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WELCOME

September, also known as World Alzheimer's Month, is always a busy and highly anticipated month for our members across Europe, and we are delighted to include a special "Spotlight" section in this newsletter, to showcase their impressive campaigning and events. A popular event amongst our members is the "Memory Walk", with hundreds of these being organised throughout September. One such Memory Walk is hosted annually by Association Luxembourg Alzheimer, and we were delighted to join their 25th anniversary edition!

In the same spirit of collaboration with colleagues in our home country of Luxembourg, we were pleased to visit the Programme for Dementia Prevention and ParkinsonNet Luxembourg to learn about their work, exchange perspectives and discuss developments in dementia research. We look forward to an exchange visit in our offices soon.

Our World Alzheimer's Month schedule began with an exhibition in the European Parliament in Brussels, to raise awareness of dementia prevalence and impact, showcase our work and that of our members, highlight continuing gaps and inequalities, present recommendations for EU policymakers and encourage political commitment and action. Whilst in Brussels, we also held a Board meeting, a roundtable with sponsors, and a Public Affairs meeting with members.

At our exhibition, "pledge cards" were available for MEPs to sign and we also invited them to share video messages about the need for dementia to be a policy priority. These videos were shared on social media, both in the run-up to and during the exhibition.

To officially launch the exhibition, we organised a reception, hosted by Nina Carberry MEP (EPP, Ireland) and attended by national Alzheimer's associations, people with lived experience, industry partners, and MEPs. We are grateful to everyone who attended the reception, and to the MEPs who visited the exhibition and showed their support. This has led to five new members joining the European Alzheimer's Alliance and new connections being made with other MEPs, both for us and our members.

Keeping an EU focus, President Ursula von der Leyen's 2026 State of the Union address sadly made little reference to health as a standalone political priority. The priorities laid out reflect a challenging geopolitical and economic environment and although many of the parameters included have an important bearing on health, we were disappointed with the shift away from health and will continue to emphasise the need for Europe to adopt a direct response to the growing issues caused by demographic change.

In closing, I would like to remind you all about our fast-approaching Annual Conference, taking place in Dublin in just under three weeks! Please do register yourselves for the conference, but also for the Networking Dinner and Anti-Stigma Award Ceremony. See you there!

Jean Georges, Executive Director

Alzheimer Europe Board 2024-2026

Chairperson: Maria do Rosário Zincke Dos Reis (Portugal); Vice-Chairperson: Mario Possenti (Italy); Honorary Secretary: Lorène Gilly (France); Honorary Treasurer: Andy Heffernan (Ireland); Members: Thanos Chatzikostopoulos (Greece), Edyta Ekwinska (Poland), Martina Mátllová (Czechia), Friederike de Maeyer (Austria), Mary-Frances Morris (United Kingdom - Scotland), Kevin Quaid, Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (Ireland), Trevor Salomon, Chairperson of the European Dementia Carers Working Group (United Kingdom - England), Katarina Suonu (Finland), Jochen René Thyrian (Germany).

Alzheimer Europe Staff

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

ALZHEIMER EUROPE

31 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe hosts exhibition and reception in the European Parliament



Between 31 August and 4 September, Alzheimer Europe held an exhibition in the European Parliament under the title “Alzheimer Europe: Shaping Europe’s response to dementia”. During the exhibition, Alzheimer Europe presented posters on the current state of dementia across Europe, highlighting issues including the prevalence of the condition, emerging treatments and developments in policy. In addition, panels featured information on Alzheimer Europe, the European Working Group of People with Dementia, the European Dementia Carers Working Group, as well as an overview of the Anti-Stigma Award. The key objectives for the event were to:

- Raise awareness of dementia prevalence and impact.
- Showcase developments over the past decade, as well as ongoing actions and developments in the dementia field, including at the European and national level.
- Highlight continuing gaps, challenges and inequalities.
- Present clear recommendations for EU policymakers.
- Encourage political commitment and action.

The target audience was primarily Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), European Parliament staff and visitors, with whom we shared information and knowledge, whilst exploring opportunities for collaboration to prioritise dementia at an EU level.

In addition to the posters on display during the exhibition, a screen displayed interactive maps and displays of the prevalence of dementia in Europe, as well as videos of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) Working Groups explaining why dementia should be prioritised as a policy matter. Alzheimer Europe distributed copies of “The

Prevalence of Dementia in Europe 2025” report, brochures of the posters and edition 51 of the Dementia in Europe Magazine.

Additionally, Alzheimer Europe created “pledge cards” for MEPs to sign, which indicated their support for prioritising dementia at an EU level, as well as capturing specific actions to advance dementia as a policy priority.



Throughout the exhibition, the intention was to convey a set of core messages, central to Alzheimer Europe’s public policy work. The intention was to build on the work of Alzheimer Europe’s #DementiaNeedsEU campaign, which was launched during the European Parliament Elections in 2024. In doing so, Alzheimer Europe’s messages and calls to action remained consistent, whilst incorporating the latest context and information e.g. updated prevalence figures, developments in anti-amyloid treatments. Taken together, the key messages of the event were:

- Dementia is one of Europe’s most significant health and societal challenges, with the number of people affected expected to rise significantly in the coming decades.
- Policy decisions have a direct impact on the lives of people living with dementia and their carers.
- Early diagnosis, equitable access to support and dementia-inclusive communities improve quality of life.
- Initiatives to combat the stigma and negative perceptions associated with dementia improve understanding of the condition and improve the lives of people living with dementia.
- Collaboration between European-level institutions, national governments and communities is essential to address current and future challenges.
- Continued political commitment is needed to ensure dementia remains a priority within European policy.

To officially mark the launch of the exhibition, on the evening of 1 September, a reception was hosted by Nina Carberry MEP



(EPP, Ireland). This was attended by around 90 people, including national member associations, people with lived experience and industry partners, with 13 MEPs in attendance.

Speakers at the reception included MEP Carberry, Kevin Quaid, Chair of the EWGPWD, Trevor Salomon, Chair of the EDCWG, Jordan Adams, one of the “FTD brothers” and Jean Georges, Executive Director, Alzheimer Europe. Contributions were also heard from MEPs: Ondřej Dostál (NI, Czechia), Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg), Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland), Vladimir Prebilič (Greens/EFA, Slovenia), Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia), Michał Szczerba (EPP, Poland) and Kristian Vigenin (S&D, Bulgaria).

Following the speeches, attendees were invited to explore the exhibition and to network.

We are very grateful to Nina Carberry MEP (EPP, Ireland) and her staff for their support, without which the exhibition would not have been possible.

Further information on the exhibition is available at: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/european-parliament-exhibition>

Click here to download our special exhibition booklet: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2026-08/european_parliament_exhibition_booklet.pdf



1 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe hosts a Company Round Table meeting with sponsors



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

On 1 September 2026, Alzheimer Europe (AE) was pleased to welcome corporate sponsors, member associations and AE staff to a Company Round Table meeting in Brussels (Belgium). The meeting was chaired by Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Chairperson of AE and attended by 15 different companies, 32 representatives from AE's member associations and 7 AE staff members.

Cindy Birck, Research Lead, presented some recent clinical trial developments and gave an update on our [Clinical Trials Watch](#) service. She was followed by Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director, who discussed our position on access to anti-amyloid therapies in Europe. Up next was a presentation on “Integrating Person-Centred Principles into the Evolving Dementia Diagnostic Pathway - Findings of the Shift Health survey” presented by Ryan Wiley (President, Shift Health).

Following a short break, Executive Director Jean Georges presented AE's 2027 Corporate Activities and Sponsorship Opportunities, and handed over to the final presenter, Hugh Nicholl (Senior Associate, Charles River Associates), who explored some of the key recommendations of the Charles River Associates report “Assessing the economic case for Alzheimer's disease policy prioritisation in Europe”.

Jean Georges closed out the meeting, sharing some updates on AE's Annual Conference and other activities, meetings and projects in 2026, as well as reminding those present about the next corporate affairs meeting, which will take place online, on 2 December.

1-2 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe hosts Public Affairs meeting in Brussels

On the mornings of 1 and 2 September 2026, Alzheimer Europe (AE) welcomed over 40 delegates to its Public Affairs meeting in Brussels (Belgium), including representatives of national member associations from 24 different countries across Europe, as well as AE staff and representatives from both the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) and the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD).

The agenda on 1 September began with a section on “Campaigns and communications during World Alzheimer's

Month", moderated by Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director, who introduced colleagues from AE's Communications team, Kate Boor Ellis and Liv Krier, who shared AE's plans for this important awareness-raising month. Their presentation was followed by a wide variety of presentations of activities from member associations, delivered by Anne de Boer (Netherlands), Nicola Montesin (Malta), Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis (Portugal), Thanos Chatzikostopoulos (Greece), Lorène Gilly (France), Guðlaugur Eyjólfsson (Iceland), Alma Orahovac (Montenegro), Jocelyn Grant (Ireland), Zeljka Cvjetan-Gortinski (Serbia), Aslı Demirtaş Tatlıdede (Türkiye), Ágnes Egervari (Hungary) and Ieva Petkutė (Lithuania). Next up was a section on prioritising dementia at EU level, again moderated by Angela Bradshaw, with presentations given by Jean Georges, Executive Director, who spoke about the Helsinki Manifesto, and Owen Miller, Policy Officer, whose presentation was titled "Towards a European neurological health strategy: Lessons from cardiovascular and cancer programmes". Following their presentations there was discussion time, with members contributing their thoughts and experience on the topic.

The second day of the meeting began with an introduction from AE Chairperson Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, who welcomed the speakers for the first segment on "Partnering in dementia research projects", moderated by Angela. Cindy Birck, Research Lead, gave an update on AE's EU-funded dementia research projects for 2026, whilst Edyta Ekwińska (Poland), Thanos Chatzikostopoulos (Greece) and Maya Marinova (Bulgaria) shared their associations' experiences of partnering in EU or national dementia research projects. Ana Diaz, Public Involvement Lead, moderated the final part of the meeting, which focused on AE's priorities for next year, with contributions coming from Angela Bradshaw, who shared the Work Plan for 2027, Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics, who explored ways we can improve the involvement of underrepresented groups in our work, and Jean Georges who spoke about broadening the European dementia community via partnerships and associates. Discussions ensued, with lots of highly useful feedback from our national members associations.

A big thank to all those who attended and helped make this such a lively, insightful and impactful meeting.

11 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe visits Luxembourg's Programme for Dementia Prevention (PDP) and ParkinsonNet Luxembourg

On 11 September, Alzheimer Europe (AE) had the pleasure of visiting the Programme for Dementia Prevention (PDP) and ParkinsonNet Luxembourg for a valuable exchange of



knowledge and ideas. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to learn more about PDP's work, exchange perspectives and discuss the latest developments in dementia research. Our sincere thanks go to Rejko Krüger, Joëlle Fritz, Anne Kay-sen, Valerie Schröder, Amna Skrozić, Nina Possemis and Claire Pauly for their warm welcome, giving us insightful presentations and for engaging discussions.

Executive Director Jean Georges, Deputy Executive Director Angela Bradshaw, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics Dianne Gove, Public Involvement Lead Ana Diaz, Research Lead Cindy Birck, Project Officers Lukas Duffner and Margarita Reyes, and Public Involvement Officers Faye Forsyth and Sarah Campill represented AE during the visit.

Find out more about PDP: <https://pdp.lu/en/>

Find out more about ParkinsonNet Luxembourg: <https://www.parkinsonnet.lu/en/>

16 SEPTEMBER:

Lieselotte Klotz announces her departure from the European Working Group of People with Dementia

Lieselotte (Lilo) Klotz has informed Alzheimer Europe of her decision to withdraw from all Public Involvement activities at national and European level, and to leave the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD). She said that her work with the



group had meant a lot to her over the years since she joined in 2022, and that she had very much enjoyed being part of the group, particularly the international perspective and the opportunity to ensure the voices and lived experiences of people with dementia are listened to. She wished the team at Alzheimer Europe, everyone she has had the privilege of working

with and all her colleagues in the EWGPWD all the very best, as well as continued strength in their important work. We greatly appreciate Lilo's contributions during her time in the working group, we thank her for her hard work, her dedication and her friendship these past four years, and we wish her all the very best for the future.

23 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe's status as an International Non-Governmental Organisation is renewed



On 23 September 2026, Alzheimer Europe's status as an International Non-Governmental Organisation (INGO) was officially renewed, meaning it is one of 46 European organisations recognised as such and entitled to lodge collective complaints alleging violations of the European Social Charter.

30 SEPTEMBER:

Final reminder: Join us at the 36AEC conference networking dinner and 2026 Anti-Stigma Award!

With just a few weeks to go until the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin, now is the time to register for the conference networking dinner and 2026 Anti-Stigma Award on the 28 October in Dublin, Ireland.

This special evening will gather conference delegates and guests together to network and celebrate inspiring work challenging the stigma surrounding dementia. The Anti-Stigma ceremony in the evening will recognise outstanding European initiatives and artists uniting music and dementia, with awards being presented. The event includes dinner, the award ceremony and will conclude with dancing and celebration. The networking dinner is an excellent opportunity to connect with colleagues from across Europe and to celebrate the power of music to challenge stigma and promote a positive image of dementia.

The Anti-Stigma Award ceremony forms part of the conference networking dinner, and separate registration is required, including for delegates already registered for the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference.

Alzheimer Europe, along with its partners, the Alzheimer Europe Foundation, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, Mowlam Healthcare, Lilly and Roche, are looking forward to welcoming you to Dublin in October!

Register and learn more about the event here:

www.alzheimer-europe.org/anti-stigma-award-2026



AE NETWORKING

31 AUGUST	The Alzheimer Europe Board held a meeting (Brussels, Belgium)
31 AUGUST - 4 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe held a week-long exhibition at the European Parliament (Brussels, Belgium)
1 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe held a Company Roundtable with sponsors (Brussels, Belgium)
1 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe Board, staff, members and sponsors attended a reception to launch the European Parliament exhibition, alongside host Nina Carberry MEP and other Co-Chairs and members of the European Alzheimer's Alliance (Brussels, Belgium)
1-2 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe held a Public Affairs meeting with members (Brussels, Belgium)
2 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe staff and members attended a meeting with Bristol Myers Squibb (Brussels, Belgium)
8 SEPTEMBER	Alzheimer Europe staff attended a research projects information meeting with colleagues from Alzheimer Nederland

- 10 SEPTEMBER Alzheimer Europe staff visited the premises of the Programme Démence Prévention and met with colleagues there for an exchange (Strassen, Luxembourg)
- 24 SEPTEMBER Margarita attended the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) SciCom event (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)
- 24 SEPTEMBER Dianne and Sarah attended the "Séance académique – 10 Jahre Info-Zenter Demenz" (Limpertsberg, Luxembourg)
- 25 SEPTEMBER Cindy and Ana attended the AD-RIDDLE Mid-Term Review Meeting (Split, Croatia)
- 26 SEPTEMBER Alzheimer Europe staff joined the Association Luxembourg Alzheimer Memory Walk (Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

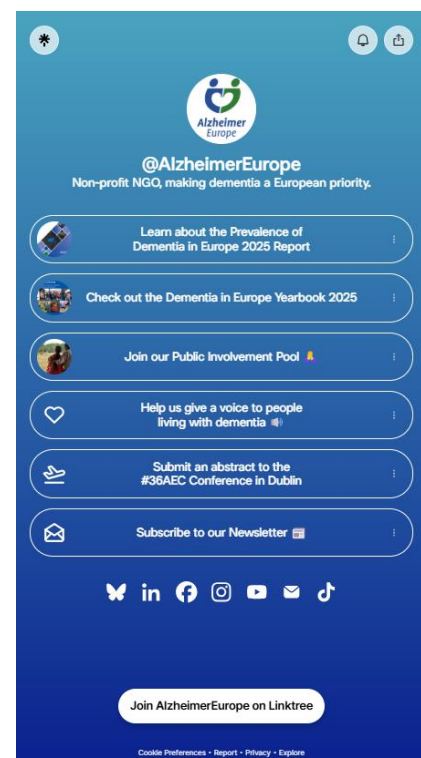
Understanding the scale of dementia in Europe



Help us give a voice to people with dementia



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EU PROJECTS

30 AUGUST:

Alzheimer Europe publishes a rapid review of ethical consideration of fluid biomarker use in Alzheimer's disease as part of the FluidX-AD project



On 30 August 2026, a new article was published by Alzheimer Europe, called "Ethical

considerations of fluid biomarker use in Alzheimer's disease - a rapid review", in the journal Aging and Mental Health. The authors of the paper are Faye Forsyth, Public Involvement Officer; Ana Diaz, Public Involvement Lead and Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics. The review highlighted the multiple ethical concerns surrounding the use of fluid biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease treatment decisions and called for more empirical evidence to substantiate claims about putative benefits and harms. The review also concluded that uncertainty in biomarker performance, raises risks to non-maleficence, autonomy, and justice and complicates clinical decision making.

You can read the full paper here:

https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/10.1080/13607863.2026.2719938?url_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr_id=ori:rid:cross-ref.org&rfr_dat=cr_pub%20%200pubmed#abstract

You can download the PDF here:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2026-10/forsyth_et_al_2026_ethical_considerations_of_fluid_biomarker_use_in_ad_-_a_rapid_review.pdf

1 SEPTEMBER:

New podcast explores dementia beyond Alzheimer's disease

A new podcast brings together two European dementia research projects to explore the diversity of dementia and the importance of earlier and more accurate diagnosis.

The episode "Understanding dementia beyond Alzheimer's disease", brings together the EU-funded PREDICT-FTD and DORIAN GRAY projects. The discussion is moderated by Cindy Birck, Research Lead at Alzheimer Europe and features Laura Ziccardi from Sapienza Università di Roma and Sant'Andrea University Hospital, and Sergi Borrego from Hospital Clínic de Barcelona.

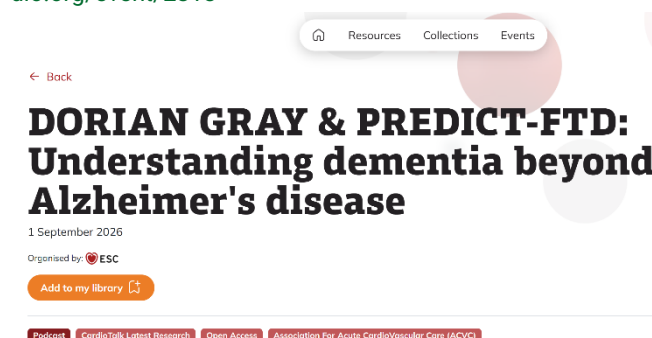
The 13-minute episode was released on 1 September 2026 as part of the Cardio Talk Latest Research podcast. The release

coincides with World Alzheimer's Month, which takes place every September and brings global attention to Alzheimer's disease and all types of dementia.

The conversation highlights that dementia encompasses a wide range of diseases, with different symptoms, causes and challenges. It looks at why recognising these differences is essential for improving diagnosis and developing more personalised approaches to prevention and care.

The podcast also showcases how European research is contributing to this effort. PREDICTFTD is working to improve the early and accurate diagnosis of frontotemporal dementia, including through the development of biomarkers and tools that could help identify the underlying pathology. DORIAN GRAY, meanwhile, is investigating the links between cardiovascular disease and mild cognitive impairment. The EU-funded project aims to improve risk stratification, prevention and management of cognitive decline by combining clinical information with real-world data and digital technologies, including artificial intelligence.

Listen to the podcast, here: <https://esc365.escardio.org/event/2813>



2-3 SEPTEMBER:

DEM-CAPS holds first in-person general assembly in Stockholm

On 2 and 3 September, the DEM-CAPS (DEMen^tia CAre and Psycho^social Support interventions estimating health-economic impact to support access and implementation in practice) partners met face-to-face for the first consortium meeting in Stockholm, Sweden. DEM-CAPS aims to develop and validate a health-economic modelling framework that demonstrates the value of psychosocial support interventions for people living with dementia and their carers. There is evidence for the effectiveness of some of such interventions for improving quality of life of people with dementia and their supporters (for example Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, reminiscence therapy, music therapy), however there is widespread problems in providing and accessing them, which is partly



driven by incomplete knowledge of the resource use implications and cost-effectiveness evidence.

During the meeting, all work package leaders presented an overview of their work plan, described progress to date and discussed future challenges. Work package one, which is being led by Lukas Duffner (AE) and Faye Forsyth (AE), described interim feedback from a consultation with the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG); progress and provisional insights from a desk analysis of national dementia strategies, and outlines pending stakeholder interviews and a broad-spectrum survey of psychosocial intervention providers and payers. Collaborators from Masaryk University (Jakub Hlávka and Dominika Tóthová) then provided a deep-dive into their planned systematic review, which will inform the health economic framework. Bernhard Michalowsky and Mareike Pillert from DZNE then presented exploratory findings on important associations between psychosocial intervention and health economic endpoints. This work leveraged pooled randomized controlled trial data that the DZNE have been working hard to assimilate and harmonize. Ron Handels (Maastricht University) and Yunfei Li (Karolinska Institute) then described current evidence in relation to health economic modelling and visualized how the eventual framework might be validated and implemented in the 'real world'.

The general assembly was topped off by a wonderful external speaker presentation by Jinjing Fu (Karolinska Institute), who provided an overview of the QOLEAD (Quality of Life by use of Enabling AI in Dementia) project which has uncovered a sig-

nificant mismatch between what is valued by people who design interventions, people living with dementia, carers, health economic modelers and payers (the people who ultimately fund what is provided in the community).

This is an EU Joint Programme – Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) project. The project is supported through the following funding organisations under the aegis of JPND – <http://www.jpnd.eu> (Czech Republic, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MEYS); Germany, Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR); Luxembourg, National Research Fund (FNR); Netherlands, The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw); Sweden, The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working life and Welfare (FORTE)).

7 SEPTEMBER:

AD-RIDDLE launches its Academia to empower the next generation of Alzheimer's researchers



The AD-RIDDLE project has launched AD-RIDDLE Academia, a collaborative academic platform to support and empower early career researchers by fostering a culture of research excellence, innovation, mentorship and peer learning.

The initiative aims to support early-career researchers through mentorship, networking, training and collaborative research opportunities, helping them strengthen their skills, expand their networks and contribute to advances in Alzheimer's research.

The Academia will organise webinars on topics relevant to research and career development, as well as regular journal clubs to encourage scientific discussion and the exchange of knowledge. It will also facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and study visits, support members in presenting their work at conferences and contributing to scientific publications and establish a mentorship programme connecting early-career researchers with experienced members of the research community.

This launch comes as part of World Alzheimer's Month, which takes place every September and provides an opportunity to

raise awareness and highlight the importance of dementia research and innovation. Throughout September, AD-RIDDLE will share a series of video interviews featuring members of the project and their experiences, perspectives and contributions to Alzheimer's research. Among those featured in the series will be an AD-RIDDLE early-career researcher who is also a member of the Academia.

Through AD-RIDDLE Academia, the project is investing in the next generation of Alzheimer's researchers while strengthening the collaboration and knowledge exchange needed to advance research into the prevention, detection, diagnosis and care of Alzheimer's disease.

<https://ad-riddle.org/academia/>

10 SEPTEMBER:

EPND launches Lay Glossary during World Alzheimer's Month 2026



On 10 September, the European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND) launched a new Lay Glossary, designed to make the language of neurodegenerative disease research easier to understand. Developed over three years, the resource brings together accessible explanations of terms spanning neurodegenerative diseases, research, ethics, data sharing and protection, diversity and inclusion, and artificial intelligence.

Research has its own specialised vocabulary, and unfamiliar terminology can make it harder to understand research information or discussions about the use and sharing of health data and biosamples. EPND's Lay Glossary, launched on the occasion of World Alzheimer's Month, is aimed primarily at lay people, including people affected by neurodegenerative diseases and members of the wider public, who may not have specialist research experience.

Importantly, the glossary was developed with people with lived experience. Alzheimer Europe and other EPND partners worked closely with the EPND Patient Expert Group (PEG), bringing together people with dementia and carers/supporters through Alzheimer Europe's European working groups, alongside people with Parkinson's disease and parkinsonism

from the Federacion Espanola de Parkinson's Spanish Parkinson's Advisory Group. Researchers from across EPND also contributed their expertise.

Through consultations and written feedback, PEG members reviewed definitions and advised on the glossary's structure, navigation, accessibility and user-friendliness. Pilot online versions were also tested with people with dementia and carers/supporters, helping to refine the presentation and functionality.

The result aims to balance accessible language with enough detail to give users a useful basic understanding of unfamiliar terms. It can support people considering taking part in research or sharing their data and samples, as well as anyone seeking to better understand neurodegeneration research.

Gerda van Tongerloo is a passionate dementia advocate and Vice Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia. Diagnosed with vascular cognitive impairment around nine years ago, she combines her lived experience with extensive advocacy and research involvement. She believes that the lived experience is crucial for research and the active participation of people with neurodegenerative diseases can broaden the perspective of professional researchers. Gerda says: "I hope the lay glossary will help to better understand the challenges and limitations people with neurodegenerative diseases face."

The glossary will remain a living resource, to ensure it benefits as many people as possible. We welcome suggestions for new terms, clearer definitions or improvements to its functionality. Members of the public are specifically encouraged to propose additions or changes, and volunteers from Alzheimer Europe's working groups will continue to contribute to revisions.

To share feedback, please contact Dianne Gove at dianne.gove@alzheimer-europe.org

Explore the Lay Glossary: <https://epnd.org/lay-glossary-1>

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 **94**, representing **23** 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); Vladi-

mir 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:

Austria: Elisabeth Grossman (S&D). **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 Sbail (Greens/EFA); Marie

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EUROPEAN ALZHEIMER'S ALLIANCE

14 SEPTEMBER:

Nina Carberry MEP calls for prioritisation of dementia during European Parliament Plenary Session



Co-Chair of the European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA), Nina Carberry MEP (EPP, Ireland), has made an intervention during the European Parliament Plenary Session calling for dementia to be prioritised at an EU level.

During her intervention, she noted that September is Alzheimer's Awareness Month, as well as highlighting that 9 million people currently live with dementia in the EU, with the number rising to 14.3 million by 2050 – an increase of 60%.

Additionally, she highlighted the recent Alzheimer's Europe exhibition and the engagement of the "FTD brothers" in the European Parliament, which conveyed to President Metsola and EU Commissioners that the time for action on dementia is now.

She highlighted that many actions were taking place across research, health, data sharing, prevention and care but that required an EU level plan, with dedicated funding, to coordinate different aspects.

She concluded by noting that the cost of dementia is already significant but that the cost of inaction from this point forward will be far greater.

MEP Carberry's intervention is available at:

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/ple-nary/en/vod.html?mode=unit&vodLanguage=EN&internalEPId=2017094669199&providerMeetingId=20260914-0900-PLenary#>

21 SEPTEMBER:

Five new MEPs join the European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA) following Alzheimer Europe's European Parliament exhibition



Following Alzheimer Europe's successful reception and exhibition in the European Parliament (31 August – 4 September), the European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA) has welcomed five new members. They are:

- Mohammed Chahim (S&D, Netherlands)
- Elisabeth Grossman MEP (S&D, Austria)
- Javi López MEP (S&D, Spain)
- Marit Maij MEP (S&D, Netherlands)
- Ciaran Mullooly (Renew, Ireland)

Alzheimer Europe is delighted to welcome these members to the EAA and looks forward to working with them to prioritise dementia at an EU level.

The EAA is a cross-party group of 94 MEPs from 23 countries, who have committed to working with Alzheimer Europe to prioritise dementia as a policy issue at an EU level.

The full list of EAA MEP's is available at: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/policy/european-alzheimers-alliance/members>

EU DEVELOPMENTS

1 SEPTEMBER:

European Commission responds to question on hearing health and dementia



The European Commission has responded to a written question from 16 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) asking about hearing loss in the EU, which highlighted that around 8% of dementia cases can be attributed to this modifiable risk factor.

The MEPs included Manuela Ripa (EPP, Germany), Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP, Czechia), Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (EPP, Romania), Liudas Mažylis (EPP, Lithuania), Eleonora Meleti (EPP, Greece), Jagna Marczałajtis-Walczak (EPP, Poland), Elena Nevado del Campo (EPP, Spain), Alex Agius Saliba (S&D, Malta), Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis (S&D, Lithuania), Ondřej Krutílek (ECR, Czechia), Elisabetta Gualmini (Renew, Italy), Ciaran Mullooly (Renew, Ireland), Majdouline Sbai (Greens/EFA, France), Mounir Satouri (Greens/EFA, France), Sebastian Everding (GUE/NGL, Germany) and Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL, Finland).

Specifically, the question asked: "How does the Commission plan to strengthen prevention and early detection of hearing loss across Member States? What actions will the Commission take under EU4Health and related initiatives to improve access to hearing care and reduce environmental factors contributing to hearing loss?" In its response, the European Commission stated referred to existing programmes of work underway, including the "Healthier Together" non communicable diseases initiative, Prevent-NCD Joint Action and the Joint Action on Dementia (JADE). Additionally, it cited work underway in projects such as Care4Elders and READIHEAR.

The full European Commission response is available at:

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-002380-ASW_EN.html

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-002380-ASW_EN.html

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-002380-ASW_EN.html

https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-002380-ASW_EN.html

8 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe join EU4Health CSA call on operating grants



Alzheimer Europe has joined with 186 signatories of a statement coordinated by the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance (CSA), calling for the restoration of meaningful, adequate and predictable operating grants, under EU4Health and beyond.

The statement calls on the European Commission to act upon the concerns raised by Member States and put into practice the principles set out in the EU Civil Society Strategy, including the commitment to provide CSOs with adequate, sustainable and transparent funding that enables meaningful participation in policymaking.

The statement responds to the challenging situation facing health civil society following the discontinuation of EU4Health operating grants in 2025. Whilst not directly impacting Alzheimer Europe, we strongly urge the European Commission to restore meaningful, adequate and sustainable operating grants for EU health civil society under EU4Health in 2026 and beyond, so that our colleagues across Europe can continue to carry out their vital work representing patients and communities, contributing independent expertise and participating meaningfully in EU policymaking. For health civil society, the

removal of these grants has had serious consequences including staff cuts, office closures, and significantly reduced activities.

Across Europe, CSOs are facing increasing financial pressure and a more challenging operating environment. Sustainable and transparent funding is essential to maintaining an independent, diverse and effective civil society and ensuring that it can play its full role in European democracy. As the EU prepares its next Multiannual Financial Framework, the experience of health civil society raises concerns about the precedent this could set for CSOs across sectors.

The signatories therefore join Member States and Members of the European Parliament in calling on the European Commission to restore meaningful, adequate and sustainable operating grants for EU health civil society under EU4Health in 2026 and beyond, and to translate the commitments of the EU Civil Society Strategy into concrete action.

The fully statement is available at: <https://eu4health.eu/support-for-health-civil-society/>

16 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe reacts to President von der Leyen's 2026 State of the Union address



President Ursula von der Leyen's 2026 State of the Union (SOTEU) address, delivered on 16 September from the European Parliament in Strasbourg, has set out the European Commission's agenda for Europe, with a strong focus on security, defence, technological sovereignty and resilience. Climate change, migration, artificial intelligence and Europe's capacity to compete globally featured prominently, alongside a proposal to open the door for Canada to become the EU's first "Associate Member".

The priorities laid out in the SOTEU reflect a challenging geopolitical and economic environment across the European continent and beyond. While many of these parameters will have an important bearing on health, Alzheimer Europe is disappointed to see little reference to health as a standalone political priority. This stands in contrast to 2023, when President von der Leyen presented the European Health Union as one of the major achievements of her first mandate.

For Alzheimer Europe, the declining political visibility of health is concerning. Europe's demographic changes are continuing apace. In 2025, 99 million people in the EU were aged 65 or over, representing 22% of the population, while the working age population accounted for 63.6%. At the same time, our prevalence figures indicate that the number of people with dementia in the EU27 is projected to increase from 9.1 million in 2025 to 14.3 million in 2050, an increase of 58.1%. Dementia already carries an estimated annual societal cost of EUR221.4 billion across 30 European countries, with a majority attributable to informal care.

Against this backdrop, health policy cannot be viewed principally through the lenses of security, resilience or competitiveness. Europe also needs a direct response to the growing health and care needs created by demographic change.

There are a few positive signals from the 2026 SOTEU. During her address, President von der Leyen announced, "We will launch a European Care Deal to address the challenges linked to our demographic changes." The accompanying Letter of Intent reinforces this point, identifying a European Care Deal for 2027.

The Commission has indicated that the Care Deal will address the affordability, accessibility and quality of care, workforce challenges, formal and informal caring and investment in care services. Alzheimer Europe hopes that care will be understood not simply as a means of increasing labour market participation or competitiveness, but as an essential part of enabling people with dementia and their informal carers to live with dignity and support.

While the emergence of a European Care Deal is welcome and highly relevant to people affected by dementia, actions on care cannot replace policies for health. Europe needs resilient, equitable and accessible health systems that can prevent, diagnose and treat disease, as well as sustainable care systems that support people affected by dementia throughout the disease course.

In 2024, President von der Leyen's Political Guidelines committed the Commission to strengthening preventive health and stepping up work on "treatments for degenerative illnesses", building on the model of the EU Beating Cancer Plan. There is now a clear opportunity to turn these political commitments into action. In July, Alzheimer Europe wrote to President von der Leyen, noting that the European Parliament's SANT Committee is developing an Own Initiative Report on a

Neurological Health Strategy. We called for this strategy to be included in the Commission's 2027 Workplan, with dementia as a distinct priority area.

Such actions are consistent with the priorities expressed by European citizens. In the European Parliament's 2026 Eurobarometer, 51% of respondents identified physical and mental health essential for quality of life, while 46% pointed to the quality and accessibility of healthcare. These findings underline the importance of ensuring that health remains visible within the EU's political agenda, alongside security, competitiveness and resilience.

As work on the Own Initiative Report progresses, the Commission must engage with Parliament and turn political commitment into measurable change: setting a common framework

for neurological health, supporting implementation and capacity building across Member States, and monitoring progress. In the SOTEU, President von der Leyen rightly recognised that demographic change requires action on care and affirmed that "in Europe, people will always come first". That same ambition must now extend to health, so that Europe is equipped to meet the growing needs of people living with dementia and their carers now, and in the decades to come.

Read the SOTEU address:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/ov/SPEECH_26_1868

POLICY WATCH

14 SEPTEMBER:

New report assesses the economic case for Alzheimer's disease policy prioritisation



Despite growing recognition of Alzheimer's disease (AD) as a policy priority, current efforts across Europe remain insufficient. A new report, authored by Charles River Associates (CRA) and funded by Biogen, aims to assess the economic case for prioritising AD policy by estimating how the socioeconomic burden of the disease in the EU4/UK from 2026 to 2036 could be affected by a package of policies designed to enable access to diagnosis and treatment.

The analysis highlighted specific areas where more urgent action is needed, specifically:

Accelerating diagnosing patients at scale;

Supporting expansion of infrastructure and capacity over time; and

Establishing necessary access and reimbursement frameworks.

Drawing on well-established modelling approaches and recent studies on the costs of the disease and epidemiological forecasts, the methodology involved estimating a baseline on the current socioeconomic burden due to AD; modelling the future

socioeconomic burden through to 2036 under a baseline scenario of no policy prioritisation; and determining the future socioeconomic burden under a scenario in which widespread, active, and effective AD policy prioritisation enables diagnosis, treatment, and management of the disease.

The authors found that the potential socioeconomic benefits from comprehensive, active, and effective AD policy prioritisation could cumulatively reach EUR 182 billion for the EU4/UK for 2026-2036.

You can download the report and the related infographic, here:

<https://www.crai.com/insights-events/publications/assessing-the-economic-case-for-alzheimers-disease-policy-prioritisation/>

24 SEPTEMBER:

UNCRPD Committee publishes General Comment on participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities

The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities has published a new General Comment on Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



General Comment No. 11 clarifies the right of persons with disabilities to participate fully and effectively in political and public life on an equal basis with others. It emphasises that States Parties must remove legal, administrative, physical, communication and other barriers that restrict participation, including in relation to voting, standing for election, holding public office and engaging in public affairs.

In particular, it highlights the importance of accessibility, reasonable accommodation and support measures, as well as equal recognition before the law, to ensure that persons with disabilities can exercise political rights independently and without discrimination. Furthermore, it stresses the role of organisations of persons with disabilities in political and public

life and the need to ensure their autonomy, meaningful participation and access to adequate and sustainable resources. The full text of General Comment 8 is available at:

https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD%2FC%2FGC%2F11&Lang=en

SCIENCE WATCH

26 AUGUST:

New study examines hormone replacement therapy use and dementia risk



A large study using data from the UK Biobank found that hormone replacement therapy use was associated with a lower risk of dementia, with stronger associations observed in some subgroups. The findings were published in the journal *Alzheimer's & Dementia*.

Researchers analysed data from 183,450 postmenopausal women participating in the UK Biobank, an ongoing cohort study of more than 500,000 people aged 37 to 73 years at baseline. Participants were followed for an average of 13.3 years.

The study covered over 2.43 million person-years of follow-up, during which 3,948 cases of dementia were diagnosed. Women who had used hormone replacement therapy for at least one year had a 10% lower risk of all-cause dementia compared with non-users. The association was stronger among women who had undergone surgical menopause, women carrying the APOE $\epsilon 4$ allele and those with lower endogenous oestrogen exposure.

The researchers also found that the association varied according to the age at which hormone replacement therapy was initiated. Starting hormone replacement therapy between the ages of 46 and 56 was associated with the strongest reduction in dementia risk.

The study authors cautioned that the findings demonstrate an association rather than a causal relationship. As an observational study, further research is needed to investigate the potential relationship.

<https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.71679>

7 SEPTEMBER:

European wide qualitative study highlights fragmentation of health and social care



A new original research paper featured in the journal *International Psychogeriatrics* that reports the results of a large qualitative research project, has highlighted consistent fragmentation across health and social care. The study, which involved healthcare professionals ($n = 22$), social care professionals ($n = 13$), unpaid carers ($n = 37$), and people with dementia ($n = 14$) from European countries (Czech Republic, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom), tried to establish why there is disconnection between health and social care, and illuminate pockets of good practice.

The researcher team, who were brought together through the INTERDEM Taskforce on Inequalities (<https://interdem.org/>), worked collaboratively with people with lived experience and a broad multidisciplinary team to develop an interview schedule, translation processes and joint analysis plan, enabling them to bridge a wide geographic area, exposing the extent of fragmentation, regardless of country-by-country idiosyncra-

sies. Five themes encapsulated experiences: (1) Lack of adequate formal structures of connection; (2) Silo working; (3) Lack of knowledge and awareness; (4) Impacts on unpaid carers; (5) Solutions to care fragmentation.

Whilst experiences were diverse, these themes reoccurred across settings, highlighting their saliency. Some solutions were proposed – for example, scaling up the integration of care coordinators or link workers who can act as a central point of contact. Leveraging existing provision from third sector and non-profit organisations were also seen as a viable option to overcome barriers. Lastly, the authors recommended improving access to multidisciplinary care and training for carers as a means to surmount some of the challenges. The authors argue that the paper lays the foundations for a call to action, with particular emphasis on the need for national policy makers to fund and embed the necessary infrastructural changes that would help optimise pathways and subsequent care experienced.

More information on this study is available here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1041610226000773>

7 SEPTEMBER:

Sleep/wake disorders project publishes study on insomnia as risk factor for brain, mental and general health consequences in journal Sleep Medicine Reviews



The European Academy of Neurology (EAN) is conducting a study called "The Burden of Sleep/Wake Disorders: Excessive Daytime Sleepiness and Insomnia Project" and is pleased to announce that, as part of the project, a manuscript entitled "Insomnia as risk factor for brain, mental and general health consequences: an umbrella systematic review" has been published in the journal Sleep Medicine Reviews. Findings suggest, among other things, a strong association between insomnia and dementia.

Alzheimer Europe is contributing to this project. You may access the article here:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1087079226001449?via%3Dihub>

Find out more about the project and its objectives, here:

<https://www.ean.org/research/projects/sleep-wake-disorders>

Find out more about the project and its objectives, here:

<https://www.ean.org/research/projects/sleep-wake-disorders>

9 SEPTEMBER:

Blood-based screening improves efficiency of preclinical Alzheimer's trials

On 9 September, an international team of researchers published a study in Alzheimer's & Dementia investigating whether blood biomarkers could make screening for preclinical Alzheimer's disease more efficient.

The researchers analysed recruitment to the AHEAD 3-45 trial, which is testing lecanemab in cognitively unimpaired people with amyloid pathology.

At the beginning of the trial, more than 70% of people undergoing amyloid PET scans were found not to have sufficient amyloid levels to qualify. The team then developed a blood-based prediction approach using measures including the amyloid-beta 42/40 ratio, age and APOE status. The algorithm was subsequently updated to incorporate phosphorylated tau 217 (p-tau217), which improved its ability to identify people likely to have relevant amyloid accumulation. Those considered more likely to be eligible were then referred for confirmatory PET scanning.

As the approach was introduced and refined, the proportion of PET scans resulting in ineligibility fell from 71% to 31%, and eventually to 14%. The researchers also found that p-tau217 was particularly informative for identifying people with higher amyloid burden, while the amyloid-beta 42/40 ratio was more useful for identifying those with low amyloid levels. The approach showed good performance when tested in both AHEAD participants and an independent cohort.

The authors conclude that blood-based screening could reduce unnecessary PET scans and lessen the burden on both participants and research sites, while supporting efficient recruitment into trials targeting Alzheimer's disease before symptoms develop.



21 SEPTEMBER:

Remynd secures investment from Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation in clinical development of treatment for mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease

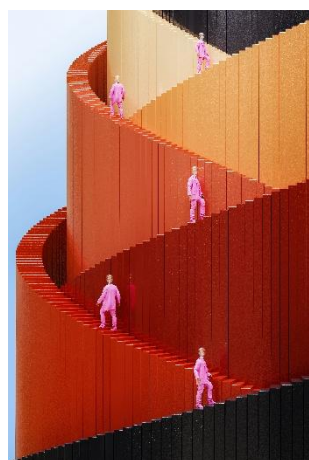
On 21 September, Remynd, a clinical-stage biotech company developing novel treatments for neurodegenerative diseases, announced it had secured a EUR 3.5 million strategic investment from the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation in the

clinical development of REM392, the company's lead candidate for the treatment of mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease. The investment will support a Phase 1b study in patients, expected to start in early 2027.

<https://www.remynd.com/news-2/remynd-secures-%E2%82AC3.5-million-investment-from-the-alzheimers-drug-discovery-foundation-to-take-its-first-in-class-septin-modulator-into-alzheimers-patients>

25 SEPTEMBER:

Differentiating mild from moderate dementia using the functional activities questionnaire



Ersin Ersözlü, Lukas Preis, Daria Gref, Aykut Aktuz, Louise Droste, Katharina Sophie Strentz and Julian Hellmann-Regen explore the use of the Functional Activities Questionnaire (FAQ) to differentiate between mild and moderate dementia in clinical and research settings. A key challenge in dementia staging is accurately identifying when a person has progressed beyond mild dementia, particularly as some

amyloid-targeting therapies are currently limited to people in the earlier stages of disease. Functional decline in instrumental activities of daily living is a key marker of this transition, yet validated FAQ cut-off scores have remained unclear.

The study was led by researchers based in Germany and drew on data from the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC) in the United States (n=34,513), with validation in two independent multicentre cohorts: the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) (n=381) and the Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration Neuroimaging Initiative (FTLDNI) (n=74). Dementia stage was defined using the Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR), while functional impairment was assessed using the 10-item FAQ.

The results showed that the FAQ differentiated mild from moderate dementia with high accuracy. An FAQ score of 18 or higher provided the best overall discrimination, with 96% sensitivity and 87% specificity in the NACC cohort. A higher threshold of 23 or higher increased specificity to 92% while maintaining 83% sensitivity. These findings were replicated in the validation cohorts.

The authors conclude that the FAQ is a robust tool for differentiating mild from moderate dementia. The proposed cut-offs may support more consistent functional staging in clinical practice and research, with the ≥ 18 threshold favouring

sensitivity and the ≥ 23 threshold favouring specificity depending on the intended use.

Find the full article here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2274580726001548?via%3Dihub>

30 SEPTEMBER:

Study explores a potential link between shingles vaccination and a lower dementia risk



In June 2026, a new study published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* investigated whether vaccination against shingles (herpes zoster) could be associated with a reduced risk of dementia in older adults. Funded by GlaxoSmithKline, the team was comprised of researchers from Brown University School of Public Health and University of Delaware, who analysed data from over 500 000 adults ages 66 years and older who were admitted to a nursing facility between 2017 and 2022. With these adults not having dementia at the beginning of the study, the researchers compared those who had received at least one dose of the recombinant shingles vaccine within 12 months of admission with those who did not.

The team found that within 4 years, 18.8% of vaccinated participants developed dementia, compared to the 24.6% unvaccinated participants, corresponding to a 24% lower relative risk.

The authors caution that this study does not prove that the shingles vaccination is directly linked to dementia prevention as there are other differences between the groups which could affect the results. Additional research, including clinical trials, is recommended to confirm and better understand these findings.

More information about this study is available here:

<https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/ANNALS-25-04689>

SPOTLIGHT ON WORLD ALZHEIMER'S DAY/MONTH

1 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe launches series of MEP videos for World Alzheimer's Month



Alzheimer Europe's exhibition in the European Parliament and the launch reception on 1 September marked the beginning of World Alzheimer's Month, which takes place during the month of September and aims to raise awareness of Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. As part of this awareness-raising month, Alzheimer Europe invited MEPs to record and share video messages about the need for dementia to be prioritised as a policy issue at an EU level. These videos were then shared on social media, both in the run-up to and during the exhibition. Alzheimer Europe is hugely grateful to all ten MEPs who contributed:

- Vytenis Andriuskaitis (S&D, Lithuania)
- Nina Carberry (EPP, Ireland)
- Maria Guzenina (S&D, Finland)
- Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA, Luxembourg)
- Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP, Finland)
- Manuela Ripa (Greens/EFA, Germany)
- Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia)
- Hilde Vautmans (Renew, Belgium)
- Kristian Vigenin (S&D, Bulgaria)
- Maria Walsh (EPP, Ireland)

Across the ten videos shared, MEPs highlighted a number of different aspects of dementia, including those relating to prevention, gender, diagnosis and treatments – across all videos, the common message was the need for coordinated action at an EU level.

Alzheimer Europe shared these messages, as part of its activities around the exhibition, reception and World Alzheimer's Month, building on the messages of the [#DementiaNeedsEU](#)

campaign, which was launched during the 2024 European Parliament elections. As part of this, Alzheimer Europe highlighted the demands set out in the [Helsinki Manifesto](#).

All ten MEP videos can be viewed via our website: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/european-parliament-exhibition>

Pictured: MEPs attending the European Parliament exhibition launch on 1 September 2026

1 SEPTEMBER:

"Dementia Concerns Us All: Sign the call for Early Diagnosis and Better Quality of Life" - Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders launches campaign during World Alzheimer's Month

Dementia affects us all.

Your voice can make a difference!

The Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders calls on the Greek State to:

- ensure reimbursement of new diagnostic tests by the National Organization for Healthcare Services Provision (EOPYY)
- ensure equal access to new treatments
- provide financial and meaningful support to family caregivers
- adopt a comprehensive national law on dementia
- ensure access to Memory Services throughout Greece, regardless of place of residence.



Sign here

or
scan the
QR code



Dementia concerns us all. Now is the time to act.

On 1 September, at the start of World Alzheimer's Month, the Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders launched a call for signatures to promote early diagnosis, equal access to modern treatments and better quality of life for people living with dementia and their families.

Dementia is one of the major public health challenges of the 21st century in Europe and in Greece, more than 200,000 people are estimated to be living with dementia, while hundreds of thousands of family members provide daily care, often without adequate support.

Scientific progress is changing the landscape of dementia diagnosis and treatment. New biomarkers, including cerebrospinal fluid tests, amyloid and tau PET imaging, and emerging blood-based biomarkers such as p-tau217 and amyloid-beta 1-42, can support earlier and more accurate diagnosis. At the same time, new treatments may slow disease progression in eligible patients diagnosed at an early stage.

Early diagnosis can provide earlier access to appropriate treatment, better care planning, longer preservation of independence and improved quality of life for both individuals and their families.

Across Europe, health systems are adapting to these developments by expanding access to modern diagnostic tools, preparing for new treatments, strengthening support for family caregivers and developing national dementia strategies. Greece should also ensure that its citizens can benefit equally from these advances. The campaign calls for five key actions:

1. reimbursement of modern diagnostic tests through the Greek National Health Insurance Organization
2. equitable access to newly approved treatments for eligible patients
3. financial and practical support for family caregivers
4. adoption of a comprehensive legal framework protecting the rights of people with dementia and their caregivers, and
5. the development of Memory Clinics throughout the country, ensuring access to assessment and support regardless of where people live.

Early diagnosis is no longer simply a medical goal. It is an essential step toward dignity, autonomy, informed choices and better care. During September, 2,544 electronic signatures and 1,052 handwritten signatures were collected. Greece has the opportunity to act now and ensure that advances in science translate into meaningful support for every person affected by dementia.

Sign here:

<https://www.alzheimer-federation.gr/index.php/en/component/rsform/form/3-no-title?Itemid=101>

15 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Poland opens an exhibition called "It's Still Me – Living with Alzheimer's Disease" in the Polish Parliament during World Alzheimer's Month

On 15 September 2026, the exhibition "It's Still Me – Living with Alzheimer's Disease," prepared by Alzheimer Poland, opened in the Polish Parliament. For the first time, people living with dementia revealed their faces to convey the message that dementia can affect any of us; they showed that people living with dementia are among us in large numbers—it is estimated that approximately 618,000 people in Poland live with dementia.

Following the exhibition opening, a joint meeting was held by the Parliamentary Team on Central Nervous System Diseases



and the Parliamentary Team on Alzheimer's Disease. Distinguished Polish experts took the floor, including the National Consultant in Neurology, Prof. Bartosz Karaszewski. The discussion was guided by the message that there is a human being behind every diagnosis, and that no one with dementia—or their loved ones—should be left to manage alone.

Facebook link about the event:

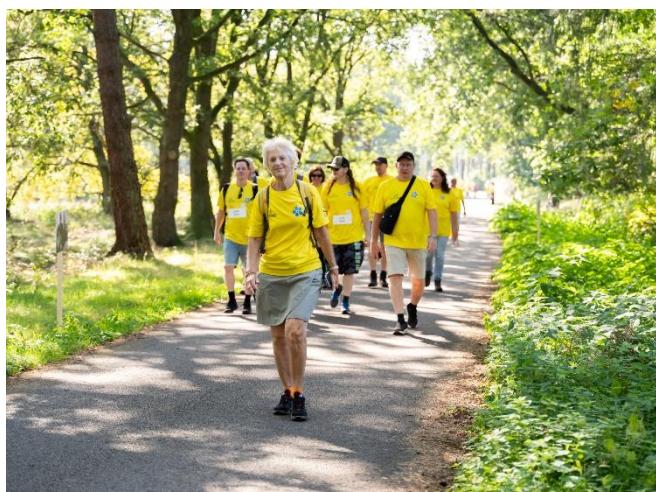
https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid01Uw441DEshjewchY-onZNPf3q95Sduxo8Gk4PFLUtoTLhbsC2xg8D44XPhV2c88Wtl&id=100079319247350

20 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Nederland's Memory Walk brings people together



On 20 September, Alzheimer Nederland organised a Memory Walk which raised more than EUR 332,000. Besides being a fundraising event, it also brought together people who walked with or walked for people living with dementia. By getting sponsored to walk 6, 10, 20 or 40 km, participants turned their sense of powerlessness into action. During this meaningful Walk, they raised money together for dementia research and support for people affected by dementia.

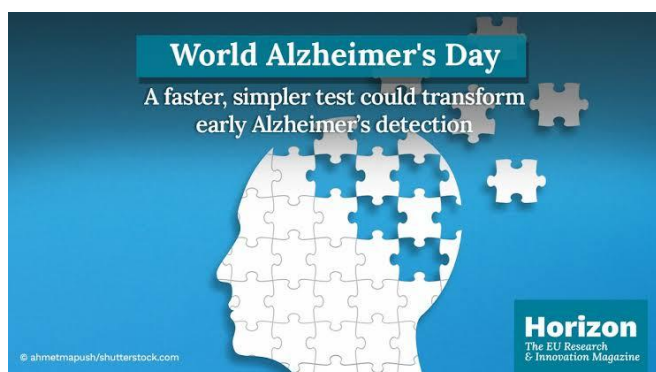


Halfway along the route, Alzheimer Nederland led all walkers through the “Unforgettable Kilometre”, a place where cherished memories take centre stage. There, beautiful, sad and moving stories came to the fore. There was a “memory field” with little windmills shaped like forget-me-nots where people could write the name of the person they were walking with or for.

Dutch actor and TV presenter Buddy Vedder was among the 1,400 people who took part. Mr Vedder is producing a musical adaptation of the book “Tout le bleu du ciel” by Mélissa Da Costa. To fully empathise with the role of a man diagnosed with dementia at a young age, he spoke with people living with dementia. He believes it is important for his production team to gain a better understanding of dementia, which is why they all took part. Buddy Vedder said: “I hope that by taking part, I can inspire people to go the extra mile for others in these times of polarisation.”

21 SEPTEMBER:

Horizon Magazine highlights its article “A simple blood test could change how Alzheimer’s is diagnosed” for World Alzheimer’s Day



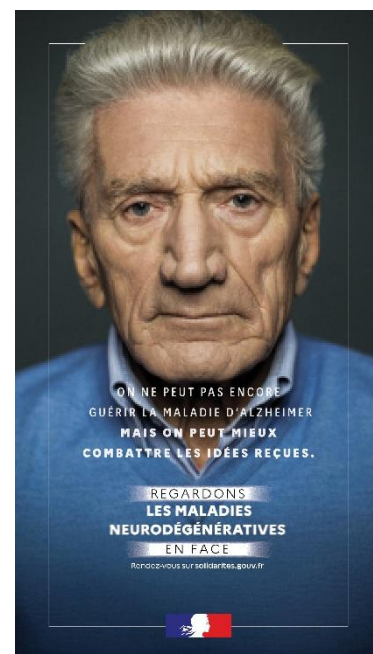
On the occasion of World Alzheimer’s Day, 21 September, Horizon Magazine highlighted an article examining how a

blood test, combined with an ultrathin material derived from graphite, could significantly advance efforts to detect Alzheimer’s disease at its very earliest stage, even before symptoms appear. The article, “A simple blood test could change how Alzheimer’s is diagnosed”, features contributions from Jean Georges, Executive Director, Alzheimer Europe. It can be read, here: https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/horizon-magazine/simple-blood-test-could-change-how-alzheimers-diagnosed?pk_source=X&pk_medium=social_organic_stakeholders&pk_campaign=international_day

21 SEPTEMBER:

A new national awareness campaign is launched in France on World Alzheimer’s Day

On 21 September 2026, on the occasion of World Alzheimer’s Day and in the frame of its Neurodegenerative Diseases Strategy 2025-2030, the French Ministry of Health, Autonomy and Disability launched a national awareness campaign on social media. More than 1.6 million people in France live with a neurodegenerative disease. This campaign aims to shift perceptions, tackle stigma and give a voice to people directly concerned. It



also focuses on bringing direct information to the general public, particularly on prevention, diagnosis and existing solutions to support people living with dementia or another neurodegenerative disease, as well as to their carers and supporters.

A page has been specifically created on the Ministry’s website to provide information and guide users to available resources, particularly the websites of the different organisations such as France Alzheimer: <https://solidarites.gouv.fr/vivre-avec-une-maladie-neurodegenerative>

The campaign is driven by a key message: “Let’s face up to neurodegenerative diseases” to live better together and enhance inclusivity. It will run until June 2027, during which time it will cover all the various pathologies. It features posters designed for regular social media posts and interviews with individuals living with these conditions are also being shared.

On 21 September, the general public was introduced to **Yannick**, living with Alzheimer's disease, who shared his moving message.

On a different note, even though organisations such as France Alzheimer will be supporting and reposting the campaign since its objective is essential, they nevertheless regret the limited scale and budget allocated to the rollout of this campaign, and France Alzheimer notes that it would have had a much greater impact if it had also been broadcast on national radio and through national TV spots.

21 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer's Week in Latvia – Alzheimer Latvia encourages people to stay one step ahead of dementia



To mark World Alzheimer's Day on 21 September and World Alzheimer's Week, Alzheimer Latvia (LAA) carried out a range of activities as part of the activities organised by the Riga City Municipality. The aim was to provide people with clear and practical information about dementia, its risk factors, and ways to support brain health.

As part of LAA's project "One Step Ahead of Dementia – Understanding, Action, Support", information about dementia and dementia prevention has been available in 27 Riga libraries since June. LAA provided information stands, posters and thousands of free informational materials, giving library visitors the opportunity to learn more about maintaining memory and cognitive health. A particular new feature was the opportunity for library visitors to try SmartBrain, a digital cognitive training programme. LAA made the programme available on library computers, allowing people to try a range of free exercises for attention, memory, thinking and other cognitive abilities.

During Alzheimer's Week, LAA also organised a total of seven educational meetings and lectures in libraries and senior communities, with more than 200 participants. The sessions focused on how to recognise early changes in cognitive abilities, which lifestyle factors may influence dementia risk, and what individuals can do to support their own brain health.

These activities are part of LAA's ongoing work to make the conversation about dementia in Latvia more open and accessible, and to ensure that people have not only information about prevention, but also concrete, simple and practical tools they can use in everyday life.

21 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer's Care Armenia marks World Alzheimer's Day 2026 with series of national activities



Alzheimer's Care Armenia (ACA) marked World Alzheimer's Day 2026 through a series of national activities focused on raising dementia awareness, expanding community-based services, strengthening professional capacity, and advancing dementia care in Armenia.

A key milestone was the launch of four new Memory & Support Cafés, expanding ACA's community-based network to 11 Memory & Support Cafés across Armenia. The new cafés in Dilijan (pictured), Kapan/Syunik, Yeghegnadzor/Vayots Dzor, and Ashtarak/Aragatsotn provide older adults with opportunities for social connection, cognitive and psychosocial activities, and meaningful engagement, while creating an important support network for families and caregivers.

ACA also co-hosted the national conference "Developing Dementia Care in Armenia" in collaboration with the National Institute of Health (NIH). The conference brought together health professionals and national stakeholders to address the development of dementia services, professional education, research, and the continued implementation of Armenia's national dementia strategy.

World Alzheimer's Day activities also highlighted ACA's growing investment in the dementia-care workforce. In September, ACA launched its Dementia & Mental Health Fellowship Program, developed in partnership with the Armenian American Medical Association (AAMS), providing specialised education, supervision, and practical community experience for professionals working with people affected by dementia. The Fellowship Program as well as the expansion of the four Memory & Support Cafés is supported by the generosity of the Armenian Women's Welfare Association (AWWA).

These activities demonstrate ACA's continuing commitment to building a coordinated, community-based dementia and mental health care system in Armenia—connecting awareness, education, professional development, family support, and direct services.

ACA is deeply grateful to its partners, including the ministries, community leaders, professionals, volunteers, and supporters, whose collaboration is helping strengthen dementia care and support throughout Armenia.



Pictured: The Alzheimer's Care Armenia team in 2026

21 SEPTEMBER:

More than 2,000 handmade forget-me-nots bring people with dementia and the community together in Zagreb, Croatia

On 21 September, an installation made of handmade forget-me-nots was presented in the courtyard of University Psychiatric Hospital Vrapče, Zagreb, Croatia to mark World Alzheimer's Day. The forget-me-nots were created by patients, staff, families and members of the wider community. Most were crocheted or woven, while flowers made using other techniques were also welcomed, as the invitation was open to everyone who wished to take part. More than 2,000 flowers were eventually brought together for the installation.

Patients were involved throughout the process, not only making forget-me-nots but also helping to assemble and install the



final piece in the hospital courtyard. In this way, work created through individual contributions became part of a shared result that could be seen and experienced by others. The initiative also strengthened the ongoing collaboration with the University of Zagreb Faculty of Textile Technology, which, together with its students, contributed to shaping and creating the final installation. The collaboration will continue through further joint activities.

By bringing the work of patients and the wider community into a shared public space, the installation also offered a simple way of drawing attention to dementia and the people living with it. The programme also included a lecture on the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and treatment options, open to patients, families and other interested members of the public. Each forget-me-not began with someone taking the time to make a single flower. Together, they formed one installation, bringing many individual contributions into one shared whole. And at the heart of it was the simple message carried by the flower itself: Don't forget me.

21 SEPTEMBER:

On World Alzheimer's Day, Dementia Lithuania organises "From Early Diagnosis to Life After Diagnosis" - a cross-disciplinary, person-centred event for everyone

On 21 September, World Alzheimer's Day, Dementia Lithuania organised an online seminar exploring the journey from recognising the first signs of dementia to navigating the period following diagnosis. The event was facilitated and curated by Ieva Petkutė, founder of Dementia Lithuania and initiator of the TADAM Network of Dementia-Friendly Museums. More



than 1,500 people from across Lithuania watched the seminar live, highlighting the strong need for accessible information about dementia, diagnosis and support.

The seminar brought together medical, social care and lived-experience perspectives. Dr Jūratė Macijauskienė, geriatrician, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Nursing at the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU), discussed early signs of dementia and the diagnostic process. Dr Greta Najūtė, neurologist and Head of the Centre for Memory and Other Cognitive Disorders at LSMU Kaunas Clinics, addressed dementia risk and emphasised the importance of distinguishing dementia from normal ageing.

A panel discussion focused on “Steps After Diagnosis”, bringing together Dr Arūnas Vaitkevičius, neurologist at Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Clinics and Associate Professor at Vilnius University Faculty of Medicine, Ramunė Mazaliauskienė, psychiatrist and psychotherapist and President of the Lithuanian Psychiatric Association, Miglė Maniušytė, Deputy Director for Social Work at Fabijoniškės Social Services Centre, and Aurelija Babinskienė, Senior Adviser at the Agency for the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The professional perspectives were complemented by Rita Matulienė, auditor and Board Member of Dementia Lithuania, who shared her personal experience of caring for her mother and the journey towards diagnosis.

The seminar also introduced the “Steps After Diagnosis” resource, designed to help people living with dementia and their families understand and plan the first steps following diagnosis.

The event was part of Dementia Openness Days 2026, organised by Dementia Lithuania and Social Art Projects. The key supporter of the programme was Eli Lilly and Company.

22 SEPTEMBER:

“Dementia is part of human diversity”: Lithuania’s Dementia Openness Forum



On 22 September, the “Dementia Openness Forum” brought together people living with dementia, family members and carers, cultural, health and social care professionals, practitioners and academics to explore how to reduce stigma and create greater opportunities for people living with dementia to participate in cultural and community life.

The forum was organised by Ieva Petkutė (pictured above), founder of the association Dementia Lithuania and initiator of TADAM, the Network of Dementia-Friendly Museums, together with Social Art Projects. TADAM aims to support cultural institutions in creating more accessible and inclusive environments for people living with dementia.



A key focus was the commitment of Lithuania’s leading museums to the network. Dr Arūnas Gelūnas, Director General of the Lithuanian National Museum of Art, Milda Gembickienė, Deputy Director General of the Lithuanian National Museum, and Daina Kamarauskienė, Deputy Director General for Museum Activities at the National M. K. Čiurlionis Museum of Art, confirmed their intention to participate in TADAM. The network aims to strengthen museum staff competences, improve access to cultural services, develop new programmes

and foster cooperation between museums, the dementia community, and health and social care sectors.

The role of the arts was also central to the Forum. Participants took part in creative workshops designed to encourage active listening, explore people's needs and build safer and more meaningful relationships through creative experience. The event concluded with a dance performance by Vaiva Paukštė, inspired by the experience of a family caring for a person living with dementia.



The closing discussion returned to the lived experiences of people living with dementia and their families. Professor Jonas Ruškus emphasised the importance of making these experiences visible in public life: "The more we see people's stories and real experiences in the public sphere, the more we will see that dementia is part of human diversity." Mida Vengeliauskaitė, who cares for her husband living with dementia, closed the Forum with a message about finding hope, meaning and possibilities for living fully despite difficult circumstances.

The Forum was part of Dementia Openness Days 2026 which sought to promote a more open understanding of dementia and highlight culture as a means of creating more inclusive communities. The main supporter of the programme was Eli Lilly and Company.

23 SEPTEMBER:

"The power of slowing down: from welcome to meaningful engagement" - Dementia Lithuania organises practical session at House of Stories of the Lithuanian National Museum

On 23 September, museum and cultural professionals gathered at the House of Stories of the Lithuanian National Museum in Vilnius for a practical session exploring how museums can create more dementia-friendly, inclusive and meaningful experiences.

The event brought together two international experts: Bairbre-Ann Harkin, Curator of IMMA Horizons at the Irish Museum of Modern Art, and Cristina Bucci, co-founder of the cultural association L'Immaginario and a member of the Tuscan Alzheimer Museum Network. The event was facilitated by Ieva Petkutė, the initiator of TADAM: Dementia Friendly Museum Network and the found of the association Dementia Lithuania. Bairbre-Ann Harkin invited participants to consider the importance of slowing down and creating attentive relationships. Her session explored how the museum experience can be adapted to the person rather than expecting the person to adapt to the museum. From the initial welcome and finding one's place in the space to looking at artworks and engaging in conversation, small changes in pace, communication and attention can help create a more welcoming experience for people living with dementia.



Cristina Bucci led a practical session centred on movement, the senses and embodied experience. Participants explored how non-verbal communication, sensory experiences and movement can create new ways of connecting with artworks, museum spaces and other people. The exercises encouraged participants to look beyond conventional ways of communicating and to recognise different forms of participation and engagement.

Importantly, the event was not limited to presentations. Participants actively tested approaches and methods that can be adapted to their own museums and cultural settings. The practical format encouraged reflection on how cultural professionals can create spaces where people do not need to hurry, perform the role of a "typical visitor" or meet predefined expectations.

The session highlighted a central principle of dementia-friendly cultural practice: meaningful engagement begins with the person, their pace, interests, abilities and way of experiencing the world.

The event was part of Dementia Openness Days 2026, organised by the association Dementia Lithuania and Social Art Projects. It was supported by the Italian Embassy, Italian Culture Institute in Vilnius, and Creative Europe Desk LT.

23 SEPTEMBER:

Faroese Alzheimer Association marks 25th Anniversary and World Alzheimer's Day at Tórshavn Conference



The Faroese Alzheimer's Association (Alzheimerferlagið) marked a dual milestone at the Nordic House in Tórshavn, hosting a comprehensive conference to observe World Alzheimer's Day and celebrate 25 years of advocacy since its founding in 2001.

The academic programme focused on dementia status, dementia language and research. Dementia psychologist Anneke Dapper Skaaning addressed rhetoric and prejudices surrounding dementia, and Unn Justinussen, Board Member of Alzheimerferlagið, presented a proposed framework for municipal dementia services, centred on municipal dementia coordinators. The symposium also highlighted recent academic studies, including a PhD study on caregiver "masking" and research into the systemic pressures facing Faroese relatives of people with dementia.



The evening programme focused on lived experiences through deeply personal interviews. Prominent F.C. Copenhagen founder Flemming Østergaard spoke candidly about his late wife, who recently passed away from Alzheimer's disease. Additionally, Faroese musician Stanley Samuelson and his wife, Merete Messman, detailed their daily reality; Samuelson

was diagnosed with Alzheimer's five years ago and continues to actively perform on stage.



International cooperation was emphasised via a video address from Birgitte Vølund, chairperson of the Danish Alzheimer's Association, recognised for her pivotal role in educating Faroese dementia coordinators. Attendees also viewed the documentary "Birita", directed by Búi Egason Dam. Following theatre legend Birita Mohr's battle with severe Alzheimer's as her son casts her in King Lear, the film is now nominated for the 2026 Nordic Council Film Prize.

To commemorate its 25th Anniversary, Alzheimerferlagið released a new anniversary book about the association's journey since its founding in 2001, including personal stories, illustrating how the organisation has effectively "given a voice to the silence" surrounding dementia in past years.

The event concluded with the surprise elevation of Sigrun Mohr to honorary member. Ms Mohr established the association in 2001 together with several others. Following a multi-decade tenure as Chairperson and Coordinator, until her retirement last year, Sigrun Mohr attended the conference as an unsuspecting audience member before receiving the honour for her foundational public health advocacy work.



The conference attracted a large audience, generating significant attention in the Faroese media, also sparking a discussion about dementia services in the Faroese Parliament the following day. In that sense, one of the conference's most im-

portant goals was clearly achieved: raising awareness and improving public understanding of dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

24 SEPTEMBER:

How Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen is "Repainting the Narrative of Dementia" this World Alzheimer's Month



This World Alzheimer's Month, Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen looked back on the success of "Herschilderingen" ("Repaintings"), an art initiative that brought together around 300 people living with dementia from 40 care homes across Flanders. Developed in collaboration with artists, care professionals, family members and five museums, the project set out to challenge common perceptions of dementia.

Freedom to make choices

Too often, dementia is viewed through the lens of loss. "Herschilderingen" chose a different starting point. Instead of focusing on what people can no longer do, the project explored what remains: creativity, curiosity, imagination and the desire to express oneself. Participants drew inspiration from well-known artworks, not to copy them, but to create something entirely of their own. What mattered was the freedom to make choices, experiment with colours and create something meaningful together.



No words were needed

Throughout the workshops, families and care professionals witnessed moments that challenged their own expectations. One participant living with advanced dementia spent several minutes studying different paint colours. Communication had become increasingly difficult and she rarely spoke. Then a pot of dark green paint appeared. She smiled and immediately reached for it. No words were needed. Her choice



was clear. For those around her, it was a powerful reminder that identity and self-expression can remain present long after words become harder to find.

Many relatives described similar experiences. As they watched loved ones engage with the creative process, they often rediscovered abilities they thought had disappeared. One reaction was heard again and again throughout the project: "I never thought my loved one could still do this."

A different narrative about dementia

Perhaps the most meaningful aspect of "Herschilderingen" was what happened beyond the workshops. The finished artworks were exhibited in renowned museums across Flanders, where participants were welcomed not as patients, but as artists. Their work was celebrated and shared with the public. In doing so, the project offered a different narrative about dementia, one that recognises people not for what they have lost, but for their talents, individuality and contributions to society.



26 SEPTEMBER:

Malta Dementia Society organises several events throughout World Alzheimer's Month 2026



Every September, World Alzheimer's Month draws attention to dementia and the people it affects. In Malta, the Malta Dementia Society (MDS) marks this important month through events that combine awareness, fundraising and community spirit. On 11 September, MDS held its Annual Fundraising Dinner at Xara Lodge in Rabat. Guests enjoyed an evening of food and music, alongside a fundraising lottery featuring 47 prizes generously donated by sponsors. The funds raised will help MDS continue providing support and services to people living with dementia and their families. The evening also included a special appearance by the famous Maltese singer Daniel Cauchi, who performed "Niftakarna". The song has been shortlisted as one of the finalists for the Alzheimer Europe 2026 Anti-Stigma Award.

The highlight of the month was the Annual Memory Walk for Dementia on Saturday, 26 September. Participants gathered at 9.30am in front of Parliament Buildings in Valletta before walking to St George's Square and returning to the starting point. MDS was also delighted to organise a special surprise appearance by the MusicToMind™ choir for this year's Memory Walk. Everyone who took part contributed to greater dementia awareness while supporting the thousands of families affected by dementia in Malta. MDS also had an information stand in front of Parliament, where members of the team were available to raise awareness and engage with the public.

Beyond World Alzheimer's Month, MDS continues to provide support throughout the year. Its services include the Reaching Hands support group for relatives and carers, the Malta Dementia Working Group, a support group for people with dementia in the early stages, MDS Dementia Cafés, MDS Communic-Aid, physiotherapy and organised outings, as well as creative programmes such as DancingToDementia™ and MusicToMind™ which use movement, music and art to promote connection, participation and meaningful reminiscence for people living with dementia.

26 SEPTEMBER:

25th Memory Walk organised by Luxembourg Alzheimer's Association



On Saturday 26 September 2026, the Luxembourg Alzheimer's Association (ALA) organised the 25th edition of its Memory Walk on Place Clairefontaine in Luxembourg City. The day was dedicated to providing information, raising awareness, bringing people together and fostering solidarity.

From 11.00 am to 5.00 pm, visitors were able to discover the various services offered by the ALA and learn about Alzheimer's disease as well as other forms of dementia. The information stands also provided plenty of opportunities to chat, ask questions and share experiences in a friendly atmosphere. ALA's partners, the Programme Dénence Prévention (PDP) and Info-Zenter Demenz, were also present alongside the ALA team, to mark this wonderful occasion.

Throughout the day, a varied programme of events complemented the information and catering stands. Animato, Les Brasseurs, Timeless and MIL-Chouer provided musical entertainment. MIL-Chouer is an inclusive choir bringing together people with and without dementia, including some residents from the ALA's "Beim Goldknapp" residential and care home. A symbolic highlight of the day, the "Walk" allowed participants to express their solidarity with people living with dementia and their loved ones. Accompanied by a tour guide from the Luxembourg City Tourist Office, they walked together through the streets of the capital to the Gëlle Fra.

The theme of this 25th edition was "Dementia knows no age", because, contrary to popular belief, dementia does not only affect older people. It can strike earlier than one might think and turn lives that are still taking shape upside down. It can affect a colleague, a neighbour... and, behind every person affected, there are also loved ones and a whole circle of people who are impacted. Still too often invisible and misunderstood, dementia requires us to change the way we view it. Through its Memory Walk, the ALA aimed to highlight the importance of building a society in which people living with dementia can

find their rightful place and remain integrated into social and daily life.

The ALA also had the honour of welcoming Mr Max Hahn, Minister for Family, Solidarity, Community Life and Hospitality (pictured below, second from left), as well as members of the team from Alzheimer Europe.



26 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe attends Association Luxembourg Alzheimer Memory Walk during World Alzheimer's Month



Alzheimer Europe was delighted to attend the 25th annual Memory Walk organised by our colleagues at Association Luxembourg Alzheimer (ALA) on 26 September, as part of World Alzheimer's Month. Alzheimer Europe was represented at the event by Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director, Eva Hueso, Administrative and Conference Assistant, Daniela Jagneva, Project Administrator, Liv Krier, Communications Officer, and Margarita Reyes, Project Officer.

27 SEPTEMBER:

World Alzheimer Month in Türkiye: Taking Alzheimer's Awareness into the Community



World Alzheimer Month is an opportunity to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease and bring the conversation into communities. In Türkiye, the Turkish Alzheimer Association and its branches marked September 2026 with activities across the country.

Although 21 September, World Alzheimer's Day, remains an important focal point, activities took place throughout the month. The Association worked with municipalities, universities, healthcare professionals, companies and community organisations.

In İstanbul, the Association's headquarters organised a press conference with the support of Abdi İbrahim Otsuka. The Association's President was interviewed on NTV, while interviews were published in Habertürk, Cumhuriyet and BirGün. She also recorded YouTube programmes with public figures including Ceyda Düvenci and İclal Aydın, bringing Alzheimer's awareness to wider audiences.

A public Alzheimer's awareness run was organised in Bebek with Gen İlaç, Rooners, Menta TV and HOKA. The Association also participated in a seminar and panel organised by Şişli Municipality. Awareness posters appeared on 176 Modyo screens across public transport in İstanbul and Bursa, across shopping malls in nine and airports in five different cities, extending the campaign into public spaces.

Perhaps the most significant development was the opening of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality's first Alzheimer's Day Care and Living Centre in Maltepe, providing dedicated daytime support for people living with dementia and their families.

Turkish Alzheimer Association branches continued this community-based approach, with Marmara Branch working with Bakırköy Municipality, while Kadıköy Branch held seminars with Maltepe, Üsküdar and Yeditepe Universities.

Across Türkiye, branches organised seminars, expert discussions and community events. Ankara hosted its largest Alzheimer's Awareness Fair, with around 27 stands and 1,300 visitors, focusing on brain health and modifiable dementia risk factors. In İzmir, expert panels, home and hospital visits and outreach activities brought Alzheimer's awareness into local communities. Bodrum organised an art exhibition, seminars, billboards and free hearing examinations.

In collaboration with local municipalities, branches in Mersin, Bursa, Konya, Eskişehir, Manisa, Zonguldak, Samsun, Tunceli, Denizli, Van, Adana, Kayseri and Fethiye organised educational seminars as well as music, dance, theatre, poetry and arts activities.

"Together, these activities show that World Alzheimer Month is not about one day. It is about building connections, creating support and keeping dementia visible throughout the year", said the Association.

30 SEPTEMBER:

Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia organises various events during World Alzheimer's Month



During World Alzheimer's Month, Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia organised and participated in numerous events aimed at raising awareness and providing information about dementia under the slogan "Early diagnosis, better prognosis."

Press conference

In cooperation with the Medical Chamber of Slovenia, organised a press conference at which experts highlighted the importance of early recognition and diagnosis of dementia. They emphasised that timely diagnosis enables more effective medical care, better planning of comprehensive care, and greater support for people living with dementia and their families.

The conference featured Dr Bojana Beović, President of the Medical Chamber of Slovenia, Štefanija L. Zlobec, President of

Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia, Dr Polona Rus Prelog, Head of the Gerontopsychiatric Department at the University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana, Assistant Professor Dr Eva Županič, neurologist, Dr Mercedes Lovrečič, Head of the Dementia Expert Group at the National Institute of Public Health, and Damjan Miklič, Senior Criminal Police Inspector and Head of the Department for Crimes Against Life and Sexual Integrity within the Criminal Police Directorate.

National Dementia Conference

On 21 and 22 September 2026, the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) organised the National Dementia Conference, with Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia actively involved in both the development of the programme and participation.

Štefanija L. Zlobec, President of Spominčica, was a member of the conference's organising committee. Spominčica's experts presented two symposiums, two lectures and two round-table discussions, and actively participated in other accompanying activities.

Slovenian Members of the European Parliament were also invited to the conference. They had already expressed strong support for Alzheimer Europe's initiative to make dementia a priority in European policy making. The conference thus brought together experts, policymakers and other stakeholders committed to improving care for people living with dementia and fostering a dementia-friendly society.

Zdravje 2026 Business Conference

At the Zdravje 2026 Business Conference, organised by the national daily newspaper Delo and opened by Minister of Health Tadej Osterc, Štefanija L. Zlobec, President of Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia, and Associate Professor Dr Polona Rus Prelog, MD, specialist in psychiatry, Head of the Gerontopsychiatric Department at the University Psychiatric Clinic Ljubljana and member of Spominčica's Expert Council, were also invited by the organisers to speak about dementia as an invisible and costly epidemic in an ageing society.

In their presentations, they highlighted the challenges that dementia poses to individuals, their families, the healthcare and social care systems, and society as a whole. They also presented Spominčica's activities implemented within the framework of the Dementia-Friendly Local Communities programme. The programme is co-funded by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Slovenia for the period 2024–2026 through a public call for proposals to co-finance programmes in the fields of dementia management and mental health.

Educational video

The Police Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation with Spominčica produced an educational video explaining how to approach a person with dementia who has become lost. The video aims to raise public awareness of how to approach such individuals appropriately, offer assistance and ensure their safety. Watch the video on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap8UEJKE7v8>

Memory Walks

On World Alzheimer's Day, 21 September, Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia organised its traditional Memory Walk in Ljubljana, held under the honorary patronage of Mr Zoran Janković, Mayor of the City of Ljubljana.

Memory Walks were also held in numerous other locations across Slovenia. These events highlighted the importance of understanding dementia, accepting people living with dementia, and creating an environment in which people with dementia and their families feel safe, accepted and included.

Alzheimer Cafés and lectures

Throughout September, World Alzheimer's Month, Spominčica also organised an increased number of Alzheimer Cafés, dementia awareness lectures and other awareness-raising activities across Slovenia. These events were intended for the general public, people living with dementia, their families and professionals, providing opportunities to gain knowledge, exchange experiences and build connections.

Art exhibition

A special mention goes to an art exhibition held at a museum, featuring paintings created by a person living with dementia. The exhibition introduced visitors to the creativity of people with dementia and emphasised that a diagnosis does not diminish an individual's personality, talents or ability to express themselves.

Through all these events and activities, Spominčica – Alzheimer Slovenia continues to fulfil its mission of raising awareness about dementia, promoting early recognition of the condition and providing support to people living with dementia and their families. "It is essential that we all recognise dementia as a societal challenge and work together to create an environment in which people living with dementia are accepted, understood and included", concluded Alzheimer Slovenia.

30 SEPTEMBER:

World Alzheimer's Month 2026: Communities across Greece unite around dementia awareness

Throughout September 2026, organisations, health services and local communities across Greece marked World Alzheimer's Month through a wide range of scientific, educational, preventive and community-based activities.

In Athens, Alzheimer Athens organised the fourth Alzheimer Festival at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center. Under the theme "Innovation in dementia prevention and management", the two-day programme brought together scientists, healthcare professionals and the public, around personalised prevention, early diagnosis, new treatments, artificial intelligence and the rights of people living with dementia and



their caregivers. Free memory screenings, interactive workshops, cognitive and physical activities and cultural events encouraged active public participation.

In Thessaloniki, Alzheimer Hellas organised its annual World Alzheimer's Day (WAD) event at Aristotle University, focusing on prevention, early diagnosis and modifiable risk factors. Scientific presentations by university professors addressed vascular health, neuropsychological markers, anaemia, physical activity and brain health. The programme also included the Alzheimer Hellas Choir, highlighting music as a means of inclusion and social connection. On 21 September, citizens, professionals and supporters gathered at the city's Umbrellas sculpture before joining a Memory Walk towards the White Tower, both landmarks being illuminated in purple.

Activities extended across the country. In Larissa, a Memory Walk by EENAL brought the community together around early diagnosis and dementia awareness, while EPSEP in Ioannina highlighted prevention and support for families. In Serres, the "Anaplous" Day Centre of SOFPSY combined an awareness talk with a lantern-lit Memory Walk and purple illumination of municipal buildings.

In Chalkida, REMIND held the scientific conference "The Memory of Tomorrow Is Built Today," focusing on prevention, early detection of memory problems, and healthy ageing. A new regional community prevention model for Central Greece was also presented, along with practical advice on healthy daily habits, including the Mediterranean diet. Chania's association organised an intergenerational activity combining storytelling, traditional games and shared memories, bringing children and older adults together. In Heraklion, a week dedicated to prevention, early detection and support included free cognitive screening and an educational event for caregivers and professionals.

In Rhodes, "Panakeia" offered public information, blood pressure, glucose measurements and memory screening for people over 60. In Patras, "Frontizo" marked WAD through art and social awareness-its professionals attended and supported

the play "Dance with Me, Father," which explores the relationship between a daughter and her elderly father while highlighting dementia and family caregiving.

In Katerini, the Day Centre "Panagia Vimatarissa", together with the Alzheimer's Association of Pieria and the Municipality of Katerini, organised a series of activities from 13 to 23 September, focusing on dementia awareness, the importance of early diagnosis, prevention, social participation and support for people living with dementia and their caregivers.

Together, these initiatives demonstrated the breadth of dementia awareness and community engagement across Greece, while reinforcing a shared message: prevention, timely diagnosis, research, inclusion and support for caregivers are collective responsibilities that require the participation of the whole community.

30 SEPTEMBER:

touchNEUROLOGY supports World Alzheimer's Month with a social media campaign

September marks World Alzheimer's Month - a global campaign raising awareness of dementia and challenging the

stigma and discrimination that continue to affect people living with the condition.

touchNEUROLOGY was delighted to champion World Alzheimer's Month 2026 across its platforms with a number of posts throughout September, giving clinical

insights on Alzheimer's disease and dementia, all under the banner "The Earlier You Know, The More You Can Do" which highlights the importance of timely diagnosis.

touchNEUROLOGY partners with Alzheimer Europe, as well as with the European Academy of Neurology (EAN) and CONy (World Congress on Controversies in Neurology) and used September as an opportunity to also highlight their work.

Find out more about touchNEUROLOGY, here: <https://touch-neurology.com/>



MEMBERS' NEWS

3 SEPTEMBER:

France Alzheimer sounds the alarm on the French Government's inaction regarding the country's national strategy on neurodegenerative diseases



France Alzheimer is part of a collective of organisations working in the area of neurodegenerative diseases, which is sounding the alarm on the French Government's inaction, stressing "it has gone on long enough!"

After five years of waiting and one year on from its launch, the country's national strategy on neurodegenerative diseases remains at a standstill:

- The strategic committee has still not met.
- There is still no effective steering.
- There is still no clearly identified budget.

In the meantime, charities and NGOs are being called upon to carry out work presented as contributing to the implementation of the strategy, but which remains peripheral in relation to the fundamental issues at stake.

"We refuse to continue to endorse this charade of consultation, which gives the illusion that the strategy is moving forward. We will not be the bit-players in a public policy lacking in resources" they say.

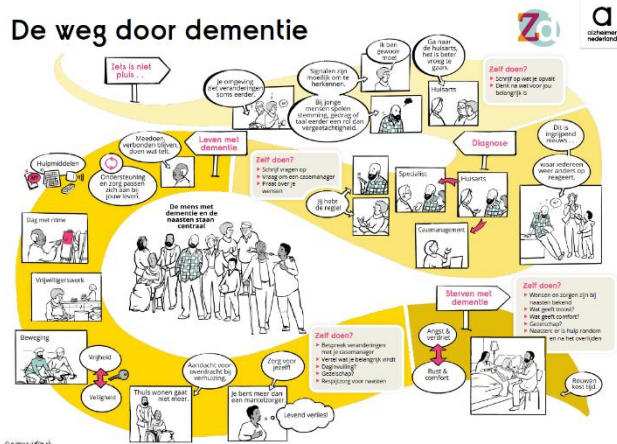
With nearly 4 million French people – those affected by the disease and their carers – being directly impacted today and bearing in mind that this figure could rise to nearly 6 million by 2050, "the time for announcements is over", they urge.

They demand action, a timetable and resources.

Read their press release, dated 3 September 2026: <https://www.francealzheimer.org/strategie-nationale-sur-les-maladies-neurodegeneratives-nous-ne-serons-pas-les-figurants-dune-politique-publique-sans-moyens/>

7 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Nederland produces a dementia-friendly version of the updated Dementia Care Standard 2026 called “Living well with dementia: what you need to know and what to expect”



In June, about 50 organisations submitted a new version of the Dementia Care Standard to the National Health Care Institute in the Netherlands. This version is intended to inform policymakers, health insurers and staff in the care and welfare sectors about what is needed to provide effective support to people with dementia and their loved ones throughout the entire course of the disease. So, what does the Dementia Care Standard 2026 mean for people with dementia and their loved ones?

Care standards exist for many conditions. These describe, from the patient's perspective, the (minimum) requirements that high-quality care for a specific condition must meet. Alzheimer Nederland has produced a dementia friendly version meant for people with dementia and their informal carers. It is called “Living well with dementia: what you need to know and what you can expect”.

It explains what support and care people can expect, and what they can do themselves. It's not just about medical care; it's also about daily life, so that people can continue to participate in society as much as possible. It looks at what aids can help people living with dementia to carry on doing what matters to them for as long as possible. A large group of people with dementia and their loved ones reviewed the draft texts and contributed ideas to the discussion chart illustrating “the journey through dementia” and its corresponding stages. The illustrations from the discussion chart are also featured in the text. The discussion chart not only makes things visual but can also help facilitate conversations, making it a practical tool.

A new feature is the focus on people with early-onset dementia, people from migrant backgrounds and those who struggle

with reading and writing. Relatives are also mentioned as a separate group with their own support needs.

The National Health Care Institute is assessing the updated Dementia Care Standard and during the month of September, they advised the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport about the way the new standard will be implemented.

21 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Scotland's National Dementia Carers' Action Network member Fiona Catterson participates in World Congress on Adult Capacity

Fiona Catterson, member of the National Dementia Carers' Action Network (NDCAN) of Alzheimer Scotland reports on her experience participating in the World Congress on Adult Capacity (WCAC):



The World Congress on Adult Capacity (WCAC), formerly known as the World Congress on Adult Guardianship, is a biennial international conference focused on the rights, autonomy, and legal capacity of older people and adults with disabilities. The congress aims to improve policies aligning with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. I was there as an invited speaker through my involvement as a member of NDCAN with my current lived experience in adult capacity. My session was entitled “Adult Capacity and Lived Experience” and took the format of an interview. My interviewer was Sarah Prentice. She is a Fitness to Practice lawyer with the SSSC – Scottish Social Services Council and also is an Independent Safeguarder, specialising in mental health law, adult incapacity training and acting as a Curatrix ad Litem. Sarah is a member of the World Congress Adult Capacity.

As I was speaking, I could see that the audience were listening and I could hear their reactions to some of the things I said. After our session several people came to speak with Sarah and I. They introduced themselves and said where in the world they were from and because of this we could see that issues here in Scotland resonated with people across the globe. Over the next two days people continued to speak with me about what I had said about the lived experience of adult capacity not matching the legal requirements and the emotional and physical toll on unpaid carers is huge.

Pictured: Fiona and her husband Ian

21 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Scotland's Active Voice involved in Collaborative Improvement Programme - Reducing Stress and Distress

Both the Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and the National Dementia Carers' Action Network (NDCAN) of Alzheimer Scotland have been involved in a Collaborative Improvement Programme in collaboration with Healthcare Improvement Scotland, Care Inspectorate and NHS Scotland since it began.

The programme aims to reduce stress and distress for people living with dementia within inpatient and residential settings by ensuring:

- effective processes are in place for the assessment and early recognition of stress and distress
- person-centred approaches are being used to prevent and manage stress and distress
- meaningful engagement with the person and carers in all aspects of care, and
- staff are confident and skilled in the prevention and management of stress and distress.

This programme tested a framework which sets out what is expected from high quality, person-centred care for people living with dementia to reduce stress and distress. The framework can be used by teams in hospitals and care homes to self-assess their service against a set of quality criteria. The criteria are based on what has been learned and is important in the prevention and management of stress and distress based on person-centred approaches. The learning from this work will inform the codesign of a national improvement offer to support other areas in Scotland.

In 2025, 59 teams joined the improvement programme – 54 teams completed the year (27 hospital teams and 27 care home teams). Teams were supported to self-evaluate their current practice, identify improvement priorities, develop change ideas and test those change ideas – 57% of teams reported testing change ideas.

Teams tested a range of change ideas including person-centred care plans, meaningful activity, early identification of stress and distress, continuous intervention, carer involvement and staff knowledge and confidence. Most of the impact reported is anecdotal and included:

- reduction of antipsychotic medication
- reduction in falls
- reduction in incidence of stress and distress, and
- improved staff understanding.

At the learning event held at the COSLA (Convention of Scottish Local Authorities) building in Edinburgh, teams which had taken part in the programme came together to share learning, problem solving and exchange ideas, celebrate the progress and build on collaboration between hospital and care home teams. SDWG member Rynagh Flynn shared a bit about Active

Voice and spoke to the teams about why this work so important to people and their families. Rynagh, fellow SDWG member Kenny and NDCAN colleague Marion, have supported and collaborated on the work attending many planning and delivery events, ensuring the voices of lived experience are central in the learning programme going forward, with another two in-person learning events planned for the autumn.

Pictured: Adeline and Maureen from the Focus on Dementia Team alongside Rynagh and Wendy from Alzheimer Scotland's Active Voice



25 SEPTEMBER:

Refreshed visual identity makes Muistiliitto more recognisable

muisti.

Muistiliitto • Minnesförbundet

Muistiliitto, the Alzheimer Society of Finland, introduced its refreshed visual identity in conjunction with its annual Dementia Week. The aim of the renewal is to strengthen Muistiliitto's recognisability and ensure more consistent communication, while making the work carried out by its nationwide network more visible. The new logo carries the organisation's new brand name, "Muisti", whilst the official name remains Muistiliitto.

The refreshed visual identity does not change Muistiliitto's core mission. At its heart are still the well-being and dignity of

people living with dementia and their loved ones, as well as their right to information, support and understanding.

"Dementia affects a huge number of people in Finland, but awareness of Muistiliitto's work does not yet reflect the importance of the issue. The refreshed visual identity is part of our long-term efforts to make both the issue and the support available more visible", said Executive Director Katariina Suomu.

28 SEPTEMBER:

Muistiliitto launches campaign "Movement Belongs to Everyone"

Muistiliitto, the Alzheimer Society of Finland, has launched a campaign called "Movement Belongs to Everyone" to challenge prejudice related to dementia and promote the right of people living with dementia to participate in physical activity and everyday movement as equal members of society.

People with dementia often move less than their peers, even though physical activity helps maintain wellbeing and functional ability. One reason is stigma: assumptions, fears, and negative attitudes that can limit participation more than the disease itself. The campaign encourages people to see the person behind a diagnosis.

At the heart of the campaign is a short film that follows a man living with dementia on his way to his regular exercise class.

At the sports facility, he accidentally (or on purpose) enters a dance studio instead of the exercise hall. The young dancers inside are surprised by the unexpected visitor, but they welcome him into the group. Together, they discover the joy of movement, challenge stereotypes, and create an uplifting moment that shows how inclusion can begin with a simple act of acceptance.

The campaign highlights that

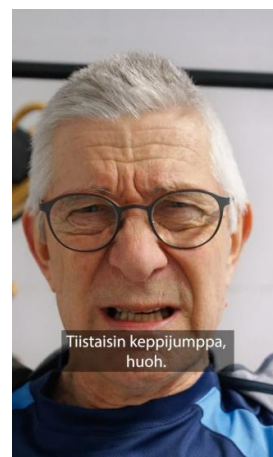
every case of dementia is different, and many people can remain active and capable for years after diagnosis. Small actions, positive encounters, and open attitudes can make a significant difference in enabling participation.

The message of the campaign is simple: Movement belongs to everyone.

People living with dementia deserve the opportunity to move, participate, and be themselves without fear of judgment or exclusion.

Watch the campaign video (in Finnish) on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DdA9uReD3Fk/?stkn=eGVIZ2ZyZG1wb2Rx>



LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

16-17 SEPTEMBER:

Sertaç Hatice, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, shares her reflections from the EDEM Conference in Albania



I had the privilege of participating in the EDEM Conference on Ethics in Dementia in Albania where I participated in a panel discussion and shared a presentation on the ethical dilemmas we faced on my Mom's dementia journey. I will remember this experience not only for the discussions, but also for the people, the place and the connections it created.

First and foremost, EDEM is a wonderful group of people. What struck me most was the diversity of people in the room, social workers, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists, academics, ethicists, physicians, advocates and family caregivers came together around a shared interest in improving the lives of people living with dementia and those who care for them. It created an environment where professional knowledge and lived experience could meet as equally valuable parts of the conversation.

And then there was Albania. It was my first visit, and I was impressed by its beauty, warmth and energy. From Tirana to Berat and Elbasan, the hospitality made the experience even more special.

I was particularly pleased to participate in the panel “Stigma and Ambivalent Grief.” The panel brought together three complementary perspectives: ethics and dignity, psychological adaptation and emotional ambivalence, and my own perspective as a family caregiver and advocate. We explored what “loss” means in dementia—not simply the loss of abilities, but changes in relationships, communication, independence, identity and expectations for the future. We also discussed whose grief is recognised, whose emotions remain difficult to express, and whether the expectation to “cope well” can itself become another pressure for families. Big thanks to Dorota Szcześniak, Gabija Jarašiūnaitė-Fedosejeva and Prof. Dr Chris Gastmans for the excellent discussion. My own presentation allowed me to bring the lived experience of caregiving into the conversation. Speaking not as an academic or an ethicist, but as a daughter, caregiver and advocate, reminded me how important it is that the voices of families are included when we discuss ethics in dementia.

One of the most meaningful moments came at the end of the conference, when I was presented with a copy of “Everyday Ethical Issues in Caring and Supporting Someone Living with Dementia”, printed by Istanbul Gedik University Press.

I returned home with new friendships, new perspectives and a renewed appreciation of how much we can learn when we bring ethics, professional expertise and lived experience into the same room.

21 SEPTEMBER:

“Behind the figures: what dementia care means for families” - Annick Germeys, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, shares her experience during a public broadcast

On World Alzheimer’s Day, I had the opportunity to share my experience as a partner and carer on VRT NWS, Belgium’s public broadcaster, following the publication of a new study by Sciensano, funded by Stop Alzheimer, the Belgian Alzheimer’s Research Foundation, on the societal cost of dementia in Belgium. The figures are striking. Dementia care currently costs Belgian society more than EUR 7 billion per year. An estimated 214,736 people are living with dementia in Belgium today, and this number could rise to around 353,000 by 2050. A significant part of the care is carried by families. People living with a person with dementia provide, on average, 139 hours of care, supervision and emotional support per week. Even when someone moves into a residential care facility, relatives continue to provide an average of 30 hours of support each week.

The study estimates the economic value of informal care at EUR 2.9 billion per year. If this care were entirely replaced by professional care, its estimated value would rise to EUR 10.6 billion. These figures do not represent an actual bill, but they make visible the enormous contribution families are already making. Thanks to Stop Alzheimer, I was given the opportunity to put a human face to these figures and to share what caring for a person with dementia actually means in everyday life.

My husband Geert was diagnosed with young-onset Alzheimer’s disease in 2022, at the age of 53. For me, being his carer is not simply about the number of hours I spend providing care. It means that you gradually take over the management of your partner’s life. You become not only a carer, but also a driver, planner, administrator, gardener, handyman and many other things your partner used to take care of. Responsibilities that once belonged naturally to them gradually become yours. Not because you chose this role, but because it becomes necessary. You think ahead. You organise appointments. You make decisions. You support communication when words become difficult. And even when you are not physically providing care, the care is often still in your mind.



worden verzorgd
door mantelzorgers zoals Annick



Annick Germeys

Het is
bijna een tweede job die je doet.

Much of this happens naturally because you love the person you are caring for. But love does not make the change less profound. The life we had imagined together is no longer the life we are living. Yet life continues. I remain Geert’s wife. Being a carer has become an additional dimension of our relationship, not a replacement for it. We still have family life, humour, small joys and moments of connection.

That is why these figures matter. They show how much our societies already rely on informal carers. But they should also lead us to ask what families need to make this sustainable. Carers need timely information, a clear point of contact after diagnosis, flexible

respite care, practical support and services that adapt as dementia progresses. And they need to be involved in dementia policy and research. This is precisely why I became involved with Alzheimer Liga Vlaanderen and Alzheimer Europe: to help ensure that the lived experience and collective voice of carers are heard when decisions about dementia care, policy and research are being made.

Behind every figure is a person, a relationship and a family. A life that has taken an unexpected turn but continues to be lived. This was the broadcast : <https://vrtnws.be/p.K7vmEpVmA6o>.

28 SEPTEMBER:

Kevin Quaid, Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, shares his speech from the opening of the Alzheimer Europe exhibition at the European Parliament

Over the past seven years I have been lucky enough to have been in the European Parliament and the European Commission each year in Brussels representing the over 12 million people who are affected directly by dementia all over Europe and each occasion is special in its own right and where I have been able to ask questions when there was a need to this was different.

I was honoured to make a speech in the European Parliament at an exhibition and it would be up there with some of the greatest honours of a lifetime for me, to share the platform with so many MEPs and some from Ireland who you would have to be proud of, none more so than my good friend Nina Carberry, for someone who was not in mainstream politics for a long time she found her feet very fast in Europe and I have to say works tirelessly for not just people all over Europe but especially the people of Ireland.

Trevor Salmon from the carers' group spoke as well as the FTD Brothers Cian and Jordan who have done amazing work in highlighting dementia especially front temporal dementia, which unfortunately took their mum at a very early age. Living with dementia brings its challenges and some days are good and more are not great, being involved with Alzheimer Europe and having the privilege to speak in the European Parliament was definitely one of the good days.

Here are the words that I spoke:

"Today, I am delighted to be at the launch of this remarkable exhibition here, at the heart of Europe I genuinely believe the information on display should be compulsory viewing, for decision-makers across the European Union, because it shows the reality of dementia and the scale of the challenge facing our continent and indeed the world. It is easy to be distracted by the many challenges Europe faces today. There are many urgent issues competing for attention.

But one thing is clear. When the EU decides something matters, Europe can make a difference. That is why we are here today.

We are asking Members of the European Parliament not just to look at this exhibition but to listen. Listen to the voices of people living with dementia. Listen to their families and carers. Listen to their experiences. Because those of us living with dementia are the real experts in what it means to face this condition every day. And then we ask you to speak on our behalf.

Today, more than 12 million people across the EU are living with dementia. Within a generation, that number is expected to reach almost 20 million. Yet despite those numbers, dementia still does not receive the political attention it deserves.

Dementia is not just a health issue. It is a social issue, an economic issue and a human rights issue. It affects how people work, travel, access services, stay connected to their communities and live their everyday lives. Europe can make a difference in many ways. Of course, research matters. Greater investment and stronger cooperation between researchers, healthcare systems and industry can help drive the breakthroughs that people are waiting for.

The European Union can help tackle stigma and improve understanding of dementia. It can champion the rights, dignity and inclusion of people living with the condition. It can encourage governments, businesses and public services to think differently about accessibility and participation. The decisions made in Europe influence many aspects of everyday life, from transport and banking to digital services, consumer protection and employment policy. Those decisions can help ensure that people living with dementia are included rather than excluded.

Europe also has a vital role in supporting the workforce that an ageing population will need. In Ireland, we often speak about the importance of home care and community-based support in helping people stay in their homes for as long as possible. Through employment and social policy, the European Union can help support carers, strengthen the care workforce and promote high



standards across Member States. It is encouraging to see the growing attention being given to neurological health within the European Parliament SANT committee.

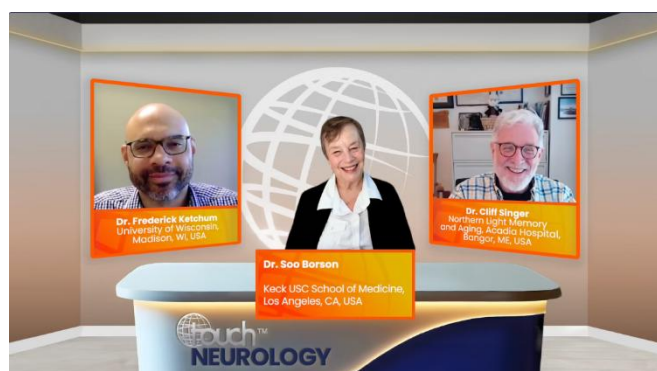
That is an important first step. But we need to go further. We need European countries working together. We need the European Commission to recognise dementia as one of the major challenges facing our ageing population. And we need a coordinated European response that matches the scale of that challenge. Together, we can build a Europe that understands dementia, values people living with the condition, and acts with urgency to support them and their families.

And on a personal note, I would love to see this exhibition come to Ireland during our Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It deserves to be displayed in a place where political leaders can see both the scale of the challenge and the inspiring work being done across Europe to address it."

NEW RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS

1 SEPTEMBER:

touchNEUROLOGY presents panel discussion
"Reimagining Alzheimer's care: Harnessing
subcutaneous therapies and early diagnostic
innovation to transform patient lives"



touchNEUROLOGY is pleased to present a panel discussion on "Reimagining Alzheimer's care: Harnessing subcutaneous therapies and early diagnostic innovation to transform patient lives" with expert faculty discussing recent advances in timely, biomarker-guided diagnosis, and considering how current and emerging intravenous (IV) and subcutaneous disease-modifying therapies may impact clinical practice and enable treatment individualisation based on the underlying pathology of Alzheimer's disease.

This activity has been planned and implemented by Partners for Advancing Clinical Education (Partners) and touchIME in collaboration with the Gerontological Society of America (GSA).

Watch the panel discussion: <https://touchneurologyime.org/subcutaneous-therapies-and-diagnostic-innovation-in-alzheimers/>

1 SEPTEMBER:

New book "When the Memories Fade" blends
practical caregiving guidance with insights
into how families can hold onto their loved
ones' stories, voices and wisdom

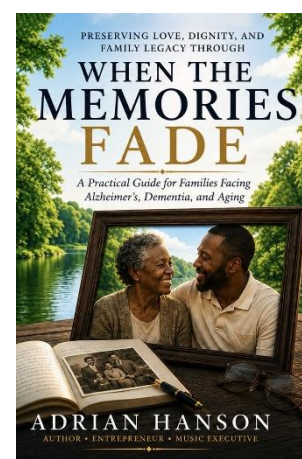
Adrian Hanson, author of the book "When Memory Fades", calls his 85-year-old mother in Jamaica several times a day. His book shares what that daily practice has taught him and provides a roadmap for any family in a similar situation, wanting to hold on to what their loved one carries inside them.

Mr Hanson was born and raised in Vere, Clarendon, Jamaica - a rural community shaped by strong family bonds, deep cultural roots, and a tradition of honouring elders that left a permanent mark on how he understands the world. He is an entrepreneur and devoted son and his new book blends practical caregiving guidance with insights into how families can hold onto the stories, voices, and wisdom of the people they love, before time takes the opportunity away.

It's aimed at anyone with an ageing parent, not only those facing a diagnosis. For adult children who want to ask the right questions while there's still time, caregivers who need both practical tools and emotional support, and families who want to preserve their history, not just manage a health crisis.

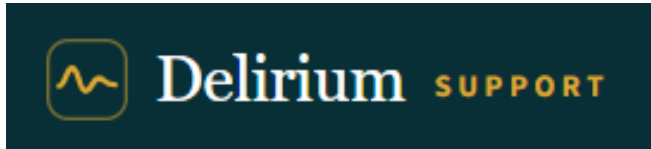
The book is available via: <https://a.co/d/0dYJCJuT3>

Find out more about the book and its author, Adrian Hanson: www.whenthememoriesfade.com



20 SEPTEMBER:

Delirium Support website offers free resources to help tell the difference between delirium and dementia

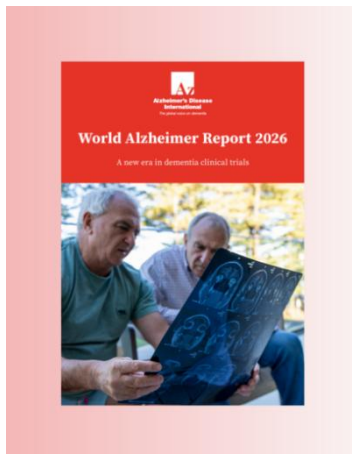


The independent website "Delirium Support" is offering a new printable delirium–dementia comparison, practical family sheets and a short course, all of which are free. The website content is written by Professor Alasdair MacLulich, Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Edinburgh

These new resources can be accessed without registration, via: <https://deliriumsupport.com/delirium-or-dementia/>

21 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer's Disease International publishes World Alzheimer Report 2026



On 21 September, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) published its World Alzheimer Report 2026. This year's report is called "A new era in dementia clinical trials". The report, co-authored by ADI and Paul Gallagher, focuses on the new era of dementia clinical trials, bringing with it new opportunities alongside im-

portant questions about how research can be made more inclusive, accessible and effective to enable emerging and future innovation for dementia treatments.

It explores key issues including recruitment participation and retention, the importance of global representation, diversification and their impact on inclusive dementia research, and the need to increase awareness and understanding of clinical trials among medical practitioners. The report also explores what clinical trials are and how they work, while sharing personal perspectives and experiences from people involved in clinical research.

By bringing together evidence and lived experiences, the report shines a light on recommendations to ensure the next generation of dementia clinical trials are fit to deliver global innovation for future treatments.

Read the report: <https://www.alzint.org/resource/world-alzheimer-report-2026/>



AE CALENDAR 2026

DATE		
1-2 OCTOBER	PROMINENT consortium meeting (Stockholm, Sweden)	Ana, Margarita
6 OCTOBER	Research Insights: Brain health across the dementia continuum	AE staff
6-8 OCTOBER	PREDICTOM annual General Assembly (Copenhagen, Denmark)	Dianne, Sarah
19 OCTOBER	Consultation with the members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement	Soraya
20-21 OCTOBER	European Medicines Agency (EMA) Patients' and Consumers' (PCWP)	Cindy
26-27 OCTOBER	European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) meeting (Dublin,	EDCWG, AE staff
26-27 OCTOBER	European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) meeting	EWGPWD, AE staff
26-27 OCTOBER	INTERDEM network Annual Meeting (Dublin, Ireland)	INTERDEM, AE staff
27-29 OCTOBER	36 th Alzheimer Europe Conference #36AEC (Dublin, Ireland)	AE staff
28 OCTOBER	Networking Dinner and Anti-Stigma Award Ceremony (Dublin, Ireland)	AE staff, AE Foundation
30 OCTOBER	FluidX-AD General Assembly Meeting (Dublin, Ireland)	Cindy, Margarita

CONFERENCES 2026-2027

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
27-29 OCTOBER 2026	36 th 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



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



ÉIRE2026.EU
IRELAND2026.EU
Imeacht Gaoimhir | Associated Event

Associated Presidency Event



THE Alzheimer
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences