

#### HIGHLIGHTS

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#### Alzheimer Europe Board

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#### Alzheimer Europe Staff

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### **WELCOME**



It is with a heavy heart that I begin by sharing the news of the passing of our dear

friend and former colleague Stephen John McCleery. Stephen was a member of our European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) from 2022 to 2024, and we cherish many fond memories of him and his wife Chiara during that time. On behalf of the whole team, I offer our sincerest condolences to Chiara and to all Stephen's family and friends.

On a more positive note, at the beginning of November, we were excited to hear from our colleagues at Nezabutni (Ukraine) regarding the country's draft dementia strategy, which the Ukrainian Government has published for consultation, inviting comments and feedback on the proposals. Alzheimer Europe has submitted a short response to the consultation, suggesting areas in which the strategy could be strengthened, including the need for guaranteed funding for implementation. We wish our colleagues at Nezabutni every success with the next steps of this important development for people with dementia and carers in Ukraine, and hope that the strategy will come to fruition soon.

There has also been important progress made at Alzheimer Europe, during our Annual General Meeting, where our new Strategic Plan for 2026-2030, as well as the Work Plan and Budget for 2026, were unanimously adopted by our members. We look forward to an exciting and challenging start to 2026, and beyond! With the vital support of our

41 national member associations across the European region, Alzheimer Europe continues to make great strides to change perceptions, policy and practice in order to improve the lives of people affected by dementia. The European Dementia Movement is truly a force to be reckoned with!

Our popular online Alzheimer's Association Academy sessions are just one example of many opportunities to work closely with our members. Our most recent Academy looked at "Involving under-represented groups in research", and was moderated by Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics. This series of online capacity-building workshops brings together representatives of national Alzheimer's associations with members of the EWGPWD and European Dementia Carers Working Group, as well as company representatives, to learn about dementia advocacy, care, policy, research and treatment, directly from experts in these fields. They are also a great opportunity for discussion and for sharing best practices among coun-

In closing, I would like to warmly congratulate Rolling for Dementia campaigner Golnaz Atefi, who has been given the prestigious "Communication Initiative Award" by the Dutch Research Council. This Award honours outstanding science communication initiatives that successfully engage and inspire the public. Alzheimer Europe was delighted to be an official supporter of her campaign, and we warmly congratulate Golnaz on this well-deserved award!

Our own Anti-Stigma Award Ceremony is scheduled to take place tomorrow in Brussels and we are excited to announce the winners!

Jean Georges, Executive Director



### IN MEMORIAM

#### 11 NOVEMBER:

### In Memoriam Stephen John McCleery

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the passing of our dear friend and former colleague Stephen John McCleery, who was a member of our European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) from 2022 to 2024. We have many fond memories of time spent with him and his wife Chiara at meetings and over dinners, and of his kind and eloquent contributions to the group.

Stephen was born in Belfast (Northern Ireland, United Kingdom) in 1967 and graduated in law from Cambridge University in 1990. He worked in London as an anti-trust lawyer, and subsequently in Milan (Italy), where he achieved an MBA from the SDA Bocconi Business School. He remained in Milan thereafter, where his Italian became fluent. He also spoke French, on top of his native English, and had two great passions in life: golf and classical music

In 2020, Stephen was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and in 2022, he was nominated by Federazione Alzheimer Italia to join the EWGPWD. The team at Alzheimer Europe was deeply saddened by the news of his passing and we offer our sincerest condolences to Stephen's wife Chiara and to all his family and friends.



### **ALZHEIMER EUROPE**

#### 31 OCTOBER:

### Alzheimer Europe attends European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium meeting in Scotland



Between 30 and 31 October, the European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium (EADC) hosted its autumn meeting at the University of Edinburgh, in Scotland. The EADC, in which Alzheimer Europe is an official collaborator, was established in

2001 as a network of research centres of excellence in Europe. Registered as a non-profit association and scientific society, the EADC includes over 60 specialist centres and memory clinics, spread across 20 countries in Europe. Our Director for Research, Angela Bradshaw, attended the meeting, which opened with welcome remarks from Tom Russ (University of Edinburgh), which highlighted the collaboration between the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences at the University, NHS Research Scotland, and the Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Research Centre. He also cited the work they are doing with the Partners in Research group, which involves people with lived experience of dementia in research. Tom's introduction was followed by two host lectures highlighting physical multimorbidity in dementia and emerging clinical trial strategies targeting vascular contributions to cognitive decline, delivered by Lucy Stirland and Joanna Wardlaw.

Next, a keynote welcome from the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care, Neil Gray, underscored national commitment to dementia research, again highlighting the role played by Alzheimer Scotland in developing policies and plans for dementia. Industry partners from Roche and Eli Lilly presented updates on early-stage therapeutic development and innovations in early detection. The af-



ternoon symposium focused on the growing role of artificial intelligence in neuropsychology, speech analysis, and clinical research. Short scientific reports introduced advancements ranging from biomarker-guided immunotherapy monitoring to expanded genomic and proteomic research initiatives.

Day two, held without industry participants, opened with the governance session, including approval of the 2024 financial report and updates on the EADC's electronic repository and upcoming meetings. Subsequent presentations covered ongoing initiatives such as InRAD, consensus recommendations for anti-amyloid therapy, and proposals for AI-based educational tools. The Young Researcher Symposium showcased emerging work in imaging, fluid biomarkers, cognitive testing, vascular factors, and genetic risk. The meeting closed with presentations from prospective new centres and final remarks before lunch. Learn more about the EADC: https://eadc.online/

#### 6-7 NOVEMBER:

# Alzheimer Europe attends 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Person-Centered Medicine in Iceland



On 6-7 November, the 13th International Congress of Person-Cen-Medicine tered place in Reykjavík, Iceland, under the theme "Treatment and Care for Dementia through Person-Centered Medicine". The event was organised by the Alzheimer Iceland, in collaboration with the International College of Person-Centered Medicine and brought to-

gether participants from across Europe and beyond, including healthcare professionals, researchers and representatives of patient organisations.

On 7 November, during the session on "The role of patients and their families in policy making", Alzheimer Europe was represented by Sarah Campill (Public Involvement Officer, pictured, left), who presented Alzheimer Europe's work during her speech "Giving a voice to people with dementia and carers in research and policy development". Emil Emilsson (pictured, right), a member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, from Iceland, also shared perspectives from lived experience during his speech "Perspectives from a male caregiver". His speech was met with a standing ovation by the attendees who were deeply moved and inspired by Emil's courage, vulnerability and strength.

#### 12-13 NOVEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe participates in 9<sup>th</sup> IPECAD conference addressing health economic challenges for new Alzheimer's treatments

# \* 9th IPECAD conference Health Economic Challenges for New Alzheimer's Treatments Crown Plaza - Glasgow 12-13 November 2025

Speakers Kean | Becky

Angela Bradshaw | Anja Schiel | Alison McKean | Becky
Pennington | Chiara Bruck | Craig Ritchie | Dominic Trepel |
David Trueman | Filipa Landelro | Hana Broulikowa | Hai Van
Nguyen | Jakub Hlakva | Javier Mar Medina | Lynn van
somalen | Lizzie Waliker | Matej Mišik | Pleter van der Veere
| Peter Neumann | Rober Perneczky | Grimm Sabine |

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

Detailed program and registration:

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



Between 12 and 13 November, IPECAD (International Pharmaco-Economic Collaboration on Alzheimer's Disease) hosted its 9th annual conference, which was organised at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Glasgow, immediately after the ISPOR Europe conference (ISPOR is the Professional Society for Health Economics and Outcomes Research). IPECAD is a multi-stakeholder collaboration of academic health economists, government and HTA analysts, and industry health-economics teams working to improve mathematical and decisionanalytic models for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Its members develop and share open-source health-economic frameworks, supporting transparent reimbursement and value-assessment decisions. Our Director for Research, Angela Bradshaw, joined the IPECAD conference and delivered a presentation together with her counterpart at Alzheimer Scotland.

The 9th IPECAD conference addressed key health-economic challenges surrounding emerging Alzheimer's disease (AD) treatments. Sessions covered global cost-effectiveness evidence, methodological constraints in HTA for disease-modifying therapies, and new long-term outcome models for agents such as lecanemab. Further discussions examined real-world evidence infrastructures, registry-based reimbursement models, and managed access agreements. Advanced modelling work was showcased on price-threshold analyses across 174 countries, NICE extrapolation strategies, model comparison initiatives, and register-linked survival modelling. Microsimulation pitches highlighted functional-cognitive linkage, prevention impacts, and country-specific cost-effectiveness constraints. Additional sessions discussed cost-effectiveness modelling for diagnostic-treatment combinations, including blood-based biomarkers and imaging diagnostics. One session was focused on challenges in understanding and measuring costs relating to informal care, covering burdens for individual caregivers as well as system-level costs.

Angela and Alison McKean (Director for Research and Policy at Alzheimer Scotland) jointly presented on healthcare system



preparedness and societal perspectives on anti-amyloid therapies, from European and Scottish viewpoints. Angela summarised Alzheimer Europe's position statement on anti-amyloid therapies, while Alison described their engagement with regulators and HTA bodies to represent the views of people affected by dementia. Alison also highlighted Brain Health Scotland's work, including brain health and dementia resource centres and wider initiatives supporting population brain health. Learn more about IPECAD: http://www.ipecad.org/

#### 18 NOVEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe hosts a session of its popular online Alzheimer's Association Academy, dedicated to "Involving underrepresented groups in research"



On 18 November 2025, Alzheimer Europe hosted a session of its popular online Alzheimer's Association Academy, dedicated to "Involving under-represented groups in research". The Academy is a series of online capacity-building workshops bringing together representatives of national Alzheimer's associations with members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), as well as representatives from pharmaceutical companies, to learn about dementia advocacy, care, policy, research and treatment, directly from experts in these fields.

The session on 18 November was the sixth of seven Academy sessions planned throughout 2025, and was moderated by Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics at Alzheimer Europe. She welcomed participants from 13 countries across Europe, as well as from five pharmaceutical companies.

The first speaker, Jesper Bøgmose Hansen (University College Copenhagen, Denmark) discussed "Barriers and opportunities to involving people with dementia in care homes in research". His presentation shared details of his work inside a care home in Denmark and some of the ways in which he was able to access and involve people in the later stages of dementia, who are not often included in research studies. The focus of his talk was split between the ethical considerations and the issues around understanding, due to the disease stage of the people with whom he was working.

Kubra Altinok (Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen - DZNE, Germany) spoke next. As a person of Turkish origin living and working in Germany, she was able to share her experience helping to ensure that people from minority ethnic groups are included in research. She began by explaining some of the barriers, including cultural, linguistic and gender-related barriers, and then gave delegates some insight into strategies used in her work at the DZNE, allowing for higher levels of participation from these underrepresented groups. She recommended increasing community engagement, using translators and a more diverse research team, adopting a more personalised approach, as well as raising social awareness.

Zunera Khan (King's College London, United Kingdom) spoke on the same topic, but in the context of conducting dementia research in the UK and especially in London, where there are many different minority ethnic groups to consider and include. She began by presenting some results from evidence-based reporting of ethnicity in clinical trials, which clearly showed the tendency for studies to involve an overwhelmingly white participant population (80%). Ethnic diversity has not improved over the past decade, she noted, and she stressed that there was an urgent need for more inclusive clinical trials, so as to better understand treatment risks and benefits across ethnic groups, thus improving dementia care for all. Some of the strategies she mentioned, to counter the existing problem, were hosting networking events to create a trusted presence within underrepresented communities, and forming strong partnerships with key stakeholders, community, researchers, students and healthcare services.

The fourth and final speaker was Eimear McGlinchey (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland), whose talk highlighted the importance of including people with intellectual disability in research. Her particular focus was on people with Down syndrome, which is considered a genetically determined form of Alzheimer's disease (AD), and leads to Down syndrome-related Alzheimer's disease (DSAD). She shared a number of considerations and reasonable adjustments that could be made by researchers in order to ensure people with Down syndrome were properly included and suggested that the dementia research community should include the voices of people with Down syndrome in the conversation around dementia. She ended her presentation with a series of short videos, created by the European Down syndrome Consortium, featuring people with Down syndrome explaining how important it was to them, to be included in dementia research.

A huge thank you to all speakers and participants at the Academy of 18 November, for making this such an engaging session and a big thank you, also to the European Union's Citizen's, Equalities, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, and our Gold and Silver sponsors, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eisai, Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Roche, without whom our educational and healthcare-related activities, including these capacity-building workshops, would not be possible.



The next edition of the Alzheimer's Association Academy, the final one of 2025, is scheduled for 9 December and will explore themes from our Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2025 which looks at "Transport and access to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport".

#### 24 NOVEMBER:

# Annual General Meeting unanimously adopts new Strategic Plan 2026-2030

On 24 November, Alzheimer Europe held a second Annual General Meeting (AGM), to present, discuss and adopt a new Strategic Plan for 2026-2030, as well as the Work Plan and Budget for 2026.

Alzheimer Europe Chairperson Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis and Executive Director Jean Grorges co-chaired the online meeting, which was attended by 35 out of the organisation's 41 full member organisations, meaning quorum was clearly achieved. There were also members of the Alzheimer Europe Board and staff in attendance, together with a number of observers.

The AGM began by adopting the agenda for this meeting and the minutes of the previous AGM of 4 June 2025. Attendees then heard from the organisation's Honorary Secretary Lorène Gilly, about the proposed Strategic Plan for the coming five years. She reflected on the existing Strategic Plan for 2021-2025 and was happy to report that there had been overwhelmingly positive feedback on this plan from members, during consultations in 2024 and 2025, and noted that most of the objectives had been met.

Similarities between the existing plan and the new plan include keeping the existing mission statement: "to change perceptions, policy and practice in order to improve the lives of people affected by dementia". Whilst our mission remains unchanged, there are some notable differences in the plan, which include expanding the strategic objectives from six to ten, to better reflect the emerging needs and priorities of the organisation and linking these more closely with the organisation's current work. The ten Strategic Objectives 2026-2030 are:

- · Meaningfully involve people affected by dementia
- Challenge stigma and promote public awareness of dementia
- · Advance the human rights of people affected by dementia
- · Champion diversity, inclusion and intersectionality
- Make dementia a priority of European and national policies on disability, health, social affairs and research
- Foster dementia research and innovation
- Promote equal access to quality diagnosis, treatment, care and support
- Raise awareness of brain health and prevention
- Support national Alzheimer's associations and build a strong united movement
- Ensure financial and organisational sustainability.

She ended this section of the meeting with a big thank you to all members, both working groups (the European Working Group of People with Dementia and the European Dementia Carers Working Group) and all the staff in the Alzheimer Europe team for their support and excellent contributions to the work done and for their dedication and commitment.

Following this address, The AGM voted unanimously to adopt the new plan.

Lorène Gilly proceeded to present the Work Plan for 2036, based on this new Strategic Plan, whilst Jean Georges shared the association budget for next year, with the AGM. Both were unanimously adopted. Thank you to all delegates, speakers and observers who joined our AGM. It is always an inspiration to see the European Dementia Movement in action and while there are some very busy and challenging times ahead, we are optimistic that we can carry out our ambitious yet realistic plans, by working together.





## **AE NETWORKING**

5-7 NOVEMBER	Soraya attended the XI CEAFA and XV Alzheimer Iberoamerica conference (Ibiza, Spain)
6 NOVEMBER	Owen attended the Patient Think Tank hosted by EFPIA
6-7 NOVEMBER	Sarah attended the 13 <sup>th</sup> International Congress on Person Centred Medicine (Reykjavik, Iceland)
10 NOVEMBER	Ana, Ange and Dianne facilitated a consultation with some members of the European Dementia Carers Working Group and European Working Group of People with Dementia on the development of a survey about future treatments
11 NOVEMBER	Alzheimer Europe hosted a meeting of the European Group of Government Experts on Dementia on the subject of the EU Joint Action on Dementia (JADE)
17 NOVEMBER	Soraya joined the COMMUTE panel: Artificial Intelligence-driven predictive medicine in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease: Ethical and legal challenges to the future of clinical authority (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
18 NOVEMBER	Alzheimer Europe hosted an online Alzheimer's Association Academy, on the topic of "Involving under- represented groups in research"
18-19 NOVEMBER	Cindy attended the European Medicines Agency (EMA) Patients' and Consumers' (PCWP) and Healthcare Professionals' Working Parties (HCPWP) meeting (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
20 NOVEMBER	Owen attended a meeting of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance
21 NOVEMBER	Ana, Ange, Chris and Dianne attended the PROMINENT General Assembly meeting
24 NOVEMBER	Alzheimer Europe held a second Annual Meeting to discuss and approve its new Strategic Plan 2026-2030 with members, as well as its 2026 Work Plan and Budget
25 NOVEMBER	Ana and Dianne facilitated a consultation with the new members of the European Dementia Carers Working Group and European Working Group of People with Dementia about AD-related terminology
26 NOVEMBER	Dianne took part in a meeting organised by the European Disability Forum on "Rights delayed: Air travel for passengers with disabilities"
26 NOVEMBER	Faye facilitated a FluiDx-AD advisory group meeting involving members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia and members of the European Dementia Carers Working Group
27 NOVEMBER	Cindy and Sarah facilitated a meeting with the Multi-MeMo Advisory Board
27 NOVEMBER	Ana and Dianne facilitated a consultation with the European Dementia Carers Working Group about co- morbidities





### **EU PROJECTS**

#### 4 NOVEMBER:

# PROMINENT project updates on recent progress



PROMINENT is a collaborative pan-European public-private partnership funded through the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) for five years. It aims to create a digital plat-

form for precision medicine to improve the diagnosis and treatment of neurodegenerative disease and co-morbidities. The overriding objective is to assist clinicians with individualised decision support in the evaluation of patients with suspected cognitive impairment. The following article reviews recent progress.

Data sharing scaled across the consortium. Most partners delivered datasets that are now in centralised cleaning and harmonisation alongside requested open-access cohorts (A4+LEARN, ADNI, AIBL, HABS-HD, NACC, NIFD & PDBP). Cohort images are being processed using the Combinostics Docker image. A panel of neuropsychology specialists is aligning cognitive scales to improve comparability.

Clinical and platform work advanced in parallel. An ARIA-detection algorithm is FDA pending and under CE-mark review. In the United States a new cDAT release added image reconstruction, an updated report, improved quantification and support for GE StarGuide scanners. Sites tested cCOG and A-IADL-Q within the PROMINENT cNeuro environment, and a clinician training programme is in development with videos and tool-specific documentation.

Multicentre studies moved into recruitment after ethics approvals at all sites. Enrolment began in June 2025. Planning for a pilot on real-world evidence collection is ongoing.

Engagement and governance stayed active. Two newsletters were released, and the World Alzheimer's Month campaign ran. Dementia in Europe Magazine issue 49 featured a Lunch Debate article and an interview with Ini Umoh. The RP2 Annual Report was approved, the mid-term review took place on 15 October, work on project assessment is underway, preparations continue for the 21 November consortium meeting and Amendment 3 is in progress with deliverables quality tracking ongoing.

Linus Jönsson presented a "Review of payment models: PROMINENT project" at the 9<sup>th</sup> IPECAD conference in Glasgow (Scotland) on 12 November.

#### 6-7 NOVEMBER:

# The EPND project hosts its fourth General Assembly meeting in Brussels



Between 6-7 November, the European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND) project hosted its 4th Annual Meeting of organised at the headquarters of EPND's co-lead, UCB Pharma, in Brussels. The meeting was attended by over 50 representatives from EPND's 28 partner organisations, from academia, industry, regulators, SMEs and biobanks, as well as Elisabetta Vaudano, Principal Scientific Manager at the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI). Alzheimer Europe was represented at the meeting by Angela Bradshaw, our Director for Research.

EPND is a public-private partnership launched by the IMI in 2021 to create a trusted, collaborative platform that makes it easier for researchers to discover, access and reuse high-value neurodegenerative disease datasets and biosamples. By connecting more than 100 cohorts and supporting real-world biomarker studies, the project aims to accelerate scientific progress, reduce duplication, and ensure that valuable research resources remain accessible and impactful long after individual projects end.

After a warm welcome from project co-leads Phil Scordis (UCB Pharma), Tony Brookes (University of Leicester) and Niranjan Bose (Gates Ventures), we heard about the key achievements in the last year of the project. These include the launch of EPND's technical Hub, which brings together metadata on over 100 neurodegenerative disease cohorts across 12 disease areas, including Alzheimer's disease (AD), dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), Parkinson's disease (PD) and other conditions. The Hub has been designed to enable data and biosample sharing, to maximise the value and outputs of research on neurodegenerative diseases in Europe. Its underlying infrastructure is the AD Workbench, a platform created by the Alzheimer's Disease Data Initiative which provides cloudbased workspaces, advanced analytics tools and syndicated datasets - connecting EPND's Hub to a global community of practice.



We also heard about progress in EPND's biomarker case studies, which involve a wide range of biomarker assays (e.g. blood tests, CSF tests, proteomics and stool tests) across AD, DLB and PD, involving several European cohorts. These case studies are also progressively road testing the Hub, as well as generating data that will then be shared for further reuse. Discussions centred on the key priorities for the final year of the project, which will end in October 2026. Alzheimer Europe is leading a work package on stakeholder engagement, communication and public involvement, and Angela shared an update on these activities, also identifying new communication activities to support sustainability of the initiative.

Learn more about EPND: https://epnd.org/

#### 17 NOVEMBER:

EU-funded project COMMUTE's Legal and Ethical Advisory Board organises panel discussion on "Artificial Intelligence-driven Predictive Medicine in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's"



On 17 November, a roundtable discussion organised was by COMMUTE, an EUfunded project that investigates potential links between COVID-19 and neurodegenerative disease, through both data-driven artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning and

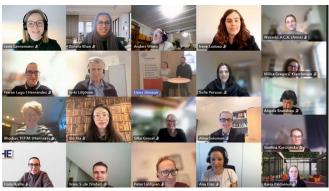
hypothesis -driven approaches. Soraya Moradi-Bachiller, Public Involvement Officer, Alzheimer Europe, participated in the discussion.

During the session, the panellists and the members of the COMMUTE consortium explored the ethical and legal implications of Al-enabled predictive tools for clinical authority and the doctor-patient relationship, with a particular focus on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. They also discussed how the standards of care, liability, informed consent, trust, communication and decision-making may evolve when patients and clinicians engage with Al.

### 24 NOVEMBER:

# PROMINENT consortium meets in Stockholm and online for third consortium meeting

On 24 November, the PROMINENT consortium met in Stockholm and online for its third meeting to review progress, discuss Mid-Term Review feedback and plan the next phase.



Project coordinator Linus Jönsson (Karolinska Institutet) restated the project's objectives and summarised expert feedback, including calls for closer links with related Innovative Health Initiative projects and continued patient and carer involvement.

The management team, represented by Anna Hansson (Karolinska Institutet) and Irene Lodoso (SYNAPSE Research Management Partners), reported on governance, internal communication and progress on amendments, deliverables and milestones.

Technical updates from Xin Xia (Karolinska Institutet), Ferran Lugo (BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center), Jyrki Lötjönen (Combinostics) and Linus Jönsson covered harmonising data sources, developing prediction models and diagnostic algorithms for Alzheimer's disease and integrating them into the cNeuro-based digital platform, including a diagnostic tool to support more cost-effective diagnosis.

Ahead of the health economics session, Stefan de Vries (Amsterdam UMC) presented cMRI study results on diagnostic confidence, the impact of decision support on inter-reader agreement and atrophy ratings. Peter Lindgren (IHE – The Swedish Institute for Health Economics) and Matts Ekelund (BioArctic) gave an overview of real-world evidence work and preparations for pilot work with health technology assessment bodies.

Further presentations by Lena Sannemann (Uniklinik Köln), Christophe Bintener and Ana Diaz (Alzheimer Europe) and Jyrki Lötjönen addressed evaluation studies, communication, Public Involvement and sustainability planning, including recruitment, visibility, the Public Involvement Board and long-term use of the platform and data.

The meeting ended with inputs from Alina Solomon and Zunera Khan on related Innovative Health Initiative projects AD-RIDDLE and PREDICTOM and a discussion on synergies. In closing, Linus Jönsson thanked partners and reaffirmed the consortium's commitment to delivering the digital platform, advancing studies and collaborating with other precision medicine projects.



### 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)





### **EU DEVELOPMENTS**

#### 3 NOVEMBER:

MEP Interest Group on Continence Health releases video to raise awareness and ask other MEPs to join them



Earlier this year, the Urge to Act campaign launched an MEP Interest Group on Continence Health, chaired by Maria Walsh MEP (Ireland). The current members of the group have launched a video, inviting their colleagues at the European Parliament to join their ranks, and raise aware-

ness around the issue of continence health, putting it firmly on the EU agenda.

Alzheimer Europe is supporting this important campaign. Watch the video, on the Facebook page of Maria Walsh MEP (Ireland): https://www.facebook.com/MariaWalshEU/videos/-continence-health-affects-between-55-and-60-million-europeans-and-cost-691-bill/3705268013100715/

Find out more about the MEP Interest Group, here: https://uroweb.org/mep-interest-group-on-continence-health

Learn more about An Urge to Act and help spread awareness of continence health: https://uroweb.org/an-urge-to-act

#### 11 NOVEMBER:

# European Commission publishes Civil Society Strategy



On 11 November, the European Commission published an "EU Civil Society Strategy", which provides a framework for action at EU and Member State level, focused on strengthening engagement and support to all civil society actors. It contains a number of measures and recommendations divided into the following areas:

- Civil society as a partner in governance: strengthening effective and meaningful engagement.
  - Including the development of a Civil Society Platform, which will provide a regular and structured framework for its engagement with CSOs.
- Providing support and protection: ensuring an open, safe and enabling civic space.
- Adequate, sustainable and transparent funding for civil society.
  - Including references to the CERV programme, as well as the future MFF through AgorEU programme, NRPPs etc.
- Civil society in EU external action.

Full details on the Civil Society Strategy are available at: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip 25 2660

#### 14 NOVEMBER:

# European Commission launches consultation on disability strategy

On 14 November, the European Commission launched a public consultation to gather views on how to enhance the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-



2030. The consultation notes that since 2021, new challenges and opportunities have emerged for persons with disabilities, including post-pandemic societal changes and technological developments.

A new set of actions will be put forward in 2026 aiming to improve the lives of persons with disabilities across Europe and globally. The overall objectives of the Strategy will remain in place while, new actions will build on a mid-term progress report, as well as addressing the Concluding Observations issued by the United Nations in April 2025, which addressed the EU's implementation of the UN Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Alzheimer Europe will respond to the consultation in due course.

The consultation is open until **6 February 2026** and is available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-yoursay/initiatives/15452-Enhancing-the-strategy-for-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities-up-to-2030\_en



#### 26 NOVEMBER:

# European Disability Forum publishes air travel report



The European Disability Forum (EDF) has published "EDF Human Rights Report 2025 - Rights Delayed: Air Travel for Passengers with Disabilities", outlining barriers faced by people living with disabilities when travelling by air.

There report notes that equal access to transport is essential for persons with disabilities to fully participate in society, including in work, education and leisure, as well as highlighting that the right is protected by the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCPRD). Some of the key findings from the report include:

- Some airlines continue to violate EU rules by limiting assistance, denying assistance dogs, requiring medical forms or charging for support.
- Passengers with disabilities face inconsistent rules e.g. limits on how many can board, unclear limits on equipment, inconsistent demands for accompanying persons etc.
- EU oversight of air passenger rights for persons with disabilities is inconsistent, with few National Enforcement Bodies issuing binding decisions and fines for non-compliance vary considerably.
- Many passengers with disabilities still face digital barriers and complex travel procedures, not all of which are addressed by EU legislation.

The full report can be downloaded from: https://www.edf-feph.org/publications/human-rights-report-air-travel/

### **POLICY WATCH**

#### 1 NOVEMBER:

# Ukraine publishes consultation on draft national dementia plan



On 1 November, the Ukrainian Government published a draft dementia strategy for consultation, inviting comments and feedback on the proposals. The plan covers a number of areas including:

- Reviewing legal and regulatory acts relating to the provision of services for older people and people with disabilities.
- Ensuring interagency cooperation in between healthcare and social protection.

- Introduction of measures addressing risk factors associated with dementia (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, hearing loss etc.)
- Development of an information campaign raising awareness and challenging stigma associated with dementia.
- Analysis of the quality of medical care for people with dementia.

Alzheimer Europe submitted a short response to the consultation, suggesting areas in which the strategy could be strengthened, including the need for guaranteed funding for implementation. The draft plan and associated documents can be found at: https://moz.gov.ua/uk/povidomlennya-pro-oprilyudnennya-proyektu-rozporyadzhennya-kabinetu-ministriv-ukrayini-pro-zatverdzhennya-nacionalnogo-planu-dij-shodo-pokrashennya-yakosti-zhittya-lyudej-z-demenciyeyu

## **SCIENCE WATCH**

#### 14 OCTOBER:

# APOE genotypes show distinct CSF proteomic profiles in early Alzheimer's disease

On 14 October, researchers published an article on cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) proteomic associations of APOE genotypes in the *Alzheimer's & Dementia* journal.

The study examined how different APOE genotypes influence protein patterns in the CSF of individuals at various stages of cognitive function. Using untargeted tandem mass tag mass spectrometry, the researchers analysed CSF samples from 227 cognitively normal controls, 165 cognitively normal amyloid-positive individuals and 177 participants with mild cognitive impairment that were also amyloid positive across two large cohorts.

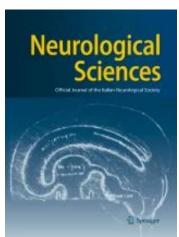


Of the 978 proteins measured, 549 showed differences between APOE  $\epsilon 2/\epsilon 3$  or  $\epsilon 4$  carriers and  $\epsilon 3/\epsilon 3$  controls. The  $\epsilon 2/\epsilon 3$  group displayed higher levels of 280 proteins linked to neuronal plasticity, suggesting potential protective effects. In contrast,  $\epsilon 4$  carriers exhibited protein changes associated with blood-brain barrier dysfunction and glucose metabolism, highlighting risk-related mechanisms.

By combining data from two cohorts, the researchers were able to characterise the rare  $\varepsilon 2$  genotype and propose that its protective effects may act through enhanced neuronal plasticity. The article has been published open access and can be read here: https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.70738

#### 17 OCTOBER:

Italian intersocietal recommendations for restructuring diagnostic-therapeutic pathway for implementation and appropriate use of anti-amyloid monoclonal antibodies in Alzheimer's disease are published



On 17 October, a position paper titled "Italian intersocietal recommendations for restructuring the diagnostic-therapeutic pathway for the implementation and appropriate use of anti-amyloid monoclonal antibodies in Alzheimer's disease" was published in the journal Neurological Sciences. This joint position paper was developed by the Italian Expert Panel on Alz-

heimer convened by the Italian Society of Neurology with participation from multiple scientific societies. It outlines strategic guidelines for reorganising the patient journey in the era of anti-amyloid monoclonal antibodies for Alzheimer's disease. Emphasising a multidisciplinary and integrated approach, the document recommends a patient journey that begins with early identification of cognitive impairment by general practitioners, continues with specialised assessments at memory and dementia centres, and leads, in carefully selected cases, to initiation of anti-amyloid monoclonal antibody therapy. It advocates the rational use of diagnostic tools, including plasma and cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers, advanced neuroimaging (MRI and PET), and genetic profiling (ApoE genotyping), not only to identify eligible patients but also to stratify those requiring alternative care strategies.

The paper further defines minimum requirements for the accreditation of prescribing and infusion centres, highlighting the clinical competencies, structural resources, and inter-professional communication protocols necessary to ensure safety

and appropriateness. Recognising both the therapeutic potential and the organisational challenges associated with anti-amyloid monoclonal antibodies, the document aims to guide healthcare policymakers, institutions, and practitioners toward a coordinated reorganisation of the diagnostic-therapeutic pathway, ensuring the safe and effective use of these treatments and ultimately improving outcomes and quality of care for individuals with Alzheimer's disease.

Read the position paper: https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10072-025-08576-y

#### 4 NOVEMBER:

## Recent study suggests that a structured highintensity lifestyle intervention can improve global cognition

A recent publication in in the Journal of the American Medical Association reported re-



sults from the US POINTER clinical trial. The trial aimed to test and compare the effects of a comprehensive lifestyle intervention versus a self-guided lifestyle intervention on the cognitive trajectory of older adults at risk of cognitive decline and dementia. Participants in the comprehensive arm of the trial were asked to: 1) join physical exercise sessions in a community centre; 2) follow nutritional advice focussed on the MIND diet [Mediterranean-DASH Intervention for Neurodegenerative Delay, (DASH stands for Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension)], 3) participate in computer based cognitive training and social events designed to stimulate the brain and 4) attend medical advisor appointments for health coaching. They attended 38 face-to-face meetings with the study team over a two-year period. Participants in the self-guided group were provided education, help to make health plans (focus on cardiovascular disease) and publicly available advice on being active, eating healthily and staying cognitively engaged. They attended six face-to-face meetings with the study team over the same period.

Over four years the trial enrolled 2,111 participants across five centres in the United States and followed them up for a two-year period. The main outcome measure (tools used to assess the effectiveness of the intervention) was the change in global cognitive function, a combined measure that included multiple different tests such as story recall and word fluency. They also measured quality of life and other measures that they will report later. Over the study period, 43 people stopped taking part in the structured intervention, and 39 stopped taking part in the self-guided intervention. The investigators also measured adherence, the extent to which someone sticks to a recommendation, which they reported to be high (over 80% in both groups) and adverse events, which were found to be very low. Almost all of the adverse events reported were not thought to be due to the study (COVID-19 infections for example).

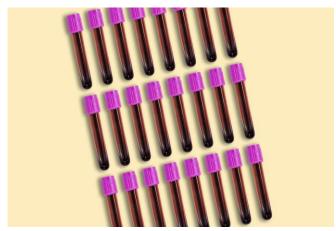


At the end of the study, there was a greater improvement in brain function in the structured group compared to the self-guided group across many of the measures in the combined score. The authors concluded that the intervention was safe, as indicated by the low number of adverse events; well tolerated, based on adherence data; and effective, according to improvements in the cognitive composite score.

More information on this study is available here: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40720610/

#### 5 NOVEMBER:

# Review looks at blood tests for Alzheimer's disease diagnosis



A recently published review in *Alzheimer's & Dementia* looked at how well blood-based biomarker tests can help detect Alzheimer's disease pathology in people with cognitive impairment seen in specialist care settings (i.e. memory clinics). The review aims to provide the scientific foundation for the US Alzheimer's Association's new clinical guidelines on using these tests in practice.

The researchers searched for studies published between 2019 and 2024 that tested how accurately certain blood markers, such as phosphorylated tau and amyloid beta, can identify Alzheimer's disease compared to established methods like spinal fluid tests, brain scans or autopsy results. The review found that blood markers such as p-tau181, p-tau217, %ptau217, p-tau231, and Aβ42/Aβ40 are associated with Alzheimer's pathology. However, the accuracy of markers in blood varied considerably between tests and platforms, with sensitivity ranging from 49.3% to 91.4% and specificity from 61.5% to 96.7%. The performance of these tests depends heavily on the type of assay used, which means results should always be interpreted alongside a full clinical assessment. Many tests are not reliable enough when using just one cutoff point, therefore a two-threshold approach is recommended to improve accuracy. Combining markers, such as p-tau217 with Aβ42/Aβ40, can improve accuracy but did not eliminate the need for confirmatory clinical assessment and imaging (e.g. PET scans).

The article brings together evidence from 31 different blood tests and supports new guidelines on how they can be used in diagnosing Alzheimer's disease in memory clinics. As research moves forward, ongoing evaluation of new tests and

combinations will be key to improving accuracy and keeping guidelines up to date.

https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12590577/

#### 5 NOVEMBER:

Neighbourhood deprivation in midlife linked to poorer cognition through vascular and behavioural risk pathways



On 5 November, an international team of researchers published an article on neighbourhood deprivation and midlife cognition in the *Alzheimer's & Dementia* journal.

The study explored how neighbourhood-level disadvantage may influence cognitive function through modifiable lifestyle risk factors and cerebral small vessel disease (SVD). Data were collected from 585 cognitively healthy adults aged 40–59, combining postcode-based deprivation indices, cognitive assessments, clinical lifestyle risk measures, and 3T MRI scans assessing SVD markers such as white matter hyperintensities and microbleeds.

The authors found that neighbourhood deprivation was associated with poorer cognitive performance which in turn is thought to be linked to and a greater prevalence of modifiable cardiovascular risk factors and a higher SVD burden. Serial mediation indicated that the effects of deprivation on cognition were indirect, with the possibility of operating via lifestyle risk and SVD. The authors note that this explained 20% of the total effect, while SVD alone was able to explain 28%.

The results indicate that targeted interventions on lifestyle and vascular health may help mitigate the cognitive impact of socio-environmental disadvantage. The article has been published open access and can be read here: https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.70756



#### 14 NOVEMBER:

# Study reports association between environmental noise exposure and brain atrophy



Environmental exposures, that is factors shared by large groups of people and extending beyond individual lifestyle, are receiving growing attention in dementia research. A new study by Jens Soeterboek and colleagues from the Alzheimer Centre Limburg (Maastricht University), published in Environmental Research, examines whether exposure to environmental noise is linked to cognitive functioning and structural markers of brain damage.

The researchers used cross-sectional data from 4,023 participants of the Maastricht Study, a population-based cohort originally designed to investigate type 2 diabetes. Participant information was linked with detailed environmental exposure data from the Geoscience and Health Cohort Consortium (GECCO). These data captured cumulative mixed exposure to environmental noise from road traffic, railways, aviation, industry and wind turbines, averaged within a 50 by 50 metre area surrounding each participant's residence. Participants also reported their own perceived noise exposure from the workplace, their neighbourhood or traffic environment. Cognitive functioning was assessed through a comprehensive neuropsychological test battery that measured processing speed, executive functioning, memory and attention. Structural brain health was evaluated using MRI derived volumes of grey matter, white matter and cerebrospinal fluid. The analyses also incorporated several important contextual factors, including a compound measure of socioeconomic position that combined educational attainment, occupation and household income. Degree of urbanisation and a brain healthy lifestyle score, quantified using the Lifestyle for Brain Health (LIBRA) index, were included as covariates.

The study reported no associations between objectively measured environmental noise exposure and performance in any of the cognitive domains. However, self-reported noise in the work environment showed consistent links with poorer memory, slower processing speed, reduced executive functioning and lower global cognition scores. In contrast to the

cognitive findings, the brain imaging results indicated subtle structural differences related to noise exposure. Specifically, higher levels of environmental noise exposure were associated with lower white matter volume and higher cerebrospinal fluid volume, a pattern that may reflect greater brain atrophy. The authors concluded that objectively measured environmental noise exposure does not appear to affect cognitive performance directly. However, its associations with several markers of brain structure and the consistent links with self-reported noise at work highlight the importance of considering both objective and subjective aspects of noise exposure. They note that longitudinal studies will be needed to determine whether these structural differences develop over time and whether reducing noise exposure could contribute to promoting long term brain health.

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S016041202500683X?via%3Dihub

#### 19 NOVEMBER:

# Alzheon publishes Phase III results for ALZ-801 in APOE4/4 early AD

Alzheon, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing therapies and diagnostics for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and other neurodegenerative disorders, has recently announced the publication of its APOLLOE4 Phase III clinical trial results in the journal Drugs.

APOLLOE4 was a 78-week, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-arm and multicentre study in people with early AD, who carry two copies of the apolipoprotein E  $\epsilon$ 4 allele (APOE4/4 homozygotes). The trial enrolled 325 participants across North America and Europe. Participants received either placebo or valiltramiprosate (ALZ-801), an oral small-molecule investigational therapy, at 265 mg twice daily. There was a specific effort in the United States to increase representation of underrepresented populations to maximise the diversity, equity, and inclusiveness of the study.

The APOE4/4 early AD population did not show significant clinical efficacy at 78 weeks but showed significant brain atrophy slowing. Prespecified analyses at the Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) stage showed nominally significant slowing of clinical decline with significant hippocampal atrophy slowing. Additionally, valiltramiprosate treatment was associated with a favourable safety profile, showing no increased risk of amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA).

Data on the APOLLOE4 Phase III clinical trial will be presented at the upcoming Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD) conference in San Diego, California, as well as new efficacy and safety data from the Phase II study long term extension over 3 years.

The paper can be accessed at: https://doi.org/10.1007/s40265-025-02250-5



#### 21 NOVEMBER:

### Johnson & Johnson discontinues Auтonomy Tau-antibody study in AD



On 21 November, Johnson & Johnson, a multinational pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technologies corporation, announced it is discontinuing its Autonomy proof-of-concept study of posdinemab (JNJ-63733657), an anti-tau monoclonal antibody, in early Alzheimer's disease (AD).

The Autonomy trial was designed as a first-of-its-kind precision medicine approach to evaluating targeted intervention in early AD. More than 500 participants were enrolled and randomly assigned to receive either posdinemab or placebo via intravenous infusion. The primary outcome was change in the Integrated Alzheimer's Disease Rating Scale (iADRS), a composite measure of cognition and daily functioning.

The company reported the failure of the trial in a brief press release, revealing posdinemab didn't achieve statistical significance in slowing clinical decline at a scheduled review. A full evaluation of the trial data will be shared with the scientific community in due course, according to the company.

https://www.jnj.com/media-center/press-releases/johnson-johnson-statement-on-the-au%CF%84onomy-study

#### 24 NOVEMBER:

# Novo Nordisk announces disappointing topline results from the Evoke and Evoke+ trials of semaglutide in early AD



On 24 November, Novo Nordisk announced disappointing topline results from two Phase 3 clinical trials of semaglutide in early Alzheimer's disease (AD), stating that while semaglutide treatment improved AD-related bi-

omarkers in both studies, this did not translate into a delay in disease progression.

Evoke and Evoke+ are large-scale, randomised and placebocontrolled clinical trials investigating the safety, efficacy and tolerability of once-daily oral semaglutide in early-stage symptomatic Alzheimer's disease. Semaglutide is classified as a GLP-1 receptor agonist, which mimics the action of GLP-1 to promote insulin synthesis and reduce blood glucose. The drug is available as an injectable medication or oral pill, and is widely used to treat type 2 diabetes and obesity. The Evoke trials enrolled a total of 3,808 people aged 55–85 years with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease with confirmed amyloid positivity. Trial participants received semaglutide or placebo for 156 weeks in total, with a 104-week main treatment phase and 52-week extension period.

According to a press release issued by the company, based on data from the two-year main treatment phase, semaglutide appeared to have a safe and well-tolerated profile, which is consistent with previous trials in other disease areas. In addition, treatment with semaglutide resulted in improvement of AD-related biomarkers. However, the trials did not confirm superiority of semaglutide over placebo as measured by change in the CDR-SB (Clinical Dementia Rating – Sum of Boxes) scale, a global measure of cognition and function in AD. Based on these results, the 1-year extension period in Evoke and Evoke+ will be discontinued.

Topline results from the trials will be presented at the upcoming Clinical Trials in Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD) conference, which will take place between 1-4 December.

Read the full press release:

https://www.novonordisk.com/content/nncorp/global/en/news-and-media/news-and-ir-materials/news-details.html?id=916462



### **DEMENTIA IN SOCIETY**

#### 27 OCTOBER:

# Fawlty Towers actress Prunella Scales dies with vascular dementia



Celebrated British comic actress Prunella Scales (pictured, left), whose acting career spanned more than seven decade and who was most famous for playing Sybil Fawlty in the 70s sitcom Fawlty Towers, has died with vascular dementia, at the age of 93. She passed away peacefully at her home in London, on 27 October. She was married to British television and film actor Timothy West, who himself passed away last year. The star, who had been diagnosed with vascular dementia, was watching the sitcom the day before she died, her sons Samuel and Joseph West said in a statement confirming her death.

Comedian John Cleese (pictured, standing), who played her on-screen husband, Basil Fawlty, paid tribute to his co-star, as did the British Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer. Corinne Mills, Chief Operating Officer at Alzheimer's Society, called her "a true British icon" and praised her for "shining an important light on the UK's biggest killer".

#### 26 NOVEMBER:

# Rolling for Dementia campaigner Golnaz Atefi receives prestigious "Communication Initiative Award" from Dutch Research Council

The Dutch Research Council (NWO)'s "Communication Initiative Award" honours outstanding science communication initiatives that successfully engage and inspire the public. One initiative receives EUR 50,000 supporting activities that promote scientific understanding and outreach. The winning initiative of 2025, announced on 26 November, was the "Rolling for Dementia" campaign led by dementia researcher Golnaz Atefi.

Rolling for Dementia is an initiative led by Dr Atefi, in which she travelled more than 1,000 kilometres on roller blades, to draw attention to inclusivity and diversity in dementia research. According to the committee, the initiative was "an excellent example of an inspiring initiative by a passionate researcher". The committee was impressed by the amount of work that has gone into the initiative, sending thousands of emails, visiting countless locations and talking to a large number of different people. Dr Atefi demonstrated perseverance and dedication to her idea and Rolling for Dementia was able to reach a broad audience and, more importantly, start a dialogue with people who might not otherwise have been involved in this type of scientific research. The committee hopes that the initiative will go beyond its original goal of raising awareness and expand into a sustainable dialogue between science and society.

Read the announcement on NOW's website: https://www.nwo.nl/en/winner-2025-rolling-for-dementia-rumc Watch the video of award-winner Dr Atefi: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OVsDyq0Bc7c

Among her visits to various locations (from churches and local events to patient organisations and companies), was a visit to Luxembourg on World Alzheimer's Day 2024, meeting with Alzheimer Europe and participating in our Luxembourg member association's Memory Walk, together with members of the Alzheimer Europe team. She also joined us for the 34<sup>th</sup> Alzheimer Europe Conference in Geneva (Switzerland), just two weeks after her visit to Luxembourg, with the conference being the final destination of her record-breaking in-line skating journey. Alzheimer Europe was delighted to be an official supporter of her campaign and we warmly congratulate Golnaz Atefi on this well-deserved award!



Communication Initiative Award winnaar 2025: Rolling for Dementia



### **MEMBERS' NEWS**

#### 23 OCTOBER:

# DRATgons' Den: Driving collaboration in dementia research



On 23 October, as part of Ireland's National Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) month in October, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's (The ASI) Dementia Research Advisory Team (DRAT) hosted an interactive knowledge exchange event for Early Career Researchers (ECRs): DRATgons' Den. Inspired by the TV show Dragons Den, the event gave ECRs the opportunity to present their research and communication skills to an audience of peers and experts, competing for a EUR 3,000 funding prize. One DRAT member acted as MC; others served as DRATgons, and even those not on the panel completed scoring forms for each presentation. This meant the winners were chosen entirely by people with lived experience of dementia, reinforcing the value of PPI in shaping research priorities.

The ASI extends its congratulations to winner Nina Meret Zumbrunn and runner-up Anupa Sara Paulose. The event was spearheaded by Cíara O'Reilly, Research Project Officer at The ASI, together with the members of the DRAT, who played a key role in making the day a success. Attendees remarked that "The fresh approach, making lived experience the decisions makers, forcing presenters to refine their communication" was one of the most valuable aspects of the day. Events like DRATgons' Den show how PPI can make dementia research more relevant and impactful. This event was supported by the Health Research Board Events and Conferences sponsorship scheme 2025.

#### 30 OCTOBER:

The Chinese delegation of Ningbo (Cina) expresses interest in further cooperation regarding quality of life for people with dementia during recent visit to Slovenia



On 30 October, Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia had the honour of welcoming a six-member delegation from the city of Ningbo, China. The visit was organised by the Business Development Agency SPIRIT Slovenia at the request of the Chinese delegation. The two-hour meeting with the Deputy Mayor of the city of Ningbo, Mr Yang Yong, focused on exchanging views and best practices in addressing various forms of dementia. The meeting was attended by the President of Spominčica, Mrs Štefanija L. Zlobec, members of the management, expert boards of Spominčica, representatives of SPIRIT Slovenia and the Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport. The visit of the Ningbo delegation represents a great honour and recognition of the longstanding efforts to raise awareness and improve the quality of life for people with dementia. Spo-

and recognition of the longstanding efforts to raise awareness and improve the quality of life for people with dementia. Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia is delighted that the impact of its work is being recognised even in distant China. Participants expressed a strong interest in further cooperation in the field of support for people with dementia and their families.



#### 31 OCTOBER:

Institute for Alzheimer's Disease and Neuroscience (North Macedonia) carries out successful media activities during World Alzheimer's Month with follow-up activities in October



World Alzheimer's During Month, the Institute for Alzheimer's Disease and Neuroscience (IAN) in North Macedonia, translated Alzheimer's Disease International's social media graphics and statistics shared them using the hashtags #AskAboutDementia #AskAboutAlzheimers. To engage the public, the IAN created a Google Form that allowed people to submit their questions about dementia anonymously.

In October, a panel of professionals, alongside a family caregiver, answered these questions, and the responses will be shared on social media. The campaign messaging particularly emphasised air pollution as a risk factor, given the high levels of pollution in North Macedonia.

Additionally, the IAN developed content featuring facts about dementia to raise awareness, address stigma, and encourage those with lived experience to share their stories. Their local campaign sought anonymous contributions from individuals living with dementia, which they hope to compile into an open letter to the Ministry of Health, highlighting unmet needs. The social media campaign generated significant engagement, resulting in over 30 responses to the anonymous survey, where individuals generously shared their experiences.

The IAN also participated in two television programmes and gave two interviews for the national portal Republika.mk, where they discussed dementia more broadly, emphasised the key needs of people living with dementia in North Macedonia, and presented their campaigns. They addressed the high prevalence of dementia risk factors specific to North Macedonia, the lack of post-diagnostic support, information, and respite services for individuals with dementia and their caregivers, as well as the high levels of stress and burnout among caregivers. They also underscored the importance of system-level solutions, particularly the need for accessible multidisciplinary support, backed by the development of a National Dementia Strategy. To illustrate what is possible, they highlighted best practice examples from research projects and programmes developed by the IAN in recent years.

#### 3 NOVEMBER:

## Michelle Dyson begins her tenure as the new Chief Executive Officer at Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom

Michelle Dyson is the new CEO of Alzheimer's Society in the UK, as of 3 November. She succeeds Kate Lee, who was CEO from 2020-2025. During this same period, Ms Dyson was the Director General of Adult Social Care at the Department of Health and Social



Care in the UK. As the top civil servant leading on adult social care, she was responsible for advising ministers on policy and for operational oversight and reform of the adult social care system.

Prior to this, she worked as a senior civil servant in different roles in the Ministry of Justice, Department for Work and Pensions and Department for Education, always with a focus on social policy and delivery, particularly as regards disadvantaged groups. Three of her grandparents had dementia, so she has personal experience of the condition and the effects it has on families and individuals.

You can find out more about her, here: https://www.alz-heimers.org.uk/about-us/our-people/our-leadership-team

#### 5-8 NOVEMBER:

# 11<sup>th</sup> CEAFA and 15<sup>th</sup> Alzheimer Iberoamerica conference held in Ibiza (Spain)

The 11<sup>th</sup> CEAFA and 15<sup>th</sup> Alzheimer Iberoamerica conference was held from 5 to 8 November in Ibiza (Spain). The conference brought together more than 500 delegates under the slogan "Breaking down borders".

This conference, organised by the Spanish Alzheimer's Confederation (CEAFA) together with the Alzheimer's association from Ibiza and Formentera as its host, featured, once again, the participation of Her Majesty Queen Sofía, who is also Honorary President of CEAFA.

Over the course of four days, there were some key topics discussed, such as scientific advances and new treatments for Alzheimer's disease, social and health care and rights, prevention and active ageing, disease impact on carers, and international cooperation between different associations and experts in the fields.

Alzheimer Europe was represented at the event by Public Involvement Officer Soraya Moradi-Bachiller, who joined a round table discussion about the situation of Alzheimer's disease in the world. The roundtable also included representatives from Alzheimer's Disease International and Alzheimer Iberoamerica.





The conference concluded with the Ibiza Declaration, a call for political and social action to improve the quality of life of people with the disease and their families.

#### 6 NOVEMBER:

Dublin's first dementia-inclusive shopping centre is a milestone in Ireland's journey toward dementia-inclusive communities



On 6 November, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI), in partnership with Frascati Centre, launched Dublin's first dementia-inclusive shopping centre. Jack Chambers T.D., Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, officiated the launch, marking a significant milestone in The ASI's mission to make Ireland's towns and cities more inclusive.

As part of the initiative, Frascati Centre staff will complete ASI workshops on dementia awareness, communication strategies, and creating supportive environments for people living with dementia and their families. Frascati Centre is now the

first in Dublin to earn ASI's dementia-inclusive community friends accreditation, and only the second in Ireland – following Mahon Point Shopping Centre in County Cork, accredited in 2023.

Minister Chambers said: "At the heart of this initiative is a simple but powerful idea: that everyone deserves to feel welcome, understood and supported where we live, shop and connect with our local community. The Government remains deeply committed to helping people live well with dementia, and creating inclusive, compassionate spaces like this is a vital part of that commitment. When communities come together to make everyday environments more accessible, we nurture a culture of care, dignity and belonging for all."

Head of Operations and Community Engagement at The ASI, Siobhan O'Connor, said: "We hope other shopping centres will follow Frascati Centre's shining example and help build a society where people with dementia and their families can live with dignity, understanding and compassion."

Viv Gaine, Frascati Centre Director, said: "At Frascati, our customer safety, security and well-being is of key importance, and hence our engagement with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland for our management teams and store staff to undertake this valuable training and understanding of the needs of some of our customers."

The dementia-inclusive shopping centre initiative is part of The ASI's "Friends of ASI programme" which encourages individuals, businesses and services to help create communities that are supportive, and inclusive for people with dementia and their families. For more information, please visit alzheimer.ie or email friendsofasi@alzheimer.ie

#### 15 NOVEMBER:

# The Turkish Alzheimer Association held its traditional annual Member Meeting



On 15 November, the Turkish Alzheimer Association held its traditional annual Member Meeting at Marmara Pera (Türkiye), with representatives from 21 branches in attendance. A total of 41 association members participated in the meeting, which featured rich experience-sharing and dynamic interaction.



The following key topics were discussed:

- 1. Strategies for establishing new branches
- 2. Strategic partnerships
- Project development and sustainable funding sources
- 4. Public engagement and methods to increase volunteer participation
- 5. Advocacy
- 6. Confronting the reality of Alzheimer's: a shared responsibility from family to society
- 7. Strategic plan revision: new goals, performance indicators and implementation timeline.

#### 18 NOVEMBER:

Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders' research project gains recognition at Healthcare Business Awards



On 18 November, the Healthcare Business Awards Ceremony 2025 took place in Athens (Greece), with the aim of highlighting the initiatives of businesses regarding healthcare, initiatives of patient associations that strive to improve the quality of life of their members, of university institutions that conduct research with significant social impact, and NGOs making a significant contribution to improving the health of vulnerable people.

The Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders' research project "Diagnosis and Monitoring of the Evolution of Dementia using Deep Neurosignature" (DNS Study), was awarded the bronze medal in the research category. This multinational study aims at early diagnosis and monitoring the progression of Alzheimer's disease (AD), utilising a combination of classical and digital biomarkers, innovative technologies and big data analysis through artificial intelligence.

The study uniquely maps the "deep neural footprints" that reflect everyday functioning and brain health. Our Federation played a key role in this research effort, contributing 795 participants that represent most of the total study sample, and

provided enormous statistical analysis power and reliability to the results. The participants of the study, patients with mild intellectual disability, with early, middle and late-stage dementia, as well as mentally healthy individuals, received free access to high-cost specialised tests (cerebrospinal fluid analysis, genetic testing, neuropsychological, neuroimaging and neurological assessments).

Furthermore, imagine and blood-based biomarkers allow the early detection of molecular changes before the onset of cognitive symptoms, while digital markers identify behavioural and functional changes in everyday life. The interconnection of the two levels therefore enhances the ability to predict progression (from MCI to AD) with unprecedented accuracy. The study contributes to improving the understanding of brain health and neurological disorders, promotes an innovative personalised approach to medicine and the development of new diagnostic tools (including biomarkers and digital biomarkers) with high social and scientific impact.

#### 19 NOVEMBER:

Institute for Alzheimer's Disease and Neuroscience (North Macedonia) recently celebrated World Alzheimer's Day with an "Alzheimer Matinee" event



The Institute for Alzheimer's Disease and Neuroscience (IAN) recently organised an event to mark World Alzheimer's Day, bringing together people living with dementia, members of the public, and policymakers with the aim of networking, sharing experiences, and raising awareness. The theme of the event was reminiscing, featuring music, film, and photographs from the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s.

The programme carried a strong message: to see the person before the disease and to recognise that, with appropriate support, quality of life can be maintained even in the advanced stages of dementia, while challenging stigma and stereotypes. Attendees heard from the Minister of Education, Prof. Vesna Janevska, and Tanja Kočovska, a well-known North Macedonian actress and former caregiver for her late mother, who



lived with dementia. Prof. Janevska highlighted the importance of training paid dementia caregivers and announced plans to introduce new specialised educational programmes in North Macedonian high schools, which she also shared on her social media alongside her impressions of the event.

The event was well attended and received coverage across all mainstream media outlets in North Macedonia.

#### 24 NOVEMBER:

# Alzheimer Larissa (Greece) recently carried out a series of multidisciplinary activities during World Alzheimer's Month



Alzheimer Larissa (E.E.N.A.L), in Greece, recently carried out a series of multidisciplinary activities during World Alzheimer's Month (September). Opening the curtain on the celebratory events, the president of E.E.N.A.L., Eleni Nifli, gave an interview on the first day of the month, to the city's municipal radio, discussing the latest developments in prevention, new pharmaceutical treatments, and the organisation's initiatives for people with dementia and their caregivers. The following week, she gave another interview to ERT News, focusing on disease prevention, the elimination of stigma, patients' rights, and the lack of state funding. At the same time, a group of beneficiaries shared the benefits they have gained from non-pharmaceutical and

complementary therapies. Later that week, an Open Day was held, where caregivers discussed their challenges and received guidance on self-care. Citizens of various ages were also informed about prevention, and many took part in cognitive assessment tests.

The middle section of the month saw a series of events focusing on awareness and screening activities, which took place in the communities of Evangelismos, Glafki, and the district of Agios Georgios. On World Alzheimer's Day itself (21 September), the seventh edition of the "Mnemosyne" Walk took place, accompanied by the city's Philharmonic Orchestra. The walk started at 8:30 pm from Tachydromeiou Square, passed through the historic city centre and the ancient theatre, and ended at the illuminated historic Frourio. The entire city centre, fountains, the ancient theatre, and the participants were

bathed in purple light, spreading the messages of prevention, openness and acceptance, and the eradication of stigma. The events concluded with a reception at the "Ladokola" tavern, attended by beneficiaries, caregivers, volunteers, members of the Philharmonic Orchestra, and 'friends of Alzheimer's'. Companions shared conversations and laughter, whilst enjoying a meal of traditional souvlaki.

#### 26 NOVEMBER:

# His Majesty the King of the Belgians participates in Alzheimer Café in Juprelle organised by La Ligue nationale Alzheimer Liga

On 26 November 2025, His Majesty the King of the Belgians participated in session of the Alzheimer Café in Juprelle, a ViADem municipality (dementia-friendly town or municipality). The Alzheimer Café is a meeting format that allows people



with Alzheimer's disease, their relatives, supporters, carers and anyone else who is interested to get together in a friendly atmosphere over a drink or a snack to discuss everyday life and break down the taboos surrounding Alzheimer's disease. It is a space for learning, sharing, mutual support and tackling isolation. In Belgium, regular Alzheimer Café meetings are organised by Linal – La Ligue nationale Alzheimer Liga ASBL/vzw/VoG – chaired by Baroness Sabine Henry – and are becoming increasingly popular throughout the country. In Juprelle, the Alzheimer Café is held monthly in the Trîhê community hall. King Philippe talked with the participants and met with some pupils from the nearby primary school who acted as ambassadors to break the taboos surrounding Alzheimer's disease.

The press release is available via the Belgian Monarchy's official website:

https://www.monarchie.be/fr/agenda/le-roi-participe-a-une-session-de-lalzheimer-cafe-a-juprelle



### LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

#### 22 OCTOBER:

The future of dementia care was the topic of a recent "fireside chat" event attended by Lieselotte Klotz, member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia

In Cologne (Germany), on 22 October 2025, a "fireside chat" was organised by Gesundheitsregion KölnBonn e.V. took place at the Cologne offices of KPMG AG WPG. The event was attended by more than 80 people from the local healthcare Industry and dementia care sector. The focus was on the topic of "The future of dementia care – digitalisation, early detection and new therapies in focus" which was discussed from the perspective of health policy and practical care and included not only the clinical perspective but also the perspective of those affected. The evening was moderated by Sabine Heinrich (journalist and

presenter), who guided the guests knowledgeably through the programme.

In his political assessment, Dr Georg Kippels (Member of the German Parliament, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal



Minister of Health) emphasised the importance of an integrated care approach and said that dementia must be understood more strongly as a task for society as a whole in the future.

In the subsequent specialist lecture, Professor Frank Jessen (Director of the Clinic and Polyclinic for Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Cologne University Hospital) explained the current state of research and care. In his presentation, he introduced, among other things, the Alzheimer's Guideline-Compliant Early Diagnosis in Cologne (ALFie) initiative.

In the subsequent high-profile panel discussion, the topics of prevention, early detection, digitalisation and cross-sector care were discussed. From the various perspectives of the discussion participants, a consensus emerged that coordinated interaction between politics, science, care and civil society is necessary in order to make dementia care sustainable for the future. With digital platform and networking solutions such as ALFie, the process of diagnosis and appropriate follow-up care can be effectively accelerated.

You can read the full report of the meeting (in German), here: https://health-region.de/pressemitteilung-demenz-im-fokus-zwischen-medizin-politik-und-gesellschaft/

## **NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES**



7 NOVEMBER:
Dutch coresearcher group
"Brain Power"
within the
University of
Applied
Sciences Utrecht
co-authors

reflective analysis on collaborative research with people with dementia

On 7 November, a paper titled "We Do This Together": A Reflective Analysis on Collaborative Research with people with

dementia was published in the International Journal of Qualitative Methods. It was co-authored by Dutch co-researcher group "Brain Power" within the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. Gerda Van Tongerloo (pictured), Vice-Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), is a member of the Brain Power group.

You can read the paper, here: https://jour-nals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/16094069251394256



#### 11 NOVEMBER:

TouchNEUROLOGY publishes new podcast exploring the field of senolytics and their potential to advance the treatment of agerelated diseases



In an episode of its podcast "Visionary Voices", touchNEU-ROLOGY talks to Professor Georgina Ellison-Hughes from King's College London about the field of senolytics. Prof. Ellison-Hughes shares her thoughts on their potential to advance the treatment of agerelated diseases. From under-

standing the science behind cellular senescence to how senolytic drugs work and what early clinical trials reveal, this episode explores an exciting frontier in longevity medicine. This episode of Visionary Voices was published on touchNEU-ROLOGY's website on 11 November. Check it out, here: https://visionaryvoicestmm.podbean.com/e/s3e3\_could-senolytics-change-the-treatment-landscape-of-age-related-diseases/

#### 25 NOVEMBER:

# TouchNEUROLOGY publishes new edition of its journal "touchREVIEWS in Neurology"

The latest edition of touchREVIEWS in Neurology, a free-toaccess journal featuring timely insights across the full spectrum of neurological care, is now available.

Inside this issue, you can find expert editorials and comprehensive review articles covering:

- Advances in Alzheimer's disease
- Developments in stroke care
- Updates in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Neonatal seizures
- · Huntington's disease
- Neuromuscular and vascular neurology
- Headache disorders.

Take a look at the new edition: https://touchneurology.com/journals/touchreviews-neurology/touchreviews-in-neurology-volume-21-issue-1-2025/



### **AE CALENDAR 2025**

DATE	MEETING	AE REPRESENTATIVE	
1 December	Alzheimer Europe Board meeting (Brussels, Belgium)	AE Board and staff	
2 December	Company Round Table meeting (Brussels, Belgium)	AE sponsors, staff and members	
2 December	European Parliament Lunch Debate on "The future of dementia research in Europe" (Brussels, Belgium)	AE sponsors, staff, members, EAA members	
2 December	Public Affairs meeting part 1 (Brussels, Belgium)	AE staff and members	
2 December	Anti-Stigma Award ceremony and dinner (Brussels, Belgium)	Anti-Stigma Award finalists, jury, AE staff and members, AE Foundation	



2 December	DORIAN GRAY consultation with its Public Involvement Board	Soraya
3 December	Public Affairs meeting part 2 (Brussels, Belgium)	AE staff and members
3 December	Meeting of the European Parliament Platform of Champions for Informal Carers: Informal care in EU policy – taking stock and boosting	Dianne
4-5 December	European Day of Disabilities meeting (Brussels, Belgium)	Dianne and Kevin Quaid
9 December	Alzheimer's Association Academy, on our Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2025 "Transport and access to cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport"	AE staff and members
9 December	"Dementia and Brain Health in Women" hosted by Nina Carberry MEP and Dementia Research Network Ireland (Brussels, Belgium)	Margarita
10 December	European Working Group of People with Dementia consultation about co-morbidities	Ana and Dianne
15-16 December	Al-Mind General Assembly Meeting (Rome, Italy)	Cindy

## **CONFERENCES 2026**

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
4-5 February	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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	20 <sup>th</sup> edition of the World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy 2026)	Krakow, Poland
14-16 April	37 <sup>th</sup> Global conference of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), "Solutions for today and tomorrow", https://www.alzint.org/what-we-do/adi-conference/	Lyon, France
1-3 July	IPA 2026 International Congress, "Across borders, beyond boundaries: Connecting research, education and practice for better mental health in older people" https://bit.ly/4pbWkuA	Leiden, Netherlands
27-29 October	36 <sup>th</sup> Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC), "Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership" https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences/2026-dublin	Dublin, Ireland



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

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www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences