Alzheimer Europe

Newsletter
JULY-AUGUST 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

CONTENTS

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you to this bumper summer edition of our newsletter, covering July and August. I trust you all had a break over the summer and managed to escape the heat wave! Despite the holidays, it has nonetheless been a very busy time for Alzheimer Europe, with a number of meetings and developments to share with you.

Deputy Executive Director Angela Bradshaw travelled to London for the 2026 edition of the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) together with Public Involvement Office Sarah Campill and Project Officer Lukas Duffner. They were impressed with the diversity of research on the programme and encouraged by the growing number of presentations about real-world practice, associated challenges and inequalities, and potential solutions to these issues. Lukas and Sarah were also kept very busy, presenting five posters between them at the event. Congratulations to them!

Big congratulations, also to our colleagues Owen Miller and Margarita Reyes, for making last week's Alzheimer Europe exhibition in the European Parliament a great success, as well as to Cristina Pencea and Liv Krier who contributed a lot of work to the logistics and communications around the event. The team travelled together to Brussels last week, for the exhibition and other meetings, which will be reported on in our next newsletter. The exhibition aimed to further raise the profile of dementia at an EU level and with this same goal in mind, we have also written to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, calling on her to propose a European Neurological Health Plan in her State of the European Union address in September, with dementia included as a distinct priority. The letter also asks that the Plan be included in the Commission's 2027 Work Programme.

Preparations for several other important Alzheimer Europe events in the near future are also underway, including our next "Research Insights" webinar focusing on dementia risk reduction and prevention, our Annual Conference in Dublin which we are honoured to announce has been officially recognised as an Associated Event of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026, and our Networking dinner and 2026 Anti-Stigma Award Ceremony taking place during the Conference. You can find out more about these events and how to register in the Alzheimer Europe section of this newsletter.

On the publications front, we are proud to have contributed to the WHO's updated version of its guidelines on the risk reduction of cognitive decline and dementia. I also personally contributed to a study published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease, as part of the Cost of Illness in Neurology in Europe (COIN-Eu) initiative, led by the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), which aims to assess the societal and economic burden of major neurological conditions in Europe.

I wish you all a successful World Alzheimer's Month this September. Do keep an eye out for our communications throughout, covering many aspects of our work and that of our members and projects.

Jean Georges, Executive Director

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ALZHEIMER EUROPE

30 JUNE - 1 JULY:

European Dementia Carers Working Group meets in Luxembourg

Members of the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) travelled to Senningerberg (Luxembourg) to come together on 30 June and 1 July 2026 for two days of discussions on key topics related to dementia research, policy and care. A total of 12 members from 11 countries (Belgium, Czechia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, North Macedonia, Norway, Slovakia, Sweden, Türkiye and the United Kingdom) took part in the meeting. Since 2022, the EDCWG brings together current and former informal carers of people with dementia from across Europe. The group contributes their lived experience to European research projects, policy development and advocacy activities, ensuring that the perspectives of carers are reflected in Alzheimer Europe's work.

Day 1: Psychosocial support and palliative care

The meeting opened on the afternoon of Tuesday, 30 June, with a session on the DEMCAPS project (Dementia Care and Psychosocial Support interventions estimating health-economic impact). Facilitated by Faye Forsyth (Public Involvement Officer), the discussion focused on carers' understanding and experiences of psychosocial interventions. Members reflected on the meaning of the term, how accessible such services are in their countries, and the practical, emotional and financial implications of accessing support. The group also highlighted the diverse benefits of psychosocial interventions, including improvements in wellbeing, coping strategies and quality of life for both carers and people with dementia, while noting challenges in measuring these outcomes through traditional indicators.

The second session of the day focused on updating Alzheimer Europe's White Paper on palliative care, specifically the domain on psychosocial and spiritual support. Led by Ana Diaz (Public Involvement Lead) the session invited the working group members to review revised recommendations and share their views on the importance of emotional and spiritual support throughout the dementia journey.

Day 2: Research, policy and inclusive terminology

On Wednesday, 1 July, discussions began with the FIGARO project (FIGARO project (FIndinG Alzheimer's disease pROgression markers by cerebrospinal fluid proteomics), introduced by Sarah Campill (Public Involvement Officer). This project explores the use of cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers, obtained via lumbar puncture, to better understand and predict Alzheimer's disease progression. Carers exchanged views on the acceptability of lumbar punctures, drawing on personal experiences and perceptions.

The second session focused on the *Dementia in Europe Yearbook 2026*, which will examine national dementia strategies and policies across Europe. Owen Miller (Policy Officer) engaged participants in a discussion on policy priorities, gaps and good practices.

Following a guided visit of the Alzheimer Europe headquarters, the afternoon sessions resumed with a workshop linked to the ENSURED project (Empowering Needs-based Social Health and inclUsive care for RarEr Dementias in moderate to advanced stage), which focuses on rarer dementias. Facilitated by Faye Forsyth, the discussion explored carers' understanding of the terms "moderate" and "advanced" dementia and their implications for research and public involvement. Members discussed the variability of dementia progression and the importance of recognising daily fluctuations in symptoms. As one member noted: "It is a good day when your loved one has a good day. It is a bad day when you see them struggle."

The meeting concluded with a session, for the joint work involving the EDCWG and the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), focusing on the recognition of dementia as a disability. Dianne Gove (Director for Public Involvement and Ethics) guided discussions on barriers to participation in daily life faced by people with dementia, including societal attitudes, lack of appropriate support and environmental obstacles.

Throughout the two days, discussions were characterised by openness and mutual learning. Members shared personal experiences as current and former carers of parents and partners with dementia, highlighting both common challenges and differences shaped by national contexts and individual circumstances. These exchanges continue to play a vital role in informing Alzheimer Europe's work and ensuring that research, policy and practice remain grounded in lived experience.

30 JUNE - 1 JULY:

Alzheimer Europe hosts a Public Affairs meeting with members, in Luxembourg

On 30 June and 1 July 2026, Alzheimer Europe welcomed delegates representing 25 national member associations from 23 different countries across Europe, to its Public Affairs meeting in Luxembourg. The meeting was also attended by members of staff from Alzheimer Europe and a representative of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD). Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe, welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda.

The agenda on 30 June began with a section on "Involving members in EU policy discussions", moderated by Jean Georges, Executive Director. He introduced the topic and the speakers:

- Owen Miller, Policy Officer at Alzheimer Europe gave delegates an overview of current EU policy priorities and asked whether there would be any interest in forming a dedicated public affairs group, to better involve members in our public affairs work and support them in their work. This was welcomed and Alzheimer Europe will look to set up such a group in the near future.
- Margarita Reyes, Project Officer at Alzheimer Europe then presented the upcoming Alzheimer Europe exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels, noting that this would be an important opportunity to campaign for greater prioritisation of dementia in EU programmes. She highlighted some of our previous policy-related activities (our Prevalence Report, our European Dementia Monitor and our Helsinki Manifesto). She then, discussed why it matters to have such an exhibition now, shared an exhibition walkthrough and the themes as well as other features of the event, and encouraged members to get engaged in this event and to support our communications. She also shared some videos contributed by MEPs, which will form part of an upcoming social media campaign during World Alzheimer's Month, the first week of which coincides with the exhibition.

Up next, the floor was given to delegates representing national Alzheimer's associations, to share their experiences in reaching out to and including MEPs in European and national initiatives. There were noticeable differences between countries regarding the ability of members to achieve policymaker engagement, with some of the main issues mentioned being the lack of government funding and interest in some countries, as well as low levels of public awareness and high levels of stigma surrounding dementia. It was clear that some countries needed considerably more funding and support but also encouraging to see that everyone was very keen to be involved in our policy work and in EU policy discussions.

The next segment of the meeting focused on "Supporting national policy campaigns through European publications and reports" and was moderated by Angela Bradshaw, newly-appointed Deputy Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe. Presentations came from:

- Owen Miller, who discussed the upcoming Alzheimer Europe 2026 Yearbook on dementia strategies and the recognition of dementia as a disability. The Yearbook will provide a comparison of current strategies relating to dementia, a topic which Alzheimer Europe last visited in its 2018 Yearbook.
- Lukas Duffner, Project Officer at Alzheimer Europe, who presented on the AD-RIDDLE project review of national dementia strategies on timely diagnosis, risk reduction and prevention.
- Jean Georges, who spoke about updating our European Dementia Monitor, which is planned for 2027.

On 1 July, the meeting began with a section on the Alzheimer Europe research portfolio and looked at opportunities for collaboration with national member organisations. Discussions were moderated by Jean Georges, with contributions from:

- Angela Bradshaw, who gave an overview of Alzheimer Europe's involvement in EU research projects, noting the contributions made by the entire team, across four areas: Public Involvement, Stakeholder Engagement, Communications, and Ethical and Policy Reflections.
- Faye Forsyth, Public Involvement Officer at Alzheimer Europe, who presented on involving members in a new EU-funded project called ENSURED (Empowering Needs-based Social Health and inclUsive care for RarEr Dementias in moderate to advanced stages).
- Lukas Duffner, who discussed the new project DEMCAPS and the development of a health economic model for psychosocial interventions.

The next and final part of the agenda focused on discussing "What's in a name? Alzheimer's disease and dementia - chal-

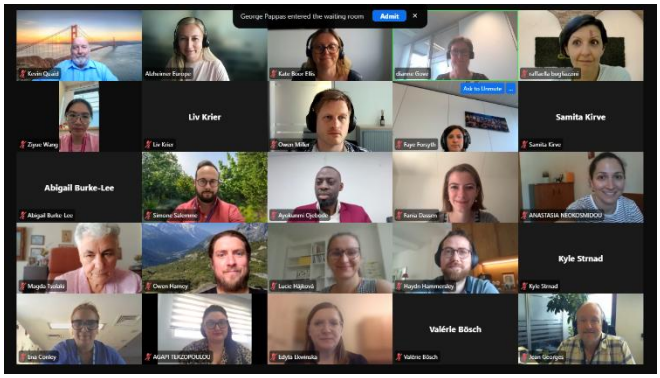
lenges for Alzheimer Europe and national Alzheimer's associations and Alzheimer Europe". These discussions were moderated by Angela Bradshaw, who introduced the speakers:

- Jean Georges, who spoke about conflicting definitions of the asymptomatic stages preceding mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and dementia.
- Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics and Ana Diaz, Public Involvement Lead (Alzheimer Europe), who shared some feedback from members of the EWGPWD and the European Dementia Carers Working Group, about the new Alzheimer's lexicon.

The floor was then given to the members, to share their thoughts around communicating about Alzheimer's disease and dementia in national associations. There was a lot of important discussion and debate, particularly centred around cultural differences and how those can impact on the language used, making it difficult to adopt certain terms across the board.
Rosário Zincke dos Reis closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their valuable contributions to our ongoing work in many areas. We are grateful to everyone who attended, for their hard work, excellent contributions, valued opinions and creative ideas.
Our next Public Affairs meeting is scheduled to take place on 1 and 2 September in Brussels (Belgium).

7 JULY:

Alzheimer Europe hosts a session of its Alzheimer's Association Academy exploring themes around dementia as a disability



On 7 July 2026, Alzheimer Europe held a session of its online workshop series the Alzheimer's Association Academy, entitled "Dementia as a disability".
Our Academies are a popular series of online capacity-building workshops bringing together representatives of national Alzheimer's associations with members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), as well as representatives from pharmaceutical companies, to learn about dementia advocacy, care, policy, research and treatment.

Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics at Alzheimer Europe chaired the session, welcoming close to 50 participants from 13 countries and three companies (Bristol Myers Squibb, Lilly and Roche), as well as several members of staff from Alzheimer Europe.
Speakers at the Academy of 7 July included:

- **Kevin Quaid**, current Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), who delivered a personal account of his experiences of having dementia as a disability and shared a very moving poem which he wrote about the impact that Lewy Body Dementia has had on his life.
- **Dr Paula Jacobs** Research Fellow in Social Work at the University of Stirling and the University of Edinburgh (Scotland, UK), who was unable to attend the session live, but shared a video presentation focusing on the work she has done together with Professor Karen Watchman and Professor Heather Wilkinson, on the topic of people with intellectual disabilities and dementia.
- **Haydn Hammersley**, Social Policy Coordinator at the European Disability Forum (EDF), who discussed EDF's reaction to the report "Enhancing the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities up to 2030" which was published by the European Commission in May of this year. The EDF notes that the report's focus on new legislation is too weak and makes no real commitment, but that the revision of existing legislation is promising despite too much focus on non-binding measures.
- **Owen Miller**, Policy Officer at Alzheimer Europe, who shared our perspective on proxy decision making and institutionalisation in the context of disability policy and dementia. He highlighted the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) perspective, noting some of the strengths of, and caveats to, the UNCRPD. He also shared Alzheimer Europe's position on de-institutionalisation and on substitute/supported decision-making.

Following each of these engaging and insightful presentations, there was an opportunity for the audience to ask questions.
We trust that our Academy delegates enjoyed this online event and we would like to say a huge thank you to all our speakers and to our Gold and Silver sponsors, Bristol Myers Squibb, Eisai, Eli Lilly and Company, Johnson & Johnson, and Roche as well as to the European Union's Citizen's, Equalities, Rights and Values (CERV) programme, without whom our Academy sessions would not be possible.

13 JULY:

European Working Group of People with Dementia begins new mandate and re-elects Chair and Vice-Chair

We are pleased to announce that the membership of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD)

has been renewed and that the new incarnation of the group officially began its mandate after the Annual General Meeting of Alzheimer Europe (30 June 2026).

The EWGPWD was launched by Alzheimer Europe and its member associations in 2012. The group is composed entirely of people with dementia who are nominated by their national Alzheimer associations. They work to ensure that the activities, projects and meetings of Alzheimer Europe duly reflect the priorities and views of people with dementia. The group operates independently and members elect their own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson is also an *ex-officio* member on the Board of Alzheimer Europe, with full voting rights.

As of 13 July, The group has also voted in its Executive members (Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson), both of whom remain unchanged for the new mandate. Congratulations to Kevin Quaid (Ireland) and Gerda Van Tongerloo (Netherlands) for retaining their positions as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively. The EWGPWD is now composed of the following 14 members:

- Kevin Quaid, Ireland - **Chairperson**
- Gerda Van Tongerloo, Netherlands - **Vice- Chairperson**
- Georgios Aidonas, Greece
- Stuart Dougall, United Kingdom - Scotland
- Kjell Ehn, Sweden
- Jan Runar Eliassen, Norway
- Hafsteinn Ágúst Friðfinnsson, Iceland
- Katya Genadieva, Bulgaria
- Jost Hamschmidt, Switzerland
- Lieselotte Klotz, Germany
- Angela Pototschnigg, Austria
- Jari Puranen, Finland - **New member**
- Shelagh Robinson, United Kingdom - England
- Věra Ryšavá, Czechia

Alzheimer Europe would like to welcome new members Georgios Aidonas (Greece) and Jari Puranen (Finland) and to express its gratitude to outgoing EWGPWD members Phillip Angrave (United Kingdom - England), Erla Jónsdóttir (Iceland) and Minna Kinnunen (Finland) for their important contributions. They will be sorely missed!

You can find out more about the group and its members, here:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/about-us/european-working-group-people-dementia

13 JULY:

European Dementia Carers Working Group begins new mandate and re-elects Chair and Vice-Chair

We are pleased to announce that the membership of the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) has been renewed and that the new incarnation of the group officially began its mandate after the Annual General Meeting of Alzheimer Europe (30 June 2026).

The EDCWG was launched by Alzheimer Europe and its member associations in 2022. The group is composed both of current carers, relatives and supporters of people with dementia, and of people with prior experience in a carer's role, within the five years prior to their first nomination to the group.

In tandem with the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), the carers group works to ensure that the activities, projects and meetings of Alzheimer Europe duly reflect the priorities and views of carers and supporters of people with dementia. The group operates independently and members elect their own Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson is also an *ex-officio* member on the Board of Alzheimer Europe, with full voting rights.

As of 13 July, The group has also voted in its Executive members (Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson), both of whom remain unchanged for the new mandate. Congratulations to Trevor Salomon (United Kingdom - England) and Roslynn Vella (Malta) for retaining their positions as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, respectively. The EDCWG is now composed of the following 15 members:

- Trevor Salomon, United Kingdom - England - **Chairperson**
- Roslynn Vella, Malta - **Vice-Chairperson**
- Bill Alexander, United Kingdom - Scotland
- Peter Banda, Slovakia
- Patrick Crosbie, Ireland
- Sylva Dneboská, Czechia
- Emil Emilsson, Iceland
- Annick Germeys, Belgium
- Zornitsa Karagyozova, Bulgaria
- Timo Pässilä, Finland - **New member**
- Hatice Sertaç Süslü, Türkiye
- Liv Thorsen, Norway
- Peter Thörngren, Sweden
- Olivera Vasilevska Danev, North Macedonia
- Christina Zioga, Greece

Alzheimer Europe would like to welcome new member Timo Pässilä (Finland) and to express its gratitude to outgoing

EDCWG member Chris Ellermaa (Estonia) for her important contributions. She will be sorely missed!
You can find out more about the group and its members, here:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/about-us/european-dementia-carers-working-group

17 JULY:

#36AEC is officially recognised as an Associated Event of the Irish Presidency

We are delighted to announce that the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference has been officially recognised as an Associated Event of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union 2026. This recognition reflects the conference's place as a key European forum for dialogue and collaboration on dementia, bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders from across the dementia community.
Taking place in Dublin, Ireland, from 27-29 October 2026, the conference will bring together people with dementia, carers, researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers and industry representatives from across Europe and beyond.
Held under the theme "Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership", the conference will provide a forum for exchanging knowledge, sharing experiences and exploring developments in dementia research, care and policy.
Standard registration is still open.
Register for the conference:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences/2026-dublin/registration-fees

Explore the detailed programme:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences/2026-dublin/detailed-programme

We look forward to welcoming you to Dublin this October.

24 JULY:

Alzheimer Europe urges the European Commission to build on growing support for a European Neurological Health Plan

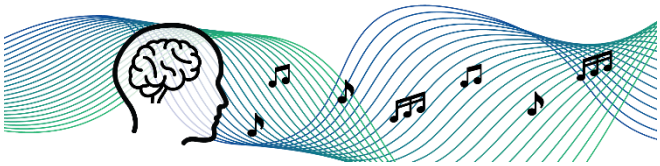
Alzheimer Europe has written to European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, calling on her to propose a European Neurological Health Plan in her State of the European Union address in September, with dementia as a distinct priority within it. The letter, sent on 20 July on behalf of the more than 9 million Europeans living with dementia and the family

carers who support them, also asks that the Plan be included in the Commission's 2027 Work Programme.
Support for such a Plan has been building across the EU institutions. The European Parliament's Own-Initiative Report on a Neurological Health Strategy is currently in development, and the European People's Party committed to a European Plan on Alzheimer's disease, dementia and Parkinson's disease in its 2024 Manifesto. Commissioner Várhelyi's message to the MindShift initiative in Rome in June was a further welcome signal. In our letter to President von der Leyen, we argue that the Commission is now in a position to act on these commitments.
Neurological conditions currently affect over 150 million people in Europe. Whilst dementia is not the most prevalent neurological disease, it is among the most consequential, as the third leading cause of death in the European region and a major cause of disability and dependency among older people. On current projections, 14.3 million people in the EU27 will be living with dementia by 2050. The overall cost of neurological diseases in Europe is approaching EUR 1.5 trillion per year, with an estimated, average yearly cost of EUR25,218 per dementia patient. The letter also notes the gender dimensions of these conditions, with women disproportionately affected as both patients and unpaid carers.
Alzheimer Europe points to the European Beating Cancer Plan and the Safe Hearts Plan as evidence that the European Union can lead on the most pressing health issues facing the continent. The organisation has offered to support the President's team and Commissioner Várhelyi's cabinet as a Plan develops. A European Neurological Health Plan would underscore the Commission's commitment to protecting the health of EU citizens, tackling not only the significant health challenges Europeans live with on a daily basis, but also those that will increasingly affect our ageing societies for many decades to come. You can read the letter here:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2026-07/ae_letter_to_president_von_der_leyen_200726.pdf

11 AUGUST:

Winner of Alzheimer Europe's 2026 Anti-Stigma Award to be announced at special award ceremony during #36AEC



Alzheimer Europe and the Alzheimer Europe Foundation are pleased to announce the finalists for the 2026 Anti-Stigma Award, following presentations by shortlisted candidates to the Award Committee during a virtual meeting held today.

Building on the success of the initiative over the past four years, this year's award focuses on the powerful connection between music and dementia, recognising outstanding European initiatives and artists who use music to challenge stigma and promote a more positive and inclusive image of dementia. The award celebrates projects that actively involve people with dementia in musical activities, as well as songs, performances and other musical productions that help raise awareness, foster understanding and encourage greater social inclusion. The awards will consist of a cash prize of EUR 5,000 for the first prize, EUR 2,500 for second prize and EUR 1,250 for third prize. Trophies and awards will be presented at the award ceremony organised in Dublin on 28 October 2026, as part of the networking dinner of #36AEC.

Congratulations to all eight finalists selected, out of a total of 46 applicants. The finalists have all been invited to attend our special award dinner and ceremony taking place on 28 October, in Dublin (Ireland), at which we will announce the winner. The finalists are (in alphabetical order):

- Daniel Cauchi and Michael Spagnol, for "Niftakarna"
- Marlene Cristina Neves Rosa and Francisco Saldanha, for "A minha Tita era assim" ("That's Who My Grandma Tita Was")
- Claus Christensen, for "Når vi er sammen"
- Mike Hanrahan, for "A River Rolls On" by Mike Hanrahan with the Forgetmenots choir
- James McKillop, for "Diff'rently the Same" and "I Still Love You"
- Naaheed Mukadam, for "Music, meaning and memory"
- The Choir of Alzheimer Hellas, for "Beautiful Greece"
- Voices of courage beyond the diagnosis, for "The Dementia Choir".

If you would like to attend the award ceremony in Dublin, 28 October, you can register here:

https://www.eventsforce.net/alzheimereurope/frontend/reg/tSelectBookingMode.csp?pageID=11017&eventID=17&tempPersonID=89323

26 AUGUST:

Register for the next Research Insights webinar on dementia risk reduction and prevention!

Earlier this year, Alzheimer Europe launched Research Insights, a public webinar series bringing together researchers, clinicians, Alzheimer's organisations, policymakers and the wider dementia community to explore emerging research topics. The first session took place on 22 April, focusing on data sharing in dementia research.

On 6 October, Alzheimer Europe is proud to host their second session, this time on dementia risk reduction and prevention. Registration is now open for "Brain health across the dementia continuum", which will again take place on Zoom, featuring insights from European projects such as ABOARD, DORIAN GRAY and Multi-MeMo, as well as a personal insight about "Lived Experience: what brain health means to me". The session will be moderated by Lukas Duffner (Project Officer, Alzheimer Europe) and will feature speakers Mauro Massussi (University of Brescia), Mariagnese Barbera (University of Eastern Finland) and Sebastian Köhler (Maastricht University). There will also be a panel discussion and audience Q&A. Recordings will be made publicly available afterwards, via Alzheimer Europe's YouTube channel. The agenda for the webinar is available at: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/research/research-insights

Please register for the event here:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0Oh9FG-KR2CkRvoIxotrhw

Sign up to the "Research Insights" mailing list to receive news and updates:

https://mailchi.mp/2f9c4bcd7fd5/research-insights

SPONSORS OF THE MONTH

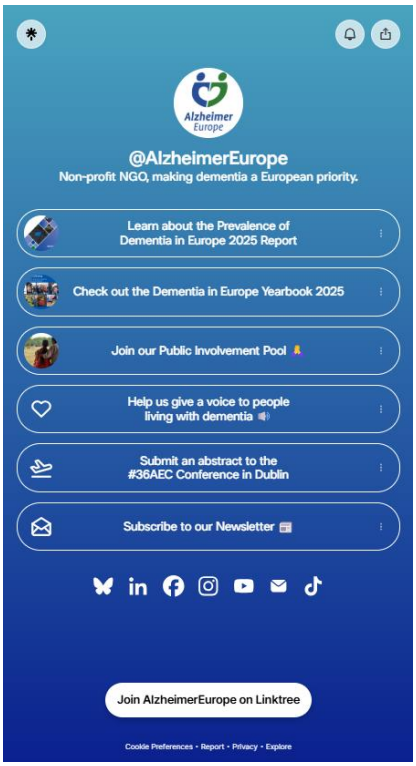
Alzheimer Europe would like to express its gratitude to three new sponsors for its 2026 Annual Conference:

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

30 JUNE-1 JULY	The European Dementia Carers Working Group held a meeting, facilitated by Alzheimer Europe's Public Involvement team (Senningerberg, Luxembourg)
30 JUNE-1 JULY	Alzheimer Europe's members and staff attended a Public Affairs meeting (Senningerberg, Luxembourg)
6 JULY	Meeting held to welcome the new members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia
6 JULY	Ange participated in an Advisory Board meeting organised by TauRX (London, UK)
7 JULY	Alzheimer Europe held a session of its online Alzheimer's Association Academy, titled "Dementia as a disability"
8 JULY	Jean met with Charles River Associates
9 JULY	Meeting held to welcome the new member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group
9-10 JULY	Ana, Cindy, Lukas and Sarah participated in the AD-RIDDLE General Assembly Meeting (Barcelona, Spain)
10 JULY	Ange attended the WW-FINGERS Network Meeting (London, UK)
11 JULY	Ange attended the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Disease (DIAD) Family Day (London, UK)
12-15 JULY	Ange, Lukas and Sarah attended the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (London, UK)
17 JULY	The anti-stigma award Jury met to select the winners of the AE anti-stigma award
23 JULY	Cindy and Ana organised an online consultation with the members of the DORIAN GRAY Public Involvement Board
18 AUGUST	Jean met with UCB
31 AUGUST	The Alzheimer Europe Board held a meeting (Brussels, Belgium)



EU PROJECTS

3 JULY:

ACCESS-AD holds a third consultation with people with lived experience

On Friday 3 July, a consultation with eight people with lived experience from across Europe was held as part of the Innovative Health Initiative funded project, ACCESS-AD. Led by Ana Diaz (Public Involvement Lead) the session invited people with lived experience to share their views on dementia care provision in the primary care setting and their perspectives on possible new pathways, tools or management methods. Rich discussion about accessing care and time constraints in primary care, awareness and knowledge problems and diagnostic and prognostic uncertainty ensued. These factors ultimately resulted in people with lived experience feeling unsupported and there was a perceived lack of adequate communication and follow-up – particularly when they compared their care experiences to other disease pathways like cancer.

The second part of the consultation focused on new tools, pathways and treatments. In this respect, people with lived experience provided detailed recommendations for how these might be optimally implemented including giving consideration to caregiver involvement, carefully contemplating their overall appeal and presentation, personalisation, and appropriate resource. Lastly, people with lived experience identified some areas in the researchers' provisional qualitative interview guide that may be missing, including the need to explore trust, continuity and caregiver involvement.
Overall, this was a fruitful consultation and the researchers from King's College who intend to interview Primary Care clinicians in the future, voiced that the insights would influence the direction of the questions they will ask.

6 JULY:

ENSURED project holds its first consultation with people with lived experience of rarer dementias

On Monday 6 July, a consultation with four people with lived experience of rarer dementias was held as part of the JPND funded, ENSURED project. During the consultation people living with rarer dementias highlighted that they often face hidden challenges due to limited awareness and understanding from healthcare professionals, families, and society. They also explained that, although many people may appear well or continue daily activities unaided, they may experience significant difficulties that affect communication, vision, information processing, mobility, and energy levels. Different types of rarer dementias, including behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia, vascular dementia, and posterior cortical atrophy, therefore require different approaches to support participation in Public Involvement activities. The consultation also helped to illuminate that flexible planning, accessible environments, clear information, and calm settings are needed, to help people feel more comfortable and included.
Overall, the consultation highlighted 1) the importance of personalised and inclusive approaches in involvement activities; 2) Supporters play a key role by providing practical help, reassurance, and assistance, although support needs vary between individuals and countries; 3) Creative and flexible methods, such as visual tools and alternative ways of sharing experiences, can help people participate more fully.
This was an important first consultation for the ENSURED project that will influence subsequent activities across the project. This project is supported by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (INTER/JPND25/19533865/ENSURED), under the aegis of the EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) - www.jpnd.eu

7 JULY:

HOMEDEM project shares some highlights from its closing event on Design, Dementia & Care

To mark the conclusion of the HOMEDEM project, LUCA School of Arts recently hosted a successful two-day event dedicated to design, dementia, and care. The event brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, people living with dementia and their caregivers, and the HOMEDEM network for inspiring keynote lectures, networking opportunities, and hands-on workshops. Attendees engaged in interactive sessions with experts in the field, including Dr Claire Craig, Dr Clarissa Giebel, Dr Sandra Suijkerbuijk, and Prof. Dr Debby Gerritsen. Over the course of the two days, the programme featured a variety of interactive sessions, including hands-on workshops with people living with dementia, collaborative sessions with healthcare professionals and stakeholders, dedicated coaching sessions for early-career researchers, and dialogues with policymakers and key policy influencers. You can explore more about the multidisciplinary research within HOMEDEM, at the crossroads of design, economy, and psychology, by watching the short project clip here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEdB4kAG3Kw

You can also watch a short after movie of the final event, here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0LfspUFhv4

Over the past three years, the project's eight doctoral candidates (Marine Markaryan, Ajda Flisar, Rising Lai, Sunny Tan, Andrea Nakakawa, Natsumi Wada, Alicia Valencia and Vamsi Boyanagari) have worked closely with people living with dementia (both inside and outside care facilities) and their informal caregivers. By collaborating with the European Working Group of People with Dementia, the European Dementia Carers Working Group, and various care facilities, design agencies, and local municipalities across Europe, they developed meaningful prototypes, interventions, toolkits, and guidelines. To discover the project outcomes and view the event recap, have a look on the website:

https://www.homedem.eu/

These include eight individual short clips from the PhD researchers, which can be found on the project website, here:

https://www.homedem.eu/phd-projects

8 JULY:

FluiDx-AD Public Advisory Board meets to discuss the implementation of fluid-based biomarkers

FluiDx AD
A novel test trio to detect peptide biomarkers in saliva and blood for enhanced diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's disease

Two members of the FluiDx-AD Public Advisory Board met for an online consultation to discuss ethical guidance for the use of fluid-based biomarkers in the general community. The FluiDx-AD Public Advisory Board have previously tested and advised upon biomarker testing equipment and considered the findings of a rapid review exploring ethical and social issues linked to the use of fluid-based biomarkers. The project now seeks to build on feedback obtained to generate an ethical guide that would support the implementation of biomarkers in the real-world setting.

The group considered the overall pathway and important considerations at each stage (pre-testing, during testing, feedback of results and long-term follow-up) and debated potential pros and cons and ethical issues or considerations that might arise at each stage. It was noted that the testing context is highly influential, and future consultations will explore whether there are differences in perspectives between resource rich and resource poor settings. Learning will be synthesised with previous consultation feedback to generate minimal standards or criteria to optimally guide implementation.

Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the Health and Digital Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

9-10 JULY:

AD-RIDDLE convenes in Barcelona for its third General Assembly

On 9–10 July, the AD-RIDDLE consortium gathered in Barcelona, Spain, for its third General Assembly Meeting, hosted by the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC). The meeting brought together representatives from the project's 27 partner organisations to review progress, strengthen collaboration and define priorities for the next phase.

The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from project co-leads Miia Kivipelto (Karolinska Institutet) and Niranjan Bose (Gates Ventures). They reflected on the project's mission to transform the detection, diagnosis, prevention and care of Alzheimer's disease, highlighting the importance of close collaboration across the consortium to achieve its ambitious goals.

Over the two-day meeting, consortium members presented progress across all work packages and celebrated a number of important milestones achieved during the project's second year. A key milestone reported during the meeting was that the consortium has successfully reached its recruitment target for the AD-RIDDLE pilot study on digital cognitive assessments, marking an important step towards the real-world validation of the project's innovative tools. Partners also celebrated the soft launch of the AD-RIDDLE Digital Engagement Platform in Sweden, representing the first wave of deployment.

One of the highlights of the second day was an engaging roundtable discussion with two Spanish members of the AD-RIDDLE Advisory Board, who shared valuable perspectives and experiences.

Within the consortium, Alzheimer Europe leads two work packages concerning facilitation of the real-world implementation of AD-RIDDLE (e.g., ethical, policy, health economic considerations) as well as communication and dissemination activities. Ana Diaz (Public Involvement Lead), Cindy Birck (Research Lead), Lukas Duffner (Project Officer) and Sarah Campill (Public Involvement Officer) joined the meeting on behalf of Alzheimer Europe.

https://ad-riddle.org/ad-riddle-convenes-in-barcelona-for-its-third-general-assembly/

23 JULY:

DORIAN GRAY Public Involvement Board meets with the research team

DORIAN GRAY is a collaborative project that investigates the link between cardiovascular disease (CVD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI) in the elderly population. The project aims at designing a multidomain intervention to delay CVD-related MCI progression and developing digital solutions to enhance the adherence. This digital solution will use an avatar-based coaching exergame and serve as a cognitive enhancement tool with structured physical and cognitive activities promoting healthy behaviours experienced in the virtual environment.

On 23 July, members of the DORIAN GRAY Public Involvement Board (DORIAN GRAY-PIB) met online with the research team to discuss the ongoing development of the DORIAN GRAY exergame and digital coach. The consultation was facilitated by Ana Diaz (Public Involvement Lead at Alzheimer Europe) and Cindy Birck (Research Lead at Alzheimer Europe).

Researchers provided an update on how feedback from the previous face-to-face meeting in Milan has been incorporated into the development of the digital solutions. They also summarised the key user needs identified by the DORIAN GRAY-PIB and thanked members for their valuable contributions.

During the second part of the meeting, the research team presented plans for summer testing. This will include testing additional exergames, the Mirror app and online surveys focusing on the digital coach. The aim is to ensure that the digital solution is engaging, accessible and appealing to people with mild cognitive issues or in the early stages of a neurodegenerative disease.

Members who attended this session actively participated in the discussion and provided valuable feedback to support the further development of the exergame and digital coach. Their continued involvement will help ensure that the DORIAN GRAY digital solutions reflect the needs and preferences of the people they are designed to support.

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 Schaldemose (S&D). **Estonia**: Urmas Paet (Renew Europe). **Finland**: Maria Guzenina (S&D, Finland); Merja Kyllönen (The Left); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP). **France**: François-Xavier Bellamy (EPP); Mélissa Camara (Greens/EFA); Laurent Castillo (EPP); David Cormand (Greens/EFA); Marie Dauchy (PFE); Christophe Gomart (EPP); Catherine Griset (PFE); Céline Imart (EPP); Isabelle Le Callennec (EPP); Nadine Morano (EPP); Philippe Olivier (PFE); Mounir Satouri (Greens/EFA); Majdouline Sbai (Greens/EFA); Marie Toussaint (Greens/EFA). **Germany**: Alexandra Geese (Greens/EFA); Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA); Angelika Niebler (EPP); Manuela Ripa (Greens/EFA); Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA). **Greece**: Tsiodras Dimitrios (EPP); Emmanouil (Manolis) Kefalogiannis (EPP); Nikos Papandreou (S&D); Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP). **Hungary**: Tamás Deutsch (PFE); Enikő Győri (PFE); Kinga Gál (PFE); György Hölvényi (EPP); András Kulja (EPP). **Ireland**: Barry Andrews (Renew Europe); Lynn Boylan (The Left); Nina Carberry (EPP); Luke 'Ming' Flanagan (NI); Billy Kelleher (Renew Europe); 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 Nemec (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

24 JUNE:

Urge to Act campaign and MEP Interest Group on Continence Health host "Unseen, uncounted, unaddressed: The case for continence health in EU policy" event in Brussels

On 24 June 2026, the European Association of Urology (EAU) Policy Office brought continence health to the forefront of EU discussions with an event in Brussels, hosted by MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia) under the Urge to Act campaign and the MEP Interest Group on Continence Health. Following the launch of the campaign's latest paper, "Coexisting Conditions: Urinary Incontinence as a Non-Communicable Disease Comorbidity" at the EAU's 2026 congress (EAU26) held earlier this year in London (United Kingdom) the event gathered patient representatives, clinicians and carers to discuss the topic.

Speakers included Erik Briers, Secretary General of EuropaUomo, Theodoros Yfantis from the World Bladder Cancer Patient Coalition, Dirk Hadrick from the European Commission's Cancer Mission (DG RTD), Prof. Francisco Cruz, newly elected member of the EAU Policy Office Board, Eva Wallace, nurse and Chair of the EAUN Special Interest Group on Continence Health, Tomasz Michalek, from the World Federation of Incontinence and Pelvic Problems, and Claire Champeix from Eurocarers.

Closing the event, MEP Tomislav Sokol walked participants through the Urge to Act manifesto, clarifying where the EU can drive change and where national and regional authorities must take the lead.
You can read the full event report on the EAU website, here: https://uroweb.org/news/unseen-uncounted-unaddressed-the-case-for-continence-health-in-eu-policy

17 JULY:

New study finds that dementia costs high-income European countries over EUR 221 billion a year, with families hardest hit

Dementia imposes an annual societal cost of more than EUR 221 billion across 30 high-income European countries, with families and unpaid informal carers carrying much of the weight, according to a new study published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. It was led by Prof. Richard Dodel, neurologist and geriatrician at the University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany) and co-authors include Jean Georges, Executive Director at Alzheimer Europe.
The research forms part of the Cost of Illness in Neurology in Europe (COIN-Eu) initiative, led by the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), which aims to assess the societal and economic burden of major neurological conditions across Europe.
For this analysis, researchers conducted a systematic review of 45 European dementia cost studies published between 2010 and 2023, combined with prevalence estimates from the Global Burden of Disease 2021 study. They found that 58% of total dementia-related costs are linked to unpaid care provided by family members, friends and other informal carers, highlighting the substantial impact of dementia beyond healthcare systems alone. Notably, unpaid informal care (EUR 128 billion annually) exceeded direct healthcare costs (EUR 93 billion), underscoring the often-hidden contribution made by families and carers.
The study estimated that approximately 8.8 million people were living with dementia across high-income European countries in 2019, with dementia-related costs equivalent to around 1.6% of regional GDP, underlining the condition's growing impact on healthcare systems, economies and families.
The average annual societal cost per person living with dementia was estimated at EUR 25,200, although substantial variation existed across Europe. Together, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the UK accounted for approximately 68% of the total estimated economic burden, reflecting their population size and dementia care needs.
Researchers also note that the findings reinforce calls for more standardised approaches to measuring dementia-related costs — particularly the contribution of informal care — to improve comparisons across countries and strengthen future healthcare planning and policymaking.
Prof. Richard Dodel, lead author of the study, commented:
"As Europe's population continues to age, we can expect the number of people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia to increase substantially in the coming years. One of the most striking findings from this study was the scale of informal care provided by families and friends. While healthcare costs are significant, the majority of the burden falls on unpaid caregivers, whose contribution is often overlooked despite being essential to supporting people living with dementia."
Jean Georges, Executive Director, Alzheimer Europe commented on the newly-published research:
"With populations continuing to age, the number of people living with dementia is set to rise sharply in the coming years. Our recent report The Prevalence of Dementia in Europe 2025 projects a 64% increase in dementia across Europe by 2050 and the economic burden associated with the condition will of course rise in tandem with these numbers, so it is vital that countries are prepared.
Healthcare costs are significant, but the impact is not merely financial, with findings from this new study clearly demonstrating that the majority of the weight is borne by unpaid carers, mainly family members, whose vital contribution often goes unrecognised.
Decision-makers, both at the European and national levels, must prioritise dementia and ensure it is addressed across the domains of health, research, disability policy and support for informal carers. They must ensure that support is available for people with dementia and carers, and that they increase investment into care infrastructure, support services and timely diagnosis, as well as implementing targeted prevention strategies based on known modifiable risk factors."
You can read the full study, "The economic burden of dementia in Europe: COIN-Eu dementia", here: https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/13872877261465575

POLICY WATCH

2 JUNE:

Roundtable discussion on dementia takes place at Royal Palace in Brussels

On 2 June 2026, a unique roundtable discussion on dementia took place under the chairmanship of His Majesty the King of the Belgians, at the Royal Palace in Brussels (Belgium). The discussions centred on the theme of "Maintaining Connections with the Shadow Persons of Dementia and Strengthening Informal Care". The roundtable brought together Alzheimer organisations, researchers, clinicians, policymakers, artists, people living with dementia and informal caregivers.

The message was unequivocal: dementia is not merely a medical condition, but above all a societal challenge and responding effectively therefore requires collaboration across disciplines, sectors and communities. Whilst the search for effective treatments must continue, participants discussed the importance of also investing in what already makes a difference today: evidence-based psychosocial interventions, the prevention of dementia, and communities that foster understanding, inclusion and human connection. Taking a balanced approach can offer a more realistic way forward for people living with dementia, their families and wider society.

Alzheimer Europe was delighted and honoured to have a seat at the table and was represented by Deputy Executive Director Angela Bradshaw. She placed the discussion within a broader European policy context, stressing that dementia represents one of the most urgent public health challenges in Europe. Prevalence is expected to nearly double by 2050, placing increasing pressure on health and social care systems across all Member States. She also emphasised that collaborative networks are indispensable to accelerate innovation, deepen understanding of social and relational determinants and improve the quality of life of those affected, while simultaneously preventing structural overload of care systems. Such collaborative networks, however, must not only engage clinicians, researchers and policymakers, but also actively involve people with lived experience, ensuring their roles, needs and lived realities are fully recognised.

Other participants at the roundtable included researcher Kasper Bormans (who was responsible, together with the conceptual artist Unik-ID, for the creation of the exhibition The Memory Palace), Sabine Henry (LINAL – National Alzheimer League), Peter Van Houtven (Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen), Christiane Gathoye (care partner), Philippe Paquay (person living with Alzheimer's disease), Professor Manu Keirse (KU Leuven), Professor Sebastiaan Engelborghs (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), Sven Unik-ID, Lydie Amici (Collectif Auguste et les autres), Alessandra Clavello, Director of the nursing home Foyer de la Providence (ACIS asbl), and Pedro Facon, CEO of the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (RIZIV-INAMI). Their discussions were preceded by a heartfelt performance by De Betties, the intergenerational choir of Huis Perrekes (internationally acclaimed residential care centre for people with dementia, located in Oosterlo, Geel, Belgium).

This event formed part of the Royal Palace's broader commitment to communicating the importance of creating a dementia-friendly society and preceded the opening of the exhibition "The Royal Palace as a Memory Palace" in the historic Mirror Room of The Royal Palace in Belgium.

Photo credit: Huis Perrekes vzw, Fred Debrock

AAIC WATCH

In this special section, we have selected a few highlights from sessions and results presented at the 2026 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).
You can also find all press releases from AAIC on the conference website, here:

https://aaic.alz.org/press/press-releases.asp

11 JULY:

2026 DIAN Family Conference hosted alongside AAIC

The 2026 DIAN Family Conference, "Rising Together", took place on 11 July at University College London's Institute of Child Health. As in previous years, it was held alongside the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). Our Deputy Executive Director, Angela Bradshaw, was delighted to attend on behalf of Alzheimer Europe.
The conference is convened by the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN), an international research partnership led by WashU Medicine. DIAN studies dominantly inherited Alzheimer's disease, also known as autosomal dominant Alzheimer's disease or familial Alzheimer's disease, a rare form caused by mutations in one of three genes. People who inherit such a mutation almost always develop Alzheimer's dementia, typically before the age of 60, and each of their children has a 50% chance of inheriting it. Through its observational study and the DIAN-TU trials unit, the network investigates diagnosis, treatment and prevention.
Hosted by Natalie Ryan (Senior Clinical Research Fellow and Honorary Consultant Neurologist at University College London/UCL) and held in a packed lecture theatre at UCL, the programme brought together dozens of individuals with lived experience of familial Alzheimer's disease from the US and from Europe, as well as researchers, clinicians and patient organisation representatives.
Sessions spanned the path from laboratory to treatment, the latest observational and trial findings presented by Randall Bateman (Professor of Neurology at Washington University), Eric McDade (Associate Professor of Neurology at Washington University) and Haruo Naito (CEO of Eisai), and a panel about the opportunities and challenges in developing new treatments for familial Alzheimer's disease, with contributions from Nick Fox (Professor of Neurology at University College London) and Fiona Elwood (VP Disease Area Stronghold Lead for Neurodegeneration at Johnson & Johnson).
A highlight of the family conference was an advocacy session moderated by Lindsay Hohsfield, a neuroimmunologist and APART-USA fellow at the Medical University of Innsbruck, who founded Youngtimers, a non-profit supporting people with early-onset, familial Alzheimer's disease. Her panellists Davide Mangani, May Phillips and Jetske van der Schaar spoke about their advocacy journeys from lived and family experience of dominantly inherited Alzheimer's disease, bringing people to their feet in a standing ovation to close the meeting.
Learn more about Familial Alzheimer's Disease and Youngtimers:

https://www.youngtimers.org/

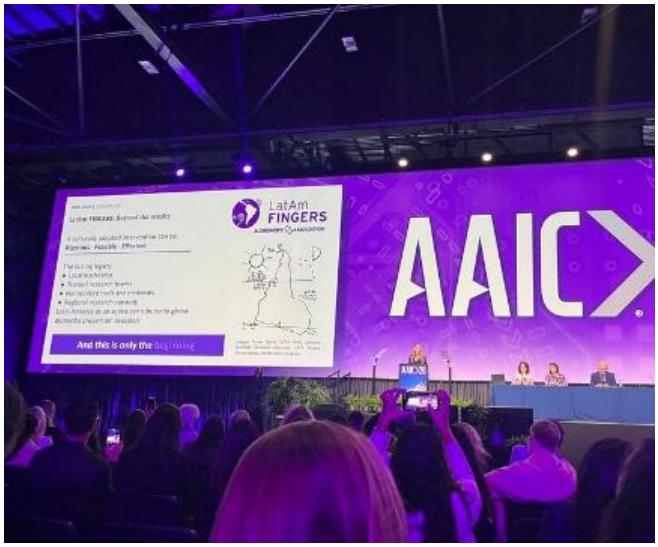
Read about DIAN and the family conferences:

https://dian.wustl.edu/for-families/

14 JULY:

AAIC Watch: LatAM-FINGERS trial reports cognitive benefits from a lifestyle intervention adapted for Latin American populations

The first randomised trial of a multidomain lifestyle intervention to prevent cognitive decline in Latin America has reported positive results. LatAm-FINGERS was published in The Lancet on 13 July 2026 and presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London. The trial was funded by the Alzheimer's Association and forms part of the World-Wide FINGERS network, which began with the Finnish FINGER trial and includes the US POINTER study.



The trial enrolled 1065 adults aged 60 to 77 who were at increased risk of dementia, across 11 countries and 12 study centres in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay. Participants were randomly assigned to a structured, supervised lifestyle programme or to a flexible programme of periodic health advice and were followed for two years. The structured programme combined supervised physical activity, dietary counselling based on the MIND diet, computerised cognitive training, cardiovascular risk management and regular group meetings for social engagement. Each component was adapted to local cultures, foods and settings. According to lead author Lucia Crivelli, the team adapted the model "to local cultures and habits while preserving its core elements".

Cognitive scores improved in both groups, with significantly greater improvement in the structured group. On the measure of global cognition, the structured group showed around 55% greater improvement than the flexible group. Benefits were also seen in episodic memory, which showed the largest effect, as well as executive function and processing speed. The programme proved feasible, with 82% of participants completing the two-year follow-up, and no serious adverse events or deaths were related to the intervention.

In a press release issued during the Alzheimer's Association International Conference, researchers stated that the findings support the feasibility and scalability of such programmes in low-income and middle-income settings, where the dementia burden is rising fastest, and add weight to the case for equitable access to prevention.

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(26)01278-X/fulltext

14 JULY:

Biogen presents Phase II CELIA data for tau-targeting diranersen at AAIC

Biogen presented results from the Phase II CELIA study of diranersen, an investigational tau-targeting antisense oligonucleotide, in people with early Alzheimer's disease (AD) at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026, held in London from 12–15 July.

The randomised, double-blind and placebo-controlled study enrolled 416 participants with mild cognitive impairment due to AD or mild AD dementia. Participants received intrathecal diranersen at one of three dose regimens—60 mg every six months, 115 mg every six months or 115 mg every three months—over an 18-month placebo-controlled treatment period.

As previously disclosed, CELIA did not meet its primary endpoint of demonstrating a dose-response relationship for change from baseline on the Clinical Dementia Rating–Sum of Boxes (CDR-SB) at Week 76. However, the lowest dose (60 mg every six months) showed the greatest clinical benefit, slowing decline by 26% on CDR-SB, 42% on ADAS-Cog13 and 50% on MMSE compared with placebo. Clinical benefits were also observed with the two higher-dose regimens across multiple prespecified endpoints.

Across all dose groups, diranersen demonstrated robust reductions in tau pathology. According to Biogen, diranersen is the first tau-directed therapy to demonstrate robust reductions in both cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) total tau, with mean reductions of 50–65%, and brain tau pathology, as measured by PET, across all studied doses in a Phase II study.

Additional analyses from the CELIA study and its ongoing long-term extension trial will be presented at future scientific conferences. Based on the Phase Ib and Phase II findings, the company plans to advance diranersen into confirmatory Phase III development.

https://investors.biogen.com/news-releases/news-release-details/biogen-presents-phase-2-celia-data-aaic-demonstrating-meaningful

15 JULY:

Results presented at AAIC 2026 show that a blood test may help predict Alzheimer's risk a decade before symptoms appear

A blood test that detects a protein linked to Alzheimer's disease may help predict future cognitive impairment in older adults who are currently symptom-free, according to new research presented on 15 July 2026 at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026 in London (UK) and online and simultaneously published in JAMA - The Journal of the American Medical Association.

Researchers found that higher levels of the blood biomarker p-tau217 predicted faster cognitive decline, with the strongest effects in study participants with elevated amyloid beta based on a PET scan. Cognitively healthy older adults with very high p-tau217 had an approximately 78% risk of developing cognitive impairment (defined as mild cognitive impairment or MCI, dementia or a consecutive clinical dementia rating or CDR, of 0.5) over ten years, and about a one-in-three chance within five years. Even in those with slightly elevated p-tau217 (just over the average), the absolute risk of cognitive impairment was 15% and 45% over five and ten years, respectively.

The results reported at AAIC 2026 add a new dimension to a test already known to reliably identify Alzheimer's-related changes in the brain. This study establishes the test's prognostic value: p-tau217 levels in blood can be used to estimate a person's risk of developing symptoms years later. This gives Alzheimer's care a forward-looking risk measure of a type that clinicians already use in other conditions, for example a cholesterol or blood-pressure reading — used not only to diagnose disease, but also to gauge future risk and guide what to do about it.

Researchers analysed data from nearly 2,700 cognitively unimpaired adults, average age 70, from six major Alzheimer's research groups and clinical trials, making it one of the largest and most comprehensive analyses to date examining the long-term prognostic value of p-tau217. The patients were cognitively healthy when their blood was collected and were followed for an average of nearly five years, with some followed for more than a decade. Researchers tracked participants over time using standard cognitive assessments to measure memory, thinking and daily functioning, then applied statistical models based on those real-world outcomes to estimate the likelihood of cognitive decline over two, five and ten years.

The study found:

Adults with very high p-tau217 levels — more than twice as high as average levels in the study — had a 78% estimated likelihood of progressing to cognitive impairment within ten years and roughly a 38% risk within five years.

People with moderately elevated levels had a lower but still significant risk, with approximately 15% risk over five years and 45% risk over ten years.

In this study, blood test results provided important predictive information beyond brain scans and genetic testing results.

Researchers cautioned that p-tau217 alone cannot fully predict an individual's future risk — knowing someone's ptau217 level alone can tell you something, but not everything. Factors including age, genetics, kidney function, obesity and racial and ethnic background can influence biomarker levels and dementia risk. The researchers also noted that more diverse study populations and longer follow-up will be needed to refine long-term estimates.

Full AAIC press release available, here:

https://aaic.alz.org/releases-2026/blood-test-p-tau217-predicts-alzheimers-risk.asp

Read the full study in JAMA:

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2851720

15 JULY:

Alzheimer Europe participates in 2026 Alzheimer's Association International Conference

Alzheimer Europe was delighted to participate in the 2026 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC2026) in London (England, UK). Our Deputy Executive Director Angela Bradshaw was in attendance, together with Project Officer Lukas Duffner and Public Involvement Officer Sarah Campill.

They were impressed with the diversity of research on the programme and encouraged by the growing number of presenta-

tions about real-world practice, associated challenges and inequalities, and potential solutions to these issues. The opportunity to connect with researchers, clinicians and sponsors, as well as colleagues from the Alzheimer's Association (US), Alzheimer's Society (UK), Alzheimer Nederland, Alzheimer's Care Armenia and others was another highlight.

Angela Bradshaw attended the WW-FINGERS network meeting on 10 July, and the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Disease (DIAD) Family Day on 11 July, where participants heard about lived experience and advocacy alongside the latest research advances.

Lukas Duffner and Sarah Campill were also kept very busy, presenting five posters between them at the event:

- On 13 July, Lukas presented "Barriers and enablers to participation in dementia research: A European public opinion survey", while Sarah presented "Public and patient involvement – creating ethical and user-friendly care pathways".
- On 14 July, Lukas presented "Examining barriers and enablers to data sharing in dementia research – The European perspective" and Sarah presented "Views of the public on adherence to dementia risk reduction interventions: A Public Involvement approach".
- On 15 July, Lukas presented "Modifiable risk factors and national dementia strategies: A pan-European analysis".

Huge congratulations to both of them for all their great work on these posters and for sharing this important work with the delegates at AAIC!

16 JULY:

Long-term Phase Ib/IIa data and prevention trial design for trontinemab is presented at AAIC

At the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026 in London, researchers presented data on trontinemab, an anti-amyloid treatment that has been engineered to more effectively cross the blood-brain barrier via the transferrin receptor. Five oral presentations formed a Featured Research Session held on 14 July, covering long-term data from the Phase Ib/IIa Brainshuttle AD study and the design of a new prevention trial, PrevenTRON.

The Brainshuttle AD study is a Phase Ib/IIa randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of approximately 210 participants with mild cognitive impairment or mild to moderate dementia due to Alzheimer's disease, confirmed as amyloid-positive by PET. Participants receive intravenous trontinemab, or placebo, every four weeks, with an open-label extension in which all participants receive trontinemab.

Interim data from the Brainshuttle AD open-label extension reported continued amyloid clearance. At the 3.6 mg/kg dose, 92% of participants fell below the amyloid positivity threshold of 24 centiloids after 28 weeks of treatment, compared with 65% at 1.8 mg/kg, and reduction from baseline was maintained across the one-year extension. Amyloid-related imaging abnormalities with oedema (ARIA-E) were observed in fewer than 5% of participants across the two dose cohorts, a rate lower than those reported for the approved anti-amyloid antibodies. Interim biomarker results showed sustained reductions in cerebrospinal fluid and plasma markers, including total tau, pTau181, pTau217 and neurogranin.

Further presentations covered modelling of amyloid clearance used to inform the dosing regimen for the ongoing Phase III TRONTIER 1 and 2 studies in early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease, and evidence presented in support of preclinical Alzheimer's disease as a stage for intervention.

Roche also presented, for the first time, the rationale and design of PrevenTRON, a Phase III trial of trontinemab in preclinical Alzheimer's disease. The study plans to enrol cognitively unimpaired individuals at high risk of progression to symptomatic disease, with the Elecsys pTau217 blood test used to help identify potential participants. Read more:

https://www.roche.com/media/releases/med-cor-2026-07-07

touchNEUROLOGY spoke to Dr Reisa Sperling about the rationale for targeting preclinical Alzheimer's disease, the latest long-term data from the Brainshuttle AD programme evaluating trontinemab, and how the PrevenTRON study could help shift Alzheimer's disease treatment towards prevention:

https://touchneurology.com/insight/insights-into-the-brainshuttle-ad-and-preventron-programs-preventing-alzheimers-disease-before-symptoms-emerge/

16 JULY:

Advancing the management of agitation in Alzheimer's disease: Insights into the phase III ADAGIO programme evaluating xanomeline/trospium shared at AAIC

Prof. George Grossberg, Saint Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA, discussed the unmet need in agitation associated with Alzheimer's disease (AD), the rationale behind the phase III ADAGIO studies, and the evolving role of biomarkers and caregivers in improving patient care.

In an interview with touchNEUROLOGY at AAIC, he discussed the phase III ADAGIO programme evaluating xanomeline/trospium (KarXT), the importance of incorporating biomarkers and caregiver perspectives into clinical trials, as well as the research developments at AAIC that he believes are shaping the future of AD diagnosis and treatment. Read his interview:

https://touchneurology.com/insight/advancing-the-management-of-agitation-in-alzheimers-disease-insights-into-the-phase-3-adagio-programme-evaluating-xanomeline-trospium/

20 JULY:

New study suggests that carbon dioxide inhalation could clear Alzheimer's proteins in the brain

A preliminary study led by Dr Sephira Ryman from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and the Mind Research Network suggests that intermittent exposure to CO_2-enriched air could promote the movement of cerebrospinal fluid to flush out proteins such as amyloid and tau, frequently associated with Alzheimer's disease. As the brain's waste-clearing pathway, the glymphatic system is often impaired in neurodegeneration, and these current findings could potentially be useful in future disease-modifying treatments.
The work was presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in London in July 2026. It builds on earlier research also carried out by Dr Ryman's team, where in 2025, they also published findings demonstrating that a similar intermittent carbon dioxide approach could also help to improve the removal of proteins linked to Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Their new study focuses on Alzheimer's disease, investigating whether the brain's clearance of metabolic waste is dependent on the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO_2) inhaled. As this work is in the early stages, the research would require examining long-term outcomes, stronger clinical protocols and engaging large-scale studies on cognitive function.
Learn more about these studies here:

https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0271678X261453862

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41531-025-01179-6

20 JULY:

VNA-318 is targeting mitochondrial dysfunction and cellular energy metabolism in Alzheimer's disease - first-in-human data discussed at AAIC

At the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026, Dr Klaus Dugi, Chief Executive Officer of Vandria, shared the first-in-human data for VNA-318, and discussed the rationale for targeting cellular energy metabolism in Alzheimer's disease and how improving mitochondrial function could offer both symptomatic and disease-modifying benefits.

Read an interview with Dr Dugi on the touchNEUROLOGY website:

https://touchneurology.com/insight/vna-318-in-alzheimers-disease-targeting-mitochondrial-dysfunction-and-cellular-energy-metabolism/

3 AUGUST:

Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center discusses early detection and prevention in Alzheimer's disease at AAIC

barcelonaβeta
BRAIN RESEARCH CENTER

Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center (BBRC) had its largest-ever presence at AAIC this year, where it discussed the growing role of biomarkers and personalised risk prediction, and why prevention is becoming the future of Alzheimer's disease research.
BBRC's Prof. Arcadi Navarro spoke to touchNEUROLOGY after the event. Read his interview:

https://touchneurology.com/insight/early-detection-and-prevention-in-alzheimers-disease-insights-from-the-barcelona%CE%B2eta-brain-research-center/

11 AUGUST:

GRADUATE trial targeting NLRP3 inflammasome in Alzheimer's disease presented at AAIC

Late-breaking reverse translational analyses from the Phase III GRADUATE programme presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026 have provided new insights into the role of the NLRP3 inflammasome in Alzheimer's disease. touchNEUROLOGY interviewed Dr Gennaro Pagano (Roche/Genentech, Basel, Switzerland) who discusses how these findings strengthen the evidence for NLRP3 as a promising therapeutic target linking amyloid pathology, neuroinflammation and downstream tau pathology.
Read more and watch the interview on the touchNEUROLOGY website:

https://touchneurology.com/alzheimers-disease-dementia/conference-hub/graduate-targeting-the-nlrp3-inflammasome-in-alzheimers-disease/

SCIENCE WATCH

7 JULY:

Narrative synthesis highlights recent learning about sedentary behaviour

A recent narrative synthesis, accepted for publication in the journal Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise argues that whilst regular exercise is very important for good health, it cannot completely offset the harmful effects of spending long periods of time sitting (sedentary behaviour). While there is good evidence that people who are physically active are generally healthier than those who are inactive, emerging evidence shows that someone who exercises every day but also spends many hours sitting, still has a higher risk of health problems than someone who exercises and also breaks up their sitting time. The authors conclude that the popular idea that you can simply "exercise away" a sedentary lifestyle is an oversimplification.

The authors reviewed evidence from large population studies and laboratory experiments. Collectively, these studies show that exercise can reduce many of the risks linked to prolonged sitting, but it does not remove them completely. Sitting for long periods affects the body in multiple ways, such that a single daily workout cannot fully reverse the effects, including changes in blood sugar levels, fat metabolism rates, blood vessel function and inflammation. In contrast, regularly getting up, standing, walking or doing light activity throughout the day appears to provide additional health benefits beyond those gained from structured exercise alone.

The main message is that health is best supported by a balanced 24-hour approach: being physically active, reducing the amount of time spent sitting, breaking up long periods of sitting with movement, and getting enough sleep. Rather than promoting exercise as an "antidote" to sitting, the authors recommend the simpler message: “move more, sit less, and spread movement throughout the day” might be more effective and apt as it better recognises that small, achievable changes may be more realistic and beneficial. This research is important for people at risk of developing dementia or those living with the disease, as low physical activity is a significant risk factor for dementia and maintaining physical activity after a diagnosis, can be potent for maintaining long term outcomes like quality of life.

More information on this study is available here:

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/42330060/

7 JULY:

Perspective article questions disease modifying treatment claims

A recent perspective article in the journal Alzheimer’s & Dementia, postulates that current Alzheimer’s drug trials do not yet provide convincing evidence that the treatments actually slow or change the underlying course of the disease. The authors suggest that, while these drugs have shown modest benefits in slowing cognitive decline over about 18 months, recent evidence from extension studies and sub-analyses call into question their disease modifying role. True disease-modifying treatments, they posit, should continue to provide a lasting benefit by changing the underlying disease process.

The authors synthesise recent reports and operationalise the data to demonstrate that proof of disease modification requires stronger clinical trial designs than those used so far. They recommend, amongst other things, a longer and more roust "delayed-start" trial (where one group starts treatment earlier than another). In this trial design, if the early-treatment group continues to do better even after the delayed group catches up on treatment, this would suggest disease alteration. They also stress that studies should clearly state their hypotheses in advance, report complete numerical results, and carefully account for patients who leave the study, as these factors can otherwise make treatments appear more effective than they really are.

The authors argue that the long-term extension studies reporting results from recent trials, do not meet these higher standards due to problems in a number of factors like randomisation and comparison groups. They conclude that these studies remain valuable for assessing long-term safety, but clinicians practicing in the real-world clinical setting should exercise interpretational caution until stronger evidence becomes available. More information on this study is available here:

https://alz-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/alz.71643

13 JULY:

FDA approves at-home starting dose for lecanemab

On 13 July, Eisai and Biogen announced that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a supplemental Biologics License Application (sBLA) for a once-weekly subcutaneous (SC) initiation dose of lecanemab for the treatment of early Alzheimer's disease (AD). The approval marks the first subcutaneous initiation option for an anti-amyloid therapy, allowing eligible patients to begin treatment at home using an autoinjector rather than requiring intravenous (IV) administration.

Lecanemab is administered using an autoinjector, providing a convenient alternative to IV administration from the start of treatment. In August 2025, the FDA approved the subcutaneous autoinjector formulation of lecanemab for maintenance dosing following an 18-month IV induction period. This latest approval expands its use to treatment initiation, with the new regimen expected to be available in the US in late August 2026 through specialty pharmacies.

For initiation, the approved regimen is 500 mg given once weekly as two 250 mg injections, each delivered in approximately 15 seconds. For maintenance, lecanemab may be administered at 360 mg once weekly after 18 months of IV or SC treatment. Throughout the treatment course, patients may receive lecanemab either as an IV infusion or as a subcutaneous injection with lecanemab and may switch between administration routes as clinically appropriate, providing greater flexibility and convenience. The safety profile of the SC starting dose regimen is consistent with the broader lecanemab programme. The most common adverse events include headache, injection site reactions and amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA).

https://investors.biogen.com/news-releases/news-release-details/fda-approves-leqembi-iqlikr-lecanemab-irmb-subcutaneous

14 JULY:

Elevated brain urea levels identified in frontotemporal dementia and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis

In a recent paper, Sasha A. Philbert, Stephanie J. Church, Richard D. Unwin and Garth J.S. Cooper investigated levels of urea in post-mortem brains of people with frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Based on the hypothesis that altered urea metabolism may represent a shared pathogenic mechanism across several dementias.

FTD and ALS are closely related neurodegenerative disorders that exist on a disease spectrum and share several genetic and pathological features. Previous studies had shown elevated brain urea levels in Alzheimer's disease, Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies and vascular dementia, suggesting that disrupted urea metabolism may represent a common feature across multiple dementias.

Urea is a waste product generated during protein breakdown and is normally produced through the urea cycle before being excreted by the kidneys. Excessive accumulation of urea can be harmful to the brain and that elevated urea levels are known to occur in conditions such as uraemic encephalopathy, which can cause cognitive and neurological symptoms. Although the underlying cause of increased brain urea in FTD and ALS remains uncertain, the researchers suggest it may be linked to increased protein breakdown, disturbances in ammonia detoxification, alterations in the urea cycle or activation of cellular stress pathways.

To explore this possibility in FTD and ALS, urea concentrations in post-mortem brain tissue using ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography tandem mass spectrometry (UHPLC-MS/MS) were measured. They analysed tissue from brain regions with high and low neuropathological burden, comparing samples from people with FTD and ALS with those from neurologically healthy controls. Specifically, the frontal cortex and primary visual cortex in FTD, and the primary motor cortex and dentate nucleus in ALS were examined.

The results showed significantly elevated urea levels in both brain regions examined in FTD. Urea concentrations were approximately 2.4 times higher in the frontal cortex and around two times higher in the primary visual cortex compared with controls. In ALS, significantly increased urea levels were found in the primary motor cortex, where concentrations were around 1.75 times higher than in controls. However, no statistically significant increase was observed in the dentate nucleus. These findings suggest that elevated brain urea may be more widespread throughout the brain in FTD, while in ALS it may be more closely associated with regions most affected by disease pathology.

In conclusion, the study provides the first direct evidence of elevated brain urea levels in FTD and ALS. Together with previous findings in other neurodegenerative diseases, the results support the hypothesis that altered urea metabolism may represent a common pathogenic mechanism across several dementias. The authors suggest that understanding how and why urea accumulates in the brain could open new avenues for therapeutic development, although further research will be

needed to determine whether elevated urea contributes directly to disease processes or is a consequence of neurodegeneration.
Find the full article here: https://academic.oup.com/molecular-omics/article/22/4/aaiag019/8723802?login=false

15 JULY:

Alzheimer Europe is delighted to have contributed to updated WHO dementia risk reduction guidelines

On 15 July 2026, the World Health Organization published an updated version of its guidelines on the risk reduction of cognitive decline and dementia. The guidelines, to which Alzheimer Europe contributed, provide recommendations to support dementia risk reduction as an essential public health strategy. Given the absence of widely available curative treatments for dementia, reducing exposure to modifiable risk factors remains one of the most promising avenue for prevention.
The updated guidelines reiterate the considerable potential for dementia risk reduction at both population and individual levels and aim to provide health-care professionals with the tools needed to integrate risk reduction into everyday practice. They also support policy-makers and other stakeholders in strengthening prevention efforts and incorporating dementia risk reduction into policies, services and programmes. Building on the first edition published in 2019, the updated guidelines reflect the substantial expansion of the evidence base over recent years. Alongside recommendations to promote healthy behaviours and manage health conditions associated with increased dementia risk, they introduce guidance on reducing exposure to environmental risk factors and implementing tailored multidomain interventions. The guidelines also highlight areas where evidence remains insufficient and further research is needed.
The development of the updated guidelines involved a large number of European and international stakeholders with expertise concerning the respective risk factors. Evidence for individual risk factors was generated through systematic literature reviews and evaluated using the rigorous Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) framework. This framework assesses the quality of existing evidence based on the consistency of findings and the quality of the included studies. The updated guidelines were subsequently developed by a panel of experts in clinical practice, research, health policy and guideline development, alongside people with lived experience.
Following this approach, the guidelines recommend a range of interventions that promote healthy lifestyles, with the certainty of evidence ranging from very low to moderate or high. These include engagement in cognitive, social and physical activities, smoking cessation, reducing harmful alcohol use and participation in multidomain lifestyle interventions. The guidelines also recommend adopting a healthy, balanced dietary pattern, while advising against the use of nutritional supplements for dementia risk reduction.
The guidelines further include recommendations on the management of obesity, diabetes, hypertension, dyslipidaemia and hearing loss, with certainty of evidence ranging from very low to low or moderate. In addition, they recommend against the use of menopausal hormone therapy for dementia risk reduction. At the population level, reducing exposure to household air pollution is recommended.
For several risk factors, the current evidence was considered insufficient to support formal recommendations. These include the management of depression, stroke, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment, sleep-related factors and HIV.
Alzheimer Europe welcomes the publication of the WHO's updated guidelines and the comprehensive review of the available evidence underpinning them. In line with its longstanding commitment to promoting dementia risk reduction and prevention, Alzheimer Europe calls on national governments and European institutions to strengthen efforts to incorporate dementia risk reduction and prevention into public health policy and practice.
Download the guidelines, here:

https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/ea44b7f6-b09f-4e6f-b8c7-2e5b0fcc9a99/content

16 JULY:

Canada's Drug Agency revises draft recommendation on lecanemab, issuing positive reimbursement recommendation

Canada's Drug Agency (CDA-AMC) has issued a draft recommendation to reimburse the anti-amyloid therapy lecanemab for early Alzheimer's disease, reversing its own earlier position. In February 2026, the agency's expert committee had recommended against public funding, citing an uncertain clinical benefit and high cost. Following a reconsideration in June, prompted by the sponsor Eisai and informed by new 48-month data and clinician and patient input, the committee now recommends reimbursement with conditions.
The draft limits treatment to adults with mild cognitive impairment or mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease who are ApoE4 noncarriers or heterozygotes and have confirmed am-

yloid pathology. It requires specialist prescribing, MRI monitoring for amyloid-related imaging abnormalities, and confirmation of amyloid by PET or cerebrospinal fluid testing. It also requires a substantial price reduction, as the agency judged lecanemab not cost-effective at the submitted price.
The Alzheimer Society of Canada welcomed the draft while stressing that it does not by itself guarantee access. Its chief executive, Christina Scicluna, said the recommendation was "*an important step toward improving access to treatment while reinforcing the need for health systems to be ready with clear guidance, appropriate monitoring, and meaningful support*".
The Society noted that access to specialists, diagnostics and infusion services varies across the country, and called for equitable implementation so that eligible Canadians can benefit regardless of geography or financial circumstance.
The draft is open for stakeholder feedback until 30 July 2026, ahead of a final recommendation.
Read the draft recommendation:

https://www.cda-amc.ca/sites/default/files/DRR/2026/SR0822_Leqembi_Draft_Recommendation.pdf

16 JULY:

Could biomarker-driven Alzheimer's care widen existing disparities? touchNEUROLOGY discusses lessons from the New IDEAS study with Dr Christopher Weber

As amyloid biomarkers become central to Alzheimer's disease diagnosis and treatment, a new analysis from the New IDEAS (Imaging Dementia—Evidence for Amyloid Scanning) study raises an important question for clinicians: Are current diagnostic pathways equally applicable across all patient populations?
Published in the journal Alzheimer's & Dementia, the study analysed amyloid PET imaging from 5,757 cognitively impaired Medicare beneficiaries across the United States, representing one of the largest and most ethnically diverse cohorts studied to date.
To explore the clinical implications of these findings, touchNEUROLOGY spoke with Dr Christopher Weber, PhD, Senior Director of Global Scientific Initiatives at the Alzheimer's Association, who discusses what the results may mean for equitable diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease.
Read touchNEUROLOGY's report about the large real-world study, which highlights important ethno-racial differences in amyloid positivity and their implications for diagnosis, treatment and clinical trial access:

https://touchneurology.com/insight/could-biomarker-driven-alzheimers-care-widen-existing-disparities-lessons-from-the-new-ideas-study/

23 JULY:

Study reveals how the hippocampus changes as we age

A new study published in Science has examined how the hippocampus changes as people grow older. For this, researchers analysed brain tissue from 40 healthy adults of different ages. They used advanced laboratory techniques to examine changes in brain cells and the biological processes that control them.
The study found that the make-up of the hippocampus changes considerably with age. In particular, the researchers observed changes in microglia, the brain's immune cells. Specifically, between the ages of 50 and 75, many of the microglia that are present from early development were replaced by immune cells that appear to originate from the bloodstream. The researchers also found a decline in several other types of brain cells, including astrocytes, which help brain cells communicate with each other, as well as cells involved in maintaining the brain's support structures and blood vessels.
As people aged, microglia also became more active and showed signs of increased inflammation. In addition, the researchers observed widespread changes in the way genetic information is organised and regulated within brain cells.
The researchers conclude that ageing affects both the types of cells found in the hippocampus and the way these cells function. They further suggest that these changes may contribute to age-related declines in memory and thinking and could help improve our understanding of how the brain ages.
Link to manuscript:

https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adt8307

28 JULY:

Researchers map global trends in Alzheimer's and dementia research

Researchers from the University of Malta have examined how global research on Alzheimer's disease and dementia has evolved in recent years.

The study "Global trends in Alzheimer's and dementia research (2019–2024): A machine learning-based bibliometric analysis" was published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease in July 2026. The researchers used a machine-learning-assisted bibliometric approach to analyse more than 200,000 publications produced between 2019 and 2024. The study also examined whether global research activity reflects the priorities set out in the World Health Organization's (WHO) Blueprint for Dementia Research, which was introduced in 2022. The blueprint identifies six major research themes: disease mechanisms and models, diagnosis, drug development and clinical trials, risk reduction, dementia care and support and epidemiology and health economics.

The analysis found that global dementia research output increased by approximately 44%, rising from 27,248 publications in 2019 to 39,147 in 2024. However, the growth was not evenly distributed across the major research priorities identified by the WHO. Research on disease mechanisms and diagnosis remained the dominant areas throughout the period. At the same time, studies focused on dementia risk reduction and drug development showed some of the strongest growth. However, research addressing dementia care and support, epidemiology and health economics grew more slowly and declined after the publication of the WHO Blueprint.

The researchers conclude that global dementia research continues to expand but remains unevenly distributed across research priorities. They highlight the need for stronger investment in research addressing implementation and real-world dementia care, alongside continued advances in biomedical discovery and treatment.

https://doi.org/10.1177/13872877261471922

1 AUGUST:

Staying physically active and controlling blood sugar could help keep your brain healthy in the long-term

Cardiovascular health plays a key role in maintaining brain health. Cardiovascular problems during midlife may increase the risk of cognitive decline and dementia later in life. For example, growing evidence suggests that higher Life's Simple 7 (LS7) scores – the American Heart Association's framework encompassing three behavioural and four health factors – are associated with better cognitive performance, reduced dementia risk, and better overall brain health. Similarly, individual cardiovascular risk factors, such as diabetes, obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, smoking and physical activity, have been associated with an accelerated cognitive decline and increased dementia risk. However, these relationships are not uniform across populations, with some remaining underrepresented in dementia research.

In a recent study published in Alzheimer's & Dementia: Behavior & Socioeconomics of Aging, a team of researchers led by Prof. L. Satizabal and Prof. Wang (of the University of Texas, San Antonio, Texas, US) investigated how specific cardiovascular health factors may be associated with cognitive aging across different ethnic groups. The study included 402 participants from San Antonio, Texas, of whom 52% were Hispanic and 48% were non-Hispanic white. The participants had a mean age of 57.9 years, and 58.5% were women. They were also participants in the San Antonio Heart Study (SAHS) and the San Antonio Longitudinal Study of Aging (SALSA), which began in 1979 and 1992, respectively.

Cardiovascular health was assessed at the SAHS baseline examination using the LS7 metrics, with each factor classified as ideal, intermediate, or poor. The seven components, smoking, diet, physical activity, body mass index, blood pressure, cholesterol, and fasting blood glucose levels, were scored and summed to generate the LS7 score. General cognitive function was assessed in SALSA using the Mini-Mental State Examination (MMSE), administered up to four times.

The researchers found that the associations between individual cardiovascular health factors and cognitive decline differed by ethnicity. Among Hispanic participants, higher levels of physical activity were particularly associated with a slower rate of cognitive decline. In contrast, among non-Hispanic white participants, lower fasting blood glucose levels were associated with slower cognitive decline.

Overall, these findings suggest that engaging in physical activity and maintaining healthy fasting blood glucose levels during midlife may be associated with a slower rate of cognitive decline later in life. However, because the associations differed between ethnic groups, these findings may not apply uniformly across populations. Further research in larger and more diverse cohorts is therefore needed to better understand how cardiovascular health may influence cognitive aging across different populations.

https://alz-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/bsa3.70096

24 AUGUST:

Patient and Public Involvement World Café held at the recent EAPC 20th World Congress in Prague

At the European Association for Palliative Care's (EAPC) 20th World Congress in Prague in May 2026, around 65 participants from Europe and beyond came together for a lively and thought-provoking Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) World Café, the first PPI event hosted by the EAPC.

The 90-minute session, chaired by Patricia White and Sarah Mroz, created a welcoming space for people with life-limiting illness, families and caregivers, researchers, clinicians and advocates to explore how they can work together to strengthen palliative care research. People with life-limiting illness and caregivers helped shape the session, ensuring that lived experience informed its format and participation.

Using the World Café method, participants moved between small-group discussions, sharing ideas and building on one another's perspectives. The first question explored what good PPI looks like. Participants described it as safe, inclusive, respectful, accessible and diverse, and, importantly, as much more than consultation. Meaningful PPI involves shared decision-making, early engagement, appropriate support and funding, recognition of contributions and mutual benefit.

Participants also highlighted the potential impact of effective PPI, from improving the translation of research into practice to strengthening communication through accessible language and culturally appropriate resources.

The second discussion focused on action: what is needed to build good PPI in palliative care research? Priorities included raising public awareness of palliative care, normalising conversations about serious illness and dying, clearer guidance on ethics and PPI processes, and greater opportunities for co-creation and co-research. Training and support for patients, families, public contributors and researchers were also seen as essential.

One message resonated throughout the session: "Nothing about us without us."

The World Café demonstrated a strong commitment to meaningful involvement across the palliative care community. The discussions made clear that PPI must not be seen as just a formality; it is a commitment to partnership, mutual learning and shared purpose. Working collaboratively and involving people with lived experience can help ensure that palliative care research is rigorous, relevant, inclusive, and responsive to the people it seeks to serve.

MEMBERS' NEWS

24 JUNE:

Thessaloniki (Greece) hosts hybrid scientific meeting "Debating Dementia Prevention: Addressing Vascular Risk Factors"

On 24 June 2026, Thessaloniki hosted the hybrid scientific meeting "Debates in Dementia Prevention – Part 1: Vascular Risk Factors", bringing together leading scientists, healthcare professionals and participants both in person and online. The event was organised by the Panhellenic Institute of Neurodegenerative Diseases, Alzheimer Hellas and the First Propedeutic Department of Internal Medicine of AHEPA University Hospital, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

The meeting focused on one of the most important and increasingly recognised aspects of dementia prevention: the role of modifiable vascular risk factors. Hypertension, dyslipidaemia, obesity and diabetes were examined from different

scientific perspectives, highlighting both the available evidence and areas where debate and further research remain necessary.

A distinctive feature of the meeting was its format, centred on 20 scientific debates. Rather than presenting prevention as a single, straightforward pathway, the sessions encouraged critical discussion and the exchange of different viewpoints. This approach underlined the complexity of dementia prevention and the need to integrate evidence from neurology, internal medicine, cardiology, endocrinology, epidemiology and other relevant fields.

The discussions also reinforced an important message: dementia prevention cannot be separated from broader efforts to promote cardiovascular and metabolic health throughout the life course. Identifying and managing vascular risk factors may offer an important opportunity to reduce the risk of cognitive decline, while also contributing to overall health and quality of life.

The hybrid format enabled wider participation and facilitated knowledge exchange beyond the physical meeting. The event also provided an opportunity for continuing medical education, with eight Continuing Medical Education credits awarded by the Panhellenic Medical Association.

The organisers warmly thank all speakers, moderators, participants and supporters who contributed to the success of the meeting. The event represents the first part of an ongoing initiative aimed at encouraging scientific dialogue and strengthening collective efforts towards dementia prevention.

24 JUNE:

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland Calls for Investment in Dementia Supports in Budget 2027

On 24 June, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) launched its Pre-Budget Submission 2027: A Clear Path to Better Community Supports, Building a Dementia-Inclusive Ireland at Buswells Hotel in Dublin. The ASI's submission presents the Government with investment options for dementia supports and services that enhance availability and ensure access to appropriate supports at every stage of the dementia journey. The ASI strives to ensure that people with dementia and their family carers can live as well as possible, at home and in their communities, for as long as possible. The ASI is calling on the Government to invest over EUR 8 million in targeted supports for people living with dementia and their family carers.

The submission highlights key priorities and essential areas for action, including increased investment in dementia-specific home care supports, new dementia-specific day care centres, an expanded Dementia Adviser Service, funding for activity clubs for people living with young-onset and early-stage dementia, and much more. You can learn more about the Pre-Budget Submission 2027 and read it in full on The ASI's website: www.alzheimer.ie.

The Pre-Budget Submission campaign has been rolled out throughout the summer, and there has been ongoing engagement with Minister of State for Older People, Kieran O'Donnell, to ensure that dementia remains a priority in discussions around ageing, community care and quality of life. The campaign also generated significant media attention, securing coverage in the Irish Independent newspaper and a range of regional media outlets across the country. Together, these activities have helped keep dementia on the political agenda ahead of Budget 2027.

29 JUNE:

Spominčica - Alzheimer Slovenia inaugurates new Dementia-Friendly Point at the Liszt Institute – Hungarian Cultural Centre in Ljubljana

Spominčica - Alzheimer Slovenia is delighted to see cultural institutions becoming increasingly open and accessible to vulnerable groups, including people living with dementia and their families. In June, Spominčica officially opened a Dementia-Friendly Point at the Liszt Institute – Hungarian Cultural Centre in Ljubljana. On this occasion, Ms Štefanija L. Zlobec, President of Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia, presented the Dementia-Friendly Point Certificate to Mr Levente Csáki, Cultural Attaché of Hungary (pictured).

The opening ceremony was also attended by Cultural Assistant Katarina Gaal and Assistant Márk Tamás Répászky, who had successfully completed the Dementia-Friendly Point training.

Spominčica is excited for this new partnership and looks forward to future cooperation, connecting different fields of work, and jointly creating a more inclusive environment for people living with dementia and their families.

30 JUNE:

Portugal is building bridges by including people with dementia in judicial decision-making

In June, the Portuguese Working Group of People with Dementia (GTPPD) took part in a conference organised by the Portuguese Public Prosecutor's Office (PGR), entitled "The Hearing: Strategies for Better Communication." The conference formed part of a broader series of events aimed at promoting reflection on the implementation of Portugal's Legal Framework for Supported Decision-Making for Adults, which provides legal protection for adults who are unable to manage their personal affairs independently due to illness, disability, or behaviours that place them at risk.

The session, attended by approximately 800 participants both in person and online, provided an opportunity for self-advocates and representatives of patient organisations to share their experiences. Among the speakers were Carla Jerónimo and Patrícia Beraud, President and Vice-President of the GTPPD. The discussion and exchange of experiences between justice professionals and the citizens to whom this legal framework applies highlighted the importance of adopting a person-centred approach within the justice system, one that prioritises individualised support tailored to each person's specific needs.

Reflecting on her participation, Carla Jerónimo said:

"I feel that my participation is important not only for myself, but also for the many other people whom I represent in some way. I shared my story for myself and for those who are no longer able to do so. I felt that I gave a voice to those who no longer have one. People working within the courts have a duty to uphold people's rights and to build bridges rather than walls. Those bridges connect people and open up new pathways."

Patrícia Beraud also reflected on the experience:

"I was pleasantly surprised to receive the invitation from the Public Prosecutor's Office, and I was delighted to take part. I believe it is important for all organisations, whether public or private, to be open and willing to adapt some of their procedures, becoming examples of positive change through their actions."

Initiatives such as this, which embody the principle of "Nothing About Us Without Us", a principle that also underpins the establishment of the GTPPD, help to amplify the voices and perspectives of people living with dementia, contributing to a system that is more responsive to their needs.

30 JUNE:

New brief report looks at Ireland's involvement in EU-funded dementia research, noting strong foundations, greater potential

A new brief report from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, "Irish Participation in EU-funded Dementia Research: Current Landscape & Future Opportunities", explores Ireland's involvement in EU-funded dementia research since 2015. The report identified 34 projects involving Irish institutions, with researchers leading and contributing to work on early diagnosis, biomarkers, digital health technologies, dementia care and prevention.

Ireland-based researchers are helping to shape the future of dementia research across Europe. Despite these achievements, the report concludes that Ireland has yet to realise its full research potential on the EU stage. Participation in EU-funded dementia research remains concentrated within a relatively small number of institutions, and Ireland achieved 43% of the maximum available score for dementia research activity in the European Dementia Monitor 2023, published by Alzheimer Europe.

However, Ireland has the expertise to make a much greater contribution to European dementia research than it currently does. The challenge is not a lack of talented and innovative researchers, but ensuring they have the funding, infrastructure and support to create international partnerships needed to succeed. Sustained investment in research careers, stronger support for EU funding applications and deeper engagement with international research networks are needed to enable more Irish researchers to participate in, and lead, European collaborations.

The report also highlights the important role of organisations such as Alzheimer Europe in bringing together researchers, clinicians, policymakers, national Alzheimer associations and people with lived experience to shape the future of dementia

research. This year's Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin provides a timely opportunity to showcase Irish research, strengthen international partnerships and explore how European countries can continue working together to accelerate progress in dementia research. With the right investment and collaboration, Ireland is well placed to make an even greater contribution to improving the lives of people living with dementia and their families across Europe.

2 JULY:

E.E.N.A.L. (Greece) went on a cultural journey with visits to three museums in the Regional Unit of Magnesia

On 2 July, E.E.N.A.L. accompanied by 39 beneficiaries, travelled from Larissa (Greece) to the Regional Unit of Magnesia to visit three museums. The purpose of the excursion was to promote cognitive engagement through cultural heritage, encourage social interaction, and strengthen interpersonal relationships. The first stop was at the Theophilos Museum in Anakasia, Pelion. The participants were guided by Giannis Fountas, who introduced them to the history of the area and the remarkable work of the self-taught folk painter Theophilos. Theophilos is an internationally acclaimed artist whose works have been exhibited at the Louvre Museum and have received prestigious recognition. His murals depicting heroes of the Greek War of Independence of 1821, scenes from everyday life, traditional costumes, and religious iconography, captivated the participants and inspired an engaging discussion. Through this dialogue, art emerged as a powerful means of expression and cultural education.

The second visit was at the Entomological Museum in the city of Volos, the capital of Magnesia. This museum is the only one of its kind in Greece and the Balkans, housing a collection of approximately 25,000 insects. Guided by George Koutroumpas, participants learned about insect biology, collection methods, classification, preservation techniques, and the vital role insects play in maintaining ecosystem balance and the food chain. The visit stimulated cognitive functions through experiential learning and increased participants' interest in environmental awareness and conservation. The third and final visit took place at the Ano Lechonia Railway Station in Pelion, home to the historic steam train known as "Moutzouris".

Members of E.E.N.A.L. were guided by local historian and private collector Nikos Mastroyiannis, who has assembled an archive of approximately 700 historical photographs dating from 1893 to 1970. Through the visual exploration of this iconic cultural landmark and its rich photographic collection, participants discovered the region's commercial, industrial, touristic, and architectural development, as well as the contribution of local benefactors. The participants were fascinated by the storytelling power of historical photography, which prompted meaningful discussions on topics such as silk production, child labour, local benefactors, and the Italian engineer Evaristo de Chirico, the designer of the legendary Moutzouris railway.

This experience evoked emotions, brought silent historical spaces back to life, enriched participants' knowledge, and reinforced their appreciation for preserving local cultural memory. The cultural journey concluded with lunch and relaxation at Akti Kallifteri Beach in Afissos. Overall, this one-day cultural excursion proved to be a multifaceted experience that fostered cognitive stimulation, social interaction, emotional well-being, and a deeper appreciation of the region's cultural heritage

7 JULY:

New video from National University of Ireland Galway, featuring advocates from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, explains how animal therapy can support people living with dementia

What is animal therapy or what are animal-assisted services (AAS)? Can interactions with animals make a difference in the lives of people with dementia? A new video - produced by the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG) and featuring two The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) advocates, Helen Rochford Brennan (Irish Dementia Working Group and ASI Board) and Susan Crampton (Vice Chair of the Dementia Carers Campaign Network) - explains how animal therapy can

support people living with dementia. It includes real-life experiences and information from research to help people learn more about animal therapy and its role in dementia care.
The video was developed to provide more information about animal therapy and NUIG hopes it can spark conversations, reflections, and encourage action to support people living well with dementia through meaningful connection with animals. It was developed in response to information needs and addresses identified key barriers to implementing animal therapy in Ireland.
It was developed by Dou Zhang (PhD candidate) at NUIG (Ireland) in collaboration with 24 co-designers - including people with dementia, care partners, and health and social care practitioners. It was also supported by two Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) contributors and an advisory group. This project is supported by the China Scholarship Council, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Nursing Homes Ireland, the MakerSpace and studio in the University of Galway.
Watch the video, here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xY1l1MxF0A

10 JULY:

Alzheimer Latvia participates in Conversation Festival LAMPA discussion "When memory disappears, conversation should not be lost"

On 10 July, Alzheimer Latvia participated in an important talk show, the Conversation Festival LAMPA, in a discussion called "When memory disappears, conversation should not be lost." The conversation focused on dementia and digital dementia, the importance of timely diagnosis, support options, and social innovations that can help create a more inclusive and understanding society.

The panel included two highly experienced neurologists, the Chairperson representing Alzheimer Latvia (pictured, speaking), a social rehabilitation specialist, and the director of an organisation representing parents. The event attracted more than 100 in-person participants and more than 500 on-line.
Alzheimer Latvia joined Alzheimer Europe's membership in June of this year, and, during the chat show, the importance of Alzheimer Europe was emphasised as were relevant statistics on the prevalence of dementia from its recent report.
The discussion was organised by the Society Integration Foundation (SIF) – a public foundation established by the state, whose aim is to promote social integration, cohesion, and the development of civil society in Latvia.
You can watch a Facebook Reel from the event, here: https://www.facebook.com/reel/990200007177993

16 JULY:

CEAFA condemns Spanish refusal to reimburse anti-amyloid therapies

In a press release published on 16 July, the Spanish Confederation of Alzheimer's and Other Dementias (CEAFA) has strongly condemned a decision by Spain's Interministerial Commission on the Pricing of Medicines to refuse, once again, to fund the first therapies shown to slow the progression of early Alzheimer's disease.
The press release states that anti-amyloid therapies have already been authorised by the European Medicines Agency and the Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices and are available in more than fifty countries worldwide. CEAFA argues that the decision places Spain outside biomedical innovation and denies thousands of people the only therapeutic option capable of delaying the course of their disease.
"This constitutes a historic betrayal of people with Alzheimer's and an absolute disregard for their dignity," said Mariló Almagro, president of CEAFA. She warned that the decision would condemn a generation of patients to lose the chance to access the only current treatments capable of modifying the course of their disease.
CEAFA points to the "Alzheimer's Decalogue" it developed with Spain's leading scientific and medical societies, which calls for the new treatments to be funded and made available

regardless of where patients live. It also highlights the economic burden carried by families, who bear around 80% of the cost of advanced Alzheimer's, close to EUR 30,000 a year. The confederation has pledged to step up its advocacy until the decision is reversed.
Read CEAFA's press release (Spanish):

https://ceafa.es/es/que-comunicamos/notas-de-prensa-y-comunicados/el-gobierno-de-espana-y-las-comunidades-autonomas-condenan-a-los-pacientes-con-alzheimer-al-abandono

English translation:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2026-07/ceafa_press_release_160726_en.pdf

25 AUGUST:

Bodrum (Turkey) takes a major step forward in dementia care

The Bodrum Branch of the Turkish Alzheimer Association has taken an important step towards establishing a new Day Living Centre for people with dementia and their families in Bodrum, on Türkiye's Aegean coast. The branch, established in 2024, has worked towards creating such a centre since its foundation. Its aim is to provide people living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia with a safe and supportive environment where they can participate in rehabilitation, social activities and meaningful daily routines, while also giving family carers valuable time for rest and respite.
The project is being developed through cooperation between the Bodrum Branch of the Turkish Alzheimer Association, Bodrum Municipality and philanthropist Yunus Büyükkuşoğlu, whose financial support will help make the centre possible.
Planned on a 4,200 m² site, with approximately 2,400 m² of indoor space, the centre will include activity workshops, quiet rooms, exhibition and conference spaces, as well as accessible outdoor areas. The architectural design emphasises safe movement, connection with nature, social interaction and meaningful everyday activities.
Bodrum Branch President Assoc. Prof. Melek Kandemir Yılmaz emphasised that reducing the burden on family carers has been central to the branch's vision from the beginning.
The initiative continues a model pioneered by the Turkish Alzheimer Association, which opened its first Alzheimer Day Living Centre in 2011. According to Association President Dilek Şahinöz, 33 such centres have since been established across Türkiye, with the Bodrum project set to become the 34th.
https://sokaktv.com/tum-haberler/bodrumda-4-bin-200-metrekarelik-alana-yayilan-buyuk-proje

26 AUGUST:

"Connecting Dementia Care with the Community" - Alzheimer Hellas reports on some of the activities of the Panagia Vimatarissa Day Centre

Throughout 2026, the Day Centre for Dementia "Panagia Vimatarissa" in Katerini (Greece) has continued to strengthen its presence in the local community through a diverse programme of information, awareness-raising, prevention and social activities. These initiatives reflect an approach to dementia care that extends beyond clinical services, emphasising education, early recognition, social participation and support for people living with dementia and their families.
An important part of the Centre's work has been raising awareness among different groups within the community. In January, psychologists from the Centre visited the Evening Vocational High School of Katerini, where students were informed about the main symptoms of dementia, the importance of early recognition and current approaches to prevention. Practical physical exercise activities were also introduced, highlighting the contribution of an active and healthy lifestyle to physical and cognitive health.
The Centre also collaborated with local cultural associations, organising talks on dementia prevention, early intervention, clinical symptoms and recent developments in dementia management. Short memory screening tests were offered as part of one of these community activities, promoting greater awareness of cognitive health. Prevention has also been addressed through complementary health interventions. Free hearing assessments were provided at the Centre on two occasions, with 26 people examined by a specialized audiologist.
Beyond education and health promotion, the Centre places strong emphasis on social inclusion. Beneficiaries and staff participated in a pilgrimage excursion and later joined a cultural event at the 55th Olympus Festival. Such activities create

opportunities for social interaction and participation in community life. These activities illustrate the Centre's commitment to a community-based approach to dementia, combining specialized services with prevention, awareness, family support and meaningful social engagement.

26 AUGUST:

FTD Brothers champion dementia awareness in government buildings and Ireland's Parliament

Brothers Jordan and Cian Adams, known as the FTD Brothers, were welcomed to Government Buildings and Leinster House, the seat of Ireland's Parliament, as part of their remarkable campaign to raise vital funds and awareness for frontotemporal dementia (FTD). The challenge was undertaken in memory of their mother, Geraldine, who was diagnosed with young-onset frontotemporal dementia and passed away in 2016, as well as other relatives affected by the condition.

In May 2026, on the day they completed their extraordinary challenge of running 33 marathons in 33 days, including a marathon in every county in Ireland, Jordan and Cian were invited to Government Buildings and met with *Taoiseach* (Prime Minister) Micheál Martin, *Tánaiste* (Deputy Prime Minister) Simon Harris, Minister of State for Older People Kieran O'Donnell, along with a number of elected representatives, to discuss dementia diagnosis, care, research and supports, while highlighting the aims of their campaign.

The brothers returned this time to *Dáil Éireann* which is Ireland's Parliament in Leinster House in July as guests of *Teachta Dála* TD (Member of Parliament) Micheál Carrigy for a special parliamentary debate on dementia. During the debate, TDs and Senators from across the political spectrum paid tribute to their achievement and acknowledged the significant impact of their advocacy in raising awareness of dementia and the challenges faced by those living with the condition. Members of the *Oireachtas* (Irish Parliament) also highlighted the importance of continued investment in diagnosis, research, care and support services.

Prior to the debate, Jordan and Cian met with politicians from across the political spectrum and took part in a photocall at Leinster House to mark the success of their campaign and the awareness it has generated around frontotemporal dementia. Through their determination, resilience and openness in sharing their family's story, Jordan and Cian have inspired communities across Ireland and beyond. Their campaign has raised more than EUR 2.3 million for dementia, which will be split between The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the FTD Foundation, while helping to improve public understanding of frontotemporal dementia and offering hope to people living with dementia and their families.

DEMENTIA IN SOCIETY

3 JULY:

Belgian Royal Palace hosts exhibition "The Memory Palace" bringing dementia into focus

The Memory Palace exhibition, which took place from 3 July to 16 August at the Royal Palace in Brussels (Belgium), demonstrated that dementia belongs not at the margins of society, but at its centre. The exhibition was created by researcher Kasper Bormans together with the conceptual artist Unik-ID.

This special walk through the Mirror Room brought the “shadow participants” out of the shadows. Dementia affects not only the person living with the condition, but also those close to them. Seventy percent of people with dementia still live at home and are cared for by relatives or loved ones. In this way, the condition affects three times as many people than the people with dementia themselves: family, friends, caregivers, healthcare workers, colleagues, neighbours, … Find out more: https://memorypalace.be/en/

Photo credit: Aya Boujida / Memory Palace

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

30 JUNE:

Annick Germeys donates sculpture Brain & Bean to Alzheimer Europe

Annick Germeys, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), has generously donated one of her ceramic sculptures, *Brain & Bean*, to Alzheimer Europe.

Annick, who is both a family carer and ceramic artist, created the piece as part of her personal reflection on dementia and its impact on her life. The sculpture draws inspiration from two powerful symbols: brain coral, with its intricate and maze-like patterns, and a bean, representing growth, origin and new beginnings.

Explaining the inspiration behind the work, Annick describes the brain as "a universe of memories" that helps shape our identity and preserve our personal history. The sculpture reflects both the resilience and the fragility of human life, bringing together the complexity of the human mind and the enduring nature of human dignity.

"Behind every diagnosis is a person whose identity is far greater than the disease," says Annick. Through her donation, she hopes the sculpture will encourage conversation, foster connection and remind people that even as memories begin to fade, dignity remains untouched.

For Annick, *Brain & Bean* emerged from a deeply personal search for meaning as dementia became an increasingly present part of her daily life. By donating the sculpture to Alzheimer Europe, she hopes its message will reach beyond her own experience and resonate with others affected by dementia.

We would like to warmly thank Annick for this thoughtful and meaningful contribution. We are honoured to receive *Brain & Bean* and to share the story behind this beautiful artwork with our community.

Readers who would like to learn more about the sculpture and Annick's creative process can visit her blog:

https://annickenkeramiek.wordpress.com/2024/05/09/brain-bean/

Pictured: Annick Germeys (centre) with Sarah Campill (left) and Faye Forsyth (right), Public Involvement Officers at Alzheimer Europe

7 JULY:

Annick Germeys, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, writes about her experience of visiting “The Memory Palace” exhibition at Belgium’s Royal Palace

On 7 July 2026, my husband Geert and I had the opportunity to visit “The Memory Palace” at the Royal Palace in Brussels as part of a delegation from Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen. During the visit, we were joined by Flemish Minister for Welfare and Poverty Reduction, Culture and Equal Opportunities, Caroline Gennez, who expressed her wish to meet not only people living with dementia, but also what she called the **"**shadow stakeholders**"**: the family members and friends whose lives are equally shaped by the condition.

I found this expression particularly meaningful. Dementia never affects just one person. Behind every diagnosis is a partner, a child, a sibling or a friend whose daily life changes profoundly. Recognising these "shadow stakeholders" is an important step towards acknowledging the true societal impact of dementia.

The exhibition itself, created by researcher Kasper Bormans together with the artistic duo Unik-ID, invites visitors to reflect on memory, communication and human connection through an immersive artistic experience. It demonstrates how art can open conversations that traditional information campaigns often cannot. At the same time, the visit also reminded me how valuable it is to involve people living with dementia and family carers from the earliest stages of developing initiatives like these. Their lived experience brings a perspective that cannot be replaced by expertise alone. Co-creation is not only about consultation, but about ensuring that projects truly reflect the realities of those they aim to represent.

What struck me most during our visit was not only the exhibition itself, but the fact that dementia had found a place within the Royal Palace. The involvement of both the Belgian Royal Family and the Minister sends a powerful message. Dementia is not solely a healthcare issue. It is a societal challenge that deserves visibility, understanding and political commitment.

As members of Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen, Geert and I were grateful to contribute our voices to this conversation. Every opportunity to bring together policymakers, researchers, artists and people with lived experience helps build a more dementia-inclusive society.

Perhaps that is the greatest value of initiatives such as “The Memory Palace”: not simply inviting people to remember but encouraging society to listen.

17 JULY:

Gerda Van Tongerloo, Vice-Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, shares some of the initiatives in which she has participated in recent months

Co-creation session within the DREAm project

My name is Gerda Van Tongerloo, I am from the Netherlands and a member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD). In early June, I took part in an inspiring co-creation session organised by Eindhoven University of Technology as part of the DREAm project, which aims to explore how technology can support people with dementia and their caregivers to achieve better sleep at home.

The session brought together researchers, companies and people with dementia to discuss how technology could help people follow sleep advice and maintain healthy sleep habits in their daily lives. As a representative of the BrainPower research group, I was pleased to contribute the perspective of people living with dementia. The insights gathered during the session will help guide the development of technologies that better meet the needs and wishes of people with dementia and their loved ones.

Football initiative for people with dementia in Zeist

In June, I also took part in a visit to vv Jonathan football club in Zeist, where a delegation of professionals from Switzerland came to learn about inspiring Dutch initiatives that support people with dementia to remain active and involved in their communities.
One of the initiatives discussed was a football programme for people with early-stage dementia, developed through a collaboration between Alzheimer Nederland, afdeling Zeist e.o., Sportief Zeist and vv Jonathan. What began as a small pilot group has grown into a regular weekly activity, with participants meeting every Wednesday to play football together. Just as importantly, the initiative also creates opportunities for social connection, with caregivers using the time to meet and share experiences. The visit highlighted how sport, community involvement and local partnerships can help people with dementia continue to lead active and meaningful lives.

Melodie Percussion Group

One of my passions is music, and I am a member of the Melodie Percussion Group (MPG) of the Royal Music Band of De Bilt. The group brings together around 15 musicians of different ages who share a love of making music together. We rehearse every Wednesday evening and play a wide range of percussion instruments, including marimba, vibraphone, xylophone, snare drum and bass drum.
The MPG performs regularly throughout the year at concerts and local events. One of our highlights is Winterbeats, an annual themed concert held in February or March, often in collaboration with another section of the association. We also perform during the Evening Four-Day March in De Bilt and at summer concerts at the Beerschoten estate. For me, being part of the group is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy music, friendship and teamwork.

20 AUGUST:

Annick Germeys, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, writes about when lived experience helps shape dementia care

When my husband was diagnosed with young-onset dementia at the age of 53, we were told that there was no cure. We received medical information, but afterwards we were literally left standing outside. What now? What care is available? Who can help us? What will our life look like? What do we need to do, and what do we need to put in place? We searched for answers and eventually found our way, but not everyone can. Things needed to change.
This experience made it particularly meaningful for me to be involved as a carer in updating the Limburg Dementia Care Pathway. The original pathway was developed in 2019 to provide health and social care professionals with a common framework for supporting people with dementia and their carers. Since then, the care landscape has changed, while challenges have remained, particularly in cooperation between primary and secondary care and at transition points such as the period following diagnosis.
The update brought together all the key stakeholders: GPs, hospital care, pharmacists, home nursing, home care services, mutual health insurance funds, carers, patient participation organisations and other health and social care partners. The update was a collaborative project led by Eerstelijnszone Herkenrode and Expertisecentrum Dementie Contact Limburg, with the support of POM Limburg and the Province of Limburg, and with scientific and methodological guidance from UHasselt and Think³. Lived experience also had a place in the project. As a carer, I brought the perspective of our daily life with young-onset dementia and

was able to use that experience to help shape the choices that were made. This broad collaboration was essential. Each partner brought their own expertise and perspective, allowing us to look not only at the care available, but also at how the different actors connect and work together.

During the discussions, I could highlight where a person with dementia and their carer may encounter difficulties in practice, what information is missing and where support needs to be better connected. My experience was not simply a personal story. It became lived experience and knowledge that could help shape the renewed care pathway.

For me, this is what meaningful participation means. Asking carers afterwards what they think of a care pathway that has already been developed is valuable. But participation becomes truly meaningful when their experiences are included while there is still an opportunity to make changes, when choices are being made and processes are being designed.

The renewed Limburg Dementia Care Pathway was presented on 5 June 2026 during a Lunch & Learn attended by a full room of health and social care professionals. It maps the journey from detection to care planning in a clear and accessible way. A concise leaflet and a renewed website make the pathway practical and easy to use in everyday care.

For me, it was particularly meaningful not only to share my experience as a carer at the launch, but also to see how that experience had found its way into the final result.

If we want better dementia care, we need not only the expertise of professionals. We also need the lived experience and knowledge of people with dementia and their carers. Not as an addition at the end, but as knowledge that helps shape care from the very beginning.

Because we eventually found our way. The real challenge is to ensure that people do not have to find that way on their own after a diagnosis.

23 AUGUST:

Sertaç Hatice, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, writes about swallowing therapy and how it has helped her mother

My most recent source of joy, pride and peace of mind is that I have finally found a swallowing therapist who does home visits.

My mom and her swallowing therapist recently completed 21 sessions, and I can clearly see the difference. She used to drool. That is now largely reduced. I can actually notice her swallowing the saliva that collects in her mouth — something so small that most people would never think of it, but something that now makes me very happy.

Drooling is bothersome in many respects. First of all, it can be embarrassing. Mom would open her mouth to say something, but before she could speak, saliva would run down. You could easily notice her embarrassment and frustration. At one point, I even wondered whether she was sometimes keeping quiet simply because she did not want to drool. My daughter would be disgusted and run away to another room. More importantly, difficulties managing saliva can also be associated with the risk of aspiration.

Our first reaction was to try pharmacological treatments to reduce salivation. We first tried an off-label use of an eye drop, placing one drop under her tongue as prescribed. From Mom's reaction, we understood that it did not taste very good! Getting it required an ophthalmology visit, where we had to explain why we needed the medication for an off-label use. It was one of those challenging situations in which, as care partners, we do what we feel we have to do while still asking ourselves, *Am I really doing the right thing?*

We now use a different prescribed preparation, made using two medications that are not always easy to find in pharmacies. We have a feeling this one tastes less bad.

I had been searching for a swallowing therapist for more than a year. When I finally found one, I discovered how difficult it can be to access this kind of specialised support for a person living with dementia. There are therapists in some large hospitals and specialist centres, but very few who make home visits.

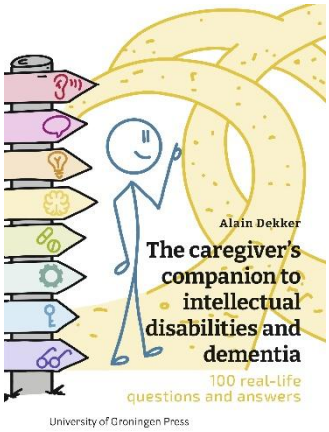
In the meantime, I had searched YouTube and found very little useful material. Based on that tiny amount of information, I had trained myself to become a sort of pseudo-swallowing therapist. We did some exercises together, but I had reservations. By

challenging Mom, was I making her feel inadequate? I did not want to become the person who constantly reminded her of her losses. With the limited time I have with Mom, I wanted our time together to be fun, not work.
During the therapist's first visit, I saw how easily he was able to get much better engagement from her.
It made me realise something. As care partners, we are constantly learning new skills and taking on new roles because we have to. But we simply cannot become experts in everything overnight. When knowledgeable professionals are available, accessible and affordable, sometimes the best thing we can do is let them do their job — and allow ourselves to go back to being a daughter, a husband, a wife, a son or a friend.

NEW RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

2 JUNE:

Dutch bestseller “The caregiver's companion to intellectual disabilities and dementia” by Alain Dekker has now been published in English



On 2 June 2026, the University of Groningen Press published “The caregiver's companion to intellectual disabilities and dementia: 100 real-life questions and answers” in English. This beautifully illustrated handbook was originally written in Dutch by expert Dr Alain Dekker, a lecturer at the University of Groningen and head of the Department of Practice-Oriented Scientific Research (PWO) at Alliade, a large care organisation providing care for over 8,000 people with intellectual disabilities and vulnerable elderly in the Dutch province of Friesland. In the book, Dr Dekker answers many frequently asked questions (FAQs) in clear language, drawing on the latest evidence from research and daily practice.
People with an intellectual disability are now living longer than in the past. As a result, dementia is becoming increasingly common among this population. In 100 short chapters, the book answers 100 FAQs from professional and family carers. The chapters are enriched with real-life examples, videos, illustrations and infographics. The book can be used not only as a reference, but also as a conversation starter.
Examples of some of the questions answered in the book are: What is dementia exactly? Why do people with Down syndrome have a high risk of developing it? And what about people with intellectual disabilities without Down syndrome? How do you establish a diagnosis? Who is involved in this process? What does dementia do to a person? What is the impact on fellow residents and caregivers? And how do caregivers support changes in functioning and behaviour?
The Dutch edition of the book is already a bestseller with thousands of downloads and an almost sold-out paper edition. Following repeated requests for translated versions, the book was translated into English and adapted to meet the needs of a general European public.
For more information, please contact Alain Dekker at a.d.dekker@rug.nl
The caregiver's companion can be downloaded free of charge via https://books.ugp.rug.nl/ugp/catalog/book/268 or via the QR code.
For readers who prefer a hard copy, the book is also available in print. The printed edition can be ordered via Amazon.

19 JUNE:

EMA publishes report about its workshop on patient registries for Alzheimer’s disease

At the end of last year, Alzheimer Europe took part in the Joint Heads of Medicines Agencies (HMA) / European Medicines Agency (EMA) multi-stakeholder workshop on patient registries for Alzheimer’s disease. The EMA has now published a report emerging from this important event, which we are delighted to share with you. You can read, it here:

https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/documents/report/report-joint-hma-ema-multi-stakeholder-workshop-patient-registries-alzheimers-disease_en.pdf

AE CALENDAR 2026

DATE		
31 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe exhibition at the European Parliament (Brussels, Belgium)	European Alzheimer's Alliance members, AE
1 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe Company Roundtable with sponsors (Brussels, Belgium)	AE staff, members and sponsors
1 SEPTEMBER	European Parliament reception to launch Alzheimer Europe exhibition	European Alzheimer's
1-2 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe Public Affairs meeting (Brussels, Belgium)	AE staff and members
2-3 SEPTEMBER	DEM-CAPS consortium meeting	Lukas & Faye
8 SEPTEMBER	Research projects information meeting with Alzheimer Nederland	AE staff
11 SEPTEMBER	Meeting with Programme démence prévention (Strassen, Luxembourg)	AE staff
14 SEPTEMBER	Roche Pipeline Advisory Board meeting	Ange
22 SEPTEMBER	Annual meeting of European Medicines Agency Patients' and	Cindy
23-24 SEPTEMBER	EPND Annual Conference (Split, Croatia)	Ange
24-25 SEPTEMBER	EFNA Conference (Dublin, Ireland)	Jean
25 SEPTEMBER	AD-RIDDLE Mid-Term Review Meeting (Split, Croatia)	Cindy and Ana
26 SEPTEMBER	World Alzheimer's Day - ALA Memory Walk (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)	AE staff
29 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER	18th World Conference in Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law (Porto, Portugal)	Dianne
30 SEPTEMBER	COCIR Research and Innovation Breakfast at the European Parliament	Ange

CONFERENCES 2026-2027

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
27-29 OCTOBER 2026	36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC), "Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership"	Dublin, Ireland
16-20 MARCH 2027	AD/PD 2027 https://adpd.kenes.com/	Barcelona, Spain

36th Alzheimer Europe Conference

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

27 - 29 OCTOBER 2026

DUBLIN, IRELAND

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