Alzheimer Europe

Newsletter
OCTOBER 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

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WELCOME

It brings me great pleasure to report that the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#35AEC), which took place in Bologna from 6 to 8 October, was a big success. We are pleased with the positive feedback from delegates about the event and the varied agenda we put together, along with our co-hosts Alzheimer Uniti Italia and Federazione Alzheimer Italia. It was wonderful to attend and mingle with the biggest audience (over 1,500 delegates) that we have ever attracted to our Annual Conference. You can find a special “Spotlight on 35AEC” section at the start of this newsletter.

Congratulations to the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), who organised and presented the popular first plenary. Congratulations, also, to all plenary speakers and both keynote lecturers, Nicolas Villain and Marco Trabucchi, as well as to everyone who organised the ten special symposia on the agenda. These included a symposium on “Translating Innovation into Improved Alzheimer’s Care", organised by Gold sponsor Lilly, with the participation of Italian Senator Beatrice Lorenzin. Thank you to all who attended, presented and supported the conference, with a special thanks to sponsors Lilly, Bristol Myers Squibb, BioArctic, Biogen, Eisai, Johnson & Johnson, MSD, Novo Nordisk, Roche and UCB, as well as to the Emilia-Romagna Region and City of Bologna. Last but not least, thanks to our Conference Coordinator Isabelle Collot, who only joined our ranks in April, but was able to pull off this huge event, with help from the rest of the team of course!

Aside from #35AEC, much else happened in Bologna, including INTERDEM ’s Annual Meeting, a meeting of the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia, and meetings of the EWGPWD and EDCWG. We also launched our latest Dementia in Europe magazine, together with a supplement about brain health. If you enjoyed Bologna, I invite you to mark the dates of next year’s conference, taking place in Dublin on 27-29 October 2026.

In other important news this month, Hilde Vautmans MEP (Belgium), Co-Chair of the European Alzheimer’s Alliance (EAA), called for greater focus on dementia as a policy issue at an EU level, as well as dedicated funding for research and health programmes in an interview this month, whilst her colleague, Nina Carberry MEP (Ireland), also an EAA Co-Chair, spoke during a European Parliament Plenary Debate on intergeneration fairness and older persons, highlighting that as people age, they are more likely to be affected by dementia and noting that dementia is the third leading cause of death in Europe and has a high associated cost, but comparatively low funding for research.

Speaking of research, it is exciting to see the official launch of Meno-Brain, an initiative funded under Horizon Europe, with the aim of filling critical research gaps on the menopause and post-menopause.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the nine finalists of our Anti-Stigma Award, shortlisted from among 45 applicants. They will attend a special award ceremony on 2 December, in Brussels (Belgium).

Jean Georges, Executive Director

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SPOTLIGHT ON 35AEC

5-6 OCTOBER:

European Working Group of People with Dementia and European Dementia Carers Working Group participate in pre-conference meetings

On Sunday 5 and Monday 6 October, the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) travelled to Bologna (Italy) for in-person meetings, prior to the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference (35AEC). During the meetings members discussed key issues currently being addressed through Alzheimer Europe's project work.

On day one, the EWGPWD reviewed Alzheimer Europe's 2025 Yearbook and the forthcoming recommendations on the use of technology for and by people with dementia. The group also contributed to the HOMEDEM project, a Marie-Sklodowska-Curie Action Doctoral Network that provides high-level training in design and dementia caregiving for early-stage researchers (https://www.homedem.eu/). Members of EWGPWD were split into two groups and each met with four early-stage researchers to provide feedback on: the meaning of playfulness in adulthood (Alicia Valencia), co-creation and care (Andrea Nakakawa Bernal), role of living spaces in fostering belonging (Natsumi Wada), support services and technologies role in promoting autonomous living (Vamsi Boyanagari), sleep quality, night-time agitation and naps (Ajda Flisar), therapy coaches supporting couples affected by dementia (Marine Markaryan), food-related activities and ways to support independence (Rising Lai) and social needs of people with dementia and their carers (Sunny Tan).

After the meeting, some members participated in a special photography and storytelling initiative organised by the RI-SCATTI project and Federazione Alzheimer Italia, capturing photographs of noteworthy moments and observations during the conference. A selection of their work was presented during the closing ceremony of 35AEC. On day two, members of the EWGPWD provided feedback on FluiDx-AD, a Horizon Europe project seeking to develop affordable and easy-to-use biomarker tests to help in the diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease (https://www.fluidx-ad.eu/). Members provided valuable feedback in relation to a prototype saliva collection device which may be able to detect biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease. The day was topped off with a networking event and a guided tour of the conference venue.

Members of the EDCWG met on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning and discussed very similar topics to those discussed by the EWGPWD, but from the perspective of carers. Their meeting kicked off with a session on citizen science in the framework of the European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND). Members had a lively discussion on the topic and reflected on the potential benefits and challenges of providing different levels of access to research data to lay people. Members of the EDCWG also had the opportunity to review the draft recommendations relating to culture, leisure and transport recommendations for the 2025 Alzheimer Europe's Yearbook and to provide feedback to the forthcoming recommendations on the use of technology for and by people with dementia. During the second day, they also had the chance to discuss and test the FluiDx-AD saliva collection device and provided relevant and important suggestions and ideas for improving it.

5-6 OCTOBER:

European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia meets in Bologna, prior to #35AEC

The European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia held an in-person meeting on 5 and 6 October in Bologna Italy, advance of #35AEC. 24 European countries were represented at the meeting Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom (Scotland).

In addition to representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission's Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and from Alzheimer Europe. Over the course of the two-day meeting, the group heard about national dementia strategies and policies, as well as European and international policy developments.

Presentations were given on a range of subjects, with national representations primarily focused on updates on their national dementia strategies and policies, as well as their ways of monitoring and evaluating these. The OECD provided an update on its ongoing work on dementia care and forthcoming report on the subject. WHO provided an update on the global developments relating to dementia, including the extension of the Global Action Plan on Dementia, whilst Alzheimer Europe provided updates on European developments, work on reimbursement and regulatory policies for new treatments, as well as research into risk factors on dementia.

The European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia was formed in 2018 by Alzheimer Europe, the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Italian Ministry of Health and the Scottish Government and is facilitated by Alzheimer Europe.

5-6 OCTOBER:

INTERDEM network hosts Annual Meeting in Bologna

INTERDEM is a network of researchers interested in psychosocial interventions, made up of more than 600 researchers and academics with different professional disciplines, spread across 20 countries (18 of which are in Europe). On 5 and 6 October, the INTERDEM network hosted its Annual Meeting at the Bologna Congress Centre, prior to #35AEC.

On 5 October, the meeting kicked off with a welcome from INTERDEM Chairperson Marjolein de Vugt, to all researchers present, before a presentation by Simone Salemme, M.D. (Neurologist, University of Camerino and University of Modena e Reggio Emilia, and Consultant of the National Institute of Health on dementia prevention), about "Bridging data and policy for brain health in Italy: Insights from regional and national analyses on dementia prevention".

Following this, a workshop, titled "How can INTERDEM support establishing European consortia?" was provided by Prof. Martin Orrell (Director of the Institute of Mental Health, University of Nottingham) and Prof. Manuel Franco (Head of Psychiatry and Mental Health Service, Zamora Health Complex & Associate Professor for Psychopathology and Mental Health, University of Salamanca).

On day two of the meeting, nice taskforce meetings were held on the topics of Prevention, Palliative & End of Life Care, Intersectionality, Assistive Technology, Methodology, Inequalities in Dementia Care, Social Health, Young Onset Dementia, and Dementia Education and Training. This year's meeting also marked a special milestone in the history of INTERDEM: the farewell of three founding board members, Frans Verhey, Myrra Vernooij-Dassen, and Esme Moniz-Cook, who established the network 25 years ago. Their vision, dedication, and long-standing commitment laid the foundation for what INTERDEM has become today, a vibrant, connected community advancing psychosocial dementia research across Europe. The network expressed heartfelt thanks to them. The meeting was rounded out with the presentation of the INTERDEM Academy award, chaired by Frans Verhey. The Award went to Kate Turley, congratulations to her! Alzheimer Europe is proud to be a key partner of INTERDEM.

6-8 OCTOBER:

35th Alzheimer Europe Conference takes place in Bologna under the banner “Connecting science and communities: The future of dementia care”, with a record number of more than 1,500 delegates from 48 countries

The 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#35AEC) “Connecting Science and Communities: The future of dementia care” was formally opened on the afternoon of 6 October. The conference took place at the Bologna Congress Center between 6 and 8 October, attracting over 1,500 delegates from across Italy, Europe and beyond, with 48 countries represented. On the agenda were over 800 presenters (369 presenters for oral and quick oral presentations, and 495 poster presentations), who shared their research, knowledge and experience in an atmosphere of true collaboration and solidarity.

Day one - 6 October

Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe, addressed delegates at the Opening Ceremony, officially opening the conference. She began by welcoming a record-breaking number of over 1,500 delegates, noting that three decades ago, in 1995, we held our Annual Conference in Milan, making this the second time that an Alzheimer Europe Conference has been organised in Italy. “I am sure you are all as delighted as I am that we are hosting our event once again in this beautiful country!” she said. She highlighted the exciting and varied conference programme created in collaboration with our co-hosts, Federazione Alzheimer Italia and Alzheimer Uniti Italia, sharing her delight that our Annual Conference continues to grow in popularity and to provide such an engaging forum for sharing knowledge and for networking, bringing together people living with dementia and their families, carers and supporters, as well as volunteers and staff of Alzheimer associations, policymakers, health and social care professionals, researchers, academics and industry representatives.

She thanked conference Gold sponsor Lilly, Silver sponsor Bristol Myers Squibb, and Bronze sponsors, BioArctic, Biogen, Eisai, Johnson & Johnson, MSD, Novo Nordisk, Roche and UCB for their support, as well as the Emilia-Romagna Region and City of Bologna. Finally, she extended a special welcome to the 48 people with dementia in our audience in Bologna, and to the 43 carers and supporters also in attendance, emphasising the importance, for her, of “listening to and learning from people with dementia and carers” and inviting everyone to do just that, at the first plenary session, which took place directly after the opening ceremony and focused on dementia as a European and national policy and research priority, from the perspective of members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG).

Mario Possenti, Vice-Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe and Secretary General of Federazione Alzheimer Italia, then took to the stage to present the medal of the President of the Republic to the conference. This is a token of appreciation from the President, and it was awarded to the Conference for its value. He also read out some welcome words provided by Professor Orazio Schillaci, Italian Minister of Health. The Minister extended his greetings to Alzheimer Europe, Federazione Alzheimer Italia and Alzheimer Uniti Italia, whom he thanked for “promoting this event of great national and international importance”, noting that “the decision to host the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna, Italy, confirms our nation's focus and desire to play a leading role in the international debate on the future of dementia care and support.”

He reassured attendees that Italy’s attention to dementia and to people with dementia and carers, is constant, and that for this reason, they have already implemented concrete measures to strengthen the network of health and social care services. “The refinancing of the Fund for Alzheimer's and Dementia, support for research and the enhancement of telemedicine are all steps in the direction of providing more timely and appropriate responses”, he stated. He also stressed that a further milestone would be the updating of the National Dementia Plan, which by the end of 2025 will provide Italy with a modern and shared strategy. “Thanks to the contribution of patient family associations, the new Plan will focus not only on scientific evidence but also on the daily experience of those facing the disease”, he said.

In closing, Minister Schillaci's words praised the Conference as "a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge and best practices, but above all to reaffirm a fundamental principle: no one should feel alone when faced with dementia", reassuring delegates that "the Italian Government will continue to work to ensure that patients and families receive adequate care and services."

Mario Possenti then gave the floor to Giovanni Gordini, Councillor, and Vice President of Commission IV "Health and Social Policies" representing the Emilia-Romagna region, who welcomed delegates and, in turn, Roberta Toschi, Bologna City Councillor responsible for Disability and Chair of the Fifth Council Committee - Health, Welfare, Family, Community, welcomed everyone to the city of Bologna. Both speakers' words were delivered in Italian and translated by Clelia d'Anastasio from Alzheimer Uniti Italia.

People with lived experience of dementia are our most important focus, both at our Annual Conference and in all aspects of our work. Prior to the conference, to ensure they were as comfortable as possible at our event, we hosted a networking event and information session, plus a tour of the conference venue for delegates with dementia. We were also proud to have our first plenary session once again entirely organised, moderated and presented by people with lived experience, as has been the case at each of our annual conferences since 2023.

The first plenary of the conference was a joint session organised by the members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), who decided to give their perspectives on dementia as a European and national policy and research priority, as people with lived experience of dementia. The session was moderated by Trevor Salomon, Chairperson of the EDCWG, from the UK. He welcomed the audience and introduced himself, sharing some of his family background and experience as a carer for his wife, Yvonne.

"I'm not sure at what point something becomes a tradition, but this is now the third successive time that the opening session of this Conference has been fronted by people living with dementia and carers. It's always had a deep, profound and dare I say emotional impact on the audience and truly serves to underpin the rest of the event, reminding us all about the impact of dementia on the lives of those diagnosed with the disease as well as the ripple impact through families", he stated, before giving the floor to the first speaker, Kevin Quaid, Chairperson of the EWGPWD, from Ireland.

Kevin's talk focused on "Going forward from Helsinki". The Helsinki Manifesto, adopted by Alzheimer Europe at its 2023 Annual General Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, addresses key areas impacting people with dementia, their families and carers, including health, research, disability and social rights, and support for informal carers. "The voices of people with dementia, regardless of the type or the stage, and of the people and families who care for or support us, matter the most", he said. "We are no longer asking to be listened to; we demand it. We will no longer accept being put at the bottom of the list of disabilities." "The Helsinki Manifesto is not just a document", he stressed. "It highlights the issues that affect people the most who are affected by dementia, both the person with the diagnosis and their loved ones. This is what we called the 'lived experience', and these are the voices that, from this day forward, must be front and centre of everything that involves dementia." Not only is this a huge benefit for researchers, but thanks to that research, the lives of people with dementia will be greatly enhanced. It is a vital exchange, for all concerned, he emphasised.

In closing, he said, "this is a document that everyone needs to know about. Read it and act upon it! If you feel that you can't do anything to help, then take it to your local elected representative and ask them what they are doing to implement it. Tell them the time for talking is over and now is the time for action!"

The second speaker was Annick Germeys, member of the EDCWG, from Belgium. She is a mother of two children and wife to Geert. She is also a board member and member of the carers working group of Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen. She shared her perspective as a carer for Geert, who was diagnosed with young-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2022 at the age of 53. Her talk explored how technology could become a true partner in dementia care. She discussed supporting daily routines, communication, safety and cognitive stimulation, all with the aim of helping people with dementia live at home longer and with dignity. This topic, she noted, had also been discussed within the meetings of the EDCWG, where members reflected on how personalised and adaptive technologies, guided by real-life needs, can support both people with dementia and their carers — without ever replacing or overshadowing the role of family carers.

Gerda Van Tongerloo, Vice-Chairperson of the EWGPWD, from the Netherlands took the floor next, with her talk titled "In the Silence of the Symptoms, hear the Echo of a Soul…". She began by saying "there is an urgent need for respectful communication about dementia and people with dementia, as highlighted in the guidelines on respectful and inclusive communication developed by the EWGPWD together with the EDCWG", highlighting that dementia is often treated differently, compared to other conditions and illnesses. "This is reflected in language that defines individuals by the problems associated with dementia", she said. She also emphasised that “the scientific community is increasingly recognising the importance of the social aspect of dementia, rather than solely focusing on the disease. This shift is leading to more initiatives that prioritise daily life and respectful communication”. Nonetheless, there is still a lot of work to be done. In closing she stated that “to change the language, it is essential that those of us with lived experience are at the centre of research and practice.”

The fourth and final speaker in this plenary session was Rosslyn Vella, Vice-Chairperson of the EDCWG, from Malta, who spoke about “The Caregiver's Compass: Navigating policy to achieve patient-centred palliative care in dementia". “This is a framework that emphasises the crucial role of policy in improving palliative and end-of-life care for people with dementia and us caregivers”, she began. This approach, she went on “recognises that dementia is a multifaceted terminal illness and that care should be person-centred, holistic and supportive of the entire family unit. The framework is built on the understanding that caregivers are essential partners in care and that our needs must be addressed in policy and practice.” But this approach is not just about the final days of life, she pointed out, but rather it should be integrated from the time of diagnosis and continue throughout the disease trajectory.

She spoke about the central role of the family, listing some of the key components of family-centred palliative care and highlighting the benefits of this approach. “By supporting the entire family, a palliative care approach can lead to reduced caregiver stress and burden, improved quality of life for the person with dementia, a more peaceful and dignified end-of-life experience, fewer unnecessary hospitalisations and aggressive medical interventions, and a stronger sense of empowerment and control for families who often feel helpless in the face of the disease”, she said. She then shared some of the key components of the Palliative Approach Framework and some of the challenges to current policy and practice, concluding that “the journey of dementia care should not be a solitary one for families. By adopting a palliative care approach, we can shift our focus from merely treating the disease to holistically supporting the person with dementia and their loved ones. This isn't just about end-of-life care; it's about improving the quality of every day, from diagnosis onwards. She also said that “by making these changes, we can transform dementia care from a fragmented and often overwhelming experience into a compassionate and person-centred journey. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that no family has to navigate the complexities of this illness alone. Let's work together to make this a reality for every person with dementia and us caregiver.”

Trevor Salomon thanked all of the speakers for their excellent presentations and the session closed with a warm and enthusiastic round of applause from the audience. To close day one of the conference, a Welcome Reception was held at the Congress Center from 18.30 to 20.00. Our co-hosts Alzheimer Uniti Italia and Federazione Alzheimer Italia took the opportunity to welcome everyone. Drinks and snacks were served to a live soundtrack of musical entertainment provided by Banda Rulli Frulli and supported by the Emilia-Romagna Region.

Day two - 7 October

The second plenary of the conference explored themes around gender and sexuality in dementia care and was moderated by Marjolein de Vugt (Netherlands). Maria Teresa Ferretti gave a talk on “Sex and gender differences in Alzheimer’s research”. Both sex (biology) and gender (socioeconomic factors) impact the clinical manifestation of Alzheimer’s disease, with women overwhelmingly affected, she said, highlighting that, in addition to being 2/3 of individuals living with the disease, women present higher accumulation of tau pathology and specific risk profiles. “The current ‘one-size-fits-all’ approach in neurology fails to address patient-specific needs related to sex and gender, and in particular those from LGBTQI+ minorities. A precision-medicine approach is needed to ensure health equity in Alzheimer’s”, she insisted. She also stated that, according to a recent survey from the EAN (European Academy of Neurology) coordinating panel on Diversity Equity and Inclusion, the majority of European neurologists feel they have not received sufficient training to treat patients belonging to the LGBTQI+ community and that they would welcome further education in this area.

The next speaker was Ingrid Hellström, who discussed “Gender in caregiving – barriers for male carers of people with dementia”. Male carers remain invisible despite growing numbers, she stated, with many male spousal carers struggling with stigma and identity shifts, feeling unseen in research, policy, and everyday support systems. “They face unique, gender-shaped barriers”, she said, such as cultural expectations of masculinity which discourage men from seeking help. “They often lack information about available services, feel isolated in female-dominated spaces, and may view care mainly as a set of tasks rather than an emotional role”, she continued, stressing that “inclusive, gender-sensitive support is essential”. To truly meet their needs, she pointed to the importance of services, which need to adapt, providing practical, tailored, and emotionally aware interventions that respect men’s experiences as carers. “Recognising and supporting men is not only about fairness, but about ensuring all carers receive the right help at the right time”, she concluded.

The third speaker at this session was Martina Roes, whose talk was titled “To better understand the experiences and unmet needs of LGBTQ+ people with dementia within the health care system - preliminary results from an intersectional analysis”. She began by saying that, whilst the number of people living with dementia is increasing, worldwide, there is limited research which has explored the experiences and unmet needs of LGBTQ+ people with dementia within the health care system, especially within dementia care. Her presentation shared combined results from three different reviews (one from the JPND-funded INTER-EST project, one from an INTERDEM taskforce on Culture, content, and intersectionality, and a recently published article on needs, preferences, and experiences of LGBTQ+ people).

Preliminary results from these reviews show that LGBTQ+ people with dementia experience lifetime discrimination and stigma, giving them the impression of being ‘doubly invisible, which continues when they access the healthcare system, often losing their social support within their family of origin and relying on support from their ‘chosen family’. Fear of discrimination may compound this, leading them not to use healthcare services and to conceal their identities in a care setting, due to experiencing a lack of LGBTQ+ affirmative care because of heteronormative care approaches. She also noted that transgender and non-binary people with dementia face different challenges, such as inappropriate curiosity from staff or ignorance of their specific needs, putting them at greater risk of poor health. Based on these results, some key needs were identified, including feeling safe to disclose and express one’s identity; receiving LGBTQ+ affirmative care; acceptance and inclusion of chosen family members; and overcoming structural barriers to access and utilise care services.

The final speaker was Diego De Leo whose presentation was titled “Gender as a factor in mental health and depression in old age care” and looked at how gender plays a significant role in shaping mental health outcomes and experiences of depression among older adults receiving care. Research indicates that older women are more likely to report symptoms of depression, he said, while older men may underreport due to social stigma and gender norms. He also pointed out that differences in life expectancy, caregiving roles, social support networks, and access to health services contribute to gender disparities in mental health. Understanding these gender-specific dynamics, he stressed, is essential for developing tailored interventions, improving diagnostic practices, and ensuring equitable care in geriatric mental health services.

The afternoon plenary session began with a keynote lecture titled “The great debate in diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease: More than just a β test”, delivered by Nicolas Villain. He emphasised that prognosis in cognitively unimpaired biomarker-positive individuals is heterogeneous, noting that most remain asymptomatic for years, whereas those with extended tau neuropathological changes in the neocortex confer very high short-term risk (~80% to mild cognitive impairment by six years; ~46% to dementia). “Alzheimer’s disease should remain a clinical–biological diagnosis anchored to symptoms or demonstrably very-high risk”, he stated, emphasizing that “switching to a purely biological definition denotes a different entity with different implications for patients, trials, and policy”. Semantics, he concluded, “carry clinical and public-health weight, with a ‘biology-only’ label having the potential to inflating prevalence, magnify misdiagnosis and inequities, and enable approvals without proven clinical benefit—especially in asymptomatic populations.”

The third plenary of the conference focused on preparing for new AD treatments and took the form of a roundtable discussion, moderated by Angela Bradshaw, Director for Research at Alzheimer Europe. The panel included Joanne Pike, Alzheimer’s Association (USA), Sabina Capellari, University of Bologna (Italy), Lutz Frölich, Central Institute for Mental Health, Mannheim (Germany), and Marco Bozzali, University of Turin (Italy). The introduction of disease-modifying therapies is a landmark moment in the history of Alzheimer's care, but it also requires a timely and accurate diagnosis, a continuous monitoring system to assess treatment efficacy and safety, as well as improved access to biomarkers through standardised pathways. The ability to identify patients at an early stage has improved, but issues remain with late diagnosis and underdiagnosis, a need for training and upskilling, the need to adapt healthcare systems to new treatments, and to invest in diagnostics, harmonise policies and raise public awareness.

Joanne Pike, reflecting on experiences from lecanemab rollout in the US, highlighted the Association's ECHO telementoring programme for healthcare professionals, saying "Strong infrastructure is needed for equitable delivery. But capability is also important; physicians must have skills and knowledge, supported by robust guidelines and models of care." Alongside comments from members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, and the European Dementia Carers Working Group, the panel discussed questions such as how to improve timely diagnosis, whether European health systems are ready for the introduction of new treatments, what role there might be for genetic counselling, and how to ensure safe monitoring of side effects. The plenary finished with a call to policymakers, to "get serious about dementia," to ensure strong, sustained investment in health systems, so people who could benefit from treatment can access new AD medicines in a timely, safe and equitable way.

Day three - 8 October

The fourth plenary of the conference looked at some of the less common types of dementia (i.e. not Alzheimer's dementia). Yolande Pijnenburg (Netherlands) was first up to the lectern, with a talk about "Improving the diagnosis and treatment of fronto-temporal dementia". She began by sharing some statistics around frontotemporal dementia (FTD), noting that it is the second cause of young-onset dementia and is still relatively under-diagnosed, probably due to both the young age of presentation, the atypical (non-memory) presentation, and the lack of disease specific biomarkers. Progress in the diagnosis of FTD has been made in the field of measuring social cognition, the use of serum or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) neurofilament, and the development of disease-specific plasma biomarkers, she said. Moreover, she pointed out that in-depth phenotypical profiling would help to recognise the clinical picture at an earlier stage, highlighting that, at the moment, multiple therapies are being tested in controlled trials, particularly for the genetic forms of FTD, which form around 20% of the total population which has FTD. In conclusion, she stressed that genetic testing in suspected FTD offers both diagnostic and therapeutic potential.

Up next was Rejko Krueger (Luxembourg), to discuss genetic risk factors, in particular in relation to Lewy Body Dementia, Parkinson's disease, but also Alzheimer's disease (AD). He started by drawing the audience's attention to the fact that, although Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of neurodegenerative dementia, there are also significant numbers of dementia cases that are in fact caused by synucleinopathies such as dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) or Parkinson's disease dementia (PDD). "The majority of people with dementia are sporadic and supposed to be based on an interplay between genetic and environmental factors. However, monogenic forms with specific mutations in genes like amyloid precursor protein (APP) for AD or alpha-synuclein (SNCA) for DLB and PDD have allowed us to identify causes of the neurodegenerative process and are instructing us about the underlying mechanisms", he stated. He discussed proteins encoded by mutant APP or SNCA, Abeta and aSyn respectively, which he said not only pathologically aggregate in brains of these rare familial forms, but are pathognomonic for all cases with the respective disease. "Therefore, Abeta and aggregated forms of aSyn were established as biomarkers for these types of dementia", he continued. He also noted that, for the common sporadic forms of dementia, genetic risk factors were identified such as ApoE or GBA1 for AD, DLB and PDD that substantially contribute to Abeta and aSyn pathology, respectively. In closing, he said there is increasing evidence for genetic factors contributing to dementia risk, paving the way for improved biomarkers and promising disease-modifying treatments.

The third speaker in this plenary session was Piero Parchi (Italy), whose talk was titled "Are prion diseases the forgotten dementias? An update on their prevalence and diagnosis". He started with some words of explanation about prion diseases: These are rare neurodegenerative disorders related to prion protein (PrP) misfolding. They are characterised by extensive phenotypic heterogeneity, and, in most cases, by rapid progression and spreading. They include sporadic (or idiopathic), genetic and acquired forms. The most common human prion disease is Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). Besides CJD, human prion diseases include other phenotypes (e.g., Gerstmann-Sträussler-Scheinker disease and variably protease-sensitive prionopathy) in which misfolded PrP mainly forms aggregates of C-terminally truncated, unglycosylated and anchorless fragments, resulting in a much slower disease progression, increased formation of amyloid plaques, including cerebral amyloid angiopathy in some cases, and reduced transmissibility. In the clinical setting, the early identification of patients with suspected CJD is often challenging, he said, because CJD patients may present with isolated symptoms that remain the only clinical manifestation for some time, or with atypical neurological syndromes. He therefore noted that it is likely that some patients with prion disease will remain unrecognized, without the performance of a neuropathological examination.

The final speaker for this plenary session was Claire Fyvie (United Kingdom - Scotland). The main message of her presentation was that children can get dementia too. "Most stakeholders and policymakers think of dementia as a disease of old age, but childhood dementia is real, under-recognised and devastating", she said and noted that there are more than 100 genetic conditions that cause childhood dementia. “They are all terminal. There are no cures. Half of the children with dementia die by the age of 10. Most die before reaching their 18th birthday”, she said. She spoke from the heart and from personal experience, about the effect of dementia on her fourteen-year-old son Alexander, calling on Alzheimer Europe, its members and their governments, to include children in their dementia frameworks, policies, research strategies, and events.

The second keynote lecture of the conference was delivered by Marco Trabucchi (Italy), whose talk explored some of the next steps in dementia diagnosis and treatment. He began by stressing the importance of approaching the future of dementia care with optimism. “Patients do not need pessimism”, he emphasised, but rather they need “a strong, generous engagement by researchers, doctors and psychosocial operators to improve the quality of their life, overcoming enormous amounts of interfering events.”

People affected by dementia and their families are waiting anxiously and are holding out hope for any possible new approach to their clinical, psychological and social needs, he said. Indeed, he continued “they are paying great attention to the rate of progress in the various fields and are not willing to forgive any kind of delay due to inadequate focus on goals connected with a positive outcome for diagnostic procedures and therapeutic approaches.” It is therefore vital that research must consider that the progress in dementia “cannot be built on isolated pillars” and that scientific breakthroughs “must be translated into meaningful care”, he insisted. He also noted that communities should be strengthened through greater knowledge and support, while policies need to ensure access and fairness. Guiding all of this, he said, must be the lived experience of people affected by dementia. In closing, he said “connecting science, medicine and communities is not just a theme, but a commitment to integration, collaboration and humanity.”

The closing ceremony of the conference included comments from Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, in her capacity as our chairperson. She took the opportunity to thank all the delegates and speakers, as well as reiterating thanks to all of our corporate sponsors again, and said a huge thanks to the Alzheimer Europe team and the new Conference Coordinator Isabelle Collot for all the hard work in making the conference happen, as well as to our co-hosts Alzheimer Uniti Italia and Federazione Alzheimer Italia. Andy Heffernan, Chief Executive of the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI), then took to the stage to invite delegates to the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference, “Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership”, taking place in Dublin, Ireland, from 27-29 October 2026. Save the dates!

To conclude the conference, attendees at the closing ceremony were treated to an uplifting and deeply moving performance by Ologramma Argento, a choral group composed of older adults (over 65) with a strong focus on inclusion, memory, and community engagement, based in the Emilia-Romagna region. The performance brought the audience to tears and earned a standing ovation.

6-8 OCTOBER:

Supporting continence care at 35AEC, in collaboration with the Urge to Act initiative

Alzheimer Europe is involved in an initiative called the “Urge to Act” and has previously endorsed its Call for Action and supported communications around the initiative. In the context of this collaboration, we took the opportunity, during our Annual Conference in Bologna, to ensure that continence care was supported. Women’s toilets contain sanitary disposal bins as standard, but we ensured that each of the men’s toilet blocks also contained a stall with a sanitary disposal bin, so that any men with or without dementia had access to these bins, to help them manage any continence issues they may have.

6-8 OCTOBER:

35AEC programme counts ten special symposia

The programme of the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference included ten special symposia:

- SS1 "Translating Innovation into Improved Alzheimer's Care", organised by the event's gold sponsor Lilly (read more, in our article focusing on this symposium).
- SS2 "Research and co-creation: from tokenism to meaningful engagement", organised by Dutch project DEMPACT.
- SS3 "Alzheimer's Co-housing, Another Solution? - An Alternative to the Ambivalent Choice Between Home Care and Nursing Home", organised by Fondation Médéric Alzheimer.
- SS4 " 25th Anniversary Session - The contribution of INTERDEM in bringing hope to dementia research & practice", organised by INTERDEM.
- SS5 "Early Action for Dementia: A Non-Pharmacological Person-Centred Model for Cognitive Intervention", organised by Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera.
- SS6a "Advancing advocacy: from discovery to delivery in prevention and treatment", organised by World Dementia Council in partnership with Alzheimer's Association.
- SS6b "The Dutch ABOARD Cohort: accelerating Alzheimer's research through real-world data capture and registry linkage", organised by the Dutch ABOARD project.
- SS7 "Prioritising Alzheimer's Disease in Europe: Next steps for Policy Action", sponsored by bronze sponsor Biogen.
- SS8 "Dementia researchers of the future", supported by the Alzheimer Europe Foundation, the INTERDEM Academy and Frontiers in Dementia (read more, in our article focusing on this symposium).
- SS9 "Non-pharmacological interventions and Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration (FTD) and Lewy Body Disease (LBD)", organised by Fondation Médéric Alzheimer.

6 OCTOBER:

Special session on promoting inclusive research participation and data sharing in dementia takes place at 35AEC

The session "Breaking down barriers: promoting inclusive research participation and data sharing in dementia" explored how to make dementia research more representative and collaborative. Speakers discussed factors that influence participation, particularly among underrepresented groups, and the value of responsible data sharing in accelerating discovery. Paddy Crosbie, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, shared perspectives from lived experience, Michael Schöll (University of Gothenburg) presented lessons from the REAL-AD and AD-RIDDLE studies, Matt Clement (Gates Ventures) highlighted how the AD Data Initiative and EPND are advancing data-driven science, and Lukas Duffner (Alzheimer Europe) outlined findings from a public poll on attitudes to dementia research and data sharing. The session was chaired by Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) and supported by Gates Ventures.

7 OCTOBER:

Lilly organises special symposium on "Translating innovation into improved Alzheimer's care" at 35AEC, with the participation of Italian Senator Beatrice Lorenzin

Special Symposium 1, "Translating innovation into improved Alzheimer's care", organised by conference Gold sponsor Lilly, was an immersive symposium that invited participants to 'walk in the shoes' of those shaping the future of dementia care. It opened with the screening of a moving video, called "Hero".

The session, led by scientific journalist Elena Meli (Italy), aimed to shine a spotlight on the powerful intersection of scientific innovation and community engagement, focusing on one of the most pressing challenges in Alzheimer's disease (AD): achieving a timely and accurate diagnosis.

A panel of experts, including Catherine Reed, Senior Director, International Values, Evidence and Outcomes, Eli Lilly and Company, Lutz Frölich, Head of the Department of Geriatric Psychiatry, Central Institute for Mental Health, Mannheim (Germany), and

Jean Georges, Executive Director, Alzheimer Europe took part in a roundtable discussion exploring how decades of research are now converging into transformative diagnostic and therapeutic innovations. With the potential to modify the course of AD on the horizon, time is of the essence, to ensure early and accurate diagnosis, as well as timely intervention, when they can make the biggest difference.

The symposium included segment called "Gamification: Put yourself in a policy makers' shoes: Where would you invest to advance the health care system?" which gave delegates an idea how prioritising and financing different aspects of the dementia health environment impacts on outcomes.

The symposium was closed by Senator Beatrice Lorenzin, former Italian Health Minister who gave an update on Italian actions on dementia emphasising the need both for a long-term strategy addressing all societal issues important to people with dementia and a more short-term framework to improve timely diagnosis and preparing the access to new innovative treatments. She also called for the development of a European Alzheimer's strategy and the importance of fully involving people with dementia in policy planning. Senator Lorenzin stated: "A strong collaboration between institutions, patients, and their associations is essential to transform real needs into concrete public health policies, and international opportunities for dialogue such as the Alzheimer Europe Conference move precisely in this direction. As the Parliamentary Intergroup on Neurosciences and Alzheimer's, we are working to ensure that therapies capable of slowing cognitive decline for defined groups of patients reach them in the shortest possible time. For this reason, a shared commitment, both national and European, is extremely necessary to achieve the definition of a European Plan for Alzheimer's and Dementia, based on equity, access to innovation, and mutual support among countries."

8 OCTOBER:

"Dementia researchers of the future" symposium at 35AEC highlights work of nine early-stage researchers and prize awarded by Frontiers in Dementia for best presentation

The symposium "Dementia researchers of the future" was chaired by Iva Holmerová (Czechia), Fania Dassen (Netherlands) and Valentina Barrera (Switzerland). This special symposium was supported by the Alzheimer Europe Foundation, the INTERDEM Academy and Frontiers in Dementia.

This session afforded a great opportunity for nine early-stage researchers, selected by our jury, to benefit from bursaries to attend and present at the conference. The selection of the bursaries was based on the best average scores each received from the jury members.

The nine presentations were:

- Examining the Key Correlates of Functional Impairment in Behavioural Variant Frontotemporal Dementia: Cognitive, Behavioral, Personality, and Brain Perfusion Contributions, by Electra Chatzidimitriou (Greece)
- Integrating Mild Behavioral Impairment into Dementia Prevention Strategies: A Telemedicine-Based Approach Aligned with WHO's Global Action Plan, by Efthalia Angelopoulou (Greece)
- Longitudinal Trajectories of Sleep Disturbances and Cognitive Decline in Mild Cognitive Impairment: Evidence from a Three-Phase Study, by Areti Batzikosta (Greece)
- Evaluating the Effectiveness of a Theory Driven Person-Centred Disaster Preparedness Program for Family Caregivers of People Living with Dementia, by Özlem Çiçek Doğan (Türkiye)
- Art therapy and Alzheimer's disease in Greece: Who influence(d)(s) whom? by Vaitsa Giannouli (Greece)
- Genetic predisposition for different aspects of dementia pathology and cognitive decline in a community elderly population, by Stefanos N. Sampatakakis (Greece)
- Diet quality modifies the risk of dementia conferred by AD pathology in older adults: a 15-year population-based study, by Anja Mrhar (Slovenia)
- Application of Positive Psychology Interventions in individuals with early-stage cognitive decline related to dementia: their impact on cognitive and brain functioning, by Dimitra Vasileiou (Greece)

- The well-being and lived care experiences of family caregivers of people living with dementia: the case study of Photovoice practice in Lithuania, by Ieva Petkutė (Lithuania).

At the end of the symposium, an award of EUR 2,500 by Frontiers in Dementia for the best quick oral presentation was presented to Efthalia Angelopoulou.

6-8 OCTOBER:

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland attended the Alzheimer Europe Conference 2025 in Bologna

From 6-8 October, staff and advocates from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) were proud to participate in the Alzheimer Europe Conference 2025 in Bologna, held under the theme "Connecting science and communities: The Future of dementia care." The event brought together professionals, researchers, policymakers, and individuals affected by dementia from across Europe to exchange knowledge and foster collaboration.

The ASI contributed to a diverse programme, including sessions on ethical considerations around assisted dying and dementia, the role of public involvement in research, and personal experiences of living with dementia. Irish delegates highlighted the value of lived experience, inclusive policy development and collaborative research. The ASI also presented its community engagement initiatives through a poster display and took part in panel discussions and workshops throughout the conference. These contributions underscored The ASI's commitment to centring lived experience in dementia care and research.

A key moment during the closing ceremony was the announcement that Dublin will host the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC) from 27-29 October 2026 at the Convention Centre Dublin. Themed "Sláinte: Building Momentum in Dementia through Policy, Research and Partnership" the event will convene people living with dementia, carers, researchers, clinicians and policymakers from across Europe. The 2026 conference will spotlight emerging research, innovative treatments, and the practical application of technologies such as e-health. The active involvement of people living with dementia and carers will ensure that lived experience continues to shape the future of dementia care.

Read the full news about #36AEC taking place in Dublin:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/alzheimer-europe-and-alzheimer-society-ireland-are-delighted-announce-dublin-will-host-36th

24 OCTOBER:

Sertaç Hatice, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, shares her reflections on the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna

This year's Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna marked my second time participating, and it was once again an inspiring and enriching experience. The European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) meetings began early, offering a valuable opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and exchange ideas.

On the first day, just before the start of the parallel sessions, my FOMO (fear of missing out) peaked. I wear multiple hats:

- As a member of the Turkish Alzheimer Association, I follow advocacy and policy sessions closely
- As a care partner, I am drawn to therapy-related discussions
- And as the daughter of a person living with dementia, I am deeply interested in early diagnosis and risk assessment.

Fortunately, my niece, who lives in Milan, joined me, and together we divided the sessions so we could cover more ground. That is my key advice for anyone planning to attend the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin (27-29 October 2026): make it a shared experience. Invite family members, colleagues, or friends to join you. The Irish have done remarkable work in advocacy, policy, research, and Public Involvement, and I look forward to learning more about it next year. Throughout the conference, I met new researchers and professionals from different countries and expanded my professional network. I especially appreciated the chance to approach experts directly and discuss my questions in a one-to-one format — my favourite way to learn.

The conference concluded with a heartwarming concert by Ologramma Argento, a choral group of older adults (65+) from the Emilia-Romagna region, known for their commitment to inclusion, memory, and community engagement. Even though I do not speak Italian, I found myself joining in the chorus of *Volare* and *'O Sole Mio*. It was an uplifting and deeply moving experience that demonstrated the therapeutic power of music. The performance ended with a well-deserved standing ovation for Ologramma Argento. Check out the youtube links below for some excerpts from the concert:
O Sole mio https://youtu.be/weYsle4VMfA?si=_56XMQdJWxUg9Uiy
Con te partiró https://youtu.be/YZTE_VJDSJQ?si=yPR91lZHb6-zbtCu
Nessun dorma https://youtu.be/o83bZemNO3E?si=eZquceh52mC2YQiJ
La nostra favola https://youtu.be/jXhimkbd1fQ?si=0fUvMSzMN1GGG8vh

ALZHEIMER EUROPE

6 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Europe publishes 49th edition of its Dementia in Europe magazine to coincide with its Annual Conference #35AEC

Alzheimer Europe is pleased to present the 49th edition of Dementia in Europe magazine. Together with a Special Supplement about brain health and dementia risk reduction, the magazine has been published to coincide with the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#35AEC), taking place in Bologna, Italy, from 6-8 October. Delegates can stop by the Alzheimer Europe stand if they wish to get a copy of the magazine and supplement whilst attending our Conference. The 49th edition of our Dementia in Europe magazine brings updates on interesting developments across Europe in relation to policy, research, culture, advocacy and dementia care, in recent months.

We open our Alzheimer Europe section looking back at our successful lunch debate in June, held in the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium, at which around 100 people were present. We are grateful to co-hosts, Romana Jerković MEP (S&D, Croatia), Sirpa Pietikäinen MEP (EPP, Finland) and Hilde Vautmans MEP (Renew, Belgium) for their support! Our following two articles mark the closing of two projects in which Alzheimer Europe has been involved, with PatternCog Coordinator Jussi Tohka, and ADIS Coordinator, Holger Fröhlich, providing an overview of the achievements of their respective projects. We then hear from Ini Umoh, from the PROMINENT project, about a recently published paper on clinicians' perspectives on clinical decision support systems in dementia care.

We are delighted to welcome and introduce new members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), in the following article, before saying goodbye to Sonata Mačiulskytė, who departs from the EDCWG. Having served admirably as Chair and Vice-Chair during the formative years of the group, she leaves with our heartfelt thanks and will be dearly missed!

Opening the policy section, Lisa Mayer introduces the comprehensive Austrian Dementia Report 2025, setting out the state of play in the country, with a reaction from Friederike de Maeyers of Demenz Selbsthilfe Austria. Turning to European matters, we then examine the EU's general pharmaceutical legislation, with comments from the European Patients' Forum and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations. We continue with EU-level work, with an article from Petra Ritter on the use of AI in healthcare, as part of the EU-financed initiative, TEF-Health.

Moving to a global level, Katrin Seeher from the World Health Organization (WHO) provides information on the WHO's Global Action Plan on Dementia, which has been extended until 2031. We then hear from Ricarda Milstein from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), who provides insights on data from their forthcoming "Care Still Needed - Policies for Improving the Lives of People Revisited" report. Finally, we close this section with a brief overview of the most recent meeting of the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia, who met online in June to exchange knowledge and information.

The Dementia in Society section begins with our member Alzheimer Iceland, which has been actively supporting people with dementia for 40 years – happy anniversary! Staying with our members, we mark some significant personnel changes, in the following articles. We warmly welcome Lena Kock to her position as Chair of our Swedish member organisation Demensförbundet, whilst bidding goodbye to Liselotte Björk – a huge thanks for all her hard work and support! We will also miss Gerjoke Wilmink, who after seven years as CEO of Alzheimer Nederland, will retire next month – we are grateful for her years of committed support!

Turning to dementia and the arts, we hear from our colleagues at The Alzheimer Society of Ireland about how people with lived experience were involved in the development of the play "Lost Lear", which was performed at the Edinburgh Fringe

Festival in 2025. We then speak to director Bertrand Hagenmüller about the inspiration for his documentary film “Les Esprits Libres” and its objectives.

From the arts to science, we round off this section with the positive and long-awaited news about the European authorisation of lecanemab for the treatment of early Alzheimer’s disease, which marks a milestone in the development of disease-modifying therapies.

In our final section, Spotlight on Italy, we hear about the current situation in Italy, the host country for #35AEC – a huge thank you to our Italian associations who made this section possible. We are grateful to Minister for Health, Orazio Schillaci, for taking the time to outline the current policy situation in Italy, as well as sharing some of the government’s plans for the future. We then hear from Mario Possenti of Federazione Alzheimer Italia, and Manuela Belardinelli of Alzheimer Uniti Italia, who share the vital work of their respective organisations in supporting people living with dementia and their families. If you are attending the conference, be sure to check out their sessions!

We draw this section and the magazine to a close with two moving articles from people with lived experience of dementia. First, Frank Parisotto, who lives with CADASIL, shares how he lives with the condition and how small changes in the community can help people with a diagnosis to live well. In our final article, Enea Donnoli gives a touching insight into his experience as a caregiver for his wife, Elea, sharing how life changed for them following the diagnosis. Thank you to both of them for sharing their experiences with us!

We hope you enjoy this edition of our Dementia in Europe magazine and if you are in Bologna, enjoy #35AEC! Dementia in Europe magazine issue 49 can be downloaded, here: https://bit.ly/DementiaInEurope49

6 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Europe publishes Brain Health Supplement, outlining the European dementia risk reduction landscape

On 6 October 2025, Alzheimer Europe published a special Brain Health Supplement, complementing the 49th edition of its Dementia in Europe magazine. The Supplement examines dementia risk reduction and prevention from a European perspective, covering primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and underlining the importance of action across the life course and across all stages of dementia.

The opening article features an overview of the Lancet Commission on Dementia Prevention, Intervention and Care, with perspectives from Kevin Quaid (Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia) and Trevor Salomon (Chairperson of the European Dementia Carers Working Group). The Supplement also includes new data on the distribution of modifiable risk factors for dementia across Europe, based on analyses carried out within the AD-RIDDLE project as part of a wider policy and practice review led by Alzheimer Europe. These analyses underline the substantial potential for risk reduction and prevention across Europe, emphasising the continued need for interventions on individual and societal levels.

A section on research, implementation and healthcare system preparedness starts with an overview of the FINGER study, a landmark clinical trial that showed how multi-modal interventions can improve brain health and prevent cognitive decline. Perspectives from the Multi-MeMo and Lethe projects illustrate how research projects are advancing the science of dementia prevention. We also examine how healthcare systems can be prepared to support brain health more effectively throughout the life course and across all stages of dementia. The supplement highlights opportunities to integrate new prevention tools and approaches into care, and points to EU-level initiatives that seek to overcome barriers to system preparedness.

The final section focuses on advancing brain health policy in Europe. It stresses the need to embed prevention and risk reduction not only in national dementia strategies, but also in wider European policy frameworks. Examples from national Alzheimer’s associations in Armenia, Scotland, Netherlands and Switzerland show how prevention is already being addressed in practice, while a perspective from the World Health Organization provides a global context.

The closing article outlines the Alzheimer Europe position on risk disclosure, calling for open, honest, empathetic and compassionate disclosure of dementia risk in both research and clinical practice. The Special Supplement on Brain Health can be downloaded here: https://bit.ly/Brain_Health_Supplement

9 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Europe and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland are delighted to announce that Dublin will host the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in October 2026

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) and Alzheimer Europe are pleased to announce that Ireland will host the prestigious 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference from 27-29 October 2026, at the Convention Centre Dublin. Themed ‘Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership’, the event is anticipated to welcome more than

1,200 delegates from across Europe, including a strong representation from Ireland.

This will be the first time Ireland hosts the Alzheimer Europe Conference since 2005, made possible thanks to Fáilte Ireland and the Dublin Convention Centre for their support in securing the bid.

The Alzheimer Europe Conference has previously been held in cities such as Geneva, Helsinki, and Bucharest, and this year's 35th edition took place in Bologna, Italy. Ireland's hosting in 2026 marks a significant moment for the country's ongoing commitment to improving the lives of those affected.

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland CEO, Andy Heffernan announced the news, during the Closing Ceremony of the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference, in Bologna (pictured), alongside members of Team ASI who took to the stage with him.

Read the press release sent by The ASI and Alzheimer Europe on 9 October:
https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/alzheimer-europe-and-alzheimer-society-ireland-are-delighted-announce-dublin-will-host-36th

30 OCTOBER:

Winner of Alzheimer Europe's Anti-Stigma Award 2025 to be announced at a special ceremony in December

Alzheimer Europe and the Alzheimer Europe Foundation are delighted to announce the finalists for the 2025 edition of their Anti-Stigma Award.

Following the great success of the initiative over the past three years, the 2025 edition was launched, with the aim of awarding a European artist active in the field of painting or photography for their work which contributed to combating stigma and promoting a positive image of dementia and people living with dementia.

This year's Anti-Stigma Award will consist of a cash prize of EUR 5,000 for first place, a cash prize of EUR 2,500 for second place and a cash prize of EUR 1,250 for third place, each of which will be accompanied by a trophy.

Congratulations to all nine finalists selected, out of a total of 45 applicants. The finalists have all been invited to attend our special award dinner and ceremony taking place on 2 December, in Brussels (Belgium), at which we will announce the winner. The finalists are (in alphabetical order):

- Joao Barbosa, for "Walking the Talk for Dementia: A Journey Beyond the Diagnosis"
- Peter Gaymann, for "Demensch"
- Nelli Hennig, for " Openair Fotokunstausstellung Demenz neu sehen"
- Alex Kornhuber, for " Keepsake Chronicles: Stories in Times of Dementia"
- Mathilde Parquet, for "Aimants, Aidants"
- Simon Móricz Sabján, for "What the Light Remembers"
- Max Schulte, for "Walk Talking for Dementia"
- Bálint Szajki, for "In Sickness and in Health"
- Wouter van Wessel, for "A Calm Gaze".

Alzheimer Europe gratefully acknowledges the support of the sponsors of the Alzheimer Europe Anti-Stigma Award 2025: Alzheimer Europe Foundation, C2N diagnostics, Lilly and Roche.

More information about the award can be found at: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/our-work/anti-stigma-award/anti-stigma-award-2025

AE NETWORKING

2 OCTOBER	Owen attended a meeting of European NGOs hosted by the European Disability Forum (EDF)
5 OCTOBER	Ana, Dianne, Faye, Sarah and Soraya attended and facilitated meetings of the European Working Group of People with Dementia and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (Bologna, Italy)
5-6 OCTOBER	Ange, Jean, Lukas and Owen attended and facilitated a meeting of the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia (Bologna, Italy)
6-8 OCTOBER	Alzheimer Europe staff attended the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference #35AEC (Bologna, Italy)
7 OCTOBER	Cindy attended the online kick-of meeting of the MenoBrain Doctoral Network
9 OCTOBER	Dianne, Faye and Chris attended the FluiDx-AD General Assembly meeting (Bologna, Italy)
14 OCTOBER	Kate and Margarita attended a meeting with members of the Landesbühnen Sachsen theatre to discuss their German production of “The Lion’s Face” – an opera about dementia
15 OCTOBER	Ana, Dianne and Chris attended the PROMINENT Midterm review meeting
16 OCTOBER	Owen attended the MEP interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions (Brussels, Belgium)
16 OCTOER	Owen attended the Policy and Advocacy Meeting organised by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) (Brussels, Belgium)
16 OCTOBER	Dianne attended the Urge to Act Alliance catch-up meeting
17 OCTOBER	Owen attended a workshop on health literacy organised by the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) (Brussels, Belgium)
22 OCTOBER	Owen attended the launch of launch of an online training course "Self-care and care competences for informal caregivers of people with care and support needs" hosted by WHO Europe, the European Commission and Eurocarers
27 OCTOBER	Sarah facilitated a meeting with the Public Ambassador Group for PREDICTOM
29 OCTOBER	Cindy attended the annual meeting of the multi-stakeholder platform, established as part of the Accelerating Clinical Trials in the EU (ACT EU) initiative
30-31 OCTOBER	Ange attended the autumn meeting of the European Alzheimer’s Disease Consortium (Edinburgh, Scotland, UK)

EU PROJECTS

22-23 SEPTEMBER:

PREDICTOM Partners meet for Annual Consortium meeting in Greece

The annual meeting of the PREDICTOM project ("Predictive Dementia Diagnostics and Treatment through Customisable Cognitive and Biomarker Screening") took place in Thessaloniki (Greece), on 22 and 23 September, hosted by the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH), the Multimedia and the Brain, Health and Virtual Reality Group. Project partners gathered for two days of productive exchange and were joined online by representatives from the PROMINENT and AD-RIDDLE projects under the triple+ IHI framework, to promote collaboration and accelerate progress in dementia research.

Breakout sessions focused on key areas including biomarkers, algorithms, platform development, public involvement and dissemination. Clinical partners also participated in hands-on workshops on EEG, eye tracking and hearing tests. Strategic discussions on day 2 addressed, harmonisation of data across disciplines, integration of multimodal results and sustainability through the 3A approach: affordability, availability and accessibility. The consortium aligned on next steps for streamlining the patient journey, refining the analytics database and shaping a publication strategy. Input from the Scientific Advisory Board provided valuable guidance on ensuring long-term impact and adoption of project outcomes. As recruitment progresses and data collection advances, the project consortium is preparing for the next phase of analysis and results sharing, aiming to contribute meaningfully to the future of dementia risk prediction.

The PREDICTOM project has received funding from the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking, under Grant Agreement no. 101132356. This Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, COCIR, EFPIA, EuropaBio, MedTechEurope and Vaccines Europe.

25-26 SEPTEMBER:

REMOTE-AD consortium meets in Berlin to address the framework and the standards needed for the future clinical implementation of remote digital assessments

On 25 and 26 September, the REMOTE-AD expert group gathered in Berlin (Germany). The meeting was hosted by the Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen (DZNE) at the offices of the Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft, and was attended by Soraya Moradi-Bachiller, Public Involvement Officer at Alzheimer Europe, alongside experts from France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States of America.

David Berron, research group leader at the DZNE, welcomed all the participants and paved the way for two days of informative and fruitful discussions. During the two-day meeting, the consortium worked on recommendations and the necessary framework and standards for the future clinical implementation of remote digital assessments in early Alzheimer's disease. The group of experts also evaluated the associated social and ethical risks of the use of remote digital assessment technologies from a patient and carer/supporter perspective.

7 OCTOBER:

MenoBrain, a new doctoral network for brain health in menopausal women, is recruiting 15 doctoral candidates

We are pleased to announce the official launch of MenoBrain, a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network (DN) funded under Horizon Europe, as of 1 September 2025. MenoBrain brings together 11 beneficiary institutions and 7 partner organisations across 10 European countries, with one aim in common: filling critical research gaps on the menopausal transition and post menopause, improving mental and brain health care for women while reducing health disparities and fostering equitable, innovative solutions for an ageing population.

MenoBrain is now recruiting 15 Doctoral Candidates (DCs) to begin in February 2026, for a maximum period of three years. Using advanced methods like MRI, DTI, PET, EEG and host-microbiome modelling, the project will explore how hormonal changes during menopause and therapies impact cognitive health, gut-brain communication and ageing. It will identify biomarkers for early cognitive dysfunction detection, improve therapies and promote personalised healthcare for menopausal women.

An online kick-off meeting was held on 7 October, gathering the consortium members and associated partners to align on scientific strategy, governance and training plans. Alzheimer Europe (AE) is an associated partner in this project. AE project officer, Cindy Birck, represented the organisation at the meeting.

For more information about MenoBrain, please visit: https://www.uniklinikum-jena.de/menobrain/en/

All PhD positions are listed via EURAXESS: https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/379260

9 OCTOBER:

FluiDx-AD consortium met in Bologna to improve the early diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease

The FluiDx-AD project, funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme with a budget of EUR 7,699,219.38 over three and a half years, aims to improve early diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease (AD) through three complementary tests.

On 9 October 2025, the consortium met in Bologna, Italy, for its General Assembly meeting. The day opened with remarks by Ole Petter Ottersen, Chairman of Pre Diagnostics (Scientific Coordinator), followed by an overview of the exploitation plan with Håkon Sæterøy and a progress update by Project Coordinator Ira Haraldsen (Oslo University Hospital).

Vebjørn Andersson (Oslo University Hospital) presented the proposed EU Hop-on Action, which would add a new partner to conduct proteomics analysis of AI-Mind blood samples. If approved, EUR 600,000 would be allocated to expand the dataset and strengthen validation.

Scientific updates followed. Haraldsen and Andersson presented Work Packages (WP)1 and 2, focused on building a unified, anonymised clinical and biomarker database via a secure Services for Sensitive Data (SSD) cloud platform. Praveen Sharma (HemoDx) outlined WP3–5, developing *SalivaDx-AD*, an at-home saliva test to detect AD risk early. Planned studies include usability testing, reference interval establishment and proof-of-concept validation.

Line Amundsen (Pre Diagnostics) covered WP6–8 on *PlasmaDx-AD*, a minimally invasive blood test for confirmatory diagnosis of AD in individuals with mild cognitive impairment. Maria Donate (Pre Diagnostics) reported on WP9–10 and *BloodCellDx-AD*, a whole-blood test to assess ARIA risk during immunotherapy, with comparative and proof-of-concept studies planned.

Christophe Bintener (Alzheimer Europe) shared updates on communication and dissemination activities, while Faye Forsyth (Alzheimer Europe) outlined Public Involvement plans, including the bespoke Public Advisory Board and a review on ethical and social aspects.

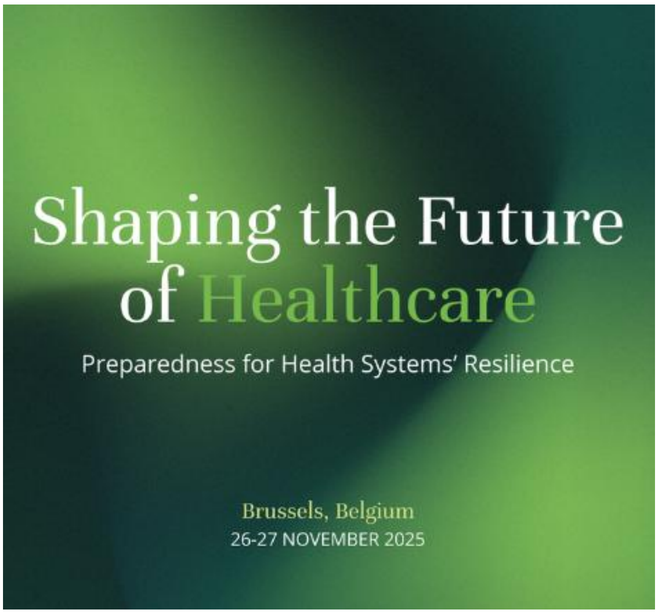
The meeting concluded with a presentation by Masha Tippersma (Medip Analytics) on the health economic analysis dashboard, followed by project management updates and next steps.

14 OCTOBER:

Members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board discuss public awareness and stigma in frontotemporal dementia

On 14 October, the members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board (PREDICTFTD-PIB) gathered online for a consultation on the topic of stigma and public awareness about Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD). The PREDICTFTD-PIB includes people living with FTD as well as individuals who are caring for, or have cared for people with FTD, offering valuable lived experience insights to the PREDICTFTD project. This consultation was attended and facilitated by Soraya Moradi-Bachiller, Public Involvement Officer at Alzheimer Europe (AE) and Angela Bradshaw, Director for Research at AE.

The PREDICTFTD project was launched in December 2024, funded by the EU's Horizon Europe programme for a period of 4.5 years. The project, which includes partners from 8 countries, is developing biomarkers and tools to advance the diagnosis of FTD, aiming to reduce the time it takes to obtain an accurate, biological diagnosis of the condition. Alzheimer Europe is developing a public awareness strategy to help inform the public, policymakers and other stakeholders about the project, and about FTD. The 14 October consultation was designed to obtain input from people with lived experience of FTD, to understand public attitudes to FTD. During the consultation, members of the Public Involvement Board spoke about their experiences of stigma, explaining how there are many misconceptions about FTD. They shared insights about how they have dealt with these misconceptions in their daily lives, and the importance of informing people about FTD.
Learn more about PREDICTFTD: https://www.predictftd.eu/



MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN ALZHEIMER'S ALLIANCE

Currently, the total number of MEPs in the European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA) stands at **89**, representing **22** Member States of the European Union and seven out of eight political groups in the European Parliament. Alzheimer Europe is grateful to the Co-Chairs of the EAA: Nina Carberry (EPP, Ireland); Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg); Romana Jerković (S&D, Croatia); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland); Vladimir Prebilič (Greens/EFA, Slovenia); Hilde Vautmans (Renew Europe, Belgium) and Dainius Žalimas (Renew Europe, Lithuania) for their leadership and for hosting the organisation's European Parliament lunch debates on dementia. Alzheimer Europe would also like to thank the following MEPs for their support of the EAA:
Belgium: Kathleen van Brempt (S&D); Johan Van Overtveldt (ECR); Hilde Vautmans (Renew Europe). **Bulgaria**: Radan Kanev (EPP); Andrey Kovatchev (EPP); Ilhan Kyuchyuk (Renew Europe); Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D); Kristian Vigenin (S&D). **Croatia**: Biljana Borzan (S&D); Romana Jerković (S&D); Tonino Picula (S&D); Tomislav Sokol (EPP). **Cyprus**: Costas Mavrides (S&D). **Czechia**: Ondrej Dostal (NI); Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP). **Denmark**: Kira Marie Peter-Hansen (Greens/EFA); Christel Schaldemose (S&D). **Estonia**: Urmas Paet (Renew Europe). **Finland**: Maria Guzenina (S&D, Finland); Merja Kyllönen (The Left); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP). **France**: François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP); Mélissa Camara (Greens/EFA); Laurent Castillo (EPP); David Cormand (Greens/EFA); Marie Dauchy (PFE); Christophe Gomart (EPP); Catherine Griset (PFE); Céline Imart (EPP); Isabelle Le Callennec (EPP); Nadine Morano (EPP); Philippe Olivier (PFE); Mounir Satouri (Greens/EFA); Majdouline Sbai (Greens/EFA); Marie Toussaint (Greens/EFA). **Germany**: Alexandra Geese (Greens/EFA); Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA); Angelika Niebler (EPP); Manuela Ripa (Greens/EFA); Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA). **Greece**: Tsiodras Dimitrios (EPP); Emmanouil (Manolis) Kefalogiannis (EPP); Nikos Papandreou (S&D); Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP). **Hungary**: Tamás Deutsch (PFE); Enikő Győri (PFE); Kinga Gál (PFE); György Hölvényi (EPP); András Kulja (EPP). **Ireland**: Barry Andrews (Renew Europe); Lynn Boylan (The Left); Nina Carberry (EPP); Luke 'Ming' Flanagan (NI); Billy Kelleher (Renew Europe); Seàn Kelly (EPP); Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (S&D); Maria Walsh (EPP). **Italy**: Brando Benifei (S&D); Caterina Chinnici (EPP); Carlo Fidanza (ECR); Aldo Patriciello (PFE). **Lithuania**: Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis (S&D); Petras Auštrevičius (Renew Europe); Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D); Liudas Mažylis (EPP); Dainius Žalimas (Renew Europe). **Luxembourg**: Marc Angel (S&D); Charles Goerens (Renew Europe); Tilly Metz (Greens, EFA); Isabel Wiseler-Lima (EPP). **Poland**: Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (EPP); Michał Szczerba (EPP); Anna Zalewska (ECR). **Portugal**: Marta Temido (S&D); Catarina Martins (The Left). **Romania**: Vlad Vasile-Voiculescu (Renew Europe). **Slovenia**: Matjaž Nemec (S&D); Irena Joveva (Renew Europe); Vladimir Prebilič (Greens/EFA); Marjan Šarec (Renew); Romana Tomc (EPP); Milan Zver (EPP). **Spain**: Rosa Estaräs Ferragut (EPP); Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D); Idoia Mendia (S&D); Diana Riba i Giner (Greens-EFA); Ana Miranda Paz (Greens/EFA). **Sweden**: Pär Holmgren (Greens-EFA); Jonas Sjöstedt (S&D).

EUROPEAN ALZHEIMER'S ALLIANCE

3 OCTOBER:

Hilde Vautmans MEP calls for European Dementia Plan

On 3 October, European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA) Co-Chair, Hilde Vautmans MEP (Renew, Belgium), conducted an interview with news outlet Euractiv, in which she called for a greater focus on dementia as a policy issue at an EU level and dedicated funding for research and health programmes for the condition.

MEP Vautmans noted the uneven situation in Member States in relation to dementia policies, including different stages of developing and implementing national dementia plans. She also highlighted that carers and the health and social care professionals must be given greater focus within such work. To address different strands of dementia policy across Europe, she proposed that a future European Dementia Plan should be based on six pillars:

- Prevention
- Early detection and diagnosis
- Care and support
- Research and innovation
- A clear regulatory and access framework
- Governance and financing.

The full interview with MEP Vautmans and Euractiv is available at: https://www.euractiv.com/news/treat-dementia-with-the-same-ambition-as-cancer-says-mep-vautmans/

6 OCTOBER:

Nina Carberry MEP calls for delivery of dementia research mission

On 6 October, European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA) Co-Chair, Nina Carberry MEP (EPP, Ireland), spoke during European Parliament Plenary Debate on intergeneration fairness and older persons. The debate was opened by the European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, Glenn Micallef, who outlined the Commission's plans for a Strategy on Intergenerational Fairness.

During her intervention, Ms Carberry MEP highlighted that as people age, they are more likely to be affected by dementia and cited the numbers of people living with the condition in Ireland. She further highlighted that dementia is the third leading cause of dementia in Europe and the seventh globally, as well as highlighting that dementia costs Europe EUR 392 billion per year.

Ms Carberry MEP additionally noted that dementia research was comparatively underfunded and noted the commitment of the budget Commissioner to take the idea of a dementia-focused research mission back to the College of Commissioner and reiterated her call for the Commission to deliver such a mission.

The full intervention of MEP Carberry is available at: https://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/vod.html?mode=unit&vodLanguage=EN&internalEPId=2017041470350&providerMeetingId=20251006-0900-PLENARY#

DEMENTIA AND BRAIN HEALTH IN WOMEN - BARRIERS AND OPPORTUNITIES

TUESDAY, 09 DECEMBER 2025
12.15-14.00 CET
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS

Join Nina Carberry, MEP and Dementia Research Network Ireland at the European Parliament to find out more about dementia and brain health in women.

Women are at higher risk of developing dementia than men, yet research has only just begun to address the biological and social factors behind this disparity. This session will provide scientific insights, survey data, and strategies for managing brain health, while identifying critical gaps and opportunities for action.

To register:
https://forms.gle/Tp8c8gW2PxPYS3V56

Co-hosted by Nina Carberry, MEP and Dementia Research Network Ireland.

EU DEVELOPMENTS

21 OCTOBER:

European Commission publishes Work Programme 2026

On 21 October, the European Commission published its work programme for 2026, setting out the policies and legislative files it intends to pursue across 2026. Of interest and of relevance to the work of Alzheimer Europe is the inclusion of the following strategies:

- Intergenerational fairness strategy (non-legislative, Q1 2026).
- Anti-poverty strategy (non-legislative, Q2 2026).
- Gender equality strategy 2026-2030 (non-legislative, Q1 2026).
- Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030 (non-legislative, Q2 2026).

Additionally, the proposed withdrawal of COM (2023)516 final 2023/0315 (COD), a Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council in relation to European Cross-Border Associations, was also noteworthy. The full Commission Work Programme 2026 is available at: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme/commission-work-programme-2026_en

22 OCTOBER:

WHO Europe, EU and Eurocarers launch online training course for informal carers


Join us for the launch of the online training

Self-care and care competences for informal caregivers

Online event
22nd October 2025
10:45 CET

Scan the QR Code
Register

World Health Organization European Region

Co-funded by the European Union

On 22 October, in the context of a cooperation agreement supporting the implementation of the European Care Strategy, the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, European Commission and Eurocarers, launched an online training course titled “Self-care and Care Competences for Informal Caregivers of People with Care and Support Needs”.
This course is intended for anyone who provides informal care to a person in their family or community, who has not received formal training or education in nursing or other care professions. The course has two key components: one on self-care and the other on caring for another person.
In addition to being used by the person, it is also intended for NGOs, public authorities, training or education institutions, and providers of long-term care and support services, to use as a resource to develop tailored training materials, in-person workshops or community support initiatives suited to their specific needs.
The online training course is available at:

“Caring for another”:

https://whoacademy.org/coursewares/course-v1:WHOAcademy-Hosted+0107_CIC2_EN+2025_Q4?source=edX

“Caring for yourself”:

https://whoacademy.org/coursewares/course-v1:WHOAcademy-Hosted+WHOA0107_CIC1_EN+2025_Q4?source=edX

9th IPECAD conference

Health Economic Challenges for New Alzheimer's Treatments
Crowne Plaza - Glasgow 12-13 November 2025

Speakers
Anja Schiel | Becky Pennington | Chiara Bruck | Craig Ritchie | Dominic Trepel | David Trueman | Filipa Landeiro | Hana Broulikova | Hai Van Nguyen | Jakub Hlávka | Javier Mar Medina | Lynn van Rosmalen | Lizzie Walker | Matej Mišík | Pieter van der Veere | Peter Neumann | Robert Perneczky | Sabine Grimm | Thomas Rapp | Xin Xia | Yi Sun

Program
- Overview of health-economic evidence -
- Follow-up registry reimbursement and cost-effective treatment
- Modeling cost-effectiveness of amyloid targeting treatment
- Modeling cost-effectiveness of diagnostic-treatment combination
- Informal care and quality of life
- System readiness and (diagnostic) capacity

Detailed program and registration:
www.ipecad.org/conference

Organizers: Linus Jönsson | Ron Handels | Anna Hansson | Anders Wimo | William Herring | Bengt Winblad

13. International congress on Person Centered Medicine

November 6 - 7, 2025
Reykjavik, Iceland

POLICY WATCH

9 OCTOBER:

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland welcomes dementia funding in Budget 2026

On 9 October, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) welcomed the announcement of Budget 2026, which included an additional EUR 2.3 million in funding to improve access to diagnostics and supports for people with dementia. This funding will support day care centres, day care at home and additional dementia advisers. It was also confirmed that a minimum of 22% of all new home support hours will be ringfenced for people with dementia. Dementia-specific measures include:

- Five new dementia-specific day care centres to be developed across the country
- Expansion of the day care at home service
- Minimum of 22% of all new home support hours ringfenced for people living with dementia (in total EUR 82 million in additional funding for home support, which will provide for an increase of 1.7 million hours)
- Increase total number of dementia advisers nationwide by two, up to 36
- Roll out of the National Dementia Registry and investment in Memory Assessment and Support Services (MASS).

The ASI is grateful to Minister Kieran O'Donnell, Minister of State for Older People and Housing, for securing this funding. It will positively impact the lives of people with dementia and family carers across Ireland. Other budget 2026 measures included increased investment in long-term residential care, home support services and carer supports. These included additional funding for the "Fair Deal Scheme" and "Meals on wheels", as well as increases to social welfare payments and income thresholds for carers' allowances and benefits.

This announcement followed The ASI's "Coffee and chat" event at Leinster House (the seat of Ireland's national Parliament) on 30 September, where staff and advocates Kathleen Farrell (Irish Dementia Working Group) and Patrick Crosbie (Dementia Carers Campaign Network and European Dementia Carers Working Group) met with nearly 40 political representatives, including Ministers, TDs, and Senators. Many shared personal experiences of dementia, and discussions focused on the urgent need for investment in dementia care, support and research.

The ASI remains committed to working with Government, health services, and people affected by dementia to meet the challenges it presents in Irish society. Budget 2026 marks another step forward in this journey. The ASI will continue to advocate for investment in dementia supports, services and research to meet the needs of people impacted by dementia in Ireland.

11 OCTOBER:

World Medical Association adopts Statement on Dementia at its 76th General Assembly meeting

The World Medical Association (WMA), an international organisation representing physicians and national medical associations worldwide, has adopted a new Statement on Dementia at its 76th General Assembly in Porto in October 2025. The WMA develops policy guidance on medical ethics, public health and professional standards for doctors across more than 100 countries.

The new statement sets out clear recommendations for international bodies, governments and the medical profession. It calls on the World Health Organisation (WHO) to recognise dementia as one of the major non-communicable diseases and to strengthen its collaboration with governments, national Alzheimer associations and the WMA in raising global awareness. National governments are urged to make dementia a public health priority by developing comprehensive national dementia strategies with defined targets, indicators, funding and monitoring mechanisms.

The statement further recommends that governments support risk-reduction programmes that overlap with those for other major non-communicable diseases, promote dementia-friendly initiatives and establish structured support for informal carers, including respite services, financial assistance and mental-health resources. Increased funding for dementia research is also encouraged, both at national level and through international cooperation.

For the medical profession, the WMA highlights the need to strengthen physicians' education on dementia to ensure timely diagnosis and appropriate management, to recognise that people with dementia may have distinct needs when being treated for other conditions, and to work with other stakeholders to promote high-quality care. The statement also calls for wider participation in clinical trials on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, alongside research into sustainable models of long-term care.

The full WMA Statement on Dementia is available here: https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-statement-on-dementia/

12 OCTOBER:

World Health Organization (WHO) publishes global status report on dementia

On 12 October, the World Health Organization (WHO) published its "Global Status Update on Neurology". The report is the first global assessment of the public health response to neurological disorders under the Intersectoral global action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022–31 (IGAP).

Drawing on data from 102 WHO Member States representing 71% of the world population, the report sets 2022 baseline values for the 10 global targets of IGAP, across the domains of governance and advocacy, financing, service delivery and workforce, access to medicines and technologies, brain health promotion and disease prevention, and research and information systems.

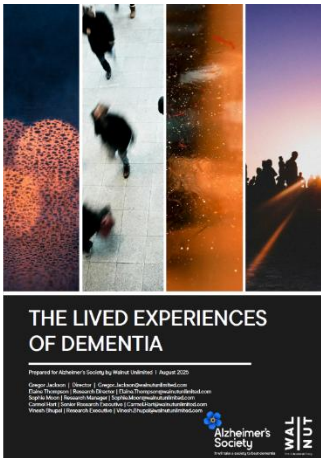
The report identifies gaps and implementation barriers, underscoring the need for coordinated action to achieve targets of the IGAP by 2031. To address these issues, the report includes evidence-based and actionable recommendations for policymakers, IGAP partners and the broader neurology stakeholders.

As part of the data collection for this report, six tracer conditions were used (including epilepsy, stroke etc.) however, dementia was not included, as data is collected separately under the WHO's global action plan on dementia. Despite this, dementia is mentioned frequently throughout the report, including in relation to its cost, its disproportionate impact on women, as well as highlighting examples of work from the WHO's global action plan on dementia e.g. the research blueprint for dementia, the guidelines on risk reduction etc.

The full global status report on neurology is available at: https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240116139

27 OCTOBER:

UK Alzheimer's Society will use results from "Lived experiences of dementia 2025" survey to drive national government and health and care systems to act by helping inform policy and practice solutions



To capture the recent experiences of people affected by dementia in Northern Ireland, Wales and England, the Alzheimer's Society commissioned a 2025 survey to uncover where significant gaps in care, diagnosis and public awareness are still present. With comparisons to the survey conducted the year before, feedback was collected between February and March 2025 from 3,487 people with experience of dementia, as well as from 15 interviews carried out with a more diverse group to provide greater detail on some of the questions presented. Encompassing four main themes, the survey yielded the following highlights:

- Experiencing dementia leads to negative emotions including anxiety, confusion and loneliness. Whether living with the symptoms of dementia, or caring for someone who is, 76% reported a lack of independence in carrying out daily tasks. It also brings a decline in physical and mental health, hobbies, self-confidence and family relationships.
- The dementia diagnosis process is often long and stressful, delaying access to support. Poor communication and limited information leave many people unaware of the help available.

- Access to social care remains a major challenge, with fewer than one in three people finding it easy to access and nearly half unsure who to contact for help. Over half rely solely on family or friends, while satisfaction among unpaid carers is low, highlighting the need for more support in the early stages of dementia and better training for carers.
- Inequalities in the availability of dementia treatments and therapies is ongoing. One in five people have not been offered medication, and nearly a third miss out on non-drug interventions. Yet those who receive support report better well-being and confidence, highlighting the need for more consistent and equitable provision.

The report revealed that dementia continues to have a profound impact on individuals with a formal diagnosis or living with dementia symptoms, as well as on unpaid carers and people who know someone close to them living with dementia. By consulting those directly affected, there is more comprehensive understanding of complex everyday challenges being faced and crucial support to unmet needs. In addition, only 25% believe that dementia is a priority for government and health services. While this has increased slightly since 2024, it remains a minority view, highlighting persistent concerns about the visibility and urgency of dementia within national agendas. Building on these insights, the Alzheimer's Society intends to use these results to drive national government and health and care systems to act by helping to inform policy and practice solutions for reducing stigma and, particularly, for improving the experiences of people affected by dementia.

The full report is available at: https://www.alzheimers.org.uk/about-us/policy-and-influencing/reports/survey-lived-experiences-dementia

SCIENCE WATCH

1 OCTOBER:

A recent study suggests that matching exercise to personality traits may boost fitness and keep people motivated

According to the World Health Organization (WHO)'s physical activity recommendations, healthy adults should complete at least 150 minutes of activity per week. However, only 22.5% of adults and 19% of adolescents worldwide follow these recommendations and make lasting changes. Although it is known that physical inactivity is one of the risk factors for the development of dementia, it is still unclear whether personality influences enjoyment and engagement in specific forms of exercise, as well as the outcomes of a training intervention. Therefore, understanding how personality traits relate to engagement in physical exercise is key to promoting healthy interventions and physical education practice in schools, as well as to increasing the effectiveness of physical activity-related interventions.

In a recent study published in Frontiers in Psychology, a team of researchers led by Dr Flaminia Ronca (Institute of Sport, Exercise and Health, University College London, UK) examined whether individual personality traits are associated to the enjoyment of different types of exercise, the completion of a prescribed exercise programme and the impact of that programme on the fitness level of the individual.

The study included 132 participants (56 females) who were recruited from the public *via* email newsletters and social media advertisements. All the participants attended a fitness test in the laboratory and were assigned to the intervention (78 participants) and control (54 participants) groups. The intervention group participated in an eight-week cycling and strength training programme, while members of the control group were asked to maintain their normal lifestyle and were provided with a plan consisting of a weekly 10-minute stretching exercise. Of these 132 participants, 86 completed the entire study protocol (25 participants) and the intervention (51 participants).

Participants completed an online questionnaire to assess personality traits (i.e. extraversion, neuroticism, agreeableness, conscientiousness, emotional stability and openness). Participants' benchmark fitness levels were assessed at the beginning of the programme. Strength was tested via press-ups, performing a plank to failure and countermovement jumps. This was followed by a low intensity cycling session for 30 minutes and a cycling test to measure peak oxygen capacity. Stress levels were also assessed on a scale from one to ten. Participants were asked to rate their enjoyment of each exercise session and had their fitness level tested again once the programme had been completed.

The team of researchers found that extroverts tended to particularly enjoy high-intensity exercise, such as HIIT (high-intensity interval training) and cycling at maximum intensity. Participants with a strong neuroticism trait (tendency to experience negative emotions such as anxiety) preferred bursts of intensity rather than prolonged intensity. They also preferred for their heart rate not to be recorded, which suggests that people with this personality trait might appreciate being given space when engaging in physical activity and exercise. These individuals also showed a significant reduction in stress levels,

suggesting that there may be particular benefits in stress reduction for individuals with this trait. Those who were conscientious tended to score high on aerobic fitness and were generally more physically active. However, conscientiousness didn’t predict higher levels of enjoyment of a specific form of exercise, which can be explained by the fact that conscientious individuals tend to be driven by the health-related outcomes of engaging in exercise, rather than by their enjoyment. These results suggest a strong potential for the development of tailored programmes according to personality traits. Finding an exercise or a physical activity that is enjoyable might be what people need to make lasting lifestyle changes.
https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/psychology/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2025.1587472/full

2 OCTOBER:

Usability and feasibility of ADappt: a digital toolkit to support communication on diagnosis and prognosis in memory clinics

On 2 October, an international team of researchers published an article on the usability and feasibility of ADappt, a digital toolkit designed to support communication on diagnosis and prognosis in memory clinics, in the *Alzheimer’s Research & Therapy* journal.

The study found that ADappt was judged by memory clinic professionals as relevant, visually appealing, and easy to navigate. Patients considered the patient tools (video animations and a question prompt list) helpful in preparing for consultations and in expressing themselves more effectively.

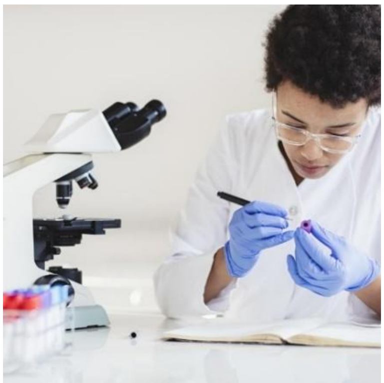
The research was conducted in three phases: usability testing with professionals, patients and a care partner; a feasibility study in four memory clinics involving 21 patients and 21 care partners; and a Public Involvement session co-organised with Alzheimer Europe.

Usability and satisfaction scores among professionals were acceptable, and the overview of diagnostic tests with pros and cons was considered the most useful tool. Most patients and care partners who received the patient tools reported using them and would recommend them to others.

The authors conclude that ADappt has potential to improve communication in memory clinics and that further implementation steps are being taken. The article has been published open access and can be read here: https://alzres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13195-025-01847-y

13 OCTOBER:

FDA approves Roche's blood test to rule out AD pathology in primary care



On 13 October, the biotechnology company Roche announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has cleared its Elecsys pTau181 test, for use in primary care settings to assist the assessment and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD).

The test is intended for adults 55 years and older in the US who present signs or symptoms of cognitive decline. It measures the phosphorylated Tau (pTau) 181 protein in blood plasma, a key biomarker for AD pathology, including amyloid plaque and tau aggregate pathology.

Developed in collaboration with Eli Lilly and Company, this minimally invasive test is designed to help clinicians identify patients in early stages of cognitive decline who are unlikely to have Alzheimer’s-related amyloid pathology. The result should be interpreted in conjunction with other clinical information.

In a clinical, non-interventional multicentre trial involving 312 participants, Elecsys was able to rule out AD with a 97.9% negative predictive value, said Roche. This clearance marks Elecsys pTau181 as the first blood-based biomarker (BBM) test indicated as an aid in the initial assessment for AD and other causes of cognitive decline in the primary-care setting. It is also the second AD test to gain FDA clearance in 2025; the Lumipulse G pTau217/β-Amyloid 1-42 Plasma Ratio test (from Fujirebio) received approval in May.

In addition to FDA clearance in the US, Roche recently received CE Mark certification in Europe for the Elecsys pTau181 test, making it the first In Vitro Diagnostic Regulation-certified blood test to help rule out Alzheimer’s-associated amyloid pathology.
https://www.roche.com/investors/updates/inv-update-2025-10-13b

16 OCTOBER:

Women’s Brain Foundation explores sex and gender differences in the Alzheimer’s disease patient journey

A team from the Switzerland- based Women’s Brain Foundation, an international non-profit organisation, has collaborated with researchers from Czechia, United Kingdom and United States to explore the differences between men and women in the Alzheimer’s disease (AD) patient journey.

The researchers used an online survey that included 79 questions designed to pinpoint differences at key points: symptom onset, diagnosis, treatment and long-term care. The survey questions were developed by experts with input from people with lived experience of AD. 142 people with AD and their carers living in Germany and the US took part.

The survey found that women: 1) were less aware of lifestyle risks factor, such as sedentary behaviour; 2) had more complicated and longer diagnostic experiences; 3) more often accepted and reported greater benefit from reminiscence therapy and life story work; 4) experienced more anxiety after a first visit to a specialist and generally felt more overwhelmed than men. The researchers hope this will inform sex and gender specific strategies for AD. The article has been published here:
https://alz-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/bsa3.70028

16 OCTOBER:

New study investigates the relationship between cognitive domains and everyday functioning

On 16 October 2025, an international team of researchers published an article on the relationship between cognitive domains and everyday functioning in Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the journal Neuropsychology.

The study investigated how specific cognitive abilities contribute to challenges in daily activities among people with AD. Using data from 613 participants in the Amsterdam Dementia Cohort with biomarker-confirmed AD across different disease stages (subjective cognitive decline, mild cognitive impairment and dementia) the researchers examined associations between cognitive test results and functional ability.

Cognitive performance was assessed through a standard neuropsychological test battery and grouped into four domains using exploratory factor analysis. These domains were then analysed with structural equation modelling to determine their relationship with everyday functioning, measured via the Amsterdam Instrumental Activities of Daily Living Questionnaire (A-IADL-Q).

Results showed that lower performance in memory *and* visual attention, mental flexibility and visuoconstruction was associated with more difficulties in everyday functioning. In contrast, working memory, shifting, fluency and inhibition *and* naming did not show significant relationships. These findings suggest that specific cognitive impairments, rather than global cognitive decline, may drive functional challenges in daily life.

The authors conclude that understanding which cognitive domains impact daily functioning can inform more personalised care approaches and guide intervention strategies for people with AD and their carers. Longitudinal studies are recommended to clarify how changes in cognition and function influence one another over time.

The article has been published open access and can be read here: https://dx.doi.org/10.1037/neu0001038

27 OCTOBER:

Recent study suggests that eye health could help predict risk of Alzheimer's disease

A recent publication in the journal Alzheimer's & Dementia provides new insight into how eye health may reflect early risk for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Researchers from the Jackson Laboratory in Maine (USA) have been investigating the retina, a highly accessible part of the central nervous system, to determine whether changes in retinal blood vessels could serve as early indicators of vascular problems in the brain.

The study examined mouse models with the MTHFR 677C>T variant, linked to small-vessel dysfunction, from six to 12 months of age to model early-to-midlife changes and identify retinal vascular alterations preceding neurodegeneration. With early warning signs as a predictor of early vascular dysfunction, the researchers examined the retinae of the mouse models for age-related changes in blood vessel function and structure as well as signs of any inflammation or stress markers, patterns of which are also found in the brain's blood vessels.

The team found that the mouse models with the gene linked to poor blood vessel health showed evidence of this in their eyes, even before the brain cells displayed any damage. Since eye vessels can show the same problems as the brain, their work shows the potential for capturing subtle, age-related vascular changes that occur before significant neurodegeneration, which is crucial for detecting early Alzheimer's disease (AD).

These findings suggest that the retina mirrors early cerebrovascular changes and could be used as a non-invasive biomarker for predicting AD risk. The authors recommend expanding this work to include longitudinal imaging studies, the incorporation of additional dementia-related genetic factors such as amyloid and tau, and the evaluation of retinal vascular health in human populations. Overall, the findings contribute to increasing evidence that maintaining and regularly monitoring vascular health, starting with the eyes, may play an important role in detecting and preventing dementia at an earlier stage.

More information on this study is available here: https://alz-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/alz.70501

MEMBERS’ NEWS

1 OCTOBER:

Turkish Alzheimer Association organised an event to raise awareness of dementia

On 1 October, the Turkish Alzheimer Association’s Marmara and Kadıköy branches, in collaboration with Üsküdar Municipality, organised an engaging community event to mark International Day for Older Persons. The gathering aimed to raise awareness and promote brain health among older adults, drawing strong interest from the Üsküdar community.

The programme included insightful presentations by expert academics on healthy brain ageing, Alzheimer’s disease and its risk factors, and psychological support for older people. Attendees also enjoyed an interview-style dialogue between two guest actors, who reflected on the connection between art, mind, and time. The event concluded with two interactive workshops, giving participants a chance to actively engage and apply what they learned, making the day both educational and inspiring.

15 OCTOBER:

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland attends launch of experiences of older people at end of life

On 15 October: The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) attended the launch of Alliance of Age Sector NGO's “Telling It Like It Is” third series – Experiences of older people at end of life, which was hosted by Senator Fiona O’Loughlin at the National Parliament of Ireland in Dublin.

The report is based on the findings from the National Care Experience Programme's National End of Life Survey which was Ireland’s first nationwide survey that asked bereaved relatives and friends about the care provided to their loved one in their last months and days of life.

The key issues identified in the report for older people at end of life include clear communication about end-of-life care, access to timely support, care in the community, and bereavement support for loved ones who are grieving. The Alliance of Age Sector NGOs is made up of eight member organisations including The ASI, Active Retirement Ireland, Age & Opportunity, ALONE, COPE Galway, Irish Hospice Foundation, Irish Senior Citizens Parliament and Third Age.

Recommendations in the report include renewing the call for the Government to establish an Independent Commissioner for Ageing and Older People. The event was attended by Head of Advocacy, Research and Public Affairs Cormac Cahill; Research & Policy Manager Dr Laura O’Philbin and Communications & Relationship Manager Jocelyn Grant.

19-22 OCTOBER:

15th National Alzheimer’s Congress takes place in Türkiye

On 19-22 October, the 15th National Alzheimer’s Congress took place in Türkiye, bringing together leading national and international experts to explore the latest developments in dementia research, diagnosis and care. Discussions spanned from the pathophysiology of Alzheimer’s to emerging biomarkers, advanced imaging, and novel treatment strategies. International speakers Prof. Nicholaas Bohnen (USA), Prof. Howard Feldman (Canada/USA) and Prof. George T. Grossberg (USA) offered global perspectives on neurodegeneration, clinical trials, and behavioural management in Alzheimer’s disease.

Turkish specialists contributed with sessions on artificial intelligence in neurology, behavioural and psychiatric challenges, medico-legal issues, and holistic care, addressing polypharmacy, nutrition, and palliative support. With 275 participants, this year’s congress reaffirmed its role as a vital platform for sharing knowledge and fostering collaboration in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease.

24 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Uniti Italia presents “A welcoming city, the strength of dementia-friendly communities”

For years, Alzheimer Uniti Italia has promoted the Community-friendly Project (with a capital P) for people with dementia in various Italian regions: a cultural transformation that involves all citizens and encourages a new approach to frailty. This is not an initiative with a deadline, but a path of continuous change, rooted in the history, habits and experiences of each of us.

For a city to truly become a dementia-friendly community, it is necessary to listen to the real needs of individuals and families, building concrete and sustainable models that over time become an authentic way of being and doing. In this spirit, among the many activities the organisation carries out to fight stigma and loneliness, they have created “An Unforgettable Holiday”**:** a project born from the genuine desire of a person with dementia, which they have been successfully realising for five years and recently presented at the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna.

The goal is to raise awareness of the “Vacation model”, now in its fifth year. For many people with Alzheimer’s disease, travelling without their carer/supporter seems impossible. Yet, when a trained, empathetic, and prepared team is present, taking a vacation becomes accessible even for those without a family companion. Organising an inclusive vacation doesn't simply mean "taking someone on vacation", but creating an environment of shared care, where everyone feels welcomed and valued. The experience has clear and profound objectives:

-To offer a week of leisure and normality to people with dementia and their families, because everyone has the right to have a holiday

-To experiment with a vacation from a hedonic approach, based on cognitive, sensorial and emotional stimulation

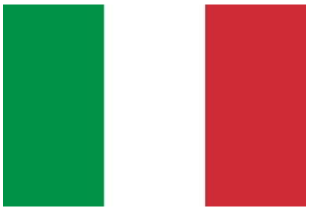
-To raise awareness in the area and among train operators, promoting dementia-friendly tourism that breaks down stigma and opens new paths to inclusion

-To develop replicable models for tourism that leave no one behind.

The next step is to spread this model, make it a shared heritage and build local networks capable of welcoming and valorising every person, even those who are vulnerable.

24 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Uniti Italia urges the Government to include a specific budget item for dementia



Alzheimer Uniti Italia has always underlined that the care of people with dementia cannot be considered complete if regional differences and inequalities in services and approaches persist. The quality of care, in fact, still varies too much based on the region of residence, the availability of services, or the luck of finding a competent team. For this reason, the Association works at national and regional levels, together with its network of affiliated associations, to promote unified care models and equitable support for family members.

The goal is to integrate the many excellent operational practices already existing in Italy, from Centres for Cognitive Disorders and Dementia (CDCD) to residential facilities, training operators and care homes, to offer personalised and integrated responses, at every stage of the disease and in every part of the country. The Ministry of Health's Dementia Committee plays a strategic role in updating the National Dementia Plan, a crucial document that, however, requires dedicated financial resources to become truly operational. Without adequate funding, the plan risks remaining a mere declaration of intent.

For this reason, Alzheimer Uniti Italia strongly urges the Government to include a specific budget item for dementia, ensuring the sustainability of the planned actions and the implementation of a standardised care model across the country. Dementia is now a health, social, and cultural priority. Addressing it systematically means choosing a more just and human country, where fragility is not a limitation, but an opportunity for shared responsibility and civility.

27 OCTOBER:

"SOLIDARITY" of Heraklion participates in “Compassion in Clinical Care” programme in Crete

"SOLIDARITY" of Heraklion (Crete, Greece) has been participating for four years in an educational programme of the Medical School of the University of Crete entitled "Compassion in Clinical Care". The aim of the programme is to enhance empathy and compassion in the provision of clinical care through interactive workshops aimed at health professionals and students. Within the framework of the programme, “SOLIDARITY” of Heraklion contributes with the following lectures:

1. Prevention of cognitive decline and dementia
Speaker: Dr Fotini Kounti Zafeiropoulou, Neuropsychologist
2. The Neuropsychological examination for the diagnosis of MCI and dementia
Speaker: Chrysoula Zouraraki, Neuropsychologist
3. Needs of caregivers of patients with dementia
Speaker: Penny Karamaouna, Neuropsychologist.

The above workshops are attended by first year Medical students and aim to raise their awareness about dementia and cognitive disorders. This initiative is part of the ongoing effort of "SOLIDARITY" of Heraklion to promote healthy ageing, prevention of dementia and support of patients’ families.

27 OCTOBER:

17th Mental Health Festival takes place in Serres, Greece

The day centre for dementia “Anaplous” took part with great success in the three-day Mental Health Festival organised by SOFPSY Serres (Greece), as part of the annual celebration of World Alzheimer’s Day and World Mental Health Day. The festival was held in Eleftherias Square and included a public conference at the Municipal Theatre of Serres, featuring talks and performances open to all citizens. Activities and workshops given by the day centre attracted remarkable interest, with many visitors joining in. Staff members, beneficiaries, and volunteers gave their best, sharing joy, knowledge, and a powerful message: “No one is alone. Together, we build a society of understanding, support and respect.”

In collaboration with 15 local organisations, the festival offered two days of information, awareness, and prevention, through parallel activities that engaged hundreds of participants of all ages. The key message resonating throughout the event was: “Ask about dementia. Ask about Alzheimer’s.” Also, in honour of World Mental Health Day, Praxis Greece – Serres for UNESCO also held a volunteer workshop. Through interactive and engaging activities, beneficiaries, caregivers, and staff from the “Anaplous” day centre actively participated, learned, and shared meaningful experiences. Together, they highlighted the values of teamwork, empathy and inclusion, promoting a society that embraces diversity and supports every individual.

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

1 OCTOBER:

Pia Knudsen, former member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia writes “Living with dementia – Six years on”

Six years ago, I received a diagnosis of dementia. It was a life-changing moment, and in many ways, I thought it would define the rest of my life. But the truth is, my life since then has been far more complex, challenging, and meaningful than I ever imagined. Every year I am with my neurologist to take a memory test. Every year, I score at the very top. Despite the diagnosis, the disease has not progressed in the way everyone feared. Apart from a concussion that worsened my short-term memory a little, I have remained largely stable. This has given me something very unusual: time, clarity, and a strong voice.

And I have chosen to use that voice. Over the years, I have become a spokesperson for people living with dementia. I have spoken with politicians, appeared on news programs, and shared my story with students, future nurses, teachers, different organisations and many other important people, so they can understand dementia not just as a clinical condition, but as a human experience. It has become my mission, and it gives my life a deep sense of purpose.

Recently, my neurologist suggested a PET scan to confirm the status of my dementia because she questioned whether I had dementia or not. On paper, it seems simple: just do the scan, find out the truth. But for me, it is not so simple. My life, my identity, my connections are built on this life with the diagnosis. If the scan were to cast doubt on it, or even reverse it, what would that mean for me? Would I lose the platform I stand on, the role that has given me meaning for six years?

This is not fear of the truth, but fear of losing my purpose. Many of the friends I had before my diagnosis have drifted away, and those I met 6 years ago, are no longer here; some have passed away, others live in nursing homes. To start all over again would be difficult. Dementia, strangely enough, gave me a community, a mission, and a voice that I might never otherwise have found.

So, I live in this paradox: I am grateful for my strength, yet cautious of what the future might reveal. My life today is not only about loss, also about contribution. Not only about memory, also a lot about meaningfulness.

Dementia has not taken my life away, it has reshaped it. And in that reshaping, I have discovered the power of being open, honest, and present. Whatever happens next, this journey is mine, and I will keep talking about it, not only for my own sake, but for the millions of others who live with dementia in all its shapes.

27 OCTOBER:

Phil Angrave, member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, shares his experience of travelling to the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna

"From invisible to visible; A journey wearing the sunflower lanyard"

I think my family would describe me as generally pessimistic about life, so when I decided not to ask for travel assistance and instead opt for the wearing of my sunflower lanyard together and the help of my travelling companion, I think they felt that I was bucking the trend. Little did they know that deep down my pessimistic side FIRMLY believed that there would be problems navigating the geography of the massive airport and the various security process.

I was surprised that on arriving at terminal 5 at Heathrow it was immediately apparent that the organisation had been proactive in recognising the specific needs of people wearing the sunflower lanyard and had invested in bold signage, giving wearers confidence, from the outset, that the organisation recognised the challenges that navigating the airport complex could have on those people with dementia.

Having completed online check-in, it only required us to have our boarding passes scanned and baggage labels fixed. Ironically, my companion's boarding pass scanned without a problem whereas mine didn't. The roaming assistant could see that we were having difficulty and recognised that I was wearing the sunflower lanyard. He immediately resolved the problem and took it upon himself to fix the luggage label and completed all of the check in on my behalf. He then pointed out the specific “sunflower” lane of the customs and security checks.

The sunflower lanes seem to be manned by several assistants, all of whom offered both physical assistance and reassurance associated with passport and security checks. Moving through the various scanners, I became very much aware that all the staff were actually on the lookout for people wearing the sunflower lanyard and immediately came forward offering either personal assistance, opening up closed lanes or on one occasion taking both myself and my companion to the head of the queue. When this happened, my immediate concern was the perception of all those people waiting and then seeing someone being taken ahead of them, “pushing in”. However, it was also apparent that a high number of the public were aware of the significance of the sunflower lanyard, so instead, we were proffered smiles and nods of approval. On several occasions we were offered the use of lifts rather than stairs and on one occasion we did take this up. On the flights, I felt that all the attendants recognised the lanyard and made a point of making personal eye contact; so important.

Four things stand out for me:

- Terminal 5 at Heathrow had invested both money and time into supporting people wearing the sunflower lanyard; the result for me (and my companion) was a 10/10 experience.
- The staff, both airport and airline were able to transfer their learning into practical and psychological support and not just treat it as yet another bit of mandatory training.
- There were tangible limits to the effect of wearing the sunflower lanyard. I think that these limits could be solely attributed to whether the organisation had provided training for its staff. It was evident that no staff at the airport at Bologna appeared to recognise or act upon me wearing the sunflower lanyard until we got to the boarding gate! Similarly, I felt that perhaps the training may only have been given to perceived customer-facing staff as, regrettably, on our return to Heathrow, I had several rude comments directed at me from one British Airways (BA) pilot about being in the “wrong lane”. It was the cabin staff who helped and kindly got the missing attendant to open the sunflower lane.
- By wearing the lanyard, I was visible and not my dementia, I was still Phil, who may have just need a little assistance.

The sunflower lanyard is a sign to others that the wearer has a hidden disability, such as dementia. It has been part of the UK disability awareness programme for many years and is highly recommended by dementia charities for raising awareness that the wearer may need additional assistance. Phil is a member of the EWGPWD and was travelling from London Heathrow Terminal 5 to Bologna for the 35th Alzheimer's Europe Conference, flying with BA.

EDUCATION

13 OCTOBER:

Joint Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA)/European Medicines Agency (EMA) multistakeholder workshop on Patient Registries for Alzheimer's disease

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) opened registration for online participation in the upcoming joint EMA and Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) multistakeholder workshop on patient registries for Alzheimer’s disease. The hybrid event will take place on 15 December 2025, broadcast live from Amsterdam.

The workshop will bring together representatives from regulatory bodies, academia, healthcare, patient organisations, and industry to discuss how patient registries can support the long-term follow-up of Alzheimer’s disease treatments and generate meaningful real-world data. Participants will address evidence gaps, core data elements, data governance, and approaches to interoperability and collaboration between stakeholders.

The deadline to register for in-person participation is 15 October, while registration for active online participation via Webex closes on 28 November. Those who wish only to follow the discussions can do so via the live broadcast without registration. Further details and the registration form are available here: https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/events/joint-heads-medicines-agencies-hma-european-medicines-agency-ema-multistakeholder-workshop-patient-registries-alzheimers-disease

20 OCTOBER:

Amsterdam UMC seeks project manager for pan-European study on Alzheimer's disease

On 20 October, Amsterdam UMC opened applications for a fixed-term Project Manager to coordinate a large multi-centre Alzheimer's study with over 30 partners across Europe. The role covers day-to-day consortium management; tracking milestones, deliverables and timelines; developing the project plan, risk register and quality processes; compliance with IHI reporting; drafting stakeholder updates; administering SharePoint, Teams and mailing lists; organising meetings and general assemblies; and setting up and maintaining the Trial Master File and archiving.

Applicants should preferably hold a PhD; have experience managing large multi-centre studies; bring strong written and spoken English; and show solid organisational and managerial skills. Experience with IMI/IHI or European projects is a plus; project management certification is a plus; Alzheimer's research experience is a plus.

Terms: 36 hours per week; location VUmc, Amsterdam; fixed term; salary range EUR 4,818-6,594 gross per month. Applications close on 3 November 2025. More information and to apply: https://werkenbij.amsterdamumc.org/en/vacatures/research/project-manager-alzheimers-disease-research-the-pan-european-access-ad-project

Virtual Dementia Care Research Conference

6 November 2025 - 9:30am to 4:30pm (BST)

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AE CALENDAR 2025

DATE	MEETING	AE REPRESENTATIVE
4 November	IHI Brokerage Event (Brussels, Belgium)	Sarah, Lukas
5-7 November	CEAFA conference (Ibiza, Spain)	Ana
6-7 November	EFPIA Patient Think Tank	Owen
6-7 November	EPND GA (Brussels, Belgium)	Ange and Dianne
12-13 November	International Pharmaco-Economic Collaboration on Alzheimer's disease (IPECAD) conference on health economic challenges for new AD treatments (Glasgow, Scotland, UK)	Ange
13 November	Online guest lecture about innovations in Alzheimer's research and dementia advocacy at the University of Vechta (Germany)	Chris
17 November	COMMUTE 2nd LEAB Panel: AI-driven Predictive Medicine in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Ethical and Legal Challenges to the Future of Clinical Authority (University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg)	Soraya

18-19 November	European Medicines Agency (EMA) Patients' and Consumers' (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals' (HCPWP) Working Parties meeting with all eligible organisations (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)	Chris
20 November	U4Health Civil Society Alliance	Owen
21 November	General Assembly of the PROMINENT project	Ana, Ange, Chris, Dianne
26-27 November	EPF Congress	Owen
27 November	Multi-MeMo Advisory Board meeting	Sarah, Cindy
27 November	European Dementia Carers Working Group meeting	PI team

CONFERENCES 2025-2026

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
6 November	Virtual Dementia Care Research, https://nhswales.awardsplatform.com/	Wales (UK) & online
6-7 November	13th International congress of Person Centered Medicine, “Person Centered Medicine and Care in Dementia”, https://events.bizzabo.com/icpcm	Reykjavik, Iceland
12-13 November	How to ensure access to new Alzheimer treatments? http://www.ipecad.org/conference	Glasgow, Scotland
4-5 February 2026	2nd International Conference on the Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease (ICOPAD 2026), https://www.hug.ch/en/evenement/2nd-international-conference-prevention-alzheimers-disease-icopad-2026	Geneva, Switzerland
26-28 March	20th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONY 2026)	Krakow, Poland
14-16 April 2026	Alzheimer’s Disease International Conference, https://www.alzint.org/what-we-do/adi-conference/	Lyon, France
1-6 July	IPA 2026 International Congress - Across borders, beyond boundaries: Connecting research, education and practice for better mental health in older people	Leiden, Netherlands
27-29 October 2026	36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC), “Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership”	Dublin, Ireland

36th Alzheimer Europe Conference

Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership

27 - 29 OCTOBER 2026

DUBLIN, IRELAND

Join healthcare professionals, researchers, policy makers and advocates to explore advances in dementia care, research and policy. Connect, contribute and drive progress! **#36AEC**

Alzheimer Europe

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland

www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences