Alzheimer Europe

Newsletter
OCTOBER 2026

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WELCOME

It brings me great pleasure to report that the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC), which took place in Dublin from 27 to 29 October, was a huge success. We are pleased with the positive feedback we have received about the event and the varied agenda we put together, along with our fantastic co-hosts The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, to whom we are very grateful for helping us this conference to fruition. It was wonderful to welcome 1,400 delegates alongside distinguished guests including Micheál Martin TD, Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland). You can find a special "Spotlight on 36AEC" section at the start of this newsletter.

Congratulations to the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), who organised and presented the popular first plenary, and I was delighted to deliver the first keynote lecture, looking back at my three decades with Alzheimer Europe, as I prepare to hand the reigns to Deputy Executive Director Angela Bradshaw, at the start of 2027. Congratulations to all plenary speakers and our other two keynote lecturers, Eamon O'Shea and Lorina Naci, as well as to the organisers of the ten special symposia on the agenda, including "From biomarkers to lived experience: Acting earlier in Alzheimer's disease ", organised by Lilly, and "Patient-focused drug development" organised by Roche.

Thank you to all who attended, presented and supported the conference, with a special thanks to event gold sponsors, Lilly and Roche; silver sponsors, Bristol Myers Squibb and Siemens Healthineers; and bronze sponsors, BioArctic, Biogen, Eisai, Firalis, MSD and UCB. Last but not least, thanks to our Conference and Events team, and the rest of the team of course, for their hard work and dedication to ensure the conference went off without a hitch!

Aside from #36AEC, much else happened in Dublin, including a networking dinner and award ceremony for our 2026 Anti Stigma Award - won this year by singer-songwriter Marlene Rosa, INTERDEM 's Annual Meeting, a meeting of the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia, and meetings of the EWGPWD and EDCWG. We also launched our latest Dementia in Europe magazine, which includes a special interview piece prior to my retirement. If you enjoyed Dublin, I invite you to mark the dates of next year's conference, taking place in Belgrade (Serbia) on 12-14 October 2027.

In other important news this month, we highlight a new dementia strategy in Iceland, the second session of our Research Insights webinar series - this time focusing on dementia risk reduction and prevention, a new Joint European Statement authored by Eurocarers and calling for real flexibility to become a reality for people combining work and care - launched on European Carers' Day and co-signed by Alzheimer Europe, and the UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham's announcement that he is making dementia research a national priority.

I hope you enjoy reading all of this and more in this October edition of our newsletter!

Jean Georges, Executive Director

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SPOTLIGHT ON 36AEC

26-27 OCTOBER:

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



On Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 October, the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG) travelled to Dublin (Ireland) for in-person meetings, prior to the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (36AEC). During the meetings members discussed key issues currently being addressed through Alzheimer Europe's project and operating grant work.

On day one, the EWGPWD reviewed Alzheimer Europe's 2026 Yearbook which focuses on national dementia strategies and policies across Europe. The group also contributed to the DEMCAPS project (Dementia care and psychosocial support interventions estimating health-economic impact to support access and implementation in practice), reflected upon dementia as a disability and provided feedback on the 'Journey Companion App', which is being developed in the AI4HOPE (Artificial Intelligence Based Health, Optimism, Purpose, and Endurance in Palliative Care for Dementia) project. On day two members received feedback from researchers on an ongoing project focussed on comorbidities, and they contributed their perspectives on advanced dementia.



Members of the EDCWG similarly discussed the pending Yearbook, provided their reflections on dementia as a disability and advanced dementia, and supported AI4Hope researchers progress the Journey Companion App. Their views on two European projects, ENSURED (Empowering needs-based social health and inclusive care for rarer dementias in moderate to advanced stage) and PREDICTOM (Prediction of Neurodegenerative Disease using an AI driven Screening Platform), were also sought.

The pre-conference meetings were highly productive, and all parties left with new insights and ideas to drive change in their respective fields.

26-27 OCTOBER:

European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia meets in Dublin, prior to #36AEC



The European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia held an in-person meeting on 26 and 27 October in Dublin, Ireland, in advance of #36AEC. 19 European countries were represented at the meeting Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Czechia, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom (Scotland), in addition to representatives from JADE Health, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and from Alzheimer Europe.

Over the course of the two-day meeting, the group discussed issues relating to modifiable risk factors on dementia and population attributable factors in each country, the recent developments on access to disease modifying therapies, OECD data on care services and strategies across Europe, as well as the latest developments at an EU and international level.
National member organisations gave updates on the recent developments in their countries, primarily focused on dementia strategies, including a new national dementia strategy in Iceland and the development of a new strategy in Belgium (Flanders). Other countries provided updates on the status of the implementation of their strategies, including focuses on tools for carers, the development of dementia registries and services to support people with dementia to live well in their communities.

26-27 OCTOBER:

INTERDEM network hosts Annual Meeting in Dublin



INTERDEM is a network of researchers interested in psychosocial interventions, made up of more than 600 researchers and academics with different professional disciplines, spread across 20 countries (18 of which are in Europe). On 26 and 27 October, the INTERDEM network hosted its Annual Meeting at the Convention Centre Dublin, prior to #36AEC.

On 26 October, the meeting kicked off with a welcome from INTERDEM Chairperson Marjolein de Vugt, to all researchers present, before a presentation by Prof. Kate Irving from Dublin City University on “Ethics of Care: Vital importance in supporting a person living with dementia”.
Following this, a workshop, titled “Diversity in research – Perspectives, Challenges, and new Insights” was chaired by Clarissa Giebel and Martina Roes, with presentations by Hannah Christie, Shadreck Mwale and Orii McDermott. The first day closed with a business meeting and a group dinner.

On day two of the INTERDEM Annual Meeting, three taskforce meetings explored topics such as Social Health, Dementia Education and Training, Young Onset Dementia, Intersectionality, Prevention, Palliative and End of Life Care, Methodology, and Assistive Technology.
The meeting was rounded out with the presentation of the INTERDEM Academy award, chaired by Sara Bartels. Joint first place for the Award went to Jacoba Huizenga and Electra Chatzidimitriou. Congratulations to both of them!
Alzheimer Europe is proud to be a key partner of INTERDEM.

27 OCTOBER:

New Dementia in Europe magazine published to coincide with 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference



Alzheimer Europe is delighted to present the 52nd edition of its policy magazine, Dementia in Europe, launched to coincide with the start of the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC). The conference took place at the Convention Centre Dublin, where delegates were invited to stop by the Alzheimer Europe stand if they wished to pick up a copy.
This edition of the magazine and this year’s conference mark the final ones during the tenure of our Executive Director, Jean Georges, who will take retirement at the end of 2026. After 30 years leading our organisation from strength to strength, he will leave behind an impressive legacy. The first Keynote session at this year's conference was delivered by Jean, who took delegates through his time at Alzheimer Europe, and with his retirement in sight, our first article in this magazine is an interview looking back at some highlights and milestones. We all wish Jean, who is featured on the cover of this special edition of our magazine, a wonderful retirement, and we will miss him very much!
This packed edition also shares many interesting developments at national and European level across policy, research, Public Involvement, advocacy and care, and to mark #36AEC, we also have a dedicated section called "Spotlight on Ireland". In this dedicated section, readers can find out more about the work being done in the Conference’s host country. We are particularly

grateful to Kieran O'Donnell, Minister for Older People and Housing in Ireland, for agreeing to do an interview for this section, as well as to our conference co-hosts The Alzheimer Society of Ireland for their support and contributions to this section of the magazine.
We hope everyone enjoys this edition of our magazine, which can be downloaded, here: https://bit.ly/DementiaInEurope52

27 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Europe welcomes Alzheimer's Disease International and new CEO Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell to its Annual Conference and discusses further collaboration



On 27 October, during the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (36AEC) in Dublin, representatives of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) met with the Board of Directors and the Management Team of Alzheimer Europe (AE). AE was delighted to welcome Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell, new CEO of ADI, together with Chris Lynch, Deputy CEO, Director of Policy, Research, Communications & Publications, and Gloria Mantineor, Membership Manager, to the meeting and to 36AEC. During the meeting, Jean Georges, Executive Director, gave a brief introduction to AE's aims and activities. The current collaboration framework between the two organisations was also discussed, with suggestions around further ways in which we can work together in the future.
We look forward to continuing and expanding the existing collaboration with ADI, as part of the international dementia community. Find out more about our partnership with ADI, here: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/our-work/partners/alzheimers-disease-international



27-29 OCTOBER:

36th Alzheimer Europe Conference takes place in Dublin under the banner "Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership", with more than 1,400 delegates from 44 countries

The 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#36AEC) "Sláinte: Building momentum in dementia through policy, research and partnership" was formally opened on the afternoon of 27 October. The conference took place at the Convention Centre Dublin (CCD) between 27 and 29 October 2026, attracting over 1,400 delegates from across Ireland, Europe and beyond, with 44 countries represented. On the agenda were three Keynote sessions, three Plenary sessions, 28 sponsored sessions, six series of Quick Oral Presentations counting 69 presentations, 50 parallel sessions involving 207 presentations, and 444 Poster presentations. All our presenters shared their research, knowledge and experience in a warm and welcoming atmosphere of collaboration.

Day one, 27 October
We were pleased to have the support of the Irish Presidency of the Council of the European Union to this year's conference, offering a timely and unique platform to elevate dementia on both national and European policy agendas. We were also delighted to welcome Micheál Martin TD, Taoiseach (Prime Minister of Ireland) to the Opening Ceremony.
Having brought this prestigious event to Ireland allowed us to showcase national progress in dementia care, research, and advocacy. It also was an important opportunity to connect with people living with dementia and their families, carers and supporters, as well as volunteers and staff of Alzheimer associations, policy makers, health and social care professionals, researchers, academics and industry representatives from all over Europe and beyond.



Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe, addressed delegates at the Opening Ceremony on 27 October, officially opening the conference and saying a special word of welcome to the Prime Minister and other distinguished guests. She thanked event gold sponsors, Lilly and Roche; silver sponsors, Bristol Myers Squibb and Siemens Healthineers; and bronze sponsors, BioArctic, Biogen, Eisai, Firalis, MSD and UCB, as well as making special mention of the outstanding partnership Alzheimer Europe was privileged to enjoy with its conference co-host, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland.



Up next, Cathy Reynolds, Chair of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, welcomed delegates to Dublin, highlighting the valued relationship with Alzheimer Europe and Ireland's special place in the European organisation's history. She welcomed the conference as an opportunity to showcase progress, learn from colleagues across Europe and help shape the future of dementia care and support, whilst ensuring that people living with dementia and their families remained at the centre of the conversation.

She then welcomed Micheál Martin TD, Taoiseach / Prime Minister of Ireland to take the floor. He welcomed delegates and offered his support for the Alzheimer Europe Conference. In a press release from The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, ahead of the event, the Taoiseach said:
"It is a great honour for Ireland to host the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin, in partnership with The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, bringing together people from across Europe at a time when dementia is an increasingly important issue for Irish society and for countries across Europe.
"The growing number of people living with dementia is something we need to plan for as our population ages. We need to ensure that our support and services continue to respond to people's changing needs, enabling people with dementia to live well and independently for as long as possible, while also providing the right support for families and carers.
"Hosting this major European conference gives Ireland an important opportunity to show leadership and learn from the experience of our European partners as we consider how best to respond to dementia in the years ahead. I look forward to welcoming delegates to Dublin and to seeing Ireland play its part in improving the lives of people with dementia and their families, both here at home and across Europe."



It was truly an honour and a privilege to have An Taoiseach at our conference and demonstrated both the importance of the event to the country of Ireland, and the importance of Alzheimer's and dementia on the political agenda.



The importance of dementia on the European policy agenda was also in evidence, with Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, speaking to delegates via a video message. He thanked Alzheimer Europe and the Irish Presidency for bringing this important discussion to Dublin and emphasised some of the ways in which the European Commission is taking action to address the challenges presented by Alzheimer's and dementia, under the Healthier Together initiative, supporting cooperation between Member States and civil society on mental health and neurological diseases.

Our conference in Dublin marked the final one during the tenure of our Executive Director, Jean Georges, who will be retiring at the end of 2026. After 30 years leading Alzheimer Europe from strength to strength, he gave the first Keynote speech at this year's conference, taking delegates through his time with our organisation, looking back at the many highlights and milestones.
"Our conference theme, Building Momentum in Dementia Through Policy, Research and Partnership, is particularly meaningful to me", he began, noting that his presentation would focus on the importance of partnership, during his time at Alzheimer Europe. He shared a number of milestones, including the beginnings of the organization, in 1990, when three pioneers in the field of Alzheimer's disease, Franz Baro (Belgium), Michael Coote (Ireland) and Henk ter Haar (Netherlands) held a meeting in Leuven (Belgium), and founded Alzheimer Europe. The growth and success of the organisation were made possible only through partnerships, and he stressed that it was only through the support of our national member associations, collaboration with European



and national policymakers and researchers that we have been able to achieve so much. He drew particular attention to our longstanding partnership with INTERDEM, the European network of researchers working in psychosocial research on dementia. He also mentioned the importance of support from corporate sponsors, without whom our Annual Conference would not be possible.

“The principles underpinning Alzheimer Europe’s very existence have remained constant throughout the organisation’s 36-year history: cooperation across borders, mutual learning, and a shared commitment to ensuring that dementia receives the recognition and political attention it deserves”, he stated. “They have shaped our identity and guided our work, placing collaboration and partnership at the very heart of our organisation. None of the past three decades of accomplishments would have been possible without partnership. Partnership with our national member associations, national and European policymakers, researchers, industry sponsors and other supporters”.

Above all, he stressed the importance of involving people with lived experience. He thanked the members, chairs and vice-chairs, both past and present, of our European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), which was founded in 2012, and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), founded in 2022. “I believe that this human dimension, this collective voice and this commitment to shared decision-making are among the things that set Alzheimer Europe apart.”

Looking to the future, he said: “There is still much to do. We must ensure that progress in research translates into equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, care and support. We must continue to challenge stigma and discrimination, protect the rights of people living with dementia and make sure that no country or community is left behind.”

He thanked the Board and Chair, as well as past board members and chairs of Alzheimer Europe and its dedicated team. He also took a moment to wish his successor, Angela Bradshaw, all the best in the role of Executive Director – a role which she will take as from 1 January 2027. “Angela will be taking on this responsibility at an important moment in our history”, he said. “And I am confident that, with her leadership and the commitment of the Board, staff, members and partners, Alzheimer Europe will continue to grow, develop and build on the foundations we have established together.” With the importance of partnership and collaboration as his primary message, he ended by reminding everyone, “we are stronger when we work together.”



Following the opening ceremony and keynote lecture, delegates had the chance to join one of ten parallel sessions, and after a short break, a further ten parallel sessions were held, after which the conference programme for Day 1 ended with a Welcome Reception held in the Foyer of the CCD. This was an opportunity for delegates to network but also to relax after a busy day, with welcome words coming from Andy Heffernan, CEO of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, who wished everyone “Céad míle fáilte", a traditional Irish expression that translates to "a hundred thousand welcomes".

This was also an opportunity for us to thank Jean Georges for 30 years of hard work and dedication to our cause. Deputy Executive Director Angela Bradshaw invited to the stage our Chairperson, Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Chairperson of the Alzheimer Europe Foundation, Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein, Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, Kevin Quaid, and Dianne Gove, Director for Public Involvement and Ethics, to share some memories of working with Jean and express the gratitude of the Board, Foundation, working groups and staff of Alzheimer Europe.

Day two, 28 October

Prior to the first plenary on the morning of the second day, delegates were able to choose from a possible ten parallel sessions. The first Plenary of the conference was a joint session organised by the members of the EWGPWD and the EDCWG, who took to the stage to share their lived experience with delegates. The session was moderated by Kevin Quaid, Chairperson of the EWGPWD (Ireland) and Trevor Salomon, Chairperson of the EDCWG (United Kingdom).



Kjell Ehn, a member of the EWGPWD from Sweden, was the first speaker. His talk, “My inner game with Alzheimer’s” focused on how he mentally handles the awareness of his continuously declining cognitive and physical functions, and how he has dealt with the challenges he has experienced along the way.
“The main challenge is that you know that there is only one way, and that is downward”, he said, “and you don´t yet know when, how, or at what speed.” He also stressed how hard it is to accept all the things that he suddenly, from one day to the next, has had to start preventing himself from doing, “just for the fear of not being capable”.
He concluded that, when someone is diagnosed with a cognitive disorder such as Alzheimer's disease, there is a need to provide support not only for the physical aspects of the condition but also for handling its mental and emotional challenges. “This support is essential if people, like me, are to continue living life fully and enjoying it for as long as possible.”

Up next, Christina Zioga, member of the EDCWG from Greece, spoke about “The caregiver phenotype: Clinical observations on multitasking, genetic paranoia, and the therapeutic efficacy of peer support”. Her talk explored the lived reality of caring for a person with dementia while balancing multiple roles—as a mother, wife, physician and daughter, highlighting the often invisible emotional, practical and financial burden carried by families, particularly when formal health and social support systems fall short. She gave voice to the private fears that many carers rarely express, asking questions such as: “Could I be in my mother’s place in a few years?” and "Will I lose my ability to learn?" She pointed out that “Living alongside Alzheimer's inevitably raises questions about genetics, risk and our own future, while reminding us that dementia affects far more than memory.”
Finally, her talk reflected on where carers find the strength to continue. She said that the European Dementia Carers Working Group had become a source of solidarity, friendship and shared understanding for her and others. She finished with a message of warmth, humanity and hope: “Across borders and cultures, carers discover that they are not alone—and that sometimes, a hug, a laugh and genuine human connection can carry an extraordinary load.”

The next speaker, Hatice Sertaç Süslü, member of the EDCWG from Türkiye, presented “From flight mode to fight mode: How community support transformed me into an empowered family care”. She began by noting that longer lives are worth celebrating — but that they require support:
“My mother’s 80th birthday made me reflect on how many small victories, medical interventions and acts of care can make a longer life possible. Longevity is rarely one miracle; it is hundreds of small victories shared by people living with dementia, families and healthcare professionals.”
She also pointed out that dementia transforms whole families, not just individuals. “Dementia does not happen only to the person diagnosed. It changes relationships, roles and everyday life for everyone around them. Yet meaningful connection can survive even when memory changes.”
Her closing message was again one of humanity and of strength in connections with others: “You do not have to fight alone. My own journey taught me that being a good daughter did not mean doing everything myself. Support from the Alzheimer’s Association, peer carers, healthcare professionals, my family and an international community taught me to ask for help. My message to other families is simple: connect with your community before you think you need it.”

Stuart Dougall, member of the EWGPWD from the United Kingdom (Scotland) shared that the best advice he was given regarding living well with dementia was quite simple: “Have a focus, have a routine, keep motivating yourself, keep trying things you find difficult, and above all, live your life.”
“My life has changed”, he continued, “but it is far from over. I’m determined to keep doing the things I enjoy for as long as I can.” He also said that technology had become an important part of helping him to stay independent, and that “sometimes the simplest solutions can make the biggest difference.” He decided early on that he would make the very best of his situation for as long as possible, and his powerful message for others diagnosed with dementia was “Dementia may change your life, but it doesn’t have to define it.”



Trevor Salomon and Kevin Quaid thanked all the speakers for their excellent presentations and the session closed with a heartfelt and rapturous round of applause from the audience. Kevin also presented a trophy to former Chairperson of the EWGPWD, Chris Roberts, who attended the conference in Dublin together with his wife and supporter Jayne Goodrick, in thanks for his years with the group and the important role he played in the group and in our work.

In the middle part of the day, several symposia took place, including one called “From biomarkers to lived experience: Acting earlier in Alzheimer's disease”, organised by conference Gold sponsors Eli Lilly & Company. Concurrent special symposia included one organised by DEMPACT and one by Fondation Médéric Alzheimer, as well as one from our co-hosts The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, with European and national policymakers (see separate articles about the Lilly and ASI symposia). The afternoon also saw a further ten parallel sessions, and throughout the day, delegates were able to view poster presentations, exhibited in the Foyer, and to speak to poster presenters about their research.



The second Keynote lecture of the conference was delivered by Eamon O’Shea, Emeritus Professor of Economics in the School of Business and Economics at the University of Galway. His lecture, entitled “Public policy for dementia in Ireland: past, present and future”, emphasised that care for people with dementia has seen significant improvement in Ireland in the past twenty years.

“There is now a much stronger focus on personhood and psychosocial functioning across all aspects of care”, he said, noting that the new Model of Care for dementia has a strong emphasis on the availability of services to allow for earlier assessment and diagnosis. He also stressed, however, that policy implementation continues to be a problem, “mainly because of inadequate funding to support a genuine person-centred, autonomy-oriented approach to care of people with dementia” and pointed out that “there is still no statutory scheme for home care provision in Ireland. Family carers continue to be the main source of support for people with dementia.”

In closing, Prof. O’Shea drew attention to some of the differences in services and supports for people with dementia across the country: “There is wide variation in waiting times for diagnostic assessment of dementia. Workforce shortages and dementia training are also impacting on dementia care in Ireland,” he said.



The second plenary session of the conference took the form of a roundtable discussion, moderated by Angela Bradshaw. The session was titled “What place for dementia in national and European disability, social and brain health programmes?”, a question which was debated by four expert speakers, Iracema Leroi (Global Brain Health Institute, Ireland), Soohyun Kim (OECD Health Division), Anthony Scerri (University of Malta) and Louise Hopper (Dublin City University, Ireland).

At the end of Day 2 of #36AEC, three further symposia were organised, one by JADE - the Joint Action on Dementia, one session sponsored by EMEIS, and another called “Dementia Researchers of the Future" (see separate article about this symposium).

Day three, 29 October

Prior to the first plenary in the morning, delegates were able to choose from a possible ten parallel sessions and, throughout the day, delegates were able to view poster presentations, exhibited in the Foyer, and to speak to poster presenters about their research. The third plenary of the conference looked at advances in diagnosis, treatment and care and was moderated by Mario Possenti (Vice-Chairperson of Alzheimer Europe, Italy).

Professor Seán Kennelly, a Consultant Geriatrician and Director of the Institute of Memory and Cognition at Tallaght University Hospital, and Clinical Associate Professor of Medical Gerontology at Trinity College Dublin, presented “The Evolution of Alzheimer’s Disease Diagnosis: From Clinical Uncertainty to Biological Precision and Personalised Care”.



Professor Wiesje van der Flier is Chief Executive Officer of Alzheimer Nederland and also holds an endowed chair at the department of Epidemiology & Data Science of Amsterdam UMC. She took the floor next, with a talk called “Advances in treatment from the perspective of clinicians, patient advocates and patients”.

The third and final speaker at this plenary session was Emma Wolverson, a Clinical Psychologist and Professor of Ageing and Dementia at the Geller Institute of Ageing and Memory, University of West London (United Kingdom) with a presentation on “Critical moments in dementia care: advancing research and practice”.

Prior to lunch, several symposia took place, including one called “Patient-focused drug development”, organised by conference Gold sponsors Roche and moderated by Sasha Bozeat (Switzerland). Concurrent special symposia included one organised by Fundació Pasqual Maragall and one by Fondation Médéric Alzheimer (see separate articles about the Roche symposium and about Fundació Pasqual Maragall’s involvement in the conference).



The afternoon saw a further ten parallel sessions, after which the third and final Keynote Lecture of the conference was delivered by Lorina Naci, Professor of Psychology and leader of the “Consciousness and Cognition” group at the School of Psychology, at Trinity College Dublin. During her lecture, Prof. Naci stated:

“The window for dementia prevention opens decades before symptoms appear. Research from the PREVENT Dementia programme demonstrates that subtle changes in brain network organisation associated with genetic risk for Alzheimer’s disease can be detected in cognitively healthy middle-aged adults, potentially opening new opportunities for earlier identification and intervention.

“Genetic risk is not destiny: Lifestyle matters. Our findings show that engaging in intellectually, socially and physically stimulating activities is strongly associated with better memory and cognitive performance in midlife, including among people with inherited risk of dementia. Building cognitive reserve is a powerful, accessible component of dementia prevention.

“Dementia prevention must become earlier, more personalised and multidimensional. Understanding how genetic vulnerability, biological sex, lifestyle and brain health interact will help us develop more targeted prevention strategies that strengthen cognitive resilience across the lifespan.”

At the Closing Ceremony, Andy Heffernan, CEO of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) thanked everyone for their participation and for travelling to Ireland for the conference, noting the fantastic amount of work put in by Alzheimer Europe staff and his team at The ASI as co-hosts, and the great result.



Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Chairperson, Alzheimer Europe thanked delegates, speakers, our co-host The ASI, and conference sponsors alike and wished everyone a safe return journey.

Attendees at the closing ceremony were treated to an uplifting and deeply moving performance by Dublin’s Forgetmenots Choir, a dementia and age-friendly community choir.

Alzheimer Europe would like to thank to all delegates who joined us at #36AEC, and we hope to see you next year for #37AEC in Belgrade!

Acknowledgement
Alzheimer Europe and the Alzheimer Society of Ireland gratefully acknowledge the support they have received for the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference.
We received funding by means of sponsorship to support the delivery of our conference from multiple sponsors. Our sponsors had no editorial input or control over the agenda, content development or choice of speakers, nor opportunity to influence except for the sponsored presentations. The names of our sponsors are available here.
The 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference has been deemed fully compliant by EthicalMedTech's Conference Vetting System.

Full conference report and photo gallery
Full conference report: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences/2026-dublin/conference-highlights
Conference photo gallery: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences/2026-dublin/photo-gallery



28 OCTOBER:

Lilly symposium at #36AEC explores the importance of timely diagnosis

On 28 October 2026, a symposium sponsored by Lilly took place during the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin. Entitled "The story isn't written yet – From Biomarkers to Lived Experience: Acting Earlier in Alzheimer's Disease", the session explored the importance of timely diagnosis and its implications for people living with Alzheimer's disease.
Moderated by Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, the symposium brought together scientific evidence, survey findings and personal experience to examine the opportunities and challenges associated with earlier diagnosis. First, Emily Scheitlin (Associate Director for Neuroscience Market Research at Eli Lilly & Co.) presented findings from a survey exploring attitudes towards Alzheimer's diagnosis. The results highlighted strong public interest in earlier testing, with nearly four in five respondents believing that testing should take place at the first signs of cognitive changes, or even before.
A subsequent discussion featured Helen Rochford-Brennan, former Chair of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, and Pablo Martinez-Lage, Scientific Director of CITA Alzheimer, who explored the lived experience of diagnosis alongside advances in diagnostic approaches, including blood-based biomarkers. The speakers also discussed barriers to timely diagnosis, including fragmented care pathways, limited awareness and uneven diagnostic capacity across Europe. Angela emphasised Alzheimer Europe's position that timely and accurate diagnosis should be accompanied by access to information, appropriate care and support, regardless of where people live or their financial circumstances.
The symposium concluded with "TODAY – A Reverse Story for Alzheimer's", a live performance tracing a person's experience of Alzheimer's disease backwards, highlighting how earlier diagnosis and support can create opportunities for people to make informed decisions about their future.

28 OCTOBER:

"Europe can do more to support people living with dementia" - European and Irish political leaders join advocates and experts for special panel at 36AEC

European and Irish political leaders joined advocates and experts for a special panel at the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin. Meeting at the Convention Centre Dublin on 28 October 2026, they asked how dementia could be pushed higher up Europe's political agenda.



The panel backed the case for a European Dementia Action Plan spanning health, research, social policy and human rights. Drawing on Alzheimer Europe's Helsinki Manifesto and the Neurological Alliance of Ireland Joint Declaration on Advancing Neurological Health, speakers set out practical steps for action at EU and national level.

Journalist and author Ken Murray moderated the session, which opened with Michael McGrath, European Commissioner for Democracy, Justice, the Rule of Law and Consumer Protection. Thanking civil society for championing lived experience, Commissioner McGrath said: "Our ambition must be to build a Europe where people with dementia can live with dignity, retain their independence for as long as possible and access the support that they and their families need."

Nina Carberry MEP of Fine Gael and the European People's Party, Co-Chair of the European Alzheimer's Alliance, shared her personal experience and called for a stronger EU-wide strategy on neurodegenerative diseases.

Ciaran Mullooly MEP of Independent Ireland and Renew Europe, also an Alliance member, highlighted rural isolation and the steps communities needed to take to keep people connected.

Senator Fiona O'Loughlin of Fianna Fáil spoke as her party's Seanad leader and Chair of the All-Party Oireachtas Group on Dementia.

Sinn Féin TD Ruairí Ó Murchú brought experience from Oireachtas committees covering EU affairs, disability, children and equality.

Emer Costello, Rehab Group's Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, brought a campaigning perspective as a former Labour Party MEP for Dublin and former Lord Mayor of Dublin.

Mags Rogers, Chief Executive of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, brought the collective voice of organisations supporting people affected by neurological conditions.



28 OCTOBER:

Irish Dementia Working Group launches updated Charter of Rights for People with Dementia at 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin

On 28 October, at the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin, The Alzheimer Society Of Ireland (ASI)'s Irish Dementia Working Group launched the updated Charter of Rights for People with Dementia. Created by and for people living with dementia, the Charter calls for a rights-based approach that supports people to live well, be heard and remain active members of their communities.

Produced through extensive consultation with people living with dementia across Ireland, the updated Charter places their voices, experiences and priorities at its heart, reaffirming that a dementia diagnosis should never diminish a person's rights, humanity, personhood or ability to participate in decisions affecting their own lives.

Read the Charter: https://alzheimer.ie/creating-change/policy-on-dementia-in-ireland/human-rights-and-dementia/

28 OCTOBER:

"Dementia researchers of the future" symposium at 36AEC highlights work of nine early-stage researchers

The session "Dementia Researchers of the future" has been a staple of our conference for several years and is sponsored by The Alzheimer Europe Foundation and the INTERDEM Academy. This year's edition was chaired by Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein (Alzheimer Europe Foundation Chair) and Fania Dassen (INTERDEM Academy).

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

- Tarsitsa Ntova (Greece), "Detecting dementia in the Deaf community in Greece: Adaptation of the British Sign Language-Cognitive Screening Test in Greek Sign Language-Preliminary results"



- Thanos Chatzikostopoulos (Greece), “Neuropsychiatric symptom clusters across the cognitive impairment spectrum: a data-driven analysis integrating AD biomarkers and clinical profiling”
- Ioannis Stamelos (Greece), “Early-Onset Patients Wait Twice as Long to Reach a Specialist Telemedicine Service: Evidence from Remote Islands in the Aegean Archipelago”
- Anja Mrhar (Slovenia) “Dietary correlates of increased Alzheimer’s disease blood-based biomarkers”
- Özlem Çiçek Doğan (Türkiye) “Person-Centered Disaster Preparedness Program for Family Caregivers of People Living with Dementia: A Mixed-Methods Study in Türkiye”
- Evangelia Smaragdaki (Greece), “Apraxia as a driver of functional disability in neurodegeneration: from phenotyping to rehabilitation”
- Efthalia Angelopoulou (Greece), “Beyond memory: caregiver distress from Mild Behavioral Impairment as an early clinical signal in prodromal Alzheimer’s disease”
- Electra Chatzidimitriou (Greece) “Personality Correlates of Functional Status in Early-Stage Behavioral Variant Frontotemporal Dementia (bvFTD)”
- Anastasia Tsouvala (Greece), “Trajectories of Self-Awareness Across the Alzheimer’s Disease Spectrum: A Systematic Review of Its Potential as an Early Diagnostic Marker”.

Congratulations to all of them!

28 OCTOBER:

Portuguese singer-songwriter Marlene Rosa wins Alzheimer Europe’s 2026 Anti-Stigma Award at a special ceremony during the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin



On 28 October 2026, at a special award ceremony and networking dinner during the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference (36AEC), Portuguese singer-songwriter Marlene Rosa was announced as the winner of the 2026 Anti-Stigma-Award for the song *“A minha Tita era assim”* (“That’s Who My Grandma Tita Was”). The dinner and award ceremony took place at The Round Room at the Mansion House in Dublin (Ireland), where Alzheimer Europe was delighted and honoured to count the Lord Mayor of Dublin Daryl Barron, Kieran O’Donnell, Minister of State for Older People and Housing, and Nina Carberry MEP (EPP, Ireland), among the 250 or so guests.

We would like to say a very special thank you to Irish television and radio presenter Miriam O’Callaghan, who was kind enough to host the entire award ceremony *pro bono*. Ms O’Callaghan is one of Ireland’s best known and most loved broadcasters, and it was truly an honour and a pleasure to have her at the helm for the evening, guiding proceedings effortlessly thanks to her impressive experience on national current affairs programmes and popular talk shows.



We were also delighted and honoured to welcome Minister O’Donnell, who spoke to our guests and presenters at the event, saying: "Combatting the stigma that can be associated with dementia is a vital part of our shared efforts at European and national level to ensure that people with dementia and their families can remain connected and included in their communities. I am delighted that Ireland is hosting this year's Anti-Stigma Award and I would like to congratulate all participants and award winners on their achievements. Music has a unique ability to bring people together and connect across generations, making it a fitting theme for an award that seeks to address stigma and promote greater understanding of dementia."

The call for applications for the fifth edition of the Anti-Stigma Award was launched in May 2026, with the aim of giving recognition to a European initiative or artist bringing together music and dementia and combatting stigma, by promoting a positive image of dementia and people living with dementia.

Alzheimer Europe and the sponsors of the Award, the Alzheimer Europe Foundation, Lilly and Roche, warmly congratulate Marlene Rosa on her winning entry *“A minha Tita era assim”*. This is an original song, written by Ms Rosa together with musician and composer Francisco Saldanha, as part of the broader “Cortex School Bag Initiative”, the first educational initiative in Portugal

designed specifically to introduce the topic of dementia in primary schools. The project was created to counter a difficult reality: children who experience dementia within their families are rarely given the language, tools or emotional support to understand what is happening to a grandparent they love deeply, which can generate fear, confusion and distance from an early age. The project aims to change this by using music and storytelling to explain dementia in a way that feels honest, accessible and safe.
First place consisted of a cash prize of EUR 5,000 as well as a trophy, and was awarded by Nina Carberry MEP, Co-Chair of the European Alzheimer's Alliance.
Nina Carberry MEP said: "With over 9 million people living with dementia across the EU, ending the stigma surrounding dementia and building greater understanding and awareness is essential. The Anti-Stigma Awards are a fantastic way of recognising and celebrating initiatives that are making a real difference in breaking down barriers and changing perceptions. It means a great deal to me that this year's awards are being held in my home country of Ireland. I am particularly pleased that the focus is on music and dementia, as music has a unique ability to bring people together, create connections and inspire positive change."
Marlene Rosa said, "By bringing dementia into children's stories and songs, we hope to replace fear with understanding, nurture empathy from an early age, and help build a society without stigma."
Francisco Saldinha said, "Music has the power to reach where words sometimes cannot, creating emotional bridges that help children understand dementia with greater sensitivity, empathy and openness."



Second place carried a cash prize of EUR 2,500 as well as a trophy and was awarded to Brit Olssøn and The Dementia Choir from Norway. The aim of The Dementia Choir is to present dementia from the perspective of people living with the condition, allowing them to represent their identities, abilities, emotions and social engagement on national television, all of which helps challenge misconceptions about dementia, reduce stigma and promote understanding of dementia as a chronic brain disease rather than a normal part of ageing.
Kevin Quaid, Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), presented the award to Brit Olssøn and choir member Jan Runar Eliassen (also a member of the EWGPWD), who gratefully accepted on behalf of the choir. Brit Olssøn commented that, "Through openness, participation, and authentic storytelling, the choir members transform public perceptions of dementia from loss and limitation to dignity, capability, and human connection. Driven by volunteers and now spread across the country, the choirs show how music and community can create belonging, visibility, and meaningful change for people living with dementia."

Third place was presented by Heike von Lützau-Hohlbein, Chairperson of the Alzheimer Europe Foundation. It consisted of a cash prize of EUR 1,250 and a trophy, awarded to Mike Hanrahan for his song "A River Rolls On", recorded with Dublin's Forgetmenots Choir, a dementia and age-friendly community choir.



Mike Hanrahan's mother was diagnosed with dementia in 2012. After a restricted window visit with her in her care home during the COVID-19 pandemic, he wrote "A River Rolls On" as a tribute to her life and dedication to caring for others. "I imagined my mum's life as a beautiful meandering river heading to its ocean. It was my deepest wish that the ancient sea folk would carry her past the storm of dementia and welcome her to a peaceful rest beyond the breakers", he said, accepting the award in her honour, but also dedicating it "to all the carers".



Honourable mentions were given to five runners-up, who received certificates from Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, Vice-Chairperson of the Alzheimer Europe Foundation. The honourable mentions went to: Daniel Cauchi (Malta) for *"Niftakarna"*, Claus Christensen (Denmark) for *"Når vi er sammen"*, James McKillop (United Kingdom) for "Diff'rently the Same" and "I Still Love You", Naaheed Mukadam (United Kingdom) for Music, meaning and memory, and Dimitrios Kalamaras and The Choir of Alzheimer Hellas (Greece), Musical- Theater for People with Alzheimer's Disease, for "Beautiful Greece".

A huge thank you to our fantastic host, distinguished guests, presenters and everyone who applied for the award this year.

Alzheimer Europe also gratefully acknowledges the support of the sponsors of the Alzheimer Europe Anti-Stigma Award 2026, the Alzheimer Europe Foundation, Lilly and Roche.

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

The Anti-Stigma Award photo gallery can be viewed at: https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/our-work/anti-stigma-award/anti-stigma-award-2026/photo-gallery?language_content_entity=en

29 OCTOBER:

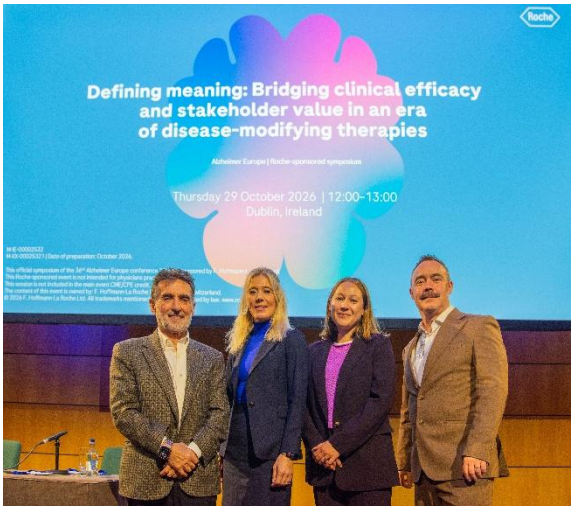
Roche symposium at #36AEC explores how disease-modifying therapies can deliver meaningful benefits for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families

The Roche-sponsored symposium at Alzheimer Europe explored how disease-modifying therapies can deliver meaningful benefits for people with Alzheimer's disease and their families. Dr Claire Lansdall (Roche) discussed the importance of drug development informed by people living with Alzheimer's disease and their care partners.

Professor Xavier Montalban (ACE, Barcelona) shared insights from multiple sclerosis, comparing biological markers like PET scans and MRI lesions, while addressing Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and reimbursement hurdles across Europe.

Chris Lynch (Alzheimer's Disease International) emphasised updating national dementia strategies to support blood-based biomarker testing, timely diagnosis, and access to new treatments.

Dr Sasha Bozeat (Roche) concluded by highlighting early detection and real-world evidence to ensure equitable access and lasting value across healthcare systems.





29 OCTOBER:

Mark the dates for next year's conference, taking place in Serbia!

Following the official close of the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin, a video was shown as a welcome from the Serbian Alzheimer's Disease Association (SUAB) to everyone present, to join us for the 37th Alzheimer Europe Conference, taking place in Belgrade, Serbia from 12 to 14 October 2027. Mark the dates!

29 OCTOBER:

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland reflects on hosting the Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin



Ahead of the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (The ASI) CEO Andy Heffernan wrote in September that the event would provide an opportunity to help shape Ireland's approach to dementia over the next decade. It did exactly that.

Across the three days in late October, discussions ranged from research and diagnosis to care, support and policy, with a consistent emphasis on listening to people with lived experience of dementia and ensuring their voices were woven throughout every aspect of the conference.

When delegates arrived at the Convention Centre, there was a real sense that months, and in many cases years, of planning had come to fruition. The energy, dedication and hard work, not to mention the collaboration with our co-hosts Alzheimer Europe, that had gone into hosting the event were apparent throughout. Having Taoiseach Micheál Martin (Prime Minister of Ireland) officially open the conference felt particularly significant as it was during Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It was also a clear demonstration of the importance being placed on dementia in Ireland.

For The ASI, the conference provided an opportunity to share experiences, learn from others and highlight the important work taking place in Ireland. It also came at a time of significant developments in dementia research, with advances in treatment and diagnostics offering new possibilities for the future.

The ASI team played an active role across the programme, leading six sessions on topics ranging from services and supports, community engagement and family carer training to research, lived experience and the arts, while also contributing to a range of other presentations.

There was recognition of the advances that have been made, but also an acknowledgement that challenges remain for people living with dementia and their families, and a willingness to talk openly about what still needs to change.

A key aspect was hearing directly from people affected by dementia. People who use ASI services, alongside members of the Irish Dementia Working Group (IDWG), the Dementia Carers Campaign Network and the Dementia Research Advisory Team, stood up and generously shared their stories and expertise.

Ireland's representation within the European Working Group of People with Dementia and the European Dementia Carers Working Group was also evident, highlighting the important role Irish advocates continue to play at a European level.

The launch of the updated Charter of Rights for People with Dementia by The ASI and the IDWG put a firm focus on human rights. Developed by and for people living with dementia, the Charter is built on the principle that a dementia diagnosis should never diminish a person's rights, choices or place in their community.

More than anything, the conference reinforced that people affected by dementia are the experts in their own lives. All of us must listen to them and learn from them when they tell us what they need.

Dementia policy was also high on the agenda, with Irish and European political leaders, along with advocates and experts, discussing how to ensure dementia remains a priority across Europe in the years ahead.

Looking back, much has changed. When The ASI was founded in 1982 by Winifred Bligh and Imelda Gillespie, both of whom had been affected by dementia in their own families, there was little public understanding of dementia. There is still more to do, sure, but a conference that places people living with dementia and family carers at the centre of it shows just how much attitudes have changed.

The very existence of an award dedicated to addressing stigma as part of one of Europe's leading dementia conferences is a reminder of how much more open the conversation around dementia has become in recent decades. Irish creativity and advocacy were celebrated when Mike Hanrahan's *A River Rolls On*, recorded with the Forget-Me-Nots Choir, received an Alzheimer Europe Anti-Stigma Award. Stigma surrounding dementia is still there, but it is understood and discussed very differently today.

Following the week in Dublin, what stands out most is that people affected by dementia must continue to be at the very centre, in the absolute thick of the conversation. That remains at the core of everything The ASI does and will continue to guide our work long after the conference has ended.

29 OCTOBER:

Fundación Pasqual Maragall presents its social and scientific activity at the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference



Fundación Pasqual Maragall (FPM) participated in the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference. The meeting, held from 27 to 29 October in Dublin, was organised by Alzheimer Europe and brought together experts, researchers and organisations from different countries working to improve care for people with Alzheimer's and their families, and to share the latest advances in research, treatment and management of the disease. It was so valuable for us to be part of this international gathering, to share knowledge and experiences with other organisations, present our scientific work and contribute to making the participation of Alzheimer's family associations from across Spain possible through our grants.

Over the course of three days, we presented several projects aligned with the work we promote at the Pasqual Maragall Foundation. These included the development of community services for people with dementia, an analysis of the costs associated with Alzheimer's disease, and psychological support programmes for people in the early stages of the disease. We also showcased initiatives to raise awareness about Alzheimer's research, AI-based support tools for caregivers, models of scientific collaboration, and public policy proposals to prepare the healthcare system for innovation in Alzheimer's.

In addition, we organised a session dedicated to Alzheimer's prevention, which was very well received by the congress attendees. This session addressed the role of blood biomarkers in early detection, the development of brain health services, and the construction of clinical pathways to advance early detection of Alzheimer's.

Being present at international forums is key to building bridges and accelerating joint responses to dementia. Beyond all the activities carried out, this congress has been a fundamental opportunity to forge international alliances and share lessons learned with leading organisations such as Alzheimer Scotland, Alzheimer Nederland and the Alzheimer's Society. At the same time, we wanted to strengthen the cohesion of the national association movement by organising a meeting space with the Spanish delegation and the attending AFAs, convinced that collaboration and networking are essential to translate knowledge into real improvements in the lives of those affected and their families.

With our participation in Dublin, we reinforced our commitment and purpose to achieve a future without Alzheimer's by focusing on international collaboration to address the disease from different perspectives.



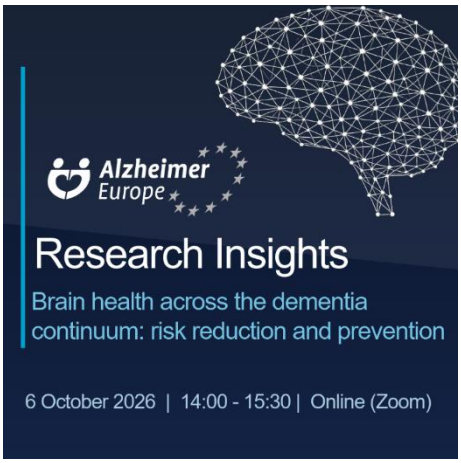
During the congress we also accompanied the family associations and social organisations that attended thanks to the 1st Call for applications for grants to participate in and attend international conferences of the Pasqual Maragall Foundation. This initiative aims to facilitate the presence of the associative movement in the main international scientific forums. Aimed at national organisations and associations dedicated to the care and support of people with Alzheimer's and their families, the call for proposals covers registration, participation, accommodation, and living expenses (up to EUR 1,500 per professional and a maximum of two beneficiaries per organisation). Although initially it was expected to fund between 10 and 15 applications, the excellent response resulted in 21 applications with a total of 39 candidates. After being evaluated based on the organization's connection to the field of Alzheimer's, the quality of the proposal, and its potential for impact and knowledge transfer, 14 grants were ultimately awarded to professionals from eight organisations: AFA Las Rozas, AFEDAZ, Fundació Avan, AFADE, AFA Puerto, AFA Reus i Baix Camp, AFAGA and AFA Memories Los Pedroches, of which four also had active participation by presenting communications and posters.

Read our full conference report: https://fpmaragall.org/en/post/we-presented-our-social-and-scientific-activity-at-the-36th-alzheimer-europe-conference/

ALZHEIMER EUROPE

6 OCTOBER:

An engaging session of Research Insights on dementia risk reduction and prevention



On 6 October, Alzheimer Europe held their second session of the Research Insights Webinar, "Brain health across the dementia continuum". The online event brought together perspectives from people with lived experience and researchers involved in three European research projects: ABOARD, DORIAN GRAY and Multi-MeMo. The session explored different approaches to promoting brain health and preventing dementia, from addressing cardiovascular risk factors to investigating multidomain lifestyle interventions and opportunities for secondary prevention.

Gerda Van Tongerloo, a member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), shared what brain health means to her, the importance of staying active in the community and using her lived experience for advocacy and representation in research.

The first speaker was Mauro Massussi (University of Brescia), who introduced the DORIAN GRAY project and its approach to primary prevention, with a particular focus on addressing cardiovascular risk factors. Next, Mariagnese Barbera (University of Eastern Finland), presented the Multi-MeMo project, focusing on the biological mechanisms underlying multidomain lifestyle interventions. She was then followed by Kay Deckers (Maastricht University), who introduced the ABOARD project and its work on secondary prevention, exploring opportunities to support brain health and their initiatives to raise awareness of it.

A lively panel discussion and audience Q&A completed the session with several key priorities being addressed: the role of social support in strengthening adherence to treatment and lifestyle recommendations; the importance of integrating routine cognitive screening into heart failure monitoring; the growing recognition of stress management and sleep health as essential components of lifestyle interventions; and the need for coordinated policy messages that promote cardiovascular and brain health as interconnected priorities.

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

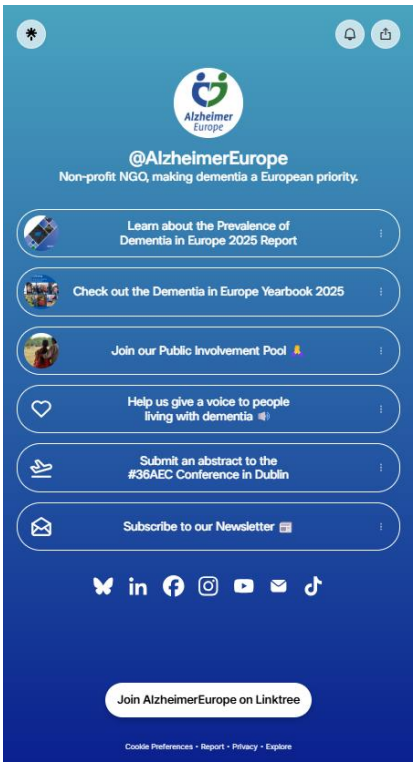
https://mailchi.mp/2f9c4bcd7fd5/research-insights

AE NETWORKING

1-2 OCTOBER	Ana and Margarita attended the PROMINENT General Assembly meeting (Stockholm, Sweden)
6 OCTOBER	Alzheimer Europe held its second Research Insights webinar "Brain health across the dementia continuum"
6-8 OCTOBER	Angela participated in Lausanne XIII (Lausanne, Switzerland)
8 OCTOBER	Angela spoke at Pulse, an event organised by Siemens Healthineers (Berlin, Germany)
8 OCTOBER	Margarita attended the FluiDx-AD Executive Board Meeting
14 OCTOBER	Angela, Jean and Owen met with MEP Catarina Martins
15 OCTOBER	Angela participated in the European Parliament Roundtable "Exploring policy synergies across neurological and mental health conditions" (Brussels, Belgium)
19 OCTOBER	Margarita and Soraya organised a consultation with the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board
20-21 OCTOBER	Cindy attended the European Medicines Agency Patients' and Consumers' Working Party meeting (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
20-21 OCTOBER	Lukas attended the AI4HOPE General Assembly Meeting (Porto, Portugal)

20-21 OCTOBER	Angela participated in the IHI Forum event (Brussels, Belgium)
26-27 OCTOBER	The European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia held a meeting (Dublin, Ireland)
26-27 OCTOBER	The European Working Group of People with Dementia held a meeting (Dublin, Ireland)
26-27 OCTOBER	The European Dementia Carers Working Group held a meeting (Dublin, Ireland)
27 OCTOBER	Ana and Dianne met with Matthew Guo and Ryan Wiley from Shift Health (Dublin, Ireland)
27 OCTOBER	Alzheimer Europe met with Alzheimer's Disease International (Dublin, Ireland)
27 OCTOBER	Lukas met with André Trottier from Roche Diagnostics (Dublin, Ireland)
27-29 OCTOBER	Alzheimer Europe and The Alzheimer Society of Ireland co-hosted the 36th Alzheimer Europe Conference #36AEC (Dublin, Ireland)
28 OCTOBER	Alzheimer Europe held the Anti Stigma Award Ceremony and Networking Dinner (Dublin, Ireland)
28 OCTOBER	Lukas met with Pablo Morales from Roche Pharma (Dublin, Ireland)
30 OCTOBER	Cindy and Margarita attended the FluiDx-AD General Assembly Meeting (Dublin, Ireland)
30 OCTOBER	Faye attended the ENSURED consortium meeting (Dublin, Ireland)





EU PROJECTS

1-2 OCTOBER:

The PROMINENT consortium meets in Stockholm, Sweden for their Annual General Assembly



On 1-2 October, members of the PROMINENT consortium met in Stockholm for their annual general assembly. Hosted by the Karolinska Institutet at the Stockholm World Trade Center, around 30 members of the project partners met to review the current achievements within the scope of PROMINENT's work objectives.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to interact during group discussions on where PROMINENT could increase collaboration with other IHI projects and gather ideas for contribution and sustainability. To support the progress in Work Packages 1 and 4, they also held a workshop to brainstorm on what additional knowledge and uses can be extracted from the data collected in the project.

Within the consortium, Alzheimer Europe leads communication, stakeholder engagement and Public Involvement activities in PROMINENT. During the meeting, Public Involvement Lead Ana Diaz presented the key topics covered by the Public Involvement Advisory Board meetings earlier this year and where they will also contribute to future work package activities. Project Officer Margarita Reyes provided an overview of the current communication activities and proposed a new targeted approach involving stronger stakeholder engagement as part of the new communication strategy for the project.

https://www.ihi-prominent.eu/

7 OCTOBER:

The heart and brain as a single network: DORIAN GRAY featured in a new ESC CardioTalk

What if the heart and the brain were not considered as two separate organs, but as parts of a single, continuously interacting network?

This is the starting point of a new ESC CardioTalk episode "The heart-brain axis: a single network - introducing/decoding the Dorian Gray Project". The episode features Riccardo Proietti from the University of Liverpool, Scientific Coordinator of DORIAN GRAY, and Matthias Endres from Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, a DORIAN GRAY partner and expert in stroke and brain-heart interactions.

The conversation explores the heart-brain axis and questions the traditional view of cardiovascular and neurological diseases as separate conditions. Instead, the speakers discuss the heart and brain as an interconnected biological network, communicating continuously through multiple pathways and influencing health and disease in both directions. The episode then turns to DORIAN GRAY and how the project is working to translate this growing understanding of heart-brain interactions into new approaches for prevention and care.

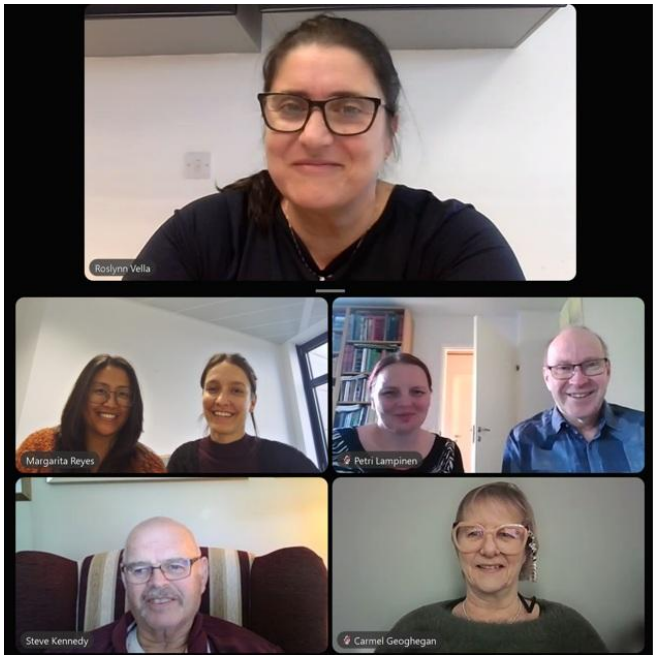
DORIAN GRAY investigates the links between cardiovascular disease and cognitive decline, combining clinical research with digital technologies to identify people at risk earlier and support more personalised interventions. Proietti and Endres discuss how the project brings together cardiovascular, cognitive, imaging, biomarker and behavioural data, collected through clinical assessments and wearable technologies, to better understand individual heart–brain trajectories and adapt interventions to individual needs.

The discussion also explores the role of physical exercise in this process, highlighting the possibility that its effects on cognition may extend beyond improvements in cardiac function and may involve the restoration of communication between the heart and the brain.

You can listen the podcast here: https://esc365.escardio.org/event/2856

19 OCTOBER:

Members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board meet to discuss the development of educational materials about Frontotemporal dementia



On 19 October, members of the PREDICTFTD Public Involvement Board (PREDICTFTD-PIB) met online with Margarita Reyes (Project Officer, Alzheimer Europe) and Soraya Moradi-Bachiller (Public Involvement Officer, Alzheimer Europe) for a consultation to help develop educational materials on Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) as part of the PREDICTFTD project.

The PREDICTFTD-PIB brings together people living with FTD and carers or supporters of people affected by the condition. During the consultation, members shared their valuable perspectives and experiences to inform the development of three infographics targeting the general public, carers and supporters, and employers. They also provided feedback on video recordings addressing common misconceptions about FTD and discussed the possibility of organising a webinar focusing on the experiences and needs of children and young people whose parent has been diagnosed with young-onset dementia.

The PREDICTFTD project was launched in December 2024, funded by the EU's Horizon Europe programme for a period of 4.5 years. The project, which includes partners from 8 countries, is developing biomarkers and tools to advance the diagnosis of FTD, aiming to reduce the time it takes to obtain an accurate, biological diagnosis of the condition.

Learn more about PREDICTFTD: https://www.predictftd.eu/

21 OCTOBER:

European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND) partnership announces launch of EPND+, building on five years of public-private collaboration

The European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND) partnership today announced the launch of EPND+, an independent, non-profit organisation that will take forward the infrastructure, resources and expertise developed through the five-year EPND project.

EPND+ was formally launched by EPND co-Lead Niranjan Bose at the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) Forum in Brussels, reflecting EPND's origins as a public-private partnership established by IHI's predecessor, the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) 2.

Since November 2021, EPND's 28 partner organisations have addressed a fundamental challenge in neurodegenerative disease research: Europe has a wealth of valuable research data and biological samples, but these resources are dispersed across studies, institutions and countries, making them difficult to find, access and reuse.

EPND's response to this fragmentation was to develop the EPND Hub, alongside the tools, standards, SOPs and processes needed to support data and biosample discovery, access and sharing.

Today, the Hub connects more than 120 research studies, 126 datasets and 38 biosample collections across 12+ neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). It provides a unified gateway to these resources, underpinned by the AD Data Initiative's AD Workbench, which provides secure cloud-based infrastructure and a growing range of data analysis tools.

The result is a more integrated and streamlined research pathway, from finding and accessing data and biosamples through to secure analysis and new research outputs.

EPND's biomarker Case Studies demonstrated this in practice, using samples and data from multiple cohorts and countries to test and refine the infrastructure and processes for sharing. The first three Case Studies used samples and clinical data from 350 participants across ten European cohorts, spanning Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies, generating novel datasets that are being shared with the research community through the Hub.

EPND+ turns EPND's five-year investment into a lasting foundation for future research, allowing its infrastructure, resources and tools to be reused, adapted and scaled by new initiatives.
European research initiatives are already building on this foundation. AD-RIDDLE is making research resources discoverable through EPND as it develops approaches for earlier detection, prevention and diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. ACCESS-AD, launched in 2026, will use EPND infrastructure to support the discovery and sharing of clinical, imaging, biomarker and real-world data to improve timely diagnosis, treatment and monitoring.
EPND+ will continue to operate and develop the EPND Hub, maintaining the materials created during the IMI funding period, as well as providing infrastructure and tools for data and biosample discovery and sharing. As a European legal entity, it can also partner with new research initiatives to provide adaptable Hub infrastructure and practical data-sharing support, tailored to different research communities and disease areas, rather than requiring them to develop these capabilities from scratch.
The EPND project concludes on 31 October 2026, but its infrastructure, resources and mission will continue through EPND+.
Learn more: https://www.epndplus.org/

21 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Europe contributes to discussions on public-private partnerships at the 2026 Innovative Health Initiative Forum



On 20–21 October, Alzheimer Europe participated in the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) Forum 2026, held in Brussels under the theme "Translating research into long-term impact". The event brought together over 400 participants from research, industry, healthcare, patient organisations and policy-making to explore how public-private partnerships can deliver lasting benefits for patients and healthcare systems.
Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, contributed to two discussions during the Forum.
On 20 October, she participated in a workshop entitled "Enhancing healthcare readiness: how to prepare health systems for innovation", alongside representatives from academia and industry including Linus Jonsson (Karolinska Institutet), Dipak Kotecha (University of Birmingham), Stefan Schlichting (Program Dräger One) and Tanja Stamm (University of Vienna). The discussion explored how health systems can prepare to adopt new diagnostic technologies, treatments and integrated care pathways. Drawing on Alzheimer Europe's experience in EU-funded research projects, including AMYPAD, PARADIGM, ROADMAP and RADAR-AD, Angela highlighted the importance of shared accountability in order to address implementation challenges, including workforce capacity, infrastructure, evidence generation and equitable access to innovation.
The following day, Angela joined a plenary panel on "The importance of multi-stakeholder alignment to translate research into long-term impact", moderated by former IMI/IHI Executive Director Pierre Meulien, alongside panellists Niranjan Bose (Gates Ventures), Ralf Herold (EMA), Kristin Reiche (IT:U and Fraunhofer IZI) and Raquel Yotti Alvarez (PERTE, Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation). During the panel, Angela highlighted European public-private partnerships as unique vehicles for collaboration, bringing together diverse stakeholders, aligning research priorities with patient needs and supporting the translation of scientific advances into practice.
The session also featured the launch of EPND+ by Niranjan Bose, Managing Director for Health and Life Sciences at Gates Ventures. EPND+ (EPNDplus) is an independent non-profit organisation established to sustain and develop the infrastructure and resources created through the IMI-funded European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND) project, in which Alzheimer Europe was a contributing partner.
Read more about the IHI Forum 2026 and watch the plenary discussion.

30 OCTOBER:

ENSURED project holds second in-person meeting in Dublin

On 30 October, the ENSURED (**E**mpowering **N**eeds-based **S**ocial Health and incl**U**sive care for **R**ar**E**r **D**ementias in moderate to advanced stages) consortium assembled for a second in-person meeting following the Alzheimer Europe Conference in Dublin, Ireland. During the meeting, work package leads gave an update on progress, and final agreements on data harmonization and management were discussed.
The meeting opened with a warm welcome from Marjolein de Vugt (Maastricht University) who introduced new members and congratulated the consortium on an encouraging and productive start. Faye Forsyth (Alzheimer Europe) then presented an update on work package 1 (public Involvement), outlining



developments of a bespoke public involvement framework for rarer dementias at moderate to advanced stage, and implications from consultations held thus far. Sara Bartels and Gorgi Bekkers (Maastricht University) described the outline and initial progress in work package 2 (monitoring symptoms and experiences in Fronto-temporal dementia); and Martina Roes (Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen) and Seda Guney (Koç University) provided an update on scoping and policy reviews that will illuminate social health opportunities and challenges in rarer dementias (work package 3). Doroto Szcześniak (Wroclaw Medical University) followed up with an overview of turning points and key adaptations identified in rarer dementias that can lead to delays, stress, and fragmented support (work package 4). Lastly Louise Hopper, Qiuxia Lie and Jessica Tasquier (Dublin City University) described steps taken to translate and adapt content from the INTENSE self-experience simulation toolkit (https://www.intenseprojectdementia.eu/) to rarer dementia and different cultural contexts (work package 5). Bringing the meeting to a close, Marjolein de Vugt and Sara Bartels (Maastricht University) outlined the external advisory board who will provide expert advice and input, and a reminder of timelines for deliverables and dissemination pathways (work package 6).

The consortium plans to meet again in December (online) to maintain the momentum and build on milestones already realised.

This project is supported by the Luxembourg National Research Fund (INTER/JPND25/19533865/ENSURED), under the aegis of the EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) - www.jpnd.eu

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); Vladimir Prebilič (Greens/EFA, Slovenia); Hilde Vautmans (Renew Europe, Belgium) and Dainius Žalimas (Renew Europe, Lithuania) for their leadership and for hosting the organisation's European Parliament lunch debates on dementia. Alzheimer Europe would also like to thank the following MEPs for their support of the EAA:

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 Sbai (Greens/EFA); Marie Toussaint (Greens/EFA). **Germany**: Alexandra Geese (Greens/EFA); Erik Marquardt (Greens/EFA); Angelika Niebler (EPP); Manuela Ripa (Greens/EFA); Terry Reintke (Greens/EFA). **Greece**: Tsiodras Dimitrios (EPP); Emmanouil (Manolis) Kefalogiannis (EPP); Nikos Papandreou (S&D); Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP). **Hungary**: Tamás Deutsch (PFE); Enikő Győri (PFE); Kinga Gál (PFE); György Hölvényi (EPP); András Kulja (EPP). **Ireland**: Barry Andrews (Renew Europe); Lynn Boylan (The Left); Nina Carberry (EPP); Luke 'Ming' Flanagan (NI); Billy Kelleher (Renew Europe); Seán Kelly (EPP); Ciaran Mullooly (Renew); Aodhán Ó Ríordáin (S&D); Maria Walsh (EPP). **Italy**: Brando Benifei (S&D); Caterina Chinnici (EPP); Carlo Fidanza (ECR); Aldo Patriciello (PFE). **Lithuania**: Vytenis Povilas Andriukaitis (S&D); Petras Auštrevičius (Renew Europe); Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D); Liudas Mažylis (EPP); Dainius Žalimas (Renew Europe). **Luxembourg**: Marc Angel (S&D); Charles Goerens (Renew Europe); Tilly Metz (Greens/EFA); Isabel Wiseler-Lima (EPP). **Netherlands**: Mohammed Chahim (S&D); Marit Maij (S&D). **Poland**: Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (EPP); Michał Szczerba (EPP); Anna Zalewska (ECR). **Portugal**: Marta Temido (S&D); Catarina Martins (The Left). **Romania**: Vlad Vasile-Voiculescu (Renew Europe). **Slovenia**: Matjaž Nemec (S&D); Irena Joveva (Renew Europe); Vladimir Prebilič (Greens/EFA); Marjan Šarec (Renew Europe); Romana Tomc (EPP); Milan Zver (EPP). **Spain**: Rosa Estaräs Ferragut (EPP); Javi López (S&D); Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D); Idoia Mendia (S&D); Diana Riba i Giner (Greens/EFA); Ana Miranda Paz (Greens/EFA). **Sweden**: Pär Holmgren (Greens/EFA); Jonas Sjöstedt (S&D).

EU DEVELOPMENTS

30 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Europe shares experiences of EU research partnerships at European Parliament breakfast meeting organised by COCIR

On 30 September 2026, Alzheimer Europe participated in a research and innovation breakfast organised by COCIR and hosted by MEP Michael Hadjipantela (EPP, Cyprus) at the European Parliament in Brussels. Entitled "Health Innovation Partnerships: Impact through Collaboration", the event brought together representatives from patient organisations, research, industry and healthcare to discuss the role and future direction of the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI), in the context of ongoing discussions on the EU's next long-term budget.

Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, contributed to a panel discussion entitled "What's Next for European Health Innovation Partnerships?", which explored the priorities for future European partnerships and how research and innovation can deliver tangible benefits for patients and healthcare systems. Also contributing to the panel, which was moderated by Francisco Florindi (DG RTD, European Commission) were Sara Zullino (EATRIS), Evis Sala (European Radiology), Monika Hierath (EIBIR) and Michele Calabro (EUREGHA).

During the discussion, Angela reflected on Alzheimer Europe's longstanding involvement in European public-private research partnerships, highlighting how the organisation's role has evolved from more traditional patient representation towards increasingly active and meaningful involvement in



research design, implementation and the translation of results into practice. She emphasised that this evolution has accompanied the expanding scope and ambition of the IHI, with greater opportunities for patient organisations to contribute their expertise across the research and innovation process.

The discussion also addressed the importance of ensuring that future European partnerships respond to patient needs, strengthen healthcare system resilience and support the adoption of successful innovations in clinical practice.

6 OCTOBER:

This European Carers' Day, Alzheimer Europe signs Joint European Statement authored by Eurocarers calling for real flexibility to become a reality for people combining work and care

On the occasion of European Carers' Day, 6 October, Alzheimer Europe is pleased to be a signatory of a Joint European Statement "Care Doesn't Follow a Schedule. Flexibility Matters", authored by Eurocarers. The signatories of the Statement are European organisations representing and working with people across Europe in the fields of disability, families, mental health, gender equality, ageing, and care.

Alzheimer Europe is supporting this statement and the related campaign led by Eurocarers, calling on European and national policymakers, employers and other stakeholders to ensure that people with caring responsibilities can genuinely combine work and care.

The EU Work-Life Balance Directive introduced important rights for workers with caring responsibilities, including a minimum of five unpaid working days of carers' leave and the right to request flexible working arrangements. These measures represent an important step forward, but as the statement points out, five days cannot reflect the reality of ongoing, intensive or fluctuating care needs. The challenge is therefore



not simply to provide more leave, but to create working environments and social protection systems that can adapt to the reality of care.

Europe's care systems depend on millions of people providing care, often alongside paid employment and they cannot expect informal carers to keep Europe's care systems running while asking them to fit unpredictable care responsibilities into inflexible working lives. The Joint European Statement therefore calls on European institutions, national governments, employers and all relevant stakeholders to make flexibility a reality for people who combine work and care.

Eurocarers, Alzheimer Europe and the other signatories of the Statement call for:

1. Accessible and meaningful carers' leave
2. Greater flexibility at work
3. Protection against economic insecurity
4. Supportive workplaces
5. Recognition of informal carers
6. Flexible access to affordable high-quality long-term care services and respite care.

You can read the full statement, here:

https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2026-10/ecd_26_joint_european_statement.pdf

Find out more about the Eurocarers campaign here:

https://eurocarers.org/ecd/

Read their new position paper examining whether the EU Work-Life Balance Directive is delivering meaningful support for informal carers:

https://eurocarers.org/from-minimum-standards-to-meaningful-support-eurocarers-calls-for-stronger-work-life-care-policies/

14 OCTOBER:

European Commission publishes EU4Health Work Programme 2026

On 14 October, the Council provided a positive opinion on the European Commission's EU4Health Work Programme for 2026, which will support the implementation of programmes such as the EU Safe Hearts Plan, Critical Medicines Act and the European Health Data Space.

With an overall budget exceeding EUR 680 million, funding is allocated as follows:

1. Crisis Preparedness: EUR 429,695,911
2. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention: EUR 47,095,000
3. Cancer, Cardiovascular and Other Non-communicable Diseases: EUR 28,588,000
4. Health Systems and Healthcare Workforce: EUR 111,030,000
5. Digital: EUR 46,150,000
   EUR 1 million for *DI-g-26-26 Call for proposals for designing the ecosystem for multimodal Artificial Intelligence driven prevention and early detection of neurodegenerative diseases*
6. Other Actions: EUR 18 125 831
   EUR 1.8 million for *OA-g-26-91 Call for proposals for operating grants in 2027 to non-governmental organisations: financial contribution to the functioning of health non-governmental organisations implementing one or more specific objectives of Regulation (EU) 2021/522*

Further details on the 2026 Work Programme are available at:

https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/2026-eu4health-work-programme_en

POLICY WATCH

16 SEPTEMBER:

Icelandic Government launches new dementia strategy

Government of Iceland
Ministry of Health

On 16 September 2026, the Icelandic Government published an Action Plan for People with Dementia 2026-2030, building on the work for the first national dementia strategy 2019-2025.

Work on updating the current action plan began in late 2025, in collaboration with a specialist from the Ministry of Health, Dr Jon Snædal, a geriatrician, and Guðlaugur Eyjólfsson, Executive Director of Dementia Iceland. The plan was published for public comment on the government's consultation portal on 9 June 2026.

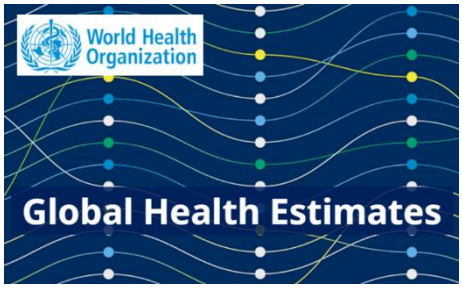
The new action plan takes into account the changes in focus that have occurred in recent years, with a strong emphasis now placed on prevention and early intervention. The plan outlines 27 scheduled actions and specifies who is responsible for their implementation. The actions are in the following six areas:

- Prevention
- Early intervention
- Increase in activity, day training, and respite programs
- Pharmacotherapy
- Increased public awareness of dementia
- Pending actions from the last action plan

Further information on the new strategy is available at:

https://government.is/news/article/adgerdaadaetlun-um-thjonustu-vid-einstaklinga-med-heilabilun/

2 OCTOBER:



New WHO Global Health Estimates highlight the growing impact and cost of Alzheimer's disease and dementia

On 2 October 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) published its updated Global Health Estimates, providing new data on mortality and disease burden across countries and regions between 2000 and 2023. The findings highlight the growing impact of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias worldwide, and underline the need for greater attention to dementia in national and international health policies.

According to the estimates, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias were the fifth leading cause of death globally in 2023, compared with 19th in 2000. Over this period, the number of deaths attributed to dementia tripled, reaching approximately 2.1 million deaths worldwide. Women were

disproportionately affected, accounting for 66% of dementia-related deaths.

The figures are particularly striking in Europe. In 2023, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias were the third leading cause of death in the WHO European Region, accounting for approximately 496,000 deaths. Dementia was also responsible for an estimated 7.9 million disability-adjusted life years (DALYs), representing 38% of the burden of neurological conditions and 71% of neurological deaths in the Region. The WHO findings also highlight broader changes in global health, with noncommunicable diseases accounting for 74% of deaths worldwide in 2023, compared with 58% in 2000.

For Alzheimer Europe, these figures reinforce the importance of recognising dementia as a major public health priority. They provide further evidence of the need for comprehensive national dementia strategies, greater investment in prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, and a strong focus on dementia within the development of a European Neurological Health Strategy.

Read the WHO announcement and explore the Global Health Estimates.

6-8 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Europe participates in Lausanne XIII Workshop on Alzheimer's innovation and policy



From 6–8 October 2026, Alzheimer Europe participated in the 13th Lausanne Workshop, held in Switzerland. The annual meeting brought together representatives from research, industry, government and civil society to discuss progress in Alzheimer's disease research and the challenges of translating scientific advances into clinical practice. Discussions covered new treatments, blood-based biomarkers, digital cognitive assessments, prevention and the economic implications of Alzheimer's disease. A recurring theme was the need for healthcare systems and policies to keep pace with scientific innovation, while ensuring equitable access to diagnosis, treatment and care.

Angela Bradshaw, Deputy Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, contributed to a panel discussion entitled "Policy at the Breaking Point: Keeping Pace with Alzheimer's Innovation", moderated by Chris Lynch of Alzheimer's Disease International, with panellists Katrin Seeher (WHO Europe) and Hilal Lashuel (Weill Cornell Medicine Quatar). The session explored policy challenges associated with advances in Alzheimer's diagnosis and treatment, including healthcare readiness and equitable access.

Wiesje van der Flier, CEO of Alzheimer Nederland and Board member of Alzheimer Europe, also contributed to the Workshop, participating in a panel entitled "Blood-Based Biomarkers: Redefining the Path to Diagnosis". The session examined the potential of blood-based biomarkers to improve diagnostic pathways and support earlier detection of Alzheimer's disease.

The Workshop also saw the publication of a Global Communiqué calling for greater political commitment to Alzheimer's prevention.

Read the Lausanne XIII summary report

9 OCTOBER:

UK Prime Minister makes dementia research a national priority



On 9 October, the UK Prime Minister Andy Burnham announced that he was making dementia research a national priority with GBP 48 million (EUR 57.2 million) being invested to combat dementia through the BARBARA Alliance in order to speed up recruitment to clinical trials and developing treatments. The Prime Minister, whose father Roy died last month after living with Alzheimer's disease, said he wanted Britain "to be the country that makes the breakthrough".

The BARBARA Alliance was created through the Dame Barbara Windsor Dementia Goals Programme, which brings together government, industry, charities, researchers and the UK's national health service (NHS). The funding is delivered through a partnership between BARBARA and key founding partners Bristol Myers Squibb, GSK and Gates Ventures.

The Prime Minister set out his ambition to prioritise dementia research alongside a much-needed social care reform announcement made in September, aims to transform understanding of dementia, how it is treated, and the support for people living with the condition.

SCIENCE WATCH

7 SEPTEMBER:

Addressing agitation in end-of-life dementia: Insights from the LiBBY study



At the recent Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2026, Dr Jacobo Mintzer (Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, USA) discussed the phase II LiBBY study that evaluated a combination of cannabidiol (CBD) and tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) for agitation in hospice-eligible patients with dementia. touchNEUROLOGY spoke to Dr Mintzer, publishing an interview with him about his presentation and the trial results, on its website, on 7 September.

The LiBBY study was a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial conducted across nine sites. It assessed two main outcomes. The first was the Cohen-Mansfield Agitation Inventory (CMAI), which measures the frequency of behaviours associated with agitation, such as aggression, shouting, grabbing, inappropriate movements and other signs of distress. Secondly, it aimed to understand whether any reduction in agitation translated into a meaningful clinical benefit.

Topline results showed significant reduction in agitation in people with late-stage Alzheimer's and other dementias, who were eligible to receive or received hospice care, with benefits seen in two weeks. Nearly 9 in 10 study participants who received the treatment showed overall improvement in target symptoms at study end at week 12. The LiBBY study also demonstrated that dementia patients at late stages of their illness can participate in clinical trials, helping expand much needed clinical research.

Dr Mintzer shared the personal story that inspired the study, the key findings, and what they could mean for future palliative care.

Read more on the touchNEUROLOGY website: https://touchneurology.com/insight/addressing-agitation-in-end-of-life-dementia-insights-from-the-libby-study/

Check out the AAIC press release: https://aaic.alz.org/releases-2026/libby-trial-thc-cbd-agitation-late-stage-dementia.asp

21 SEPTEMBER:

Exercise-only interventions and exercise-based multidomain lifestyle interventions to promote cognitive function in older adults without dementia: a systematic review and meta-analysis



Cognitive changes are expected in ageing populations, yet effective strategies to prevent or slow cognitive decline remain an important public health priority. Lifestyle interventions have therefore emerged as promising approaches to maintain cognitive health across the lifespan. Among these lifestyle interventions, exercise has received considerable attention for its potential to promote wellbeing and preserve cognitive function in older adults. Evidence also suggests that combining exercise with other lifestyle interventions, known as multidomain interventions, may offer additional benefits by targeting multiple modifiable risk factors for dementia. However, findings from multidomain intervention trials have been inconsistent. While some studies have reported improvements in global cognitive function, executive function and processing speed, others have found limited or inconclusive effects. Moreover, multidomain interventions may require greater resources, specialist expertise and participants commitment, particularly making them more challenging for older adults to adopt. This raises an important question: can exercise alone provide cognitive benefits comparable to those of multidomain interventions? To address this question, a team of researchers led by Dr Lui-Ambrose conducted a systematic review and meta-

analysis, published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine, to compare the effects of exercise as a single intervention (exercise-only) with those of exercise combined with other lifestyle interventions (exercise-plus) on executive function, memory and processing speed in older adults living without dementia.

The researchers searched four databases (MEDLINE, Embase, PsycINFO and CINAHL), and included randomised controlled trials investigating the effects of exercise-only or exercise-plus interventions on cognitive function in adults aged 60 years and older without dementia. The researchers examined the effects of the interventions using two approaches: pairwise meta-analysis, which compared two interventions at a time, and network meta-analysis, which allowed comparisons across multiple interventions. The pairwise analysis included 178 exercise-only and 67 exercise-plus comparisons, while the network analysis included 76 exercise-only and 36 exercise-plus studies. Three key comparisons were examined: exercise-only versus control, exercise-plus versus control, and exercise-plus versus exercise-only.

The findings revealed that exercise-only interventions significantly improved all three cognitive domains (executive function, memory and processing speed), compared with control. In contrast, exercise-plus interventions demonstrated a significant benefit over control only for memory. When the two intervention approaches were compared, exercise-plus was associated with greater improvements in executive function and processing speed than exercise-only, but not significantly advantage was observed for memory. These findings suggest that exercise alone can improve multiple aspects of cognitive function in older adults, while combining exercise with other lifestyle interventions may offer additional benefits for specific cognitive domains. Nevertheless, further research is needed to clarify the added value of multidomain interventions and determine which approaches provide the greatest cognitive benefits for older adults.

https://bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2026/09/21/bjsports-2026-111684

22 SEPTEMBER:

Blood proteomics of menopause map to brain aging and dementia risk

In a recent paper published in Nature Medicine, Madeline Wood Alexander, Jennifer S. Rabin and colleagues investigated how biological changes associated with menopause may be linked to brain ageing and dementia risk. Women account for nearly two-thirds of people living with Alzheimer's disease, yet the biological mechanisms underlying this increased risk remain poorly understood. Menopause, characterised by substantial declines in ovarian hormones such as oestrogen and progesterone, is increasingly being studied as a potential contributor to differences in brain ageing and dementia risk among women.



To explore this question, the researchers analysed blood proteomic data from almost 15,000 women across multiple international cohorts. Using advanced protein profiling techniques, they identified a set of blood proteins associated with menopausal status and developed a "menopause proteomic score". They then examined whether this molecular signature was related to markers of brain ageing, cognitive performance and dementia risk in independent populations.

The findings suggest that menopause is associated with differences in proteins involved in inflammation, metabolism, neuronal function and Alzheimer's disease biology. Sixteen proteins were significantly elevated in postmenopausal women compared with premenopausal women, including inflammatory markers, synaptic proteins and Alzheimer's disease-related proteins such as BACE1 and phosphorylated tau (p-tau231). Higher menopause proteomic scores were associated with less favourable cognitive performance and with biological signatures consistent with older brain age. Furthermore, the proteomic signature overlapped with biological pathways that have previously been implicated in dementia and Alzheimer's disease risk.

Importantly, the authors note that the findings do not demonstrate that menopause causes dementia. Instead, they suggest that menopause is accompanied by measurable molecular changes that may help explain why some women experience differences in cognitive ageing trajectories. The identified blood-based protein profile could provide new insights into the biological links between reproductive ageing and late-life brain health.

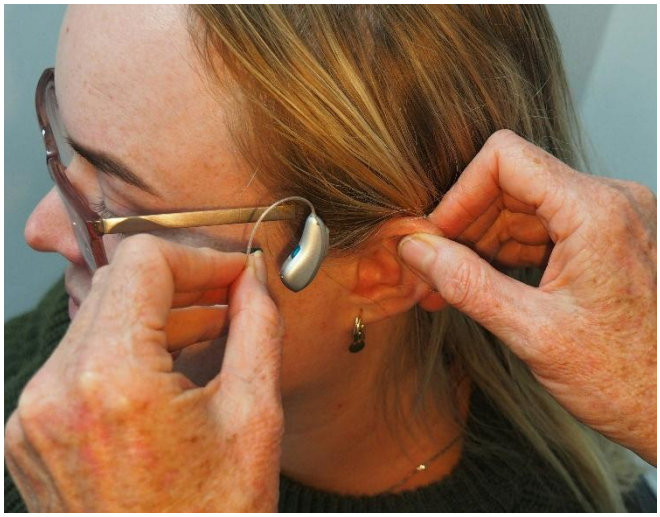
In conclusion, the findings suggest that menopause is associated with a distinct blood proteomic signature that may help shed light on biological pathways linked to brain ageing and dementia risk. The authors highlight the need for longitudinal studies to determine whether these molecular changes could

help identify individuals at increased risk of cognitive decline and whether interventions targeting menopause-related biological processes could support healthier brain ageing in women.
Find the full article here:

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-026-04648-4

5 OCTOBER:

CHOICE (Chinese Hearing Solution for Improvement of Cognition in Elders) randomised clinical trial publishes results of hearing intervention in older adults with coexisting hearing loss and mild cognitive impairment



A new study published in JAMA Neurology has reported that among 353 older adults with mild cognitive impairment and coexisting hearing loss, a hearing aid intervention did not significantly reduce the incidence of dementia-level impairment at 24 months. Hearing loss has been identified as a key risk factor for dementia and there is observational evidence that hearing interventions might result in delayed dementia. The trial, which was conducted across six centres in Shanghai, China, screened 21,908 adults before randomizing eligible participants to either the hearing aid intervention (n=353) or the hearing care education control (n=350). Those in the hearing intervention arm received free binaural behind-the-ear hearing aids that were fitted by a certified audiologist, along with education on the proper use of hearing aids. People in the control arm received group-based, structured hearing care education that focused on five core topics: 1) the nature of hearing loss; 2) practical hearing care; 3) chronic disease management; 4) healthy lifestyle modifications; and 5) cognitive decline prevention strategies.

After a period of 24 months of follow-up, the researchers found that the hearing aid intervention did not result in a significant difference in the primary outcome – conversion rate from mild cognitive impairment to dementia level impairment. The latter was assessed via the Clinical Dementia Rating clinical interview - a validated instrument for staging global cognitive-functional severity. A pre-specified secondary endpoint, rate of cognitive improvement, was 15.34% in the intervention group compared to 2.36% in the control group. However, the authors advise caution in interpretation of this outcome as improved hearing may have enhanced understanding of verbal test instructions and thus influenced cognitive assessment results.
More information on this study is available here:

https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurology/fullarticle/2854483

15 OCTOBER:

Study examines factors influencing use of new AD treatments

A new study published in Neurology examines the factors associated with the use of anti-amyloid medications and adherence to treatment among people with Alzheimer's disease (AD) and mild cognitive impairment (MCI).
Between 2021 and 2024, three amyloid-targeting monoclonal antibodies (aducanumab, lecanemab and donanemab) were approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of MCI and mild dementia due to AD. In this paper, the researchers investigated how demographic characteristics and social drivers of health were associated with treatment use and initial adherence.
Using a database of more than one million adults with MCI or dementia, the research team identified 2,427 patients who received anti-amyloid medication and compared them with a similar group of untreated patients. Race, ethnicity and health comorbidities were strongly associated with treatment use. The study found that black adults had 86% lower odds of receiving anti-amyloid treatment, while Hispanic adults had 79% lower odds, compared with non-Hispanic white adults. Younger age, non-Hispanic white ethnicity, fewer comorbidities and lower social vulnerability were also associated with a greater likelihood of receiving treatment. In this paper, authors highlight disparities in access to emerging AD treatments and underscore the importance of understanding the demographic and health-related factors that influence treatment uptake and adherence.

https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0000000000218594

MEMBERS' NEWS

18 SEPTEMBER:

"Better Care, Full Stop" - Alzheimer Scotland hosts Annual Conference 2026



Alzheimer Scotland's Annual Conference 2026 brought together people with lived experience, families, professionals, researchers and campaigners for a day of ideas, discussion and connection at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre.

The conference took place on Friday 18 September and built on the momentum of Dementia Awareness Week and Alzheimer Scotland's campaigning work. Under the theme "Better Care, Full Stop.", the programme explored how collective action, shared voice and practical innovation could improve dementia care now and in the future.

The Scottish Dementia Working Group and the National Dementia Carers Action Network were central to the conference. Their members presented in every session, ensuring that the experiences and priorities of people living with dementia and unpaid carers remained at the heart of the day.

Policy and participation – Why change today could transform tomorrow

The morning focused on the changes needed to deliver better care. Speakers and panel discussions considered policy priorities, women's brain health and progress towards Dementia Pathway Guarantees. Throughout the session, delegates were invited to reflect on what they heard and share what stood out most to them.

Innovation in practice - Creative approaches changing the landscape

In the afternoon, attention turned to the future of support. The programme explored childhood dementia, innovations in technology and lessons from international dementia leadership—while also asking what Scotland could contribute to the global conversation. Audience discussion remained central, creating space to identify what was working well and where services and support still needed to improve.

Research and hope - Looking forward to better care

The final session examined how research was creating hope for the future. Contributions covered innovative clinical trials, new approaches to brain health and the vision of the Scottish Brain Health Council, followed by a discussion about Scotland's research priorities.

Have your say - A conference shaped by shared voice

The Scottish Dementia Working Group and the National Dementia Carers Action Network were central to the conference and presented in every session. Their contributions ensured that lived experience and the voices of unpaid carers shaped discussions about care, services, innovation and research priorities. Connect and contribute and was more than a programme of talks.

Registration opened at 9am, with time for the marketplace and networking. An extended lunch included the Big Conversation, chaired by former First Minister Henry McLeish, which gave delegates another opportunity to influence future policy and campaigning priorities.

The day offered opportunities to learn, connect and add to an important conversation about what better dementia care should look like—and how people could work together to make it happen.

Lived experience was not an addition to the programme—it helped shape the conversation throughout the day.

30 SEPTEMBER:

Serbia organises two new public activities to celebrate World Alzheimer's Day

The Serbian Association for Alzheimer Disease had a very busy September. In addition to their regular activities, they organised two new public activities to celebrate World Alzheimer's Day, which represent exciting opportunities to educate people, fight stigma, and bring dementia into the focus of public and political representatives.

The first was "Happy Volleyball Hour", a multigenerational play hour between elementary school children and participants from the association's half-day care programme. The aim was to promote understanding and empathy for people living with dementia.

Secondly, they organised a literary for high school students, a successful and interesting way to break the stigma around Alzheimer and dementia. The literary competition for high school students had the theme "Living with Dementia". The winner

was “Fog”, by Neda Simonović, whose poetic words “truly captured the emotional state of people living with dementia and their loved ones”:

Fog

Fog, noise, it’s not complete silence. Even though the road is ahead of you, somehow, you’re lost. I wonder what it's like to forget life? Is it scary to be in constant fog? Maybe it’s even a mercy to forget all the suffering and pains of this world. The burden disappears from your back and heart, but the body still remembers. Some memories, even if they seem meaningless now, stay so deeply embedded within us. In the fog, everyone around you is saying something. Do you remember your child? And the christening? So many questions, but only fog and a small “lump” in your throat that keeps growing. Is that shame? Is that empathy without understanding? It feels as if that lump keeps growing within your throat. And what is that fog? That harsh, quiet, depressing force that slowly falls on an old mind. The warm home and soft memories replaced by the sterile smell of the hospital. And fog, like a silk curtain, cuts through all memories. And what about those who remember them? Those who are outside the fog, like the audience to that quiet death of the mind? And just those moments when the fog disappears. When sight and mind return, tears flow in the eyes of those loved, children and grandchildren, and everyone at least sheds a tear. That moment is so special, precious, but unfortunately rare. When it ends, that family painfully sobs, and the fog falls again.

When the body withers, it can somehow be healed. But when the mind clouds, there's no way back.

— Neda Simonović, S43 Technical School GSP —Mentor: Sanja Vukobrat.

30 SEPTEMBER:

Alzheimer Hellas shines a spotlight on the World Alzheimer's Month activities of Alzheimer Associations in Larissa, Patra and Attica

Bringing the acaDEMia Project into the Heart of the Community by Frodizo

To mark World Alzheimer’s Day 2026, Frodizo organised “An Evening for Those Who Care with Their Heart” in Patra, bringing together family caregivers, healthcare professionals, volunteers and community representatives for an evening of connection and support.

The event featured the European acaDEMia project, which promotes the rights, self-advocacy and democratic participation of people with dementia and neuropsychiatric disorders. Discussions focused on dignity, autonomy, equality and inclusion, highlighting the important role of caregivers in protecting the rights and choices of people living with dementia. Particular attention was given to the barriers that can prevent people with dementia from exercising their rights, participating in community life, and being meaningfully involved in decisions that affect them.



Interactive activities encouraged caregivers to share experiences, express emotions and recognize their own need for support. The initiative of Frodizo linked European human rights goals with everyday experiences, promoting empowerment, mutual understanding and a more inclusive society.

E.E.N.A.L.’s Dementia Awareness Campaign in September by Alzheimer Larisa

On 3 September, E.E.N.A.L. launched its awareness campaign under the slogan “Memory Needs Care: Let’s Build a Shield Together.” Throughout the month, information sessions and cognitive and emotional assessments took place in Omorfochori, Rapsani, Zoodochos Pigi and Nees Karyes, promoting dementia prevention, treatment and caregiver support. The campaign also reached the public through interviews given by E.E.N.A.L. President Eleni Nifli on local radio, Thessalia TV and ERT3.



On 20 September, caregivers attended a stress-relief workshop at the E.E.N.A.L. Centre. On World Alzheimer’s Day, 21 September, the 8th annual “Mnemosyne” Walk brought hundreds of participants through the historic centre of Larissa, accompanied by the Philharmonic Band, in a powerful show of solidarity with people living with dementia and their families. At the conclusion of the event, the President of E.E.N.A.L. hosted a dinner featuring live music and dancing for the guests and supporters who had participated in this well-established annual event. The campaign concluded on 30 September with an educational talk and distribution of information materials in the “Hippocrates” neighbourhood.

“Continuing Our Nationwide Dementia Awareness Campaign Across Greece” by Apostoli

Since 2015, Apostoli’s nationwide campaign, in collaboration with MEGA, one of Europe’s leading manufacturers of personal hygiene products, has promoted dementia awareness

and cognitive health across Greece through educational presentations and free memory screening.
In September 2026, the campaign visited Erithres, Oinoi, Mandra and Vilia. In October, activities continued in Loutraki, Agioi Theodoroi, the Care Centres of Chalandri and the Church of Zoodochos Pigi in central Athens.
By providing reliable information, encouraging early recognition of cognitive difficulties and reducing stigma, the campaign supports individuals and families affected by dementia and promotes more informed, compassionate communities.

14 OCTOBER:

Türkiye: Keeping the Momentum Going Beyond World Alzheimer Month

Following a remarkably busy World Alzheimer Month in September, the Türkiye Alzheimer Association's branches carried their enthusiasm into October, continuing to raise awareness and engage their communities.
The most significant development came from Kayseri, where the Naciye-Ramazan Büyükkılıç and Daughters Alzheimer Active Living Centre officially opened on 14 October 2026. Established through the collaboration of Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality and philanthropic donors, under a protocol involving the Kayseri Governorship and the Provincial Directorates of Family and Social Services and Health, the centre marks an important step towards expanding community-based dementia care and support.
In Denizli, the branch celebrated the International Day of Older Persons with a nursing home visit and activities promoting active ageing. The programme featured a nostalgic journey through beloved Yeşilçam classics, Türkiye's golden era of cinema, accompanied by the Emektarlar Rhythm Group, a unique local initiative encouraging older people to remain active and socially engaged.
Meanwhile, the Mersin branch took Alzheimer's awareness onto the football pitch. At a special match organised by Mini Futbol Mersin, three generations came together, with grandparents, parents and children sharing the field. Livestreamed on Mini Futbol Türkiye's YouTube channel, the match featured players carrying a banner reading "Early Diagnosis, More Memories." This creative initiative helped the Association reach new audiences.
In Manisa, World Animal Day on 4 October brought children, older people and animals together in an intergenerational event celebrating companionship and connection. The branch also reported promising progress towards establishing a dementia day care centre. The Association hopes to contribute through a cooperation protocol and carry out its activities there.
These initiatives illustrate how the Association's branches continue to turn awareness into action, strengthening community connections and working towards much-needed dementia care services beyond World Alzheimer Month.

15-16 OCTOBER:

13th Congress of the German Alzheimer Society (DAlzG) attracts over 700 delegates



On 15 and 16 October 2026, more than 700 participants gathered in Magdeburg, Saxony-Anhalt, Germany, for the 13th Congress of the German Alzheimer Society (DAlzG), held under the theme "Dementia: Shaping the Future Together." People living with dementia, family caregivers, professionals, and researchers came together to discuss current developments, challenges, and future perspectives regarding dementia.
In his opening remarks, Swen Staack, Chair of the DAlzG, emphasized the importance of taking a stand—advocating for human diversity, an inclusive society, and standing up for those in vulnerable situations, while ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in society.
Members of the DAlzG's advisory board, "Living with Dementia," provided a powerful demonstration of how people can lead active, self-determined lives while living with dementia. Their shared motto: "Giving up is not an option."
Prof. Dr Dr h.c. Andreas Büscher pointed out that 86 percent of people in need of long-term care in Germany are looked after at home; he called for better coordination between professional care services and family caregiving.
The topics covered at the congress ranged from early diagnosis and new therapeutic approaches—including those for rare forms of dementia—to national and regional dementia strategies, the social inclusion of people living with dementia, and support for their family caregivers. Once again, the congress provided ample opportunity for networking. Participants were able to take away concrete ideas for their work in their own communities, and in many cases, the foundations were laid for new collaborative projects.
At the same time, it became clear that the need for support among people living with dementia and their families remains, in many areas, far from being met. Some pioneering projects

are funded exclusively through donations, as there is no state support available for them.
The nationwide congress has been organised by the German Alzheimer Society every two years since 1997, with the event taking place at different locations across Germany.

20 OCTOBER:

Fundraising “Forget-Me-Not” Gala with 5-star chefs raises nearly half a million euros in one night for Alzheimer Nederland



Entrepreneur and former Alliance Gastronomique chairman Marc van Gulick, together with numerous Michelin-starred chefs, organised a gala dinner to raise funds for dementia research. The money will go towards research into early-onset dementia, improving the quality of life for people living with dementia, and working towards a future without dementia.
In the Netherlands, around 15,000 people have dementia whilst they are still under the age of 65. Brigitte, Marc’s wife, is one of them. Restaurants of the Alliance Gastronomique and Hotel Okura Amsterdam joined forces. Guests enjoyed a five-course menu, prepared by various Michelin-starred chefs, including Nelson Tanate (De Librije ***), Jeroen Achtien (Inter Scaldes**), Dick Middelweerd (De Treeswijkhoeve **), Arjan Speelman (Ciel Bleu **), Roy Eijkelkamp (De Bokkedoorns **) and Jan Smink (Smink *). There were musical performances by various Dutch singers and bands. The evening was entirely dedicated to creating lasting memories and raising money for Alzheimer Nederland.
Marc van Gulick said: “I am incredibly proud of the Alliance Gastronomique and everyone else who made this wonderful evening possible – and what a fantastic sum we have raised for research into early-onset dementia. Unfortunately, this will no longer be of any help to my wife Brigitte, but hopefully it can contribute to putting a stop to this terrible disease in the future.”
With the fantastic total of EUR 490,219 raised, Alzheimer Nederland can now take further steps in research into dementia, such as Alzheimer’s and early-onset dementia.
Wiesje van der Flier, Chief Executive of Alzheimer Nederland said: “At Alzheimer Nederland, we are incredibly grateful for this wonderful initiative. It is inspiring to see how Alliance Gastronomique, Marc and his family, and all the partners are turning a sense of powerlessness into positive action. Together, we are taking an important step towards a future without dementia.”

20 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Latvia promotes dementia awareness at Jūrmala Senior School



Alzheimer Latvia (LAA) is involved in the Jūrmala Senior School project “The Motto of Jūrmala Seniors – We Want to Know Everything”, helping older adults better understand dementia, brain health, and ways to reduce the risk of dementia in everyday life. The project includes a series of 12 sessions combining health and dementia education with discussions and practical group work. Participants analyse everyday situations, discuss possible solutions, and jointly develop recommendations that they can apply in their daily lives.
For LAA, creating an open dialogue about dementia is particularly important. The sessions aim to challenge myths and prejudice and improve understanding of how to support people living with dementia and their relatives. Group work gives participants the opportunity not only to gain knowledge, but also to share experiences, ask questions, and explore practical solutions together.
This approach strengthens health literacy and helps build a society where dementia is discussed with understanding and without prejudice.
The project, implemented by the Jūrmala Pensioners’ Association, promotes older adults’ quality of life, social participation, and lifelong learning. It is co-funded by the European Social Fund Plus and the state budget under the programme “Support for the Implementation of Senior School Activities”.

21 OCTOBER:

From local needs to community action: REMIND launches pilot programme in central Greece”



REMIND has launched a new pilot programme in Central Greece, supported by a donation from the TIMA Charitable Foundation, aiming to strengthen community-based approaches to healthy and inclusive ageing.

Building on previous efforts to identify local needs, the initiative seeks to bring cognitive health awareness, prevention-oriented activities and opportunities for social participation closer to older people, families and carers, particularly in smaller towns and communities with limited access to specialised services.

The programme spans five regional units, with five local community hubs and six online groups. Its central principle is that effective interventions should begin by listening to people and understanding their needs, rather than simply delivering predetermined services.

The first interventions took place on 16 October 2026 in Kymi and on 21 October 2026 in Thiva, marking the transition from planning to action. The events combined informative presentations with interactive participation, demonstrating how community activities can engage people in practical ways.

One particularly lively moment came during a presentation on the importance of physical movement for brain health. The exercise instructor invited participants to stand up and perform simple exercises together, turning the audience from passive listeners into active participants. This activity brought the relationship between physical movement and cognitive well-being to life, illustrating how small, accessible actions can become part of everyday healthy ageing.

This participatory approach reflects REMIND’s wider philosophy: people should not merely receive information but be encouraged to engage, share experiences and take an active role in their own well-being.

Through its network of local hubs and online groups, the programme aims to strengthen social connections, support families and encourage communities to become more involved in promoting healthy ageing.

The pilot initiative also provides an opportunity to explore how community-based approaches can be adapted to different local settings, particularly where geographical distance limits access to services.

By connecting local needs with practical activities, REMIND hopes to contribute to a broader European discussion on equitable access, inclusive ageing and community participation.

The initiative represents a step towards building communities where older people can remain active, informed, connected and included.

Pictured: REMIND's first community interventions in Kymi and Thiva, Central Greece, on 16 and 21 October 2026, as part of a new pilot programme supported by the TIMA Charitable Foundation

21 OCTOBER:

Alzheimer Scotland ambassador launches new book on dementia

Tara Spires-Jones, Professor of Neurodegeneration and the Director of the Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences at the University of Edinburgh, has published a book with Oxford University Press, “*Fighting for our Minds: The Neuroscience of Defeating Dementia”*. Alzheimer Scotland Ambassador, Prof. Spires-Jones’s new publication tackles the reality of the dementia crisis head-on, noting that one in three people born today are predicted to develop dementia, and roughly half of us will be personally impacted by it.

Alzheimer Scotland is always incredibly proud to work with Prof. Spires-Jones, an eminent neuroscientist at the University of Edinburgh and leading expert in neurodegeneration. Their partnership has evolved over many years through her groundbreaking work at the University’s Centre for Discovery Brain Sciences and her work with the Alzheimer Scotland Brain Tissue Bank. Through generous post-mortem brain tissue donations, her team uses cutting-edge techniques to study how toxic proteins like amyloid beta and tau disrupt brain connections.

As a dedicated scientific Ambassador for Alzheimer Scotland, Prof. Spires-Jones' role is to build a bridge between complex neuroscience and the public. A cornerstone of this, and the partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, is the strong relationship that the organisation's Active Voice groups have established with her. Through regular visits to the Spires-Jones Lab, members of the Scottish Dementia Working Group (SDWG) and National Dementia Carers Action Network (NDCAN) have been able to tour the facility, meet with the team, and see their vital research taking place firsthand. These visits also ensure that the Lab's work remains grounded in lived experience. Understanding the daily realities of people affected by dementia provides invaluable context, prompts new questions, and constantly reminds the team of the real-world value of their work.

"It is always such an inspiration and a pleasure to work with Alzheimer Scotland's SDWG and NDCAN members. Our conversations in lab tours, discussions with our students, and conferences were instrumental in giving me the confidence to write 'Fighting for our Minds.' The engagement and interest in the neuroscience of dementia research from all of you made me realise that other non-scientists might be interested in our work. Thank you!" said Prof. Spires-Jones.

In her book, Prof. Spires-Jones also explores the most recent treatments on the horizon, offering a powerful sense of hope for the future. This hope is shared deeply by members of SDWG and NDCAN. As proud partners in research, the groups' members are always keen to support purposeful, dementia-related projects by sharing their personal experiences to help make sure this work focuses on what really matters to families.

"I feel so privileged to have been part of the tour of the Brain Science Lab in Edinburgh University. Their commitment to research into dementia is heartwarming and they understand the importance for their generation to find answers, effective treatments and perhaps a cure for generations to come" said NDCAN member Marion.

Professors, postdoctoral and PhD students are always keen to share their insights in an accessible way when our members visit the Lab. Dissecting fruit flies is always a hit, driven by the team's infectious enthusiasm. These experiences offer a fascinating look into how live post-operative brain tissue is studied, alongside lessons on the fruit fly life cycle and its vital role in advancing Alzheimer's disease research.



"Learning about the collection and usage of the access tissue donated by folk having a brain tumour removed was very special. The respectful approach and delicate handling shown by the researchers in all aspects of what they do is amazing", commented SDWG member Rynagh.

Recently, Prof. Spires-Jones also featured on the BBC's Scotcast, where she considered how close science is to stopping dementia in its tracks, through preventative measures and emerging treatments. During the podcast, she said, "We can stop dementia in a generation." This kind of optimism and determination gives us hope for the future. Her team's dedication to research continues to create meaningful impact for those we support, and we wish her great success with her book.

If you would like to hear more of Prof. Spires-Jones' insights, you can listen to the full Scotcast episode on BBC Sounds at:

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0pcb7ks

Pictured: Active Voice Lead Wendy Rankin-Smith with Professor Tara Spires-Jones

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

30 SEPTEMBER:

Gerda Van Tongerloo, Vice-Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, takes part in World Alzheimer's Month activities in Zeist

My name is Gerda Van Tongerloo, I live in the Netherlands, and I am a member of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD). In September, which is World Alzheimer's Month, I took part in various activities in my hometown of Zeist, under the banner "Ik blijf meedoen" ("I'll keep taking part"). This was Alzheimer Nederland's theme for this important awareness-raising month. There were sports and cooking activities, among others.



30 SEPTEMBER:

Gerda Van Tongerloo shares her experience of taking part in a recent "Brain Brigade" activity



Dementia does not mean that you have to stand on the sidelines. Ten years ago, I was diagnosed with vascular cognitive impairment, a precursor to vascular dementia. Yet I am still in the middle of life. As a "dementia influencer", I am committed to changing the image of dementia on a daily basis.

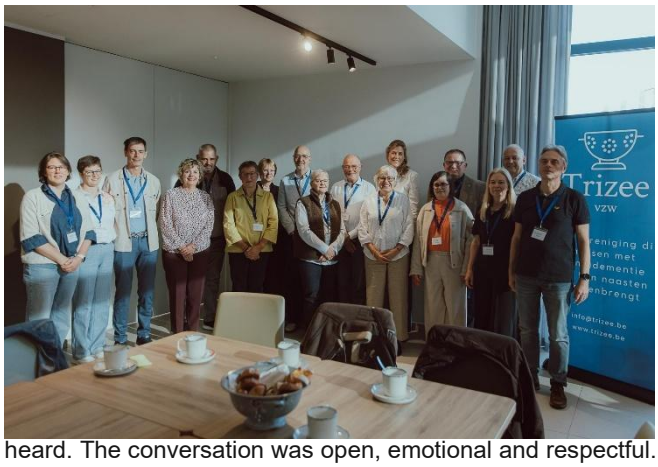
During a recent meeting of BreinBrigade (Brain Brigade), I explained how important it is that people with dementia are given the opportunity to continue to participate. I stressed that we can still learn, just in a different way and a little slower. All that is needed is one thing: the environment. Because you don't see dementia, it's an invisible disability.

My message fits in seamlessly with BreinBrigade: Together with local companies and organisations, people with memory problems are linked to appropriate volunteer work. It is not the limitation that is central, but the possibilities. BreinBrigade is part of "Strong with your Network", a collaboration between care, welfare and housing to allow elderly people to live independently at home for longer.

https://www.welzijnlelystad.nl/en/brain-brigade

19 OCTOBER:

“Our future, our voice: dementia and the right to decide” - Annick Germeys, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, takes part in discussions with Belgian policymakers on the planned reform of Belgium’s euthanasia law



I am a member of Trizee, a Belgian association bringing together people living with young-onset and other forms of dementia in a spirit of solidarity and mutual support. I am also a member of Alzheimer Europe’s European Dementia Carers Working Group. Through these roles, and wherever possible by contributing to policy discussions and other decision-making forums, I work towards a better world for people living with dementia and their carers. I believe it is essential that people with dementia and their families have a voice in decisions that directly affect their lives.

Recently, Trizee invited Belgian Minister of Justice Annelies Verlinden and Member of Parliament Katrien Schryvers to listen to our experiences and views on the planned reform of Belgium’s euthanasia law. We claimed our place in this debate, and we were heard. The conversation was open, emotional and respectful. People living with dementia and their carers spoke for themselves about their fears, wishes and hopes. These were not abstract discussions about legislation. They were personal stories from people who are living with dementia and facing these questions themselves.

For us, the most important message of this meeting was simple: talk with us, not about us. This is at the heart of what Trizee stands for: ensuring that people living with dementia and their carers have their own voice in decisions that affect their lives. We do not want others to speak on our behalf without involving us. We want to share our experiences, express our wishes and help shape the policies that will determine our future.

In Belgium, an advance directive for euthanasia can currently only be used when a person is irreversibly unconscious. It cannot be used when someone has advanced dementia and is no longer legally competent to make decisions but remains conscious.

This creates a painful dilemma. People who fear losing their decision-making capacity may feel forced to choose euthanasia earlier than they would wish, while they are still competent to make the request. Those who wish to wait may lose the possibility of making that choice themselves.

Many Trizee members want the law to change. They want people to be able to express their wishes while they are still competent, including a request for euthanasia at a later stage of dementia, under carefully defined conditions. This raises difficult ethical questions, including how to respect previously expressed wishes while also taking account of the person’s feelings and signals at that later stage. These questions must be addressed carefully, with the voices of people with dementia at the centre.

Equally important, the right to choose must never become a substitute for good care. People with dementia and their families must be able to count on appropriate, accessible and continuous support throughout the disease. The discussion about euthanasia must never be driven by a lack of care or support.

DEMENTIA IN SOCIETY

1 OCTOBER:

Welcome to Alzheimer's Disease International's new CEO Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell



On 1 October, Dr Faith Mwangi-Powell joined Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) as the new Chief Executive Officer. We warmly welcome her as she takes up her role and we look forward to working with her, to continue the collaboration between Alzheimer Europe and ADI, as part of the international dementia community.

You can find out more about ADI's new CEO, here: https://www.alzint.org/news-events/news/introducing-adis-new-ceo-dr-faith-mwangi-powell/

31 OCTOBER:

How can communities best support people living with dementia and carers? Share your experience of dementia support and care

An international community of practice supported by the World Health Organization (WHO) is inviting people globally to share their experiences of community-based dementia support and care by completing a survey. The survey is open until 1 December 2026.

The survey is being conducted as part of the activities of the Models of Support and Care in Dementia Working Group, a community of practice initiated and supported by WHO to contribute to the implementation of the WHO Blueprint for Dementia Research.

Community-based support and care play an important role in the lives of people living with dementia and those who support them. However, approaches differ across communities and countries, and there is much to learn from these diverse experiences.

The survey aims to gather information about community-based models being used globally to support people living with dementia and their carers including information about what works well, what challenges remain, and where improvements are needed. By bringing together experiences from different settings, through this work, we ~~it~~ seek~~s~~ to identify useful approaches, gaps and needs, while supporting opportunities for communities to learn from one another.

Who can participate?

The survey welcomes a broad range of perspectives, including people living with dementia, family members and carers, health and social care professionals, people providing dementia support, researchers, policymakers and anyone interested in dementia care.

Participation is voluntary, responses are confidential, and the survey takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete. It is available in 16 languages, making it accessible to a wide international audience.

The Working Group encourages individuals and organisations to participate and share the survey invitation through their networks, helping to ensure that a diversity of experiences and perspectives is represented. This is an important first step in helping us identify effective, affordable and cost-effective models of care that are appropriate for various contexts.

The survey closes on 1 December 2026.

Take part and share your experience:

https://tinyurl.com/dementia-community-survey

The survey was exempt from ethics review by the IRB of Wheaton College, MA, USA.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES

31 OCTOBER:

EFNA Seeks New Executive Director

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is seeking an exceptional leader to serve as its next Executive Director. This is a unique opportunity to lead one of Europe's leading patient advocacy organisations.

The successful candidate will drive strategy, lead fundraising and stakeholder engagement, manage a dedicated team, and represent the neurological patient voice across Europe.

EFNA is looking for an experienced leader with a strong background in health policy, advocacy, non-profit management, stakeholder engagement and organisational leadership.

Join EFNA in shaping the future of brain health and neurological advocacy.

Apply by 27 November.

For full details and application information, visit: https://www.efna.net/efna-seeks-new-executive-director/





AE CALENDAR 2026

DATE		
4 NOVEMBER	European Parliament Roundtable: Bridging the Gap on Neurological Diseases: The Role of Early Detection and Diagnosis (Brussels,	Angela
5 NOVEMBER	PROMINENT Clinical Studies Meeting	Margarita
6 NOVEMBER	PREDICTFTD consortium meeting	Angela
10 NOVEMBER	TEIDe consultation with members of the EWGPWD and EDCWG	Soraya
10 NOVEMBER	Meeting with Cassandra Ricci from Roche Diagnostics	Lukas
16-19 NOVEMBER	Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease conference (Boston, USA)	Angela
17 NOVEMBER	Alzheimer's Association Academy on dementia and employment	AE staff, members and
22 NOVEMBER	PREDICTOM Public Ambassador Group meeting	Sarah
23 NOVEMBER	Alzheimer Europe Annual General Meeting	AE staff, board and
24 NOVEMBER	World Dementia Council Virtual Dialogue: "The new patient"	Angela
27 NOVEMBER	Multi-MeMo General Assembly Meeting	Cindy, Sarah

CONFERENCES 2026-2027

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
16–19 NOV 2026	19th Clinical Trials in Alzheimer's Disease conference (CTAD) https://www.ctad-alzheimer.com/	Boston, USA
24–28 FEB 2027	15th Panhellenic Conference on Alzheimer's Disease (P.I.C.A.D.) & 7th Mediterranean Conference on Neurodegenerative Diseases (Me.Co.N.D.) https://www.alzheimer-conference.gr/index_en.php	Thessaloniki, Greece
16-20 MAR 2027	AD/PD 2027 https://adpd.kenes.com/	Barcelona, Spain
20-22 MAY 2027	21st World Congress of the European Association for Palliative Care https://eapcnet.eu/congress/2027	Glasgow, Scotland, UK
18-21 JUL 2027	Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) 2027 https://aaic.alz.org/	Chicago, USA
12-14 OCT 2027	37th Alzheimer Europe Conference https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferencesa	Belgrade. Serbia

Co-funded by the European Union

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СРПСКО УДРУЖЕЊЕ ЗА АЛЦХАЈМЕРОВУ БОЛЕСТ СЕТИ СЕ ЧОВЕКА

www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences