

HIGHLIGHTS

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WELCOME

I would like to start off by welcoming two new colleagues: Eva Hueso, Administrative and Conference Assistant, and Daniela Janeva, Project Administrator. They joined us at the start of the month and so had the pleasure of being introduced to our Board when they met in Luxembourg on 16-17 March. Speaking of new colleagues, I would also like to announce that we are currently seeking to recruit a Communications Officer to join our Communications team. Check out our “Job Opportunities” section to find out more! At its two-day meeting, our Board of Directors reached a number of important decisions about our work this year, including approving our position on the European Medicines Agency (EMA)’s review of blarcamesine, and selecting the location of our 2027 conference (Belgrade, Serbia). In our position statement, which we shared with the EMA, we had hoped that this re-examination would result in a decision allowing people with early Alzheimer’s disease in Europe to access another treatment option, but this was before the news that Anavex has decided to withdraw its European marketing authorisation application for the treatment. One of the most important aspects of the work we do is our involvement in a variety of EU-funded research projects, with the latest in our portfolio being the JPND-funded project DEM-CAPS (“Dementia Care and Psychosocial Support programmes: long-term patient-relevant and

health economic impact to support their access and implementation in practice”). This exciting new project held its kick-off meeting just a few short days ago with partners, including Alzheimer Europe, joining together to discuss and plan the work ahead.

Our catalogue of publications also increased this month, with new German and French language translations of our guide aimed at raising awareness of issues around sex, gender and sexuality in dementia being published, plus a brand-new special supplement to our most recent Dementia in Europe magazine, focusing on the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Bologna. All our publications are available for download on our website, with many of them also available in print, via our eShop.

Another exciting announcement this month is the launch of our new “Research Insights” public webinar series. Details about the series can be found, together with the registration link for the first edition (22 April), on pages 4-5.

In closing, I would like to remind you that registrations are also open for our Annual Conference taking place in Dublin this October. We look forward to welcoming all of you, together with co-host The Alzheimer Society of Ireland. Register before the end of June and benefit from our reduced Early Bird rates! I would also like to remind you that the call for abstracts will close at the end of April, so if you wish to share your work with our delegates, please submit your abstract as soon as possible.

I wish all of you a fantastic month ahead and look forward to our next newsletter, with further updates from the field of dementia.

Jean Georges, Executive Director

Alzheimer Europe Board

Chairperson: Maria do Rosário Zincke Dos Reis (Portugal); Vice-Chairperson: Mario Possenti (Italy); Honorary Secretary: Lorène Gilly (France); Honorary Treasurer: Marco Blom (Netherlands); Members: Stefanie Becker (Switzerland), René Friederici (Luxembourg), Andy Heffernan (Ireland), Martina Máttová (Czechia), Mary-Frances Morris (United Kingdom - Scotland), Kevin Quaid, Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (Ireland), Trevor Salomon, Chairperson of the European Dementia Carers Working Group (United Kingdom - England), Katarina Suonu (Finland), Jochen René Thyrian (Germany).

Alzheimer Europe Staff

Executive Director: Jean Georges; Communications Officers: Kate Boor Ellis and Margarita Reyes; Conference Coordinator: Isabelle Colloot; Events Coordinator: Cristina Pencea; Policy Officer: Owen Miller; Administrative and Conference Assistant: Eva Hueso; Project Administrator: Daniela Janeva; Director for Public Involvement and Ethics: Dianne Gove; Public Involvement Lead: Ana Diaz; Public Involvement Officers: Sarah Campill, Faye Forsyth and Soraya Moradi-Bachiller; Director for Research: Angela Bradshaw; Project Officers: Christophe Bintener; Cindy Birk and Lukas Duffner.

ALZHEIMER EUROPE

1 MARCH:

Alzheimer Europe welcomes two new colleagues



Alzheimer Europe is pleased to welcome two new colleagues, who joined the team at the start of March 2026. Eva Hueso (pictured, left) is our new Administrative and Conference Assistant and Daniela Jagneva (pictured,

right) joins the team as Project Administrator. Great to have both of them on board!

See a list of our staff and find out more about them at: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/about-us/who-we-are/staff>

13 MARCH:

Alzheimer Europe guide aimed at raising awareness of issues around sex, gender and sexuality in dementia is now available in German language and in French for the Luxembourg context

A German language version of Alzheimer Europe's guide to help raise awareness of issues around sex, gender and sexuality in dementia has been published, as has a translation into French language for the Luxembourg context.

The original English language version, **Sex, Gender and Sexuality in the Context of Dementia: A guide to raise awareness amongst health and social care workers** was written by Alzheimer Europe in 2022 (published in January 2023) and is based on the ethics report **Sex, gender and sexuality in the context of dementia: a discussion paper**, published by Alzheimer Europe in December 2021.

The guide is about the experience and wellbeing of men, women and non-binary people with dementia who are living alone or with a partner and who may or may not be sexually active. We draw attention to inequality, discrimination and lack of sensitivity towards their needs and wishes, both from other people and through structures and procedures within society, also towards their families, carers and in some cases health and social care workers. The guide is not limited to the experience of LGBTQ+ people, but their experience is often qualitatively different to that of non-LGBTQ+ people, and they encounter several issues that others do not, hence the frequent reference to this group in the guide.

We would like to thank the authors of the original English language version: Dianne Gove, Committee Chair (Luxembourg), Simone Anna Felding (Denmark), Aileen Beatty (United Kingdom), Andrea Capstick (United Kingdom), Jean Georges (Luxembourg), Helga Rohra (Germany), Anthony Scerri (Malta), Charles Scerri (Malta), Annemarie Schumacher Dimech (Switzerland) and Karin Westerlund (Sweden). We would also like to thank the following individuals who contributed to the original report: Patrick Ettenes (United Kingdom), Fabrice Gzil (France), Phil Harper (United Kingdom) and Linn Sandberg (Sweden).

Alzheimer Europe is pleased to welcome two new colleagues, who joined the team at the start of March 2026. Eva Hueso (pictured, left) is our new Administrative and Conference Assistant and Daniela Jagneva (pictured, right) joins the team as Project Administrator. Great to have both of them on board!



German version

The German language version of Alzheimer Europe's guide to help raise awareness of issues around sex, gender and sexuality in dementia, titled "Geschlecht, Gender und Sexualität im Kontext von Demenz: Sensibilisierungsfaden für Fachkräfte im Gesundheits- und Sozialwesen" was translated by our national member associations in Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland, respectively Alzheimer Austria, Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft e.V. (DAIZG), Association Luxembourg Alzheimer (ALA) and Alzheimer Schweiz Suisse Svizzera (Alzheimer Switzerland).

Special thanks go to Susanna Saxl-Reisen (DAIZG), Chiara Melchior (ALA), Stefanie Becker (Alzheimer Switzerland), and Antonia Croy (Alzheimer Austria) for translating the guide into German. We would also like to thank Lukas Duffner from Alzheimer Europe for helping to harmonise the different translations.

Finally, we thank the organisation CESAS (Centre national de référence pour la promotion de la santé affective et sexuelle) in Luxembourg for funding the design and for their professional support in the field of LGBTQIA* terminology.

The new German version of the guide can be downloaded from the Alzheimer Europe website, at: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/resources/publications/geschlecht-gender-und-sexualitat-im-kontext-von-demenz>

French version

There French language edition, "Sexe, genre et sexualité dans le contexte de la maladie d'Alzheimer et des maladies apparentées : Guide de sensibilisation à l'attention des professionnels de santé et du secteur médico-social" is available in two versions - one provided by France Alzheimer for the French context (September 2025) and the other by Association Luxembourg Alzheimer for the Luxembourg context (March 2026).

A big thank you to Lorène Gilly and Chiara Melchior, from France Alzheimer and Association Luxembourg Alzheimer respectively, for their work in translating the guide into French. We would also like to thank CESAS for contributing to the layout costs and, together with Maud Théobald from the Centre LGBTIQ+ Cigale, for providing expertise on LGBTQIA+ terminology.

Both French versions can be downloaded from the Alzheimer Europe website, at: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/resources/publications/sexe-genre-et-sexualite-dans-le-contexte-de-la-maladie-dalzheimer-et-des>

16 MARCH:

Alzheimer Europe responds to the European Medicines Agency's assessment of blarcamesine

On 16 March 2026, Alzheimer Europe adopted a position regarding the ongoing re-examination of blarcamesine for the treatment of adults with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and dementia (cognitive impairment). The Alzheimer Europe Board adopted this position at a meeting in Luxembourg, and it was subsequently shared with members of the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human use (CHMP) of the European Medicines Agency (EMA). It states that:

"Alzheimer Europe understands the CHMP view that the provided efficacy and safety data may have been insufficient to recommend a full marketing authorisation for blarcamesine. However, the organisation would strongly support the granting of a conditional marketing authorisation with an obligation for the company to conduct an additional phase III clinical trial and to collect real world evidence from patients being treated in European countries. Alzheimer Europe feels that the data provided by the company meets the requirements for such a conditional marketing authorisation."

The following reasons are listed, to support this:

- the medicine fulfils an unmet medical need
- the benefit-risk balance of the medicine is positive
- the company can be required to provide comprehensive data post-authorisation and

- the benefit of the medicine's immediate availability to patients is greater than the risk inherent in the fact that additional data is still required.

Alzheimer Europe hopes that the re-examination will result in a decision that will allow people with early AD in Europe to access another treatment option with stringent eligibility criteria and efficient monitoring of side effects to ensure patient safety.

Background

Dementia affects more than 9 million people in the European Union, with numbers projected to rise by nearly 60% by 2050. As the most common cause of dementia, AD has been a major focus of research efforts to identify new treatments. Recent clinical trials of anti-amyloid therapies have marked a turning point for the field, demonstrating a statistically significant slowing of clinical decline for participants receiving treatment, compared to those receiving a placebo.

Another experimental AD candidate drug, blarcamesine, an orally-administered small molecule, represents a different therapeutic approach compared to anti-amyloid antibodies, as a daily, oral medication that does not require intravenous infusions or brain scans for safety monitoring. Rather than targeting plaques directly, blarcamesine is designed to restore cellular homeostasis by activating the sigma-1 receptor (SIGMAR1), which promotes cellular homeostasis and autophagy, and thereby slow neurodegenerative processes upstream of amyloid and tau pathology.

Based on the results of the Phase Ib/III ANAVEX2-73-AD-004 trial, supported by longer-term follow-up in the open-label extension ATTENTION-AD study, Anavex Life Sciences submitted a marketing authorisation application for the drug to the EMA in November 2024. ANAVEX2-73-AD004 was a randomised, placebo-controlled trial with 462 participants aged between 60 and 85, who received a once-daily oral dose of blarcamesine. On 11 December 2025, the CHMP issued a negative opinion on the marketing authorisation application of Anavex for blarcamesine, for the treatment of early AD (defined as mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to AD).

The CHMP recommended refusal of the application on the basis that the main study failed to demonstrate effectiveness and safety of blarcamesine in people with early AD who do not have a mutation in the SIGMAR1 gene. The CHMP noted methodological issues in the data which raised concerns about the validity of the results. The CHMP also noted that a high proportion of patients stopped treatment during the main study, mainly due to side effects related to the central nervous system (e.g. dizziness), which raised concerns about how well the medicine is tolerated. On 17 December 2025, Anavex requested a re-examination of the negative opinion for blarcamesine.

To read our position in full, visit: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/policy/positions/alzheimer-europe-position-ema-assessment-blarcamesine>

Understanding the scale of dementia in Europe



16-17 MARCH:

Alzheimer Europe Board meets in Luxembourg



The Alzheimer Europe Board held a meeting on 16 and 17 March 2026, at the Alzheimer Europe (AE) offices in Luxembourg. Jean Georges, Executive Director, Angela Bradshaw, Director for Research, Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics, and Ana Diaz, Public Involvement Lead, were also in attendance.

On 16 March, the Board:

- Approved the 2025 Annual Report, to be formally adopted by our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 30 June
- Selected the location for the 37th Alzheimer Europe Conference (37AEC) in 2027, which will be held in Belgrade (Serbia)
- Adopted AE's position on blarcamesine (for more information, see: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/alzheimer-europe-responds-european-medicines-agencys-assessment-blarcamesine>).

The Board also discussed:

- A position on the access to anti-amyloid treatments in Europe
- The 2026 Anti-Stigma Award (to be launched on 15 April - watch this space!)
- The survey for our 2026 Dementia in Europe Yearbook, focusing on National Dementia Strategies

- The agenda for our AGM of 30 June
- The call for nominations for the AE Board elections in June.

On 17 March, colleagues from the Research team and the Public Involvement team joined the meeting, sharing updates on current projects in which the organisation is involved.

19 MARCH:

Alzheimer Europe launches “Research Insights” public webinar series

2026 will see the launch of Alzheimer Europe’s Research Insights, a public webinar series focused on new developments and topics in research. Research Insights are interactive webinars bringing together academic and industry researchers, clinicians, national Alzheimer organisations, policymakers and the wider dementia community, to exchange knowledge on cross-cutting research topics. Through these, Alzheimer Europe aims to increase the visibility and impact of European research projects, support collaboration across consortia, and raise awareness of research developments in the European dementia community.

Each session will be hosted on Zoom, moderated by Alzheimer Europe, and will combine short presentations from selected projects and initiatives with a panel discussion and audience Q&A. Recordings will be made publicly available afterwards, via Alzheimer Europe’s YouTube channel.

Our first Research Insights session will take place on 22 April from 14.00 to 16.00 CET and address ‘the what, the why and the how’ of data sharing in dementia research, illustrating practical approaches, platforms and use cases, alongside perspectives from lived experience. Data sharing can make better use of existing datasets, support collaboration across disciplines and countries, and speed up progress in dementia research - but it also raises challenges linked to data protection, technical barriers and differences in how data are managed.

You can register here: www.bit.ly/ResearchInsights1

Link to the agenda:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Data_Sharing_in_Dementia_Research

Research Insights

Data Sharing in Dementia Research

Date: 22 April | Time: 14.00–16.00 CET | Online (Zoom)

Speakers

- Jean Georges, Alzheimer Europe Moderator
- Patrick Crosbie, European Dementia Carers Working Group
- Lukas Duffner, Alzheimer Europe
- Matt Clement, Gates Ventures
- Linus Jönsson, Karolinska Institutet
- Petra Ritter, Charité
- Alina Solomon, University of Eastern Finland

Register here
www.bit.ly/ResearchInsights1

20 MARCH:

We are delighted to present a special publication about our 2025 Annual Conference in Bologna!



We are pleased to present a supplement to our latest Dementia in Europe magazine, focusing on the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference (35AEC), which took place in Bologna (Italy) in October of last year. Both the conference publication and the magazine which it accompanies will be available in print in the coming days. Copies will be available at this year's Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) conference in Lyon next month and at the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (36AEC) in Dublin in October, so come and visit our stand to get a copy!

We hope you enjoy our special conference publication! Find out more and download it, here: https://bit.ly/35AEC_Highlights_Supplement

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24 MARCH:

Alzheimer Europe hosts an online Company Round Table meeting with sponsors

Alzheimer Europe
 Changing perceptions, policy and practice to improve the lives of people affected by dementia

Corporate Affairs Meeting

24 March 2026 13:00 - 14:30

All corporate sponsors have provided sponsorship to support educational and healthcare related activities and have no input in the content or activities produced by Alzheimer Europe.

On 24 March 2026, Alzheimer Europe (AE) was pleased to welcome representatives of its corporate sponsor to an online Company Round Table meeting, together with AE staff. The meeting was chaired by Jean Georges, Executive Director, who kicked off the meeting by sharing an update on AE's activities, meetings and projects in 2026.

Angela Bradshaw, Director for Research, took the floor next, presenting some of the recent regulatory developments at European and global level, as well as national regulatory developments. She also shared AE's activities in this field. Owen Miller, Policy Officer shared some recent policy developments at the EU level, followed by Jean Georges, who again

took the floor, this time to provide an update on our upcoming Annual Conference in Dublin, noting some of the sponsorship opportunities associated with the event. He closed the meeting, thanking attendees for their participation and noting that the next Company Round Table would take place in person, in Brussels, on 5 May.



Celebrating 50 editions of Dementia in Europe
 Making dementia a European priority in policy and research, giving a voice to people with lived experience

Alzheimer Europe logo and Dementia in Europe logo are visible on the banner.

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH

Alzheimer Europe would like to express its gratitude to a new sponsor for 2026:

Johnson & Johnson

All corporate sponsors have provided sponsorship to support educational and healthcare related activities and have no input in the content or activities produced by Alzheimer Europe.

Read more about sponsorship opportunities here:

<https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/about-us/governance/finances/2025-sponsorship-opportunities>

AE NETWORKING

3-5 MARCH	Isabelle, Kevin and Sarah did a site visit for the 36 th Alzheimer Europe Conference - 36AEC (Dublin, Ireland)
3 MARCH	Soraya facilitated a consultation with the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board and the Office of Health Economics
5 MARCH	Isabelle attended the 36AEC Monthly Organising Committee Meeting (Dublin, Ireland)
5 MARCH	EESC hearing on the future of the European Disability Strategy
8-10 MARCH	Isabelle attended the Europe Congress (Budapest, Hungary)
9 MARCH	Ana and Sarah facilitated a consultation with the International Advisory Board for AD-RIDDLE
12 MARCH	Owen attended a webinar on the implementation of the EU Disability and Parking cards, hosted by EDF
12 MARCH	Owen attended a Policy and Advocacy Meeting, hosted by EPHA
17 MARCH	Ana facilitated a consultation with the International Advisory Board for AD-RIDDLE
19 MARCH	Ana facilitated a consultation with the Swedish Advisory Board for AD-RIDDLE
19 MARCH	Margarita participated in the Young Women's Conference (Belval, Luxembourg)
23 MARCH	Owen, Cristina and Margarita visited the European Parliament for exhibition planning (Brussels, Belgium)
26 MARCH	Owen attended the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance (Owen)
26-27 MARCH	Soraya attended the PREDICTFTD General Assembly meeting (Desenzano del Garda, Italy)
26-27 MARCH	Dianne attended a pre-event meeting and chaired a session at the final event of the project "Dementia in migrants living in Italy: promoting a diversity-sensitive clinical approach and provision of care" (Rome, Italy)

Help us give a voice to people with dementia

Donate

@AlzheimerEurope
Non-profit NGO, making dementia a European priority.

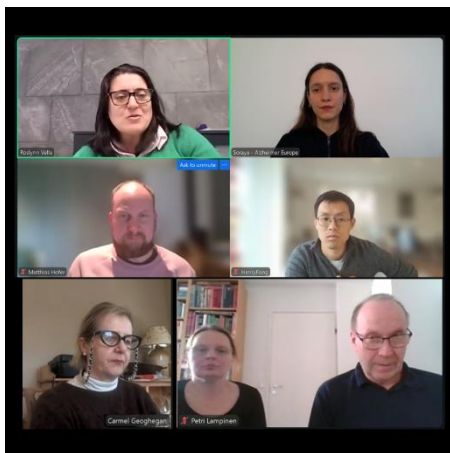
- Learn about the Prevalence of Dementia in Europe 2025 Report
- Check out the Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2025
- Join our Public Involvement Pool
- Help us give a voice to people living with dementia
- Submit an abstract to the #36AEC Conference in Dublin
- Subscribe to our Newsletter

Join AlzheimerEurope on Linktree

EU PROJECTS

3 MARCH:

Members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board meet with the Office of Health Economics to discuss the value of a faster and more accurate Frontotemporal dementia diagnosis



On 26 February and 3 March, the members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board (PREDICTFTD-PIB) gathered online with Matthias Hofer, Henry Fong and Matthew Napier from the Office of Health Economics (OHE) and Soraya Moradi-Bachiller (Public Involvement Officer at Alzheimer Europe) for a consultation on the topic of the value of a faster and more accurate diagnostic tool developed in the PREDICTFTD project. The PREDICTFTD-PIB,

which includes people living with Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) as well as carers or supporters of a person with FTD, offered valuable insights and contributions to this topic. Their feedback included their views on how the confirmed diagnosis of FTD impacted them and their family, the diagnostic journey and how an accurate and early FTD diagnosis might change access to care and support, their family situation and their emotional well-being, among others.

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. Learn more about PREDICTFTD:

<https://www.predictftd.eu/>

On 26 February and 3 March, the members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board (PREDICTFTD-PIB) gathered online with Matthias Hofer, Henry Fong and Matthew Napier from the Office of Health Economics (OHE) and Soraya Moradi-Bachiller (Public Involvement Officer at Alzheimer Europe) for a consultation on the topic of the value of a faster and more accurate diagnostic tool developed in the PREDICTFTD project. The PREDICTFTD-PIB,

17 MARCH:

AD-RIDDLE International Advisory Board holds its first meetings



To support the specific needs of the AD-RIDDLE project partners, Alzheimer Europe has set up an International Advisory Board (IAB) in addition to the national Advisory Boards. The IAB brings together 12 members of the public from six European countries, including carers, individuals experiencing cognitive changes and people living with early-stage dementia, all with a strong interest in dementia prevention. Most members are also part of their respective national Advisory Boards, enabling them to bring valuable national perspectives to international discussions.

Members will meet regularly to provide reflections and recommendations on different aspects of the project, including the development and accessibility of the AD-RIDDLE Digital Engagement Portal. Their contributions will help ensure that the project reflects the perspectives, priorities and lived experiences of those most affected by dementia.

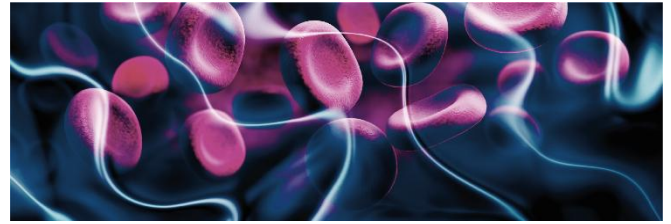
On Monday, 9 March and Tuesday, 17 March 2026, members of the IAB joined their first online meetings. The sessions were attended by AD-RIDDLE researchers and were facilitated by Ana Diaz (Public Involvement Lead, Alzheimer Europe), with support from Sarah Campill (Public Involvement Officer, Alzheimer Europe). Cindy Birck (Project Officer, Alzheimer Europe) was also present to introduce herself and her role in the project. The meetings began with an overview of the AD-RIDDLE project and recent updates, presented by Francesca Mangialasche from Karolinska Institutet, a senior clinician-scientist with extensive expertise in dementia prevention and clinical ageing research.

This was followed by a round of introductions, giving members and partners the opportunity to get to know one another. The meetings concluded with a discussion on concerns and expectations related to withdrawal from participation and permissions for data use in research studies, including within AD-RIDDLE. Both groups raised key topics around data withdrawal that are relevant not only to this project but also to dementia research more broadly.

The AD-RIDDLE project invites healthcare professionals involved in Alzheimer's care or diagnosis to participate in a short online survey exploring their experiences with emerging diagnostic tools.

18 MARCH:

FluidX-AD publishes its first project newsletter



On 18 March, the FluidX-AD project released its inaugural external newsletter. Funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme with a budget of EUR 7,699,219.38 for three and a half years, it aims to improve the early diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease (AD). Current diagnostic tools, such as brain imaging and cerebrospinal fluid tests, are partially invasive, costly and often only used in already advanced disease stages. FluidX-AD addresses these limitations by developing minimally invasive, cost-effective in vitro diagnostic (IVD) tests using saliva and blood samples. This and the future newsletter issues will introduce you to our early-career researchers and investigators, project achievements as well as our activities. Read the newsletter here:

<https://mailchi.mp/42c58952021c/fluidx-ad-newsletter-1>

19 MARCH:

AD-RIDDLE survey invites healthcare professionals to share experiences with emerging AD diagnostic tools



AD-RIDDLE is a public-private partnership bringing together academic, industry and philanthropic partners to advance the prevention, detection and treatment of Alzheimer's disease (AD). The project is developing and testing a modular "toolbox platform" designed to reduce barriers to timely detection and treatment and ultimately accelerate innovation in AD care. As part of the project, an implementation evaluation study examines the real-world integration of new diagnostic tools for

AD across primary and specialised care settings in several European health systems. The study explores factors influencing their adoption and use at system, organisational, and professional levels.

Healthcare professionals - including general practitioners, nurses, specialists and allied health professionals - are encouraged to take part. The survey captures healthcare professional's experiences with blood-based biomarkers and digital cognitive assessments, including:

- Knowledge and skills
- Perceived value and usability
- Organisational support and adoption in routine care.

The study is led by the London School of Economics and Political Science in collaboration with the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, both partners in AD-RIDDLE. The survey was promoted during the International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases (AD/PD) held in Copenhagen (17-21 March), where AD-RIDDLE partners distributed flyers to healthcare professionals.

Healthcare professionals interested in contributing can learn more and access the survey here:

<https://ad-riddle.org/frontline-care-staff-survey/>

26 MARCH:

DEM-CAPS project organises online kick-off event



Psychosocial interventions have been shown to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their carers. However, demonstrating their value in economic terms has been challenging. This, in turn, limits their funding and wider implementation across Europe.

The JPND-funded project DEM-CAPS ("Dementia Care and Psychosocial Support programmes: long-term patient-relevant and health economic impact to support their access and implementation in practice") seeks to address this gap by developing a robust framework for the health economic evaluation of such interventions. The three-year project brings together researchers from across Europe, including the Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), Maastricht University (the Netherlands), the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (Germany), Masaryk University (Czechia) and Alzheimer Europe (Luxembourg).

At the core of DEM-CAPS is the development of a health economic model informed by extensive stakeholder input, ensuring that the perspectives of those directly affected are meaningfully reflected. Alzheimer Europe will play a leading role in this work by coordinating the stakeholder analysis and Public Involvement activities. In particular, the organisation will analyse national dementia strategies to better understand how psychosocial interventions are currently positioned within them. In collaboration with its national member organisations and the INTERDEM network, Alzheimer Europe will also examine the current state of the art across countries and assess existing reimbursement structures. Through a range of Public Involvement activities throughout the project, Alzheimer Europe will furthermore ensure that the needs, values and preferences of people with dementia and carers are adequately reflected in the health economic models developed.

The project held a first kick-off meeting on 26 March, where partners came together to discuss the overall planning and logistical aspects of the work ahead.

EU project acknowledgements



A number of the projects in which Alzheimer Europe is a project partner receive funding from Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, the Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 (IMI2) Joint Undertaking (JU), or the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) JU. Projects funded through the IMI2 or IHI JU receive support from EU Research & Innovation programmes, as well as industry federations and other contributing partners. Please visit the project website(s) listed below for specific details on the organisations, federations and funders providing support for individual projects.

Several projects have also received funding through:



Please see our website, to find out more about each project, its funding, and to explore the project websites: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/our-work/current-work>

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:** Ondřej Dostál (NI); Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP). **Denmark:** Kira Marie Peter-Hansen (Greens/EFA); Christel Schaldermose (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); Seán 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 Nemeč (S&D); Irena Joveva (Renew Europe); Vladimir Prebilič (Greens/EFA); Marjan Šarec (Renew Europe); Romana Tomc (EPP); Milan Zver (EPP). **Spain:** Rosa Estaràs 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

5 MARCH:

French Government leads on non-paper to reinstate operating grants for health NGOs



The French Government has led on the submission of a non-paper, along with 12 other Member States, calling on the European Commission to reconsider its decision to withdraw operating grants for NGOs as part of the EU4Health programme. The Member States involved in the non-paper were Austria, Belgium, France, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain. The paper argues that modest expenditure guarantees a stable, continuous presence of independent civil society in health policy deliberations. Furthermore, the paper calls for improved processes around the development of the EU4Health Work Programme, to ensure structured, transparent and meaningful inclusion of Member States' input.

The EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, a coalition of health-focused NGOs has been working on this issue for, highlighting the added value of civil society in the process of developing health policy at an EU level. Most recently, in December 2025, the Alliance issued a statement addressed to EU Member States, urging them to support:

The reinstatement of operating grants in the 2026 EU4Health Work Programme

A strong, dedicated health budget in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028-2034.

This followed earlier steps, including a complaint to the European Commission and the European Ombudsman regarding the absence of operating grants in 2025, as well as the publication of a blueprint for a dedicated health programme within the new MFF.

The non-paper is available at:

<https://eupha.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/French-non-paper-leak-1.pdf>

6 MARCH:

European Council agrees position on cross-border protection of vulnerable adults

On 6 March, the Council of the EU agreed its position on proposed EU legislation for the protection of vulnerable adults in cross-border situations. The legislation aims to protect the rights of adults who are unable to make decisions without support from family members or a guardian, to protect their right to autonomy, when moving within the EU.

The new rules determine which court or other authority is competent to take protection measures in a cross-border case, which law applies, and how decisions or powers of representation established abroad are recognised and enforced. The agreement builds on the Council's partial agreement from 2025, setting out its position on remaining provisions, including those concerning placement of an adult and the creation of a European certificate of support and representation.

The agreed text refers to the procedure under the Hague 2000 Protection of Adults Convention, which allows a member state to oppose the placement of an adult on its territory, as well as setting out which country's authorities are responsible, and which national law applies when an adult in need of protection is in another country.

The Commission proposals include the creation of a European certificate of representation to make it easier for representatives to prove their powers in another member state. The



Council clarifies that the certificate could be used not only to prove representation, but also to show that the representative is authorised to support the adult concerned. Additionally, the Commission proposal provided that the certificate would automatically produce effects in the member state that issued it. The Council position leaves it to national law to determine whether the certificate has legal effect in that member state. Whilst the Commission proposal provided for the establishment of interconnected registers, the Council removed this proposal to avoid administrative burden, however, it includes a task for the Commission to reassess the possibility to establish such registers after the legislation has been implemented. Going further than the convention, the regulation will also allow the adult concerned to choose the court that should handle their case, provided there is a clear connection between the person and the chosen court. As a general rule, courts will apply their own national law, while specific provisions will address situations where a member state has more than one legal system.

To ensure legal certainty across borders, the regulation provides for the automatic recognition of protection measures taken in another member state, with only limited exceptions. The text also guarantees that authentic instruments, such as notarial acts, will have the same legal value in other member states as they do in the country where they were issued. The agreement will serve as the basis for the Council to enter negotiations with the European Parliament in order to agree on a final legal text. Further information on the cross-border protection legislation is available at:

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/06/council-agrees-position-on-eu-law-to-protect-vulnerable-adults/?utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=AUTOMATED%20-%20Alert%20-%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_id=3318

POLICY WATCH

5 MARCH:

UK Government commits to action on dementia



Department of Health & Social Care

On 5 March, the UK Government committed to dedicated actions on dementia, in response to an independent review on social care. The details were outlined in a letter by Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Wes Streeting MP, to Baroness Casey of Blackstock DBE CB,

who chaired the review.

Whilst the letter outlined a range of actions across different policy areas and conditions, the letter included dementia-specific commitments including:

- Reviewing the ACCESS-AD project and other options, to examine potential investments, reporting back to the Secretary of State in April.
- Speaking to Minister Vallance on dementia research and development (R&D) to maximise collective opportunities for government.
- Bringing forward the Dementia and Frailty Modern Service Framework (MSF) for people with dementia in both health and care settings, with publication of an interim product in September and aiming to publish the full MSF by the end of the calendar year.
- Ensuring a new dementia leadership role in the new Department of Health and Social Care.

The full letter is available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-the-secretary-of-state-for-health-and-social-care-to-baroness-casey/letter-from-the-secretary-of-state-for-health-and-social-care-to-baroness-casey-of-blackstock-dbe-cb>

SCIENCE WATCH

1 MARCH:

Resistance exercise training helps slow down brain ageing



Exercise is linked to many benefits, such as lowering blood pressure and prevention of fitness decline in old age. Previous research has also shown that exercise is linked to better brain health, as it improves cognition, mental well-being, and protects against neuro-

degeneration. However, there is variability in how individuals respond to it. In addition, studies often investigate the impact of exercise on isolated brain regions, without quantifying its impact on brain ageing or evaluating its effects in long-term interventions.

In a recent study published in the journal *GeroScience* (Springer Nature), a team of researchers led by Prof. C.J. Boraxbeek and Prof. A. M. Ibanez (Institute of Sports Medicine Copenhagen, Denmark and Cognitive Neuroscience Center, Universidad de San Andrés, Buenos Aires, Argentina, respectively) quantified the impact of resistance exercise training (i.e. the one that involves exercises that make your muscles work against a force, e.g. resistance bands or free weights) on brain health using longitudinal assessments.

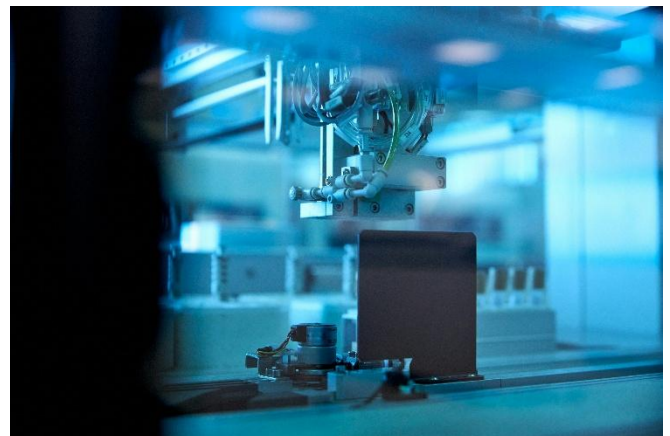
The study included magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) data from 2,433 healthy adults aged from 31 to 89 years old (46% were female). These data helped researchers train models to predict brain age, which were then applied to 309 participants (aged 62 to 70) from the Live Active Successful Aging randomised trial. These 309 participants were assigned to the heavy-resistance training (HRT), moderate-intensity training (MIT), or the non-exercise control group as part of a one-year intervention program. Both exercise groups followed a combined programme that included resistance exercises and functional training, designed to improve strength, endurance and balance. HRT participants attended three supervised sessions per week at a training centre, whereas the MIT group attended one supervised session per week and completed two additional unsupervised home-based sessions. The non-exercise group was instructed to maintain their physical activity levels to less than one hour of strenuous physical activity per week. All the participants underwent an MRI and were assessed for their physical fitness at baseline. The follow-up assessments were done at one and two years.

The results showed that only the heavy and moderate resistance training groups slowed brain ageing in older adults and had a beneficial effect beyond specific brain regions. Resistance training has lasting effects beyond the training period, has a global impact on brain health and may have a role as a preventive strategy for maintaining brain health. Despite these strengths, the study presents some limitations. For example, the generalisability of the findings is limited to healthy, older adults from a high-income European context. Therefore, future studies should test these effects in more diverse populations and explore additional mechanisms underlying exercise-related brain improvements.

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11357-026-02141-x>

4 MARCH:

Study links alpha-synuclein pathology to faster tau accumulation in women



On 4 March, researchers from the United States of America published an article on sex-specific associations of alpha-synuclein pathology with tau accumulation in the *JAMA Network Open* journal. Using data from 415 participants in the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative, the researchers found that women with positive alpha-synuclein seed amplification assay results showed significantly faster tau accumulation than all other groups, while men with positive results did not differ significantly from men with negative results.

The study examined longitudinal tau positron emission tomography data collected between 2015 and 2023, with a median follow-up of 1.23 years. Participants were either cognitively unimpaired or cognitively impaired, including people with mild cognitive impairment or dementia, at baseline. Alpha-synuclein status was determined using a cerebrospinal fluid seed amplification assay and participants were grouped as either positive or negative. Tau burden was measured in the medial

temporal region and analysed using linear mixed-effects models adjusted for age, baseline cognitive status, apolipoprotein E ϵ 4 carrier status and study site.

Among the 415 participants, 220 were women and 69 were alpha-synuclein positive. The researchers identified a significant interaction between alpha-synuclein status, sex and time on tau accumulation. Women with positive results had the fastest rate of tau accumulation. The study also estimated that tau-focused clinical trials in cognitively impaired individuals with 18-month follow-up would need far fewer alpha-synuclein-positive women than alpha-synuclein-negative women to detect a treatment effect.

The article has been published open access and can be read here:

<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2026.0461> [<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2026.0461>]

4 MARCH:

Using numerical comparisons to help patients make choices



In their publication “Using Numerical Comparisons to Help Patients Make Choices”, Ellen Peters and Nadine S. Jennings explore different approaches for clinicians to communicate more effectively with patients and foster decision-making processes.

The authors mention that clinicians often focus on presenting key risk factors or on the most successful approach to risk reduction disregarding alternatives when presenting test results to patients. Plain numerical medical data, while accessible to clinicians, can be too abstract and foreign to patients for it to have a meaningful impact. However, results can become tangible to patients if they are put into perspective through the introduction of a numerical comparison. A numerical comparison explains a medical number by putting it next to another number that people can relate to. Such comparisons can help patients interpret abstract numbers, guiding their risk perceptions and making information easier to use during decision-making.

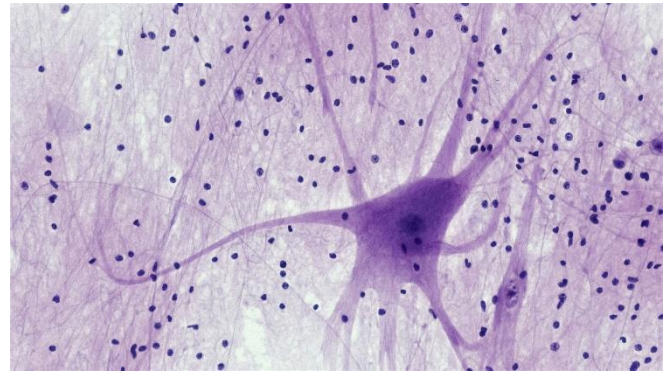
By providing numerical comparisons, clinicians can highlight differences in risk-benefit ratios that may allow patients to better understand their clinical situation and inform their decision-making about treatment and other medical options.

Link to the full article:

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2845913>

6 MARCH:

Better reporting and standardisation needed in studies testing auditory gamma stimulation for cognitive impairment



A recent review article in NPJ Aging has highlighted that studies testing auditory gamma stimulation, a non-invasive neuromodulation technique that has shown some promise in cognitive decline, show mixed results which is likely due to different methods and choice of outcome measures. Auditory gamma stimulation means playing sound pulses at a gamma frequency (the frequency of the fastest, most active brain waves) to gently nudge the brain’s activity to synchronize with that rhythm. It is usually delivered by short clicks or tones through headsets and is considered low risk. In animal studies, it has been shown to change brain activity, resulting in some improvements in cognition and biological pathways.

This review of 62 studies exploring auditory gamma stimulation in people with cognitive impairments and healthy individuals found that mixed results have been reported across studies. The authors searched through 3754 articles and included 62 studies in their review that involved 2179 people. They then extracted information about how the study was conducted and compared and contrasted this to work out why variable results have been reported so far. Key items that the authors found were: 1) individual differences (sex, age, other psychosocial factors) affected responses to the therapy; 2) clinical differences (like cognitive decline and disease stage) affected responses to the therapy; 3) cognitive and biological effects varied and 4) no optimal therapeutic ‘dose’ could be ascertained as studies have tested fixed and personalised levels. In mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer’s disease, the results across studies were very variable. Across all of the studies, some adverse events were reported including headache, dizziness and tinnitus.

The authors concluded that it is important to establish more consistent terminology and methods ahead of new studies, as this will help interpret results and might enable research that combines results (meta-analysis). The authors made several recommendations for moving forward including generating consensus on metrics being reported and standardizing outcome

measures. It would also be important to include studies of the long-term effects as these are currently unknown.

More information on this study is available here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41514-025-00305-1>

11 MARCH:

Blood phosphorylated tau is elevated in transthyretin and light chain amyloidosis



On 11 March, a team of researchers published an article on blood phosphorylated tau in immunoglobulin light chain (AL) and transthyretin (ATTR) amyloidosis in the journal *Nature Medicine*. The study found that serum p-tau181 levels were higher in people with AL and ATTR amyloidosis than in controls, with stronger effects in AL amyloidosis and in people with polyneuropathy.

The researchers analysed phosphorylated tau in serum from four cohorts of people with systemic amyloidosis. In one cohort, they also measured p-tau217 and found similar increases, with p-tau217 distinguishing people with AL and ATTR amyloidosis from controls as well as p-tau181.

The findings are relevant for the interpretation of blood tau biomarkers, as the article suggests that elevated serum p-tau levels are not specific to Alzheimer's disease. The study also reported that people with non-amyloidosis forms of polyneuropathy did not show elevated p-tau181, and that in presymptomatic genetic ATTR, p-tau181 increased with predicted years from symptom onset.

The authors concluded that elevated serum p-tau levels may also serve as a diagnostic tool for ATTR and AL amyloidosis, with potential use in distinguishing amyloidosis-related polyneuropathy from polyneuropathy of other causes. The article has been published in open access and can be read here: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-026-04272-2>

12 MARCH:

French health authority refuses early access to donanemab



France's health authority, the Haute Autorité de santé (HAS), has rejected a request for early access to donanemab for the

treatment of early Alzheimer's disease (AD), developed by Eli Lilly.

Donanemab received EU-wide marketing authorisation in September 2025 following a positive opinion from the European Medicines Agency (EMA), and has also been authorised in several countries, including the United States.

In its decision of 12 March, the HAS refused early access to donanemab for people with early symptomatic AD with confirmed amyloid pathology who are either heterozygous or non-carriers of the ApoE ε4 allele. In its assessment, the HAS concluded that the available evidence does not demonstrate sufficient clinical benefit to justify early access in France. According to the authority, the treatment's effects remain modest and are not yet considered clinically meaningful. It also emphasised that reductions in amyloid plaques observed through imaging do not necessarily translate into tangible improvements in cognition or functioning. Safety concerns were another key factor in the decision. As with other anti-amyloid therapies, donanemab is associated with risks of amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA), including brain swelling and microbleeds, which require close monitoring. Overall, the HAS concluded that donanemab does not meet the criteria required for early access in France, despite recognising that AD is a serious and progressive condition for which there are currently no appropriate pharmacological treatments.

The decision has been met with disappointment by France Alzheimer, which argue that, in a context of severe and progressive disease with few therapeutic options, the arrival of new therapies naturally raises strong expectations. They stressed that patients in other countries already have access to these drugs and expressed concern that the voices and hopes of people affected by AD were not sufficiently taken into account in the debate.

Read the statement from France Alzheimer here:

<https://www.francealzheimer.org/kisunla-la-haute-autorite-de-sante-refuse-son-acces-precoce-en-france/>

Read the HAS decision here:

https://www.has-sante.fr/jcms/p_3894165/fr/kisunla-donanemab-maladie-d-alzheimer

16 MARCH:

Roche receives CE mark for first blood test to identify ApoE4 carriers

On 16 March, Roche announced that it has received CE mark approval for its Elicsys® Apolipoprotein E4 (ApoE4) biomarker test – the first in-vitro diagnostic (IVD) immunoassay capable of identifying the presence of the ApoE4 genetic variant in blood. The ApoE4 gene variant is a well-established genetic risk factor associated with an



increased risk of late-onset Alzheimer's disease (AD) and is found in approximately 40–60% of people diagnosed with the condition.

The Elecsys ApoE4 test provides a simple, fast and reliable option, using a minimally invasive blood sample, to identify whether an individual carries the ApoE4 variant.

"The approval of the Elecsys ApoE4 biomarker test is an important step forward in providing clinicians with a simple, accessible tool to identify genetic risk and guide Alzheimer's treatment decisions," said Matt Sause, CEO of Roche Diagnostics. "By helping clinicians quickly identify and triage ApoE4 carriers among patients with cognitive decline, the test simplifies the diagnostic process as well as patient management."

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/roche-receives-ce-mark-for-first-ivd-immunoassay-blood-test-to-identify-carriers-of-apoe4-a-genetic-variant-present-in-up-to-60-of-patients-diagnosed-with-alzheimers-disease-302714082.html>

16 MARCH:

Article "The Bidirectional Nexus of Sleep and Alzheimer's Disease: Mechanisms and Translational Opportunities" published in latest edition of touchREVIEWS in Neurology journal



TouchNEUROLOGY recently published an article titled "The Bidirectional Nexus of Sleep and Alzheimer's Disease: Mechanisms and Translational Opportunities" in its "touchREVIEWS in Neurology" journal.

This narrative review, authored by Khaled Abdel-sater, synthesises contemporary evidence positing that sleep disruptions propel Alzheimer's disease (AD) pathogenesis by impairing glymphatic clearance and promoting neuroinflammation, thereby presenting viable targets for early intervention. Understanding these mechanisms may open avenues for early interventions focusing on sleep to reduce AD risk.

Read it here:

<https://touchneurology.com/alzheimers-disease-dementia/journal-articles/the-bidirectional-nexus-of-sleep-and-alzheimers-disease-mechanisms-and-translational-opportunities/>

20 MARCH:

NICE to reconsider lecanemab and donanemab following successful appeals

The UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has confirmed it will reconsider the two anti-amyloid therapies lecanemab and donanemab, after appeal panels upheld key grounds of appeal submitted by both manufacturers against the most recent rejection.

In June 2025, NICE rejected both drugs after an unprecedented third appraisal, concluding that the clinical benefits in people with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease were too modest to justify the additional cost to the National Health Service (NHS).

The appeal panels, which were organised on 13 and 14 January 2026 respectively, upheld several grounds in both cases. For lecanemab, the panel found that Eisai had been given insufficient time to respond to NHS England's infusion cost estimates document prior to the third committee meeting, and that the committee's assessment of carer utility values was unreasonable given the weight of evidence that the EQ-5D instrument grossly underestimated the impact of Alzheimer's disease on carers. For donanemab, the panel upheld equivalent findings on infusion costs and carer utilities, and additionally found that Lilly had been prevented from responding to the EAG's critique of long-term data, and that the committee had failed to consider unpaid care costs through a non-reference case scenario analysis.

The appraisals are now remitted to the committee for reconsideration of these specific points. The dates for the next committee meetings have not yet been confirmed. The Alzheimer's Society welcomed the decision, with Chief Executive Officer Michelle Dyson saying: "We welcome NICE's decision to look again at the case for lecanemab and donanemab, particularly at the significant impact of dementia on unpaid carers. We know that carers are too often pushed to breaking point and this needs to be properly recognised."

The Alzheimer's Society also noted that the science is moving rapidly and that, globally, more people are beginning to access these drugs, while the UK is falling behind. With over 30 Alzheimer's disease drugs currently in late-stage clinical trials, further treatment applications to regulators are expected in the near term.

Appeal documents for lecanemab and donanemab can be found here:

Lecanemab:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ta11220/documents>

Donanemab:

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/indevelopment/gid-ta11221>

25 MARCH:

From declaration to delivery: operationalising population-level dementia prevention as a measurable NCD priority



A recent Comment in *The Lancet Public Health* uses the 2025 United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) political declaration on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) and mental health as a policy entry point to revisit a central question for dementia: how can political recognition translate into measurable prevention-led delivery at population level?

The authors argue that dementia prevention cannot rely primarily on individually focused behaviour change, as dementia risk is strongly shaped by upstream social and commercial conditions. Instead, they emphasise “low-agency” approaches—population policies that reduce exposure to risk factors without requiring high individual resources, health literacy, or sustained behavioural effort. The Comment links this prevention framing to accountability gaps identified in recent WHO monitoring, noting limited global readiness for brain health promotion and prevention programmes and constraints in comparable monitoring where participation in platforms such as the Global Dementia Observatory is incomplete.

To move from symbolic inclusion to implementation, the authors propose three operational priorities: embedding evidence-based dementia risk reduction within existing NCD and universal health coverage strategies (or a dedicated prevention strand); ensuring that integration into NCD prevention does not default to cardiometabolic-only packages by prioritising dementia-salient initiatives (e.g., education/cognitive reserve, hearing loss prevention and management, and brain injury prevention); and strengthening joined-up accountability through interoperable surveillance systems with routine equity disaggregation.

The Comment is accompanied by a table mapping key declaration anchors to dementia-prevention policy implications and research/evaluation questions, supporting translation into policy-relevant action.

The article is available here: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(26\)00028-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(26)00028-9/fulltext)

25 MARCH:

Recent study links lecanemab-associated ARIA to clonal CD8⁺ T-cell expansion



In a study published recently in the journal *Nature Communications*, researchers from the US examined lecanemab-associated Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA). ARIA remain the main safety concern associated with anti-amyloid therapies for Alzheimer’s disease, but the biological mechanisms behind these events are still not well understood. In this study, the researchers identified a peripheral immune signature associated with ARIA, centred on coordinated changes in CD8⁺ T cells.

The study used multi-omic profiling of peripheral blood from three people with ARIA and matched controls. The researchers found expansion of CD8⁺ effector memory and terminally differentiated T-cell subsets, with these cells showing clonal enrichment and transcriptional changes linked to cytotoxic activity and vascular trafficking. Metabolomic and transcription factor analyses also pointed to glycolytic reprogramming favouring short-lived effector function.

Further modelling suggested stronger monocyte-to-T-cell signalling through antigen presentation, adhesion and chemokine pathways. Integration with a cerebrovascular atlas indicated that ARIA-associated terminally differentiated CD8⁺ T cells were transcriptionally primed for vascular engagement. The researchers concluded that ARIA may be associated with metabolic reprogramming, clonal CD8⁺ T-cell expansion and altered intercellular communication, though they stressed that these findings need validation in larger cohorts.

The article has been published open access and can be read here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-026-68921-3>

25 MARCH:

Anavex announces withdrawal of European marketing authorisation application for blarcamesine



Anavex Life Sciences has announced the withdrawal of its European marketing authorisation application (MAA) for blarcamesine for the treatment of early Alzheimer's disease.

The European Medicines Agency's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) had previously found on 11 December 2025 that the benefits of blarcamesine did not outweigh its risks and had therefore issued a negative opinion on the drug. Anavex requested a re-examination of the decision, continuing to engage with the CHMP in further discussions. In its press release issued on 25 March, Anavex stated that the CHMP had said that *"it would not be in a position to issue a positive opinion for the application at this time"*. As a result, the company has withdrawn its MAA for blarcamesine.

Blarcamesine is a small molecule drug delivered as a daily, oral capsule. It acts by enhancing autophagy, a cellular process that removes damaging waste products from the brain. This mechanism of action differs from that of anti-amyloid therapies,

with no risk of severe side effects linked to brain microbleeds or swelling. In its December 2025 opinion, the CHMP concluded that the main clinical study did not provide clear evidence of benefit across the key measures of cognition and daily functioning. They also stated that the available safety data were limited, with a number of participants stopping treatment due to side effects. Anavex requested re-examination of the opinion on 17 December.

Alzheimer Europe recognises that this news will come as a disappointment for people living with Alzheimer's disease in Europe. The organisation's recent position statement on blarcamesine supported the granting of a conditional marketing authorisation, re-evaluated on a yearly basis, with an obligation for the company to conduct an additional phase III clinical trial and to collect real-world evidence from patients being treated in European countries.

Alzheimer Europe will continue to monitor clinical trial developments and welcomes the commitment of Anavex to gathering additional data and conducting further analyses. The organisation hopes that these and other ongoing clinical trials will lead to positive results. Alzheimer Europe also calls for continued research into much-needed, additional treatment options, including symptomatic treatments for people in more advanced stages of the disease. The organisation remains committed to a holistic approach to Alzheimer's disease and dementia where treatment should be provided alongside counselling, support and adequate care of people with dementia and their carers throughout the disease process.

Read the Anavex press release:

<https://anavex.com/news/anavex-blarcamesine-eu-regulatory-update-alzheimers/>

MEMBERS' NEWS

24-27 FEBRUARY:

Romanian Alzheimer Association hosts the 16th edition of its National Alzheimer's Conference in Bucharest

The 16th Romanian National Alzheimer Conference (CNAIz 2026) took place in Bucharest from 24 to 27 February 2026, at the World Trade Center. The conference was organised by the Romanian Alzheimer Society and held in a hybrid format, with online sessions throughout the conference. The theme of this year's edition was Research, Innovation and Integrated Care: from Biomarkers to Prevention and Personalised Therapies in Alzheimer's Disease.

Prof. Dr. Cătălina Tudose, President of the Romanian Alzheimer Society (Societatea Română Alzheimer) co-organised CNAIz 2026 and chaired multiple sessions throughout the four



days, also delivering a presentation on developments in Alzheimer's disease diagnosis. The scientific programme included contributions from several international speakers from Alzheimer Europe member associations. Professor Rene Thyrian, a member of the Alzheimer Europe Board for the German Alzheimer's Association (Deutsche Alzheimer Gesellschaft) spoke about the implications of disease modifying therapies for healthcare systems, addressing the organisational

and policy changes that accompany their introduction. Emeritus Professor Magda Tsolaki from Thessaloniki, Greece, founder of the Greek Alzheimer association (Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Disorders) presented an overview of dementia research programmes in Greece and the outcomes achieved under the country’s national strategic plan. On the final day, Angela Bradshaw, Director for Research, Alzheimer Europe, presented on the process from European marketing authorisation to access for people with early Alzheimer’s disease, examining the steps between regulatory approval and the availability of treatments to patients in practice.

Find out more about the conference: <https://ralcom-cnalz-2026.eventsair.site/>

28 FEBRUARY:

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland brings people together for Brain Health & Dementia Community Event



The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) and Dementia Research Network Ireland, with support from the Health Research Board, hosted a free community event on brain health and dementia at the Civic Theatre in Tallaght, Dublin, in February. The event welcomed over 250 participants, including people living with dementia, family carers, researchers, healthcare professionals and members of the public from across the region.

The afternoon highlighted a central message: it is never too early or too late to look after your brain health. Presentations were interactive and highly engaging, with experts sharing the latest research in clear and practical terms. Attendees learned simple, positive steps they can take to support their brain health and were also introduced to local and national dementia and community services offering advice, connection, and on-going support.

To ensure inclusivity, the event offered quiet spaces and dementia-inclusive features, helping create a welcoming and supportive environment.

Tallaght resident Kathleen Farrell, a member of the Irish Dementia Working Group who lives with Lewy body dementia, shared her personal experience:

“As someone living with dementia, I know how important it is for people to feel informed and supported. If sharing my experience helps even one person take steps to look after their brain health or feel less alone, that means a lot to me.”

Dr Laura O’Philbin, Research & Policy Manager at The ASI, emphasised the empowering message behind the event:

“Research shows that simple lifestyle steps can make a real difference to our wellbeing. Whether you’re in your twenties or already living with dementia, it’s never too early or too late to start making positive changes. This event focused on turning research into practical advice that empowers people.”

As the focus on brain health continues, March also marked Brain Awareness Week in Ireland. The Dementia: Understand Together campaign – led by the Health Service Executive, in partnership with The ASI and national ageing and dementia organisations – encouraged everyone to make simple changes to support brain health and reduce the risk of certain types of dementia.

3 MARCH:

“Staying connected when words fade” - Malta Dementia Society organises a series of public talks to raise awareness and understanding of dementia



The Malta Dementia Society and speech language pathologist Nicola Montesin organised a series of public talks to raise awareness and understanding of dementia. The series aimed to empower individuals, families, and professionals through practical, evidence-informed discussion.

Communication is at the heart of human connection, yet for families living with dementia, it is often one of the first areas to face significant challenges. To address this, the Malta Dementia Society and speech language pathologist Nicola Montesin developed MDS Communic-Aid, a community-based group programme designed to transform communication into a

meaningful, inclusive, and empowering experience. Leading this programme allowed Nicola to bring her full professional toolkit to the table. By combining a clinical background in speech-language pathology with specialised training in ageing, dementia and reminiscence therapy, she created a space where evidence-based care meets genuine empathy. The programme ensured that evidence-based clinical practice is seamlessly blended with a deep, compassionate understanding of the lived experience of dementia.

What truly distinguishes MDS Communic-Aid is its commitment to an intergenerational and shared learning model. Rather than working with the person with dementia and their caregiver in isolation, the programme brought them together. Relatives, partners, and adult children participated side-by-side with their loved ones, learning firsthand that communication is a shared responsibility rather than a burden to be carried alone. Within these sessions, participants were guided through practical skills such as non-verbal communication techniques, turn-taking, and active listening.

A unique feature of these sessions was the integration of reminiscence therapy, which uses the power of long-term memory to spark modern-day dialogue. As a therapist, Nicola facilitated evocative discussions that tap into participants' rich personal histories, covering themes such as childhood stories, the nostalgia of traditional foods, and past travels.

Beyond the development of practical skills, the programme offered a vital social benefit. The group setting acted as a safe and supportive social environment, allowing participants to practice these new strategies without the fear of stigma or misunderstanding. For many, this innovative programme served as a powerful antidote to the isolation that often follows a dementia diagnosis, helping families build the confidence needed to remain active and connected. By placing professional guidance, peer support, and dignity at the centre of care, the Malta Dementia Society highlighted the importance of supported communication.

The six sessions took place between 13 January and 3 March 2026.

19 MARCH:

The Replay – a new Irish initiative supporting people living with dementia

A powerful new national initiative supporting people living with dementia in Ireland was launched recently at Croke Park, Ireland's national stadium: The Replay. This unique resource is an important tool for families and communities across the country, with relevance extending beyond Ireland's shores.

Developed through a collaboration between The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI), the GAA, and RTÉ Archives, The Replay brings together historic GAA audio commentaries from All-Ireland football and hurling finals between 1985 and 2010. All recordings feature the late Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh, one

of the great figures of Irish broadcasting, whose distinctive voice shaped the cultural memory of Irish sport.

Created to support emotional wellbeing and meaningful engagement for people living with dementia, The Replay draws on the proven benefits of reminiscence therapy, using familiar voices and sporting moments to spark memory, connection and joy. The launch followed more than a year of collaboration between partners, highlighting the commitment behind the resource.



Accessible to all, The Replay offers a rich archive for people living with dementia, their families and communities. Within the first 24 hours, the website recorded 25,000 visits and attracted significant national media attention.

Advocates from the Dementia Carers Campaign Network and the Irish Dementia Working Group, both supported by The ASI, helped highlight the initiative's importance, bringing lived-experience perspectives to its storytelling.

ASI CEO Andy Heffernan emphasised the emotional resonance of familiar voices:

"For many people living with dementia, the sound of Mícheál Ó Muircheartaigh's voice can unlock powerful recollections of matches watched with family, of summer Sundays, of shared excitement and pride. The Replay is about harnessing that connection... We are proud to partner on an initiative that blends culture, sport and science in such a meaningful way."

"Through our Sporting Memories work, I've seen just how powerful reminiscence therapy can be – how a familiar match, a piece of commentary, or Mícheál's voice can spark a light of joy and bring someone living with dementia right back into a special moment in time," said Cathryn O'Leary, ASI National Community Engagement Manager. She said her close involvement in The Replay reinforced its potential to help families reconnect through shared memories.

The website was designed to be uncluttered and easy to navigate, supporting people living with dementia and their carers. Explore the resource at: www.TheReplay.ie

20 MARCH:

Alzheimer Portugal hosts first in-person meeting of Portuguese Working Group of People with Dementia



The first in-person meeting of the Portuguese Working Group of People with Dementia was held on 20 March 2026. The agenda included several key items, namely the election of the group's Chair and Vice-Chairperson. It was a long way till it was possible to achieve this important goal of Alzheimer Portugal!

The Working Group currently consists of only four members (all women), and applications remain open for additional members who wish to contribute their experience and perspective. The first meeting of the group took place online in May 2025, and since then, meetings have been held on a regular basis in an online format.

The establishment and ongoing activities of the Portuguese Working Group of People with Dementia are supported institutionally and financially by PPD, part of the Thermo Fisher Scientific group.

Alzheimer Portugal remains committed to developing and delivering a range of services and activities specifically designed for people in the early stage of dementia. These initiatives aim to support their emotional well-being while enabling opportunities for self-expression, empowerment and active participation in society.

In this context and inspired by the example of the Alzheimer Europe Working Group, Alzheimer Portugal has established the Portuguese Working Group of People with Dementia. This initiative reflects the principle "Nothing about us without us", ensuring that the voices and lived experiences of people with dementia are represented and helping to challenge stigma, misconceptions and discrimination associated with the condition.

Alzheimer Portugal recognises the invaluable contribution that people living with dementia can make in shaping policies, activities and initiatives that affect their lives. Their participation helps ensure that the organisation represents their interests effectively.

The primary objective of the Working Group is to ensure that the Association's programmes, activities and strategic initiatives reflect the priorities, perspectives and experiences of people living with dementia. In addition, the group may contribute to consultations, initiatives and projects led by external organisations that aim to improve the quality of life, inclusion and rights of people with dementia.

22 MARCH:

Alzheimer Nederland's Memories Top 50 concert takes place in fully booked concert hall



On Sunday 22 March, the fourth edition of Alzheimer Nederland's Memories Top 50 concert took place in the largest concert hall in Amsterdam. Sixteen Dutch artists from cabaret, pop, and theatre performed songs from a Top 50 most memorable songs list. In the weeks before the concert people had voted for which song holds the most special memories. One of the highlights was the performance by Our Unforgettable Dementia Choir, a choir consisting of 18 people living with dementia.

Another first was the live performance by rapper Snelle with his song "Laat Het Licht Aan" ("leave the light on"). He was inspired by his stepsister who made a documentary about the consequences dementia has for young people and children who deal with the disease. The song is about the last night that a couple spends together before one of the spouses moves to a care home.

What you have forgotten will always remain

Patricia Kerckhoff, chair of the board of Alzheimer Nederland and initiator of the concert, drew attention during an emotional moment to all those affected by dementia: "What you have forgotten will always remain." Afterwards, the entire hall transformed into a sea of lights to illuminate memories. Because it turns out that everyone knows someone with dementia, whether close to them or in their community.

Next edition of the Memories Top 50 Concert

Ticket sales for next year began immediately after the concert. This will be a special anniversary edition of the Memories Top 50 Concert on Sunday 21 March 2027.

Patricia Kerckhoff said “In 2027, it will already be the fifth edition of our concert. That calls for a celebration, and we have plenty of special surprises in store! For Alzheimer Nederland, this is much more than a concert; it’s a moment to create memories together and to enjoy—young and old alike—all the beautiful songs the Netherlands has to offer. Alzheimer Nederland knows how valuable memories are. How important it is to cherish them—after all, it’s not a given that memories will stay with you forever.”

Proceeds from ticket sales will go toward dementia research.

23 MARCH:

Turkish Alzheimer Association has an active month of March



The Turkish Alzheimer Association had an active month this March, strengthening collaborations across academia, arts, technology, and industry.

Ageing and women

Dilek Şahinöz, President of the Turkish Alzheimer Association participated in the panel “The Gender of Aging” held on 8 March, International Women’s Day, organised by Çankaya University and its Women’s Studies Center (KADUM) in Ankara. The panel opened with remarks by Prof. Dr Zeynep Karahan Uslu and Rector Prof. Dr H. Hakan Maraş, and was moderated by Dr Esra Elmas Ete. Discussions explored the social and scientific dimensions of ageing through a multidisciplinary lens. Contributions from experts, including Dilek Şahinöz, Dr Yasin Akar, Director General of Disability and Elderly Services at the Ministry of Family and Social Services and Prof. Dr Ayşe Canatan, the Director of the Aging Studies and Research Center at Hacı Bayram Veli University and focused on how to better support and empower women throughout the ageing process using evidence-based approaches.

Menta TV collaboration

The Turkish Alzheimer Association signed a protocol to advise Menta TV, a platform designed to provide a calm and safe viewing experience for individuals living with dementia. Its specialised content aims to reduce anxiety, improve focus, and promote a more peaceful daily experience. The Association believes this collaboration will contribute to raising awareness and expanding access to innovative solutions in dementia care.

Polisan partnership

Polisan, a leading industrial company active in corporate social responsibility, engaged with the Turkish Alzheimer Association to better understand Alzheimer’s-related needs. Through meetings and a site visit to the Şişli Day Care Center, the Association emphasised the therapeutic impact of colours and the importance of maintaining aesthetics even in the advanced stages of the disease. The company generously donated art supplies and offered to repaint care centres, marking the beginning of a promising long-term partnership.

THY Airlines accessibility initiative

The Association met with the accessibility team at THY Technology to discuss the challenges of air travel for individuals with dementia and their caregivers. Key topics included minimising noise and waiting times, and ensuring proximity to essential facilities. We also noticed existing services at Istanbul Airport—such as the Special Assistance Center, the Sunflower Card for hidden disabilities, and quiet areas offering more privacy and peace require greater public awareness.

Theatre and awareness

To support awareness efforts, a group visit was organised, to a theatre performance. The group attended “Apple, Labrador, Grass,” a Turkish adaptation of “In Other Words,” a British Play by Matthew Seager. The play portrays the emotional impact of early-onset Alzheimer’s on a couple’s relationship. The growing number of Alzheimer-themed plays in Istanbul reflects increasing public interest and awareness.

The Turkish Alzheimer Association remains committed to raising awareness and strengthening support for individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease.

23 MARCH:

“Karelleion” Integrated Alzheimer and related disorders Unit of the “Apostoli” charitable organisation of Holy Archdiocese of Athens continues its Decade of Dementia Awareness with a visit to Aigio



As part of its nationwide Dementia Awareness Campaign, the “Karelleion” Integrated Alzheimer and related disorders Unit of the “Apostoli” charitable organisation of Holy Archdiocese of Athens recently visited Aigio, a small city in Greece, marking the 113th destination of an initiative that has been travelling across the country since 2015. The campaign is implemented in collaboration with MEGA DISPOSABLES S.A., one of the largest personal hygiene product manufacturers in Europe. This long-standing partnership reflects a shared commitment to social responsibility and community-based health promotion. The initiative aims to bring reliable information, early detection opportunities, and psychosocial support closer to local communities, particularly in regional areas where access to specialised dementia services may be limited.

Over the past decade, Karelleion’s outreach efforts have focused on prevention, awareness-raising, and reducing the stigma often associated with cognitive decline. The event in Aigio attracted strong local interest, with more than 50 people attending the educational event. The unit’s scientific team presented key aspects of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, highlighting the importance of prevention, timely diagnosis, and guidance. Special emphasis was placed on understanding memory function, differentiating normal ageing from pathological cognitive impairment, and encouraging individuals and families to seek professional advice without delay.

Following the educational presentation, free memory screening tests were offered to individuals over the age of 60. More than 40 citizens completed cognitive screening and received individualised feedback and guidance regarding potential next steps, where appropriate. These screenings

play an essential role in promoting early intervention and empowering individuals to take an active role in maintaining their cognitive health.

Reaching 113 destinations across Greece represents one more step in a continuous effort to inform, support and stand alongside individuals and families affected by dementia.

23 MARCH:

“When experience is transformed into a theatre play” - Larissa Alzheimer’s Association



Larissa Alzheimer’s Association is among the first registered civil society organisations to promote dementia awareness and care in Greece. Over the past decades, struggles and scarce private funding, volunteers have met repeatedly with local and national elected authorities. Few politicians have responded to the calls for action, facilitated dialogue or insisted upon implementation.

Actress Anna Vagena, a pioneer of the Municipal Theatre of Larissa and past member of the Hellenic Parliament, has not only been a witness and mediator of the enduring efforts of people living with dementia and their carers in Greece, but an ambassador as well. In 2025, she led an independent production, transforming her experience into the theatre play “Blurred memory”.

The plot is centred around a woman wandering in the streets of a city. Scared, on the run, away from an Alzheimer’s special care unit, and at the same time in search of shelter. Purportedly, a person with a failing memory and specific means and needs, different from those of a mute homeless refugee, a university professor, or of a student. Through flashbacks and intertwined moments, it is the acts of the woman living with dementia that reveal the truth and lead to catharsis and absolution.

Larissa Alzheimer’s Association members enjoyed the play while it was on tour and they express their gratitude to Anna Vagena. As script writer, director and protagonist, Anna reminded the audience of the importance of seeing the person, not the diagnosis. Blurred memory may be a life choice, but empathy and sympathy prevail.

25 MARCH:

Belgian Alzheimer League and Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen inaugurate first “memory seesaw” in Wallonia at a nursing home in Chaudfontaine



On 25 March 2026, the La Ligue Nationale Alzheimer Liga (Belgian Alzheimer League), in collaboration with researcher Kasper Bormans, the artistic duo Unik-ID, and Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen, inaugurated the first “memory seesaw” in Wallonia, at a nursing home in Chaudfontaine. This initiative, both symbolic and practical, aims to foster communication and

relationships with people living with dementia. Inspired by Kasper Bormans’ work on communication and the “resonance method” the seesaw invites individuals to connect in a different way, sharing a face-to-face moment, moving in the same rhythm.

Already developed in Flanders in recent years, this concept has demonstrated a positive impact by creating meaningful connections, facilitating exchanges, and encouraging a more sensitive approach to care.

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

18 MARCH:

Trevor Salomon, Chair of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, reveals the winners of the UK’s Longitude Prize on Dementia

Towards the end of 2022 I received a call from the UK’s Alzheimer’s Society asking me if I would be interested in becoming a member of the Lived Experience Advisory Panel (LEAP) for the Longitude Prize on Dementia. I didn’t know what this was but as a carer and someone with a background in technology marketing, I jumped at the opportunity when I discovered it was an invitation to innovators around the world to develop digital solutions to support people with dementia to remain independent for as long as possible.

Living in the UK, USA and Canada, the LEAP comprised six people living with a dementia diagnosis and six carers and was tasked with reviewing innovator designs and ideas as well as providing insights into how technologies could support and enable independent living for people living with dementia. The panel also played a key role in the governance and development of the Prize.

In early 2023 I was invited to Chair the LEAP, a position which I saw as a privilege and honour given the wonderful and very committed people I found myself working alongside.

There were initially 175 submissions for the GBP 1 million (EUR 1.14 million) prize funded by Alzheimer’s Society and Innovate UK – the UK’s innovation agency – with the project designed and delivered by innovation experts Challenge Works. The LEAP met regularly via Zoom over the project’s three-year lifecycle beginning when 128 of the submissions had already been eliminated, leaving 47 for consideration. By late 2024 and after many hours spent interviewing the innovators and poring over their reports and spreadsheets, the following contenders had emerged from the pack as the five finalists:

- **AUTONOMOUS (Portugal):** A smartwatch-based app using AI to guide users through daily routines and tasks
- **CrossSense (UK):** Smart glasses using augmented reality to help users recognize people and objects
- **MemoryAid (Australia):** A smart home assistance device styled as a traditional telephone for reminders and calls



- **Supersense Technologies (UK):** A privacy-focused, camera-free home monitoring radar-based system that tracks movement
- **Theora 360 (USA):** A smart watch that uses AI and machine learning to predict and prevent falls.

At a ceremony in London on 18 March 2026, and in an atmosphere of great excitement and anticipation, CrossSense (team pictured) emerged as the winner of the GBP 1M top prize. To provide a little more detail, their solution comprises AR smart glasses paired with an AI-powered app designed to help people living with early-to-mid stage dementia maintain their independence and enjoy daily life. The system overlays multisensory cues, such as words, shapes, colours and sounds, onto the user’s environment to support memory, safety, communication and everyday tasks.

CrossSense can recognise objects in view and display their names or functions to help users overcome word-finding difficulties. It can also identify potential hazards, read labels or handwritten notes, and provide contextual reminders. The system includes a discreet AI assistant, Wispy, which speaks softly through the glasses to provide prompts, guidance and conversation. Wispy is context-aware and can recall relevant information, offer reassurance and guide users step by step through tasks such as cooking. Carers have not been forgotten: they can connect through a companion smartphone app, which mirrors key features of the glasses and helps them support the user remotely. To say their innovation is remarkable is an understatement but I would expect that all five finalists have the potential to succeed commercially.

The LEAP members were all invited to London for the prize giving and therefore met in person for the very first time having been just faces in boxes on Zoom screens for the prior three years. The connections were instant and we were unanimous in expressing how thrilled we all were to have played our part, alongside the professional judges, in bringing real hope to people living with dementia as well as to their carers.

If you would like to know more about the Longitude Prize on Dementia, here’s the link:

<https://dementia.longitudeprize.org/>

DEMENTIA IN SOCIETY

19 MARCH:

Luxembourg hosts its first “Young Women’s Conference” for girls and young women to discover and explore career paths in STEM

On 19 March, Margarita Reyes, Communications Officer, Alzheimer Europe took part in the first “Young Women’s Conference” held in Belval, Luxembourg. The event brought together 450 girls and young women aged 12 to 19, offering them a unique opportunity to discover and explore career paths in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

The conference featured a varied programme of interactive activities, including keynote speeches, exhibitor booths, career panels, and a “living library.” These formats encouraged participants to engage directly with professionals, ask questions, and gain first-hand insights into different careers.

As part of the living library, Margarita participated as a “living book,” sharing her expertise in science communication under the title “Bringing Alzheimer’s disease into the conversation.

Why is it so hard? Let’s chat!”. In this format, participants selected topics of interest from over 30 “book titles” and joined small group discussions with the speakers.

These sessions created an open and informal space where participants could ask questions, exchange ideas, and reflect on their own knowledge and interests. Conversations were widely diverse based on what the participants were curious about, with many wanting to share what they knew about the topic as well as asking what the job involves, what makes it rewarding, and how it relates to their future career goals.

The event was funded by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) and coordinated by the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST).

Event website: <https://www.ywc.lu/home>



NEW PUBLICATIONS AND RESOURCES

3 MARCH:

DECOHDE project publication on “Designing information for people living with dementia: recommendations for designers and information providers” now available in English and Portuguese



The publication “Designing information for people living with dementia: recommendations for designers and information providers” is now available in English and Portuguese. It is a guide developed within the research project DECOHDE – Design

for a Humanised Communication of Dementia, by researchers of ID+, RISE-Health, DigiMedia, from the University of Aveiro, and funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

People living with dementia have the right to information that meets their needs. This guide brings together 14 principles and recommendations for creating information resources that are clearer and more engaging, aimed at people living with dementia (not only at carers). It includes guidance on content, navigation, interface, and visual design, applicable to both digital and print formats.

Access to the English publication:

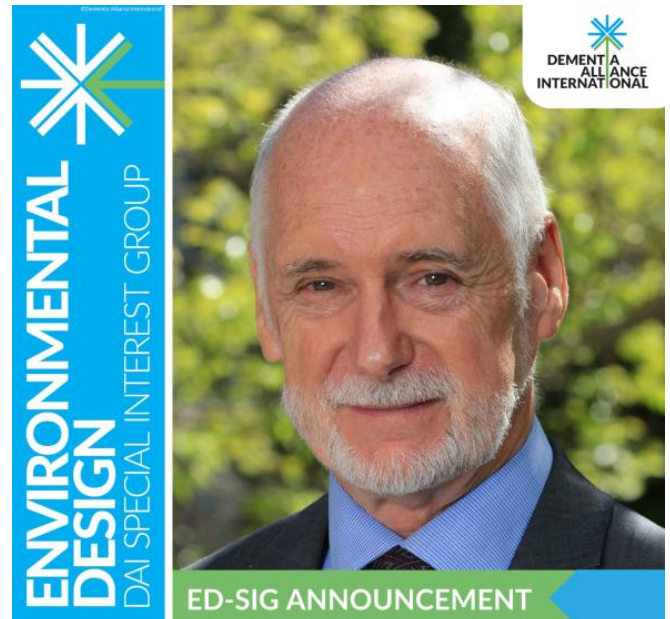
<http://doi.org/10.48528/xc5f-1v47>
<https://tinyurl.com/mrxmfw85>

Access to the Portuguese publication:

<https://doi.org/10.48528/23n6-1x35>
<https://tinyurl.com/9e6swt5e>

4 MARCH:

Dementia Alliance International announces a new webinar series from its DAI Environmental Design Special Interest Group



On 4 March, after more than half a year of planning and coordinating, Dementia Alliance International (DAI) announced the launch of a new webinar series, aiming to raise awareness and share global knowledge and skills in designing an inclusive environment for people living with cognitive decline and dementia.

The first episode was delivered by Professor Richard Fleming, a psychologist and environmental design expert with more than 35 years of experience. He explains how the places we live in, visit, and use every day can support people living with dementia, and demonstrate how creating supportive environments aligns with principles of respect, choice, and treating people as a person first.

Find out more about the webinar series: <https://dementiaallianceinternational.org/blog/announcing-the-new-webinar-series-from-the-dai-environmental-design-special-interest-group>

Find out more about the DAI Environmental Design Special Interest Group: <https://dementiaallianceinternational.org/get-involved/special-interest-groups/ed-sig>

Watch the first webinar:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0-a5cV5tL0>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

23 MARCH:

We are hiring! Want to join our Communications team? Apply today!



We are looking to immediately recruit a Communications Officer (m/f/x) to join our Communications team.

Alzheimer Europe is an equal opportunities employer and the organisation welcomes applications from interested individuals regardless of sex, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, however only candidates who have the right to live and work in Luxembourg can be considered.

We welcome applications from people with disabilities. If you require reasonable accommodation with regard to the application process, please let us know.

The work address is in Senningerberg, Luxembourg and flexible working hours and teleworking will be offered, as per teleworking policy and law. Occasional telework should not exceed one day per week.

Please read the job posting carefully before you apply. Your application should be as complete as possible to allow us to identify the relevant skills, knowledge and experience you bring to the job.

All applications will be reviewed by the selection committee who will shortlist applicants to be interviewed in the Alzheimer Europe office between 20 and 24 April. In exceptional cases, online interviews may be organised.

We receive a high number of applications and we will give priority to those who can demonstrate that they meet all the essential criteria listed. Due to the large number of applications we receive, we will not be able to answer questions about the job vacancy, individual applications or rejections by phone or email. All applicants will be informed at the end of the recruitment process.

In accordance with privacy regulations, we will only keep your application documents for the duration of the process. These

documents will only be shared with the selection committee and will be erased, once the process is over.

1 Communications Officer (m/f/x) (Full time) On a permanent basis

As the Communications Officer, you will:

- Maintain and update the organisation's website using the content management system Drupal.
- Support the management and development of social media accounts (Bluesky, LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook).
- Create high-quality visual assets (banners, adverts, infographics) using Adobe Photoshop, Canva, and similar tools for campaigns, social media, and events.
- Contribute to social media messaging for campaigns, events and new publications.
- Edit and produce videos using Adobe Premiere Pro and manage the organisation's video content on YouTube & Vimeo.
- Help plan and execute communications around the organisation's Annual Conference.
- Film short videos during Annual Conference and other events.
- Liaise with the organisation's publishers for the development of high-quality publications and, where needed, correct or keep publications up-to-date
- Contribute to the organisation's monthly e-newsletter, quarterly Dementia in Europe magazine and press releases (writing, editing and proofreading).
- Help to maintain and grow the organisation's contacts with the media, by:
 - keeping a database of media contacts
 - engaging with media contacts regularly to share press releases, publications, campaigns, and other news related to our Annual Conference and other events and activities.
- Contribute to the communications strategy of the organisation, particularly through the use of analytics for social media and impact reporting.

You should have the following experience and qualities:

- Completed university education and/or significant experience in a similar position (a university education in communication would be an advantage).
- Mother tongue / equivalent in English (knowledge of other EU languages would be a plus).
- Experience of website development and design. Proficiency in CMS platforms such as Drupal and good understanding of HTML will be considered a plus.
- Experience of managing and growing social media channels, including content scheduling and analytics.

- Proficiency in Microsoft Office. Advanced skills in graphic and video content creation, such as Adobe Suite (Premiere Pro, InDesign, Photoshop) and Canva will be considered an advantage.
- Excellent writing skills, strong proofreading and editing skills will be a plus.
- A keen sense of responsibility, attention to detail and initiative.
- Ability to work closely with colleagues across various teams, demonstrating strong interpersonal skills.

- Willingness to travel abroad for meetings, conferences, and networking opportunities.

Please apply by sending your CV, together with a cover letter (both documents in English), **by 19 April 2026**, to: Alzheimer Europe a.s.b.l., 5B, Heienhaff, L-1736 Senningerberg or via e-mail to info@alzheimer-europe.org

The salary information can be viewed, here: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/we-are-hiring-want-join-our-communications-team-apply-today?language_content_entity=en

AE CALENDAR 2026

DATE	MEETING	AE REPRESENTATIVE
8-9 APRIL	ENSURED Kick-off meeting (Maastricht, The Netherlands)	Faye, Ana
13-14 APRIL	DORIAN GRAY General Assembly Meeting (Nice, France)	Cindy, Soraya
14-16 APRIL	ADI conference	Owen, Lukas, Jean
22 APRIL	Multi-MeMo informative session with members of the Advisory Board	Cindy, Sarah
22 APRIL	Webinar “Data Sharing in Dementia Research”	TBC
23 APRIL	PREDICTOM Public Involvement consultation	Sarah
23 APRIL	FluiDx-AD project mid-term review	Faye and Chris

CONFERENCES 2026

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
26-28 March	20 th edition of the World Congress on Controversies in Neurology (CONy 2026) https://cony.comtecmed.com/	Krakow, Poland
14-16 April	37 th Global conference of Alzheimer’s Disease International (ADI), “Solutions for today and tomorrow”, https://www.alzint.org/what-we-do/adi-conference	Lyon, France
22 April	Alzheimer Europe’s “Research Insights” session 1 - Data Sharing in Dementia Research https://www.bit.ly/ResearchInsights1	Online
23 April	32 ^{ème} Colloque annuel de La Ligue Alzheimer, “Tous ensemble pour Alzheimer” https://alzheimer.be/tous-ensemble-pour-alzheimer-colloque-annuel-2026/	Mons, Belgium
15 May	13 th International Conference on Dementia in Slovenia, ASK 2026 https://www.spomincica.si/koferenca-ask-2026	Ljubljana, Slovenia

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 th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC), “Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership”	Dublin, Ireland

23 AVRIL 2026

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36th Alzheimer Europe Conference

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

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