16 July, Alzheimer Europe (AE) published a new version of its dementia strategies map (pictured), which gives a snapshot of the status of National Dementia Strategies around Europe.

http://alzheimer-europe.org/Policy-in-Practice2/National-Dementia-Plans

29 July: Helga Rohra appointed "Commitment Ambassador" for people with dementia

European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) Chairperson, Helga Rohra has been appointed as “Commitment Ambassador” in Germany.

Ms Elke Ferner, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and Dr Ansgar Klein, Managing Director of the Bundesnetzwerks Bürgerliches Engagement (BBE) - or National Network for Civil Society – announced the “Engagement Macht Stark – or “commitment makes us strong” – foundation’s Ambassadors for 2015 at an event on 29 July.

Helga, as an Ambassador for people with dementia, “shall work for a new image of dementia in society and for people who want to lead an active and independent life under the conditions of dementia.”

The other Commitment Ambassadors appointed were:

- Franz-Josef Fischer - who campaigns for a better future for children and young people
- Werner Rosemeyer, whose foundation “Little Nazareno” supports street children in Brazil
- Günter Reichert, founder of the “Nürnberger Asylothek”, a centre providing accommodation, education and support for asylum seekers.

http://www.bmfsfj.de/BMFSFJ/Freiwilliges-engagement_did=218272.html

31 July: 21 organisations sign the Glasgow Declaration in July

In July, 21 organisations have lent their support to our #GlasgowDeclaration, bringing the total to 80 organisations at the time of writing.

Earlier this month, MEP Ian Duncan (ECR, UK) also gave his support as did two other policy makers: Slovenian MP Jana Jenko and Dutch Member of the House of Representatives (Tweede Kamer) Linda Voortman.

At the time of writing we have signatures from 3,311 individuals, 80 organisations and 64 policy makers (including 53 MEPs).

We are very grateful to all signatories for their support.

We are also delighted to announce that, in July, new versions of the Declaration and sign up form have been added to our website in Turkish and Polish. This means we now have 13 languages, including English, with a 14th on the way in August: Bulgarian.
For World Alzheimer’s Day (21 September) we are running a “Thunderclap” campaign. We hope to get as many people involved as possible, to say how much dementia matters to all of us! You can find out more about it and sign up to it here: http://thndr.it/1OF7hwF

The 21 organisations who have signed this month are:
- Alzheimer’s Research UK, RRA LUR (Slovenia), Geriant Foundation (Netherlands), European Brain Council (EBC), European Institute of Women’s Health (EiWH), European Men’s Health Forum (EMHF), Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer’s disease (Greece), European Academy of Neurology (EAN), International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics – European Region (IAGG-ER), Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME), Podkarpackie Alzheimer’s Disease Association (Poland), International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA), Association of British Neurologists (ABN), Alzheimer Bulgaria, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF – UK), Deltaplan Dementie (Netherlands), Paths For All (UK), European Patients’ Foundation (EPF), Czech Neurological Society, British Geriatrics Society (UK), K-CoRD (Ireland).

31 July: Only three weeks left to register for 25AEC and gala dinner

Online registration will end on 21 August for our 25AEC conference as well as for the gala dinner, which means there are only three weeks left to register!

After this date only onsite registrations will be available at a higher rate, so please register now to avoid disappointment.

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:

EU Projects

9 June: EPAD features in new Pasqual Maragall Foundation campaign

On 9 June, the Pasqual Maragall Foundation in Spain launched a new campaign:
“Help us make research run faster than Alzheimer’s” fronted by Catalan MotoGP World Champion, Marc Marquez and his grandfather, Ramon.

This is the second campaign the Foundation has launched to raise awareness of and resources for their research into an effective treatment for Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The campaign aims to raise EUR 100,000 for research projects on AD prevention.


The campaign page can be found here: https://fpmaragall.org/marc-marquez/

The campaign video (with English subtitles) can be viewed here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CU-WozvAR4&feature=youtu.be

21 June: EMIF holds 2nd General Assembly

The EMIF project partners held their 2nd General Assembly in Ghent, Belgium on 22-24 June 2015. The assembly coincided with the halfway point of the project lifetime and was chaired by Coordinators Simon Lovestone and Bart Vannieuwenhuyse. It was attended by some 100 delegates from all 16 work packages.

On the first day, the delegates heard updates from the EMIF-AD (Alzheimer’s disease), EMIF-Metabolic and EMIF-Platform project areas. The AD updates included three new papers published in the JAMA and Brain journals and overall good progress on collecting new data. There are now four complete Alzheimer’s disease cohorts available on the platform and 21 further cohorts are nearing completion. The EMIF-AD partners are also working together with colleagues from other IMI-funded dementia projects, such as AETIONOMY and EPAD.

The second day included the presentation of results from a study on dementia prevalence in electronic health records and outlines of two related studies that will investigate risk factors and treatment pathways for dementia. This was followed by a series of breakout sessions that dealt with specific topics, such as analysing a recent study that linked dementia with obesity, developing tools to support treatment pathway analysis and the ongoing development of the fingerprint browser.

The day ended with scientific presentations for each topic. On the EMIF-AD side, Dr Pieter Jelle Visser presented “Amyloid positivity in non-demented and demented subjects: prevalence and outcome.” This paper shows that amyloid positivity increases at high age, that not all subjects with AD are amyloid positive and that amyloid positivity is common in non-AD dementia. A clear conclusion is that subjects for clinical trials should be selected based on amyloid status and not only on clinical criteria.
The final day focused on future project activities, such as the Ethical Code of Practice that is in development. There were also breakout sessions where delegates were able to address issues and suggest courses of action that were not mentioned during the preceding days.

28 June: PharmaCog researchers show results at EACPT conference

PharmaCog researchers Claudio Babiloni, David Bartrés-Faz, Régis Bordet and Pablo Martinez Lage (pictured L-R) all attended the 12th biennial Congress of the European Association for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (EACPT), which was held in Barcelona on 27-30 June.

Alzheimer’s disease was the focus of a key session of the conference, including presentations by Dr Bordet (Disease modifiers in Alzheimer’s disease: towards a multimodal strategy) and Dr Bartrés-Faz (How cognitive challenge models can improve the sensitivity of the biomarker battery to test symptomatic treatments: the PharmaCog project approach).

The four colleagues also featured in an interview where they discussed the development of new treatments and why previous treatment approaches may not have worked. They also presented PharmaCog’s approach to develop new biomarkers in order to speed up successful drug development. The 20+ minute interview is available on YouTube.

1 July: Craig Ritchie kicks off a busy month for the EPAD initiative

It has been a very busy month for the European Prevention of Alzheimer’s Dementia (EPAD) initiative, which began with a presentation by Professor Craig Ritchie at the Royal College of Psychiatrists International Conference in Birmingham, UK on 1 July (pictured).

At the conference, EPAD coordinator Prof. Ritchie - Professor of the Psychiatry of Ageing at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland - outlined the initiative’s approach to trying to prevent the development of dementia:

Early warning signs of dementia can be identified for up to 20 years before a person develops symptoms. By looking for biomarkers, people with early stage dementia can be identified, even if they have no obvious symptoms. Using this method, the EPAD initiative intends to establish a European-wide register of 24,000 people deemed at high risk of developing dementia. Those people at highest risk will be invited to join trials of preventative medicines.

“This is a genuine game changer in the fight against dementia. By joining forces, scientists and pharmaceutical companies across Europe can deliver a real benefit to people at risk of this disease”, Prof. Ritchie enthused.

His presentation can be downloaded here: http://daw.dementiascotland.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Craig-Ritchie.pdf

In other EPAD news this month:

On 15 July, a dementia-focused episode of BBC TV series (UK) “Trust Me I’m a Doctor” featured interviews with EPAD’s Craig Ritchie, Miia Kivipelto, José Luis Molinuevo and Luc Truyen. More information about the programme can be found here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dgd9c

As announced in the EPAD project bulletin of 17 July, EPAD now appears on the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) website, here: http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/epad

To round off the month, Prof. Ritchie presented EPAD at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC 2015) on 21 July in Washington, US.

Alzheimer Europe Networking

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.

On 1 July (Brussels, Belgium) Diianne took part in a patient representative roundtable on incontinence and the provision of better continence care organised by Age Platform, Euro Carers and SCA.

On 2 July (Brussels, Belgium), representatives of the AE Board and AE member organisations met with Roche to discuss possible joint projects in 2015 and 2016.

On 6 July (London, UK) Ana took part in the meeting of the EU Taskforce for the development of guidelines on summaries of clinical trial results for lay persons.
Members of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at 109, representing 27 Member States of the European Union and six out of seven political groups in the European Parliament. Alzheimer Europe would like to thank the following MEPs for their support of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance:

Austria: Heinz K. Becker (EPP); Kappel Barbara (NI); Rübig Paul (EPP), Belgium: Mark Demessmaeker (ECR); Frédérique Ries (ALDE); Bart Staes (Greens/EFA); Marc Tarabella (S&D); Kathleen van Brempt (S&D); Hilde Vautmans (ALDE), Bulgaria: Andrey Kovatchev (EPP), Croatia: Biljana Borzan (S&D); Tonino Picula (S&D); Ruža Tomažič (EPP), Cyprus: Costas Mavrides (S&D); Eleni Theocarous (EPP), Czech Republic: Olga Sehnalová (S&D); Pavel Svoboda (EPP); Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP), Denmark: Ole Christensen (S&D); Jens Rohde (ALDE); Christel Schaldemose (S&D); Istanbul: Urmias Paet (ALDE); Finland: Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D); Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE); Miapetra Kumpula-Närit (S&D); Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP), France: Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE); Françoise Grossetête (EPP); Philippe Juvin (EPP); Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EPP); Gilles Pargneaux (S&D), Germany: Angelika Niebler (EPP); Udo Voigt (FDP); Greece: Kostas Chrysochos (GUE/NGL); Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP), Hungary: Ádám Kósa (EPP); Ireland: Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL); Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL); Nessa Childers (S&D); Deirdre Clune (EPP); Brian Crowley (ALDE); Luke ‘Ming’ Flanagan (GUE/NGL), Italy: Brando Benifei (S&D); Malta: Therese Comodini Cachia (EPP); Roberta Metsola (EPP), Netherlands: Esther de Lange (EPP); Lambert van Nistelrooij (EPP), Portugal: Carlos Coelho (EPP); Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL); Sofia Ribeiro (EPP), Romania: Cristian Silviu Busoi, MEP (EPP); Daciana Octavia Sarbu (S&D); Claudiu Ciprian Tanase (S&D); Renate Weber (EPP), Slovakia: Miroslav Mikolašik (EPP); Anna Záborská (S&D), Slovenia: Franc Bogovčič (S&D); Tanja Fajon (S&D); Alojz Peterle (EPP); Igor Šoltes (Greens/EFA); Patricija Šulin (S&D); Romea Tomc (EPP); Ivo Vajgl (ALDE), Spain: Soledad Cabezón Ruiz (S&D); Luis de Grandes Pascual (EPP); Rosa Estarás Ferragut (EPP), United Kingdom: Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL); Richard Ashworth (ECR); Anneliese Dodds (S&D); Ian Duncan (EPP); Theresa Griffin (S&D); Ian Hudghton (Greens/EFA); Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA); Linda McAvan (S&D); Alyn Smith (Greens/EFA); Catherine Stihler (S&D); Keith Taylor (Greens/EFA); Derek Vaughan (S&D); Julie Ward (S&D); Glenis Willmott (S&D).

European Alzheimer’s Alliance

1 July: MEP Ian Duncan joins European Alzheimer’s Alliance

Ian Duncan, MEP (UK) signed the Glasgow Declaration on 1 July and became a member of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA) on the same day. The Declaration calls for the creation of a European Dementia Strategy and national strategies in every country in Europe. It also calls all MEPs to join the EAA.

Mr Duncan is a member of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR). He sits on the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety and is a substitute on the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy and the Committee on Fisheries.

Mr Duncan is the 53rd MEP to sign the Glasgow Declaration and his signature brings to 107 the total membership of the EAA.

6 July: MEP Ries’ receives answer from Commissioner to her question about AD research

On 6 July, Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation Carlos Moedas responded to a written question from MEP Frédérique Ries (pictured), Vice-Chairperson of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), which she joined in 2009. Her question of 20 April (E-006258/2015), which made particular reference to recent Australian research involving ultrasound techniques on Alzheimer’s disease (AD) mouse models, concerned the European Commission’s intentions and views on AD research and funding.

Commissioner Moedas responded that the Commission offers opportunities for early stage and translational research on AD through Horizon 2020. He went on to talk about AD research being a “longstanding priority for the Commission”, pointing out that more than EUR 584 million goes to research in this area from the 7th Framework Programme for Research (FP7). He also made reference to the Joint Programming Initiative on Neurodegenerative Disease Research (IPND) and to the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Platform recently launched by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) 2. He also assured MEP Ries that, among the 2014-2015 Horizon 2020 calls for proposals, the Commission provided EUR 25 million to AD-related projects as well as EUR 87.5 million for research on dementia.

To the question of broadening the scope of European funding to other types of research into the brain than those aimed at beta-amyloid protein plaques, the Commissioner said that Horizon 2020 “may provide further opportunities in the field of Alzheimer’s disease, including other brain research...Such opportunities may notably arise from the societal challenge ‘Health, demographic change and wellbeing’, including support to ICT solutions and services for health and disease self-management. Such solutions and services will enable personalised guidance to patients, improve interaction with healthcare professionals and adherence to treatment.” He referred MEP Ries to the Research and Innovation Participant Portal for further information.
EU Developments

1 July: Representatives of patient groups meet in Brussels to discuss improving continence care

Representatives from patient groups, as well as from organisations for women’s health and for older people, took part in a roundtable in Brussels on 1 July to discuss continence care.

The meeting was organised by Age Platform, Euro Carers and SCA. The other participants, in addition to the organisers, were from the European and international associations for spina bifida and hydrocephalus, multiple sclerosis, Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, as well as the European Institute of Women’s Health and Health First Europe.

Dianne Gove represented Alzheimer Europe (AE) and its recent work developing guidelines on this topic. Click here for AE’s continence care report 2014:

http://alzheimer-europe.org/content/download/79312/491695/file/Final%20version%20of%20the%20continence%20care%20report.pdf

Ian Milsom, a leading expert in continence issues, provided an excellent overview of the key issues and co-modulated the discussion with Cathy Smith. The aim of the meeting was to produce key policy recommendations and principles to improve the management and care of people with continence problems at home and in the community. These will be presented at the next Global Forum on Incontinence.

1 July: Dementia is a priority of the Luxembourg EU Presidency

On 1 July, Luxembourg took over the mantle of Presidency of the Council of the European Union from Latvia. Luxembourg will preside for the second half of 2015, after which the Netherlands will take over on 1 January 2016.

On 10 July, Luxembourg’s Minister for Health, Lydia Mutsch presented the priorities of the Presidency in the fields of public health, medicinal products and medical devices, as well as food safety to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium.

At the outset, Minister Mutsch stated that, during the Presidency, health issues will based on patients and innovation and that all discussions will be patient-centered. Regarding public health in general, the Minister referred to personalised medicine, saying that it has “a significant potential to improve the health of numerous patients by means of focused treatments which significantly reduce undesirable side effects”. She highlighted the importance of “ensuring equitable access to this category of innovative treatments”.

On the subject of dementia, Minister Mutsch said it is an “increasingly widespread illness”, which “necessitates a multisectional response”. At the World Health Organisation (WHO)’s first Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia earlier this year, the Minister had already declared dementia to be a priority of the Presidency and that Luxembourg’s aim is to increase public awareness at EU level and to launch a “common reflection process” among health ministers around the importance of secondary prevention and post-diagnostic support.

To coincide with the start of the Presidency, Luxembourg’s “programme pour la prévention de la démence” (PDP) was launched. It aims to “tackle multi-dimensional secondary dementia prevention from a wide ranging angle, including counselling for social issues, disease information, life-style advice, family and financial matters and legal aspects.”

For more information about the Presidency and its priorities, visit the official website www.eu2015lu.eu

6 July: EU Taskforce for the development of guidelines on summaries of clinical trial results for lay persons meets in London.

The Health Research Authority (HRA) is leading the work on the development of guidelines for summaries of clinical trial results for lay persons. In order to manage this work the HRA has established an EU wide task force to oversee the project. The role of the group is to oversee the development of guidelines to be applied across the EU on summaries of clinical trial results for lay persons.

The summary information will sit on the new Platform for clinical trials that the European Medicines Agency is developing and will be available by the end of 2016. Several stakeholders, including patient representatives, the pharmaceutical industry and health institutes have been involved in this taskforce.

The task force will meet again in September, and the final work will be sent to the EMA in November. The EMA will then issue the guidelines for consultation across the EU. Ana attended the meeting on behalf of AE.

7 July: Europe is lagging behind in health spending, says OECD

On 7 July, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) reported that while many European countries have seen further reductions in health spending (OECD Health Statistics 2015), outside of Europe health spending has been growing at around 2.5% per year since 2010 and that health spending growth “has generally remained in line with economic growth”.

9 July: IMI launches EUR 95 million Call for proposals with AD focus

IMI has launched its 5th Call for proposals under the IMI 2 programme, featuring four topics on Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and one each on diabetic kidney disease and patient input on assessments of the benefits and risks of medicines.

The deadline for submitting short proposals is 13 October.

More information on this new EUR 95 million call for proposals, including all topic texts and details of how to apply, can be found here:

http://www.imi.europa.eu/content/stage-1-16

Members’ News

25 June: France Alzheimer welcomes new President Joël Jaouen

At France Alzheimer’s 2015 AGM on 25 June, Joël Jaouen was elected as President. Mr Jaouen succeeds Marie-Odile Desana, who continues to work for France Alzheimer and remains on the Board of Alzheimer Europe (AE).

France Alzheimer’s full 2015-2016 Board can be found here:

http://www.francealzheimer.org/qui-sommes-nous/notre-organisation/202

30 June: Athens Association runs educational seminars and support programmes for carers

In order to support the challenging role of carers of people with dementia, the Athens Association of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders carried out four two-month cycles of educational seminars for carers between November 2014 and June 2015. A total of 250 people participated.

Each cycle consisted of eight two-hour meetings, which gave carers the chance to get informed about dementia-related issues, such as memory loss, symptoms and stages of Alzheimer’s disease (AD), heredity of the disease, pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions for managing challenging behaviour, practical issues related to daily care, etc. They also had the chance to learn how to manage the psychological strain that dementia can bring to a family.

Participating caregivers were able to share their experiences with other caregivers, as well as any concerns, worries and certain difficulties they may have encountered in their caregiving routine.

The Association took the opportunity to present the curriculum of their Day Care Centres, as well as the range of services the Association provides for carers. These include:

- Psychoeducation for carers: Group or individual sessions meant to provide carers with a deeper understanding of dementia, care-giving skills and the ability to manage their feelings and cope with the loss they may experience.
- Psychiatric clinic for carers: Psychological strain on carers is an important, yet underestimated aspect of dementia. In comparison with the general population, carers are in greater danger of developing depression and various psychosomatic conditions.
- Set Care – Self study e-learning programme for both family and paid carers: The Association has participated in a Transfer of Innovation programme and developed a training tool for paid carers of elderly people. This e-learning programme includes 10 basic modules about dementia. It is offered free of charge in Greek and Bulgarian.

7 July: University Medical Centre Ljubljana becomes dementia friendly

On 7 July at the University Medical Centre Ljubljana (UMCL), Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica) gave a training on recognising the first signs of dementia and on communication with people with dementia. As a result of the training, UMCL is to be the first dementia-friendly hospital in Slovenia.

The training - introduced by Simon Vrhunec, director of UMCL - is part of a series of dementia-friendly society initiatives by Spominčica. All participants also received leaflets called “What is Dementia and Communication with a person with dementia”. Previous initiatives include a workshop for police officers and psychologists, with the aim of raising dementia awareness among professionals in the public sector.

More than 100 professionals from the centre attended the training (doctors, medical and health care professionals), all of whom were invited to attend 25AEC and to sign the Glasgow Declaration.

The trainings will continue in the autumn, with a series of lectures led by Spominčica’s external dementia experts.

7 July: DAlzG publishes new brochure on setting up groups for people with dementia

On 7 July, the German Alzheimer Society (DAlzG) announced the publication of a new brochure (in German) called “Groups for people with early dementia - a guide to setting up and designing”. The idea is to encourage people to create groups, where people living with dementia can talk and get support from each other.

The brochure is part of the series "guidelines for counseling and group work". Some of the questions is asks are: What should be considered in the development of groups for people with early-stage dementia? Which group size and what is the recommended time frame?
What rules and guidelines for group discussions have proved useful for facilitators? What happens when someone can no longer participate in the conversation? How can such groups be financed?

A list of existing groups for people with early-stage dementia can be found on the DAzG website: www.deutsche-alzheimer.de

The brochure can be found here: https://shop.deutsche-alzheimer.de/broschueren/35/gruppen-fuer-menschen-mit-beginnender-demenz

8 July: Alzheimer Nederland launches Dementia Friends programme

On 8 July, Dutch Health Secretary, Martin van Rijn announced a new public awareness campaign to increase the understanding of dementia in society. Thanks to this announcement, Alzheimer Nederland and social partner PGM (Dutch pension asset manager) have been able to launch a five-year Dementia Friends programme, similar to the Dementia Friends programme in the UK, which also exists in Japan and Canada.

Mr van Rijn’s announcement was made in a letter to the Tweede Kamer - the lower house of parliament. He believes the campaign to be of great importance, as dementia will play an increasingly big role in the daily lives of the Dutch population. An estimated 260,000 people are currently living with dementia in the Netherlands. This number is expected to increase to 400,000 by 2050.

He has set aside EUR 16 million for his campaign, which falls under the Delta Plan Dementia. EUR 10 million of this will go to the Dementia Friends campaign.

The aim is to have 1 million Dementia Friends in the Netherlands by 2020.

Pictured: Martin van Rijn, Dutch State Secretary of Health, Welfare and Sport; and Julie Meerveld, Advocacy and Corporate Communication Manager at Alzheimer Nederland, at the kick-off meeting for the Dementia Friends campaign.

9 July: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland reports on recent campaign

On 9 July, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) sent out a report on its recent public awareness campaign (launched 2 June) “Forget the stigma”.

The campaign sought to rally the public to sign up to a simple, three-step challenge to fight the stigma of dementia called “Learn, Listen and Link”, via ASI’s website. In doing so, they asked people to agree to learn the facts about dementia, thereby debunking the myths, listen to and empathise with people with dementia and link up with them, not isolate them.

The hope was that the campaign - which featured real people; mums, dads, sisters and brothers - would encourage a re-examination of the value placed on people with dementia and their carers by both policy-makers and the general public.

“We hoped by placing people with dementia at the centre of this campaign and telling their stories, the public would foster a greater understanding that dementia is not a condition exclusively of older age, and it affects each person in different ways”, wrote ASI.

Although the campaign was run on quite a small scale, ASI was delighted with the results. It was “a resounding success”, they said, with more than 4,050 signatures at the time of writing, far exceeding expectations. Indeed, the campaign has turned out to be “the largest social movement for dementia in Ireland to date”. ASI hopes the campaign will demonstrate just how valuable a contribution people with dementia can make to society.

ASI sends its sincerest thanks to all those who contributed to the success of the campaign and hopes the support will continue in the future.

14 July: Athens Alzheimer Association reports on INNOVAGE project

The Athens Association of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders (AAADRD) is an official member of INNOVAGE carers association network. The INNOVAGE FP7 project is dedicated to developing, testing as well as surveying and cataloguing, social innovations for older people.

Four new innovations have been developed:

- social innovation for user-driven housing of older people
- a web-platform for informal carers of older people
- social interventions for reducing obesity in old age
- social innovation to help people with dementia in long-term, institutionalised care to stay active.

AAADRD has participated in the development of the InformCare web platform for informal carers - implemented in 27 EU Member States. National organisations and members of the INNOVAGE network are responsible for developing national information and disseminating the web platform in their countries.

The platform provides end-users with:

- national information on care and support services
- legal and financial information
- strategies for coping with caregiving
- suggestions on how to reconcile care with family and work
- interactive services for both peer and professional support via social network, forum, chat, video conferencing tools

The Greek version of the InformCare web platform is available at http://eurocarers.org/innovage/?lang=el
14 July: Alzheimerforeningen has moved to new premises

The Danish Alzheimer Society, Alzheimerforeningen has moved. The new premises are at: Langangstræde 25, 4, DK 1468 København, Denmark

http://alzheimer-europe.org/Alzheimer-Europe/Who-we-are/Our-members/Alzheimerforeningen


On 15 July, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) in collaboration with the Neuro-Enhancement for Independent Lives (NEIL) Programme in Trinity College Dublin hosted a half-day seminar on Cognitive Rehabilitation (CR) and dementia.

The seminar was held to coincide with the publication of a CR manual titled “Strategies and Techniques for Cognitive Rehabilitation: Manual for healthcare professionals working with individuals with cognitive impairment”. The manual was the result of research carried out through a joint ASI/NEIL initiative on developing evidence based early interventions for people living with dementia.

Speakers at the seminar included Simone Carton, principal clinical neuropsychologist at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin and lecturer in Clinical Neuropsychology, Michelle Kelly lecturer in psychology at the National University of Ireland Maynooth and co-author of the CR manual, Jackie Pool occupational therapist and specialist in dementia care experience and author of the Pool Activity Level (PAL) Instrument and Helen Rochford-Brennan, Chair of the Irish Dementia Working Group and Vice-Chair of the European Working Group for People with Dementia (EWGPWD).

The seminar was a platform for greater discussion on how the practice of CR can be progressed for people with dementia in Ireland.

All presentations from the seminar are available to download here:

http://alzheimer.ie/About-Us/Policy/Cognitive-Rehabilitation-for-People-with-Dementia.aspx

The CR manual is available for download here:


22 July: Alzheimer Slovenia makes progress with national strategy

On 22 July, Slovenian President Borut Pahor met with representatives of Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica), external colleagues and experts in the field of dementia, Lea Žmuc Veranič (University Psychiatric Hospital of Ljubljana), Dr Nena Kopčaver Guček (GPs’ representative) and Prof. Zvezdan Pirtosk (Neurology Clinic).

President Pahor was presented with the “Memorandum of dementia”, which covers the scope of dementia-related issues in Slovenia. At this meeting he stated his support for the efforts of Spominčica, in trying to ensure that the national dementia strategy is adopted prior to Alzheimer Europe’s 25th Annual Conference (25AEC), to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 2 to 4 September.

Spominčica also acquainted the President with the programme, “Living with dementia in a dementia-friendly society” and with the project, “Living with dementia at home”. President Pahor was also informed of the final preparations for 25AEC, which is organised under his Honorary Patronage.

23 July: Alzheimer Hellas raises awareness of dementia in Elftheroupoli

On 23 July, trained personnel from Alzheimer Hellas provided reliable information about dementia and Alzheimer’s disease to the citizens of Elftheroupoli (a city near Kavala in northern Greece).

At the same time, a short memory test was conducted on members of the older population at the city’s Medical Center.

Participants were reportedly delighted and grateful to the event organisers and a new date has been set in autumn, to further this collaboration.

Alzheimer Hellas’ goal is to raise public awareness and to share its 20 years of knowledge and experience with people living far away from the big cities in Greece, who don’t have the opportunity to benefit from its services.

31 July: Gerry Martin leaves The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

As of 31 July, Gerry Martin (pictured, left) has said goodbye to The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) to pursue a new opportunity.

Gerry’s successor will be Colette Kelleher (pictured, right), who takes up the mantle of CEO at ASI on 22 September this year.

In the interim period, Miriam Enright, Head of Operations, will be the point of contact for any queries to the office of the CEO. Ms Enright can be contacted on miriam.enright@alzheimer.ie
Policy Watch

30 June: Irish capacity legislation debated by Select Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality

The Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Bill came one step closer to becoming law in Ireland in June after it was debated by the Select Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality. Over four hundred proposed amendments were motioned and debated.

This legislation will change the law on capacity in Ireland and replace the Wards of Court system, which is vital for people living with dementia.

1 July: Alzheimer Scotland reports on new Focus on Dementia initiative

At Alzheimer Europe’s Public Affairs meeting on 1 July, Alzheimer Scotland reported on a recent initiative in Scotland, called Focus on Dementia. Formerly known as the National Dementia Improvement Programme, it is largely concerned with delivering and improving on some of the commitments of the Second National Dementia Strategy.

Focus on Dementia is a partnership between the Scottish Government Mental Health Division, the Quality and Efficiency Support Team (QuEST), the Joint Improvement Team (JIT) and Alzheimer Scotland. Its objectives are:

- Support the delivery of the Post-Diagnostic HEAT Target across all health and social care partnerships across Scotland
- Test the Alzheimer Scotland “Eight Pillars” model for community-based support in five areas in Scotland
- Support improvement in the care of people with dementia in acute hospitals
- Support partnerships to use data to drive improvement

The website is here: http://www.qhub.scot.nhs.uk/quality-and-efficiency/focus-on-dementia.aspx

An explanatory leaflet can be downloaded here: http://www.qhub.scot.nhs.uk/media/63878/foh%20brochure%20%26%20fina%20.pdf

14 July: Scottish carers bill continues to make its way through parliamentary process

Earlier this year, the “Carers Bill” was introduced in Scotland. On 14 July, Alzheimer Scotland sent an update on the status of the Bill, which is now making its way through the parliamentary process. Alzheimer Scotland has submitted evidence to the Health and Sport Committee which is leading scrutiny of the Bill.

This can be found on the Alzheimer Scotland website, with a brief summary of regarding which sections of the Bill it supports and what areas it has concerns about:
http://www.alzscot.org/campaigning/consultation_responses/3300_health_a nd_sport_committee_-_carers_bill

Science Watch

24 June: Test finds signs of Alzheimer’s disease 18 years before diagnosis

A study involving over 2,000 people has shown that a test of memory and thinking can reveal differences in people who would go on to develop Alzheimer’s disease (AD) up to 18 years before diagnosis. The study was published in the journal Neurology on 24 June.

Based on tests completed 13 to 18 years before the final assessments took place, one unit lower in performance of the cognitive test score was associated with an 85% greater risk of developing dementia later in life.

This suggests that the preclinical phase of AD may begin many years earlier than expected.
http://www.neurology.org/content/early/2015/06/24/WNL.0000000000001274

20 July: Education and job complexity are linked to dementia risk, two studies say

Better performance at school, as well as job complexity are both associated with a lower risk of dementia, according to two independent studies presented on 20 July at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC 2015) in Washington, US.

The first study followed 7,574 individuals aged 65 and over in the Uppsala Birth Cohort Study (Sweden) for more than 20 years and in that time 950 people developed dementia. Dementia rates were 21% higher in those whose school grades were in the lowest fifth of the population and 23% lower among those with complex occupations involving data and numbers.

In the second study, 440 people aged 75 or over in the Kungsholmen project (Sweden) were followed for 9 years. Those in the bottom fifth for school grades were found to have a 50% increase in the risk of developing dementia over the course of the study. Participants who reported complex jobs involving working with people had 60% lower risk of dementia, though this was only true in women.

Dr Clare Walton, Research Manager at Alzheimer’s Society commented that more research is needed to determine why this happens.

“People who haven’t had a long education shouldn’t be unduly worried by this study. Research shows there are plenty of positive things you can start doing now to keep your brain healthy into older age, including taking regular exercise, stopping smoking, eating a balanced diet and keeping high blood pressure under control”, she stressed.
20 July: Too much TV watching linked to lower cognitive function

Watching a lot of TV, combined with low levels of physical activity, in young adults has been linked to reduced cognitive function 25 years later, according to research presented on 20 July at AAIC 2015.

More than 3,200 adults aged 18-30 years old in the Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA) study were followed for 25 years. At intervals they were asked to report on physical activity and TV-watching behaviour and at the end of the 25 years they were assessed for memory and processing speed.

Participants who consistently reported low levels of physical activity (under 150 minutes of medium intensity exercise per week) or watching more than four hours of TV per day performed significantly worse on cognitive tests in middle age.

Those who reported both low physical activity and high television viewing were almost two times more likely to have poor cognitive function at the end of the study.

21 July: Women with memory problems show faster rate of cognitive decline

Women with memory problems experience faster rates of cognitive decline than men, according to research presented on 21 July at AAIC 2015.

Researchers also report that women are more susceptible to developing dementia after surgery.

In the first study, women with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) showed a rate of cognitive decline two times faster than men with MCI. The study followed 398 people with MCI (141 women and 257 men).

The second study found that women were at higher risk for long-term cognitive and functional problems following surgery with general anaesthesia. The study involved a total of 527 participants, of which 182 people underwent a total of 331 procedures under general anaesthesia. It found that women were at a higher risk of post-operative brain dysfunction than men.

Dr Doug Brown, Director of Research at the Alzheimer's Society (UK), commented that future research to understand these gender differences and why they exist "could help us develop and tailor treatments for men and women with the condition."

22 July: Amyloid brain scans change dementia diagnosis and management, study shows

The use of Amyloid PET scans may change the way that doctors manage and diagnose their patients with dementia, according to research presented at AAIC 2015 on 22 July.

PET scans can show whether someone experiencing memory issues has deposits of amyloid in their brain - a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

The study focused on doctors in France, Italy and the US, treating 618 patients diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), where AD was being considered as a possible cause. All patients were given a diagnosis and management plan by their doctors before undergoing an amyloid PET scan. For 50% of the patients, the doctors received scan results immediately, while the results of the other 50% were not given to their doctors until a year later.

Preliminary results demonstrated that doctors who received their patient's scan results immediately were significantly more likely to alter the patient's diagnosis and management plan - including the prescription of AD medication - than the doctors who were not given access to the scan results for a year.

22 July: New study suggests a saliva test could be used to detect AD

A saliva test could be used in the future to detect Alzheimer’s disease (AD) before symptoms develop, according to new research presented at AAIC 2015 on 22 July.

The study tested 100 patients, some with AD, some with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and some who were cognitively normal, using saliva samples, clinical diagnoses and cognitive data from a long-term large-scale investigation of human ageing (the Victoria Longitudinal Study).

The research team used protein analysis to find which substances were present in each person’s saliva and were able to find strong connections with certain substances and a person’s cognitive abilities.
Dementia in society

23 June: British Medical Association warns over driving with dementia

On 23 June, a motion was put forward at the British Medical Association (BMA) Annual Representative Meeting on the judgement of older drivers, with particular reference to those in the early stages of dementia.

The motion, proposed by Dr Peter Holden, requests that the BMA Board of Science investigates the “increasing problem of the potential impairment of judgement of some elderly drivers”.

Dr Holden said:

“Driving is a complex psychomotor activity requiring many faculties to be integrated and of course in dementia you can’t integrate them. While you may tick the box for having adequate vision, adequate hearing or adequate musculoskeletal abilities, you may not have the brainpower to put that lot together. Everyone regards a driving license as a right, but it’s a privilege, a privilege to hold a lethal weapon.”

George McNamara, Head of Policy at Alzheimer’s Society, reacted, saying:

“Scaremongering is not helpful in making rational decisions in this area. A dementia diagnosis is not in itself a reason to stop driving. The critical issue, both legally and practically, is whether an individual is able to drive safely. This decision requires individual judgements which can be clinically difficult and need sensitive handling. We are working with the DVLA and others to provide greater clarity on how this assessment should best be done. We would support the issuing of more guidance in this area for clinicians, people with dementia and those supporting them.”

10 July: Lawrence of Arabia star, Omar Sharif dies aged 83

Omar Sharif, best known for his roles in classic films Lawrence of Arabia and Doctor Zhivago, has died aged 83 in Cairo, Egypt.

The Egyptian-born actor won two Golden Globe awards and an Oscar nomination for his role as Sherif Ali in David Lean’s 1962 epic Lawrence of Arabia (pictured).

He won a further Golden Globe three years later for Doctor Zhivago.

Earlier this year, it was confirmed that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease (see Alzheimer Europe news, 23 May), though his agent Steve Kenis said his death was due to a heart attack.

New Publications & Resources

21 July: University of Tasmania launches online dementia course

The Wicking Dementia Research and Education Centre of the University of Tasmania opened registrations for the third edition of its massive open online course (MOOC), “Understanding Dementia” on 21 July.

The course, which lasts for nine weeks and is free of charge, is designed to be accessible and appealing to people from diverse backgrounds. It addresses the foremost issues surrounding dementia, providing avenues for discussion and rich global networking opportunities to engage with this major international health issue.

“Understanding Dementia” will commence on 17 August.

http://www.utas.edu.au/wicking/wca/mooc

21 July: Raj Long publishes report on “Finding a Path for the Cure for Dementia

On 21 July, a report written by Raj Long - “Finding a Path for the Cure for Dementia: An independent report into an integrated approach to dementia research” - was published.

The report, which sets out the hurdles that exist in the development of treatments for dementia, forms part of drive towards the G8 dementia summit’s goal of a cure or disease modifying therapy for dementia by 2025.

The Report was launched on July at AAG 2015.

Raj Long is a Senior Regulatory Officer of Integrated Development at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and has been the Director of the UK Department of Health’s Integrated Development initiative, as well as Member of World Dementia Council.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/challenges-to-finding-treatments-for-dementia

21 July: Dr Shibley Rahman’s book “Living Better with Dementia” is published

On 21 July, Dr Shibley Rahman’s book, “Living better with Dementia” was published.

“In this book, I call for people living with dementia, and their closest – including friends and family, to be called to the forefront of developing and implementing policy”, Dr Rahman said.

While he has “unreservedly...written this book for people living with dementia and their closest”, Dr Rahman also feels that many others could benefit from reading, including doctors, nurses, academic researchers, social care practitioners and the media.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/challenges-to-finding-treatments-for-dementia
**Contact Alzheimer Europe**

Chairperson: Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein (Germany); Vice-Chairperson: Iva Holmerová (Czech Republic); Honorary Secretary: Charles Scerri (Malta); Honorary Treasurer: Maria do Rósário Zincke dos Reis (Portugal); Members: Marie-Odile Desana (France), Sabine Henry (Belgium), James Pearson (UK - Scotland), Sirpa Pietikäinen (Finland), Jesús Rodrigo (Spain), Helga Rohra (Germany), Štefanija Lukič Zlobec (Slovenia).

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**AE Calendar 2015**

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<th>Meeting</th>
<th>AE representative</th>
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<td>13 August</td>
<td>Ethics workshop for the EPAD project (Amsterdam, Netherlands)</td>
<td>Dianne</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 September</td>
<td>European Working Group of People With Dementia (EWGPWD) meeting (Ljubljana, Slovenia)</td>
<td>Dianne &amp; Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 September</td>
<td>INTERDEM meeting (Ljubljana, Slovenia)</td>
<td>Dianne &amp; Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-4 September</td>
<td>AE Board meeting, AE’s Annual General Meeting and the 25th Alzheimer Europe Conference (Ljubljana, Slovenia)</td>
<td>AE Board and staff members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 September</td>
<td>Internal INTERDEM workshop on outcome measures (Ljubljana, Slovenia)</td>
<td>Dianne &amp; Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>Meeting of the EPAD Communications team (Ljubljana, Slovenia)</td>
<td>Jean &amp; Alex</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 September</td>
<td>2nd meeting of the ethics working group on ethical dilemmas faced by professional carers of people with dementia in residential and hospital care settings (Ljubljana, Slovenia)</td>
<td>Dianne</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-16 September</td>
<td>AFE Innovnet consortium meeting (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Dianne &amp; Ana</td>
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<tr>
<td>21-23 September</td>
<td>European Patien(ts Forum (EPI) Training on Strategic Communication</td>
<td>Kate</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 September</td>
<td>User forum for the PACE project (Brussels, Belgium)</td>
<td>Dianne &amp; Ana</td>
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**Conferences 2015-2016**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>24-27 August</td>
<td>Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative dementias, <a href="http://www.videnscenterfordemen.dk">www.videnscenterfordemen.dk</a></td>
<td>Copenhagen, Denmark</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-28 October</td>
<td>8th Iberoamerican Congress on AD</td>
<td>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-28 October</td>
<td>9th Congress on Vascular Dementia (ICVD 2015), <a href="http://www.comtecmed.com/icvd">http://www.comtecmed.com/icvd</a></td>
<td>Ljubljana, Slovenia</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 October-5 November</td>
<td>XXII World Congress of Neurology, <a href="http://www.wcn-neurology.com">www.wcn-neurology.com</a></td>
<td>Santiago, Chile</td>
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<td>5-7 November</td>
<td>8th edition of our Clinical Trials for Alzheimer’s Disease (Ctad 2015), <a href="http://www.ctad-alzheimer.com/philippines.com">http://www.ctad-alzheimer.com/philippines.com</a></td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<td>7-9 December</td>
<td>Covenant on Demographic Change Towards an age-friendly Europe, <a href="http://afeinnovnet.eu/event-launch-covenant-demographic-change">http://afeinnovnet.eu/event-launch-covenant-demographic-change</a></td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-12 March 2016</td>
<td>14th International Athens/Springfield Symposium on Advances in Alzheimer Therapy, <a href="http://www.ad-springfield.com">www.ad-springfield.com</a></td>
<td>Athens, Greece</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27-20 March</td>
<td>The 10th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy), <a href="http://www.comtecmed.com/cony">http://www.comtecmed.com/cony</a></td>
<td>Lisbon, Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-28 July</td>
<td>ANIC Annual Conference, <a href="https://www.alz.org/anic/">https://www.alz.org/anic/</a></td>
<td>Toronto, Canada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August-2 September</td>
<td>10th International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias, <a href="http://www.fic2016.de/">http://www.fic2016.de/</a></td>
<td>Munich, Germany</td>
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25th Alzheimer Europe Conference
Dementia: putting strategies and research into practice
Ljubljana, Slovenia
2-4 September 2015
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www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences