

ALZHEIMER EUROPE NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME



I hope you all found some time to relax and recharge your batteries during these exceptionally warm summer months.

Normally, July and August are quieter months which is why we have followed the tradition of previous years of combining news from these two months in one summer edition.

Looking at this newsletter though, I am struck at the variety of news which we have been able to cover with science developments being top of the agenda.

I had the privilege of attending the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Chicago where close to 6,000 researchers came together to share their latest research findings. We have dedicated a special section to AAIC in this newsletter and cover some of the key research developments which were presented. This includes the preliminary findings of the SPRINT MIND study about the important effect of intensive blood pressure control on the incidence of Mild Cognitive Impairment and the positive top line results from the Phase II trial of BAN2401.

Alzheimer Europe continues to pay close attention to clinical trials being conducted in European countries and we included information on the GENERATION S2, GRADUATE 1 and 2 and HARMONY clinical trials on our website in August.

On the research front, we were also particularly pleased to hear that Bill Gates

decided to invest USD 30 million to support Alzheimer's research.

This newsletter is also full of updates of the many EU funded research projects which Alzheimer Europe is involved in and you can find out more about projects such as AMYPAD, EMIF, EPAD, INDUCT, MinD, MOPEAD, PARADIGM, ROADMAP and SyDAD. A truly impressive list of projects which value the involvement and contributions of Alzheimer Europe.

In August, we also brought together our working group on dementia in ethnic minority groups where we had some great discussions on how best to tailor our communications and services to address the specific needs of people with dementia and carers from underrepresented groups.

On a policy front, the Portuguese Parliament recently approved a new law on legal capacity which integrates the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities into Portuguese law and which will abolish the existing system of "incapacitation". Congratulations are due to our Portuguese colleagues who campaigned for this change of law.

As always, we also cover some of the great activities of our national member organisations.

Finally, I hope you will all join me in welcoming Owen as the new Policy Officer of Alzheimer Europe who joined our team on 1 August.

Jean Georges
Executive Director

ALZHEIMER EUROPE

1 August: Alzheimer Europe welcomes new Policy Officer



As of 1 August, Alzheimer Europe is pleased to welcome a new colleague to its Luxembourg office: Policy Officer Owen Miller. Prior to joining Alzheimer Europe he worked in a similar role with Alzheimer Scotland.

Owen's role will focus on:

- Supporting the campaigns of Alzheimer Europe and its national member organisations in getting dementia recognised as a European priority, including for the European Election in 2019.
- Developing policy statements and contributions to ongoing European Commission consultations.
- Presenting the views of Alzheimer Europe to members of European institutions.
- Supporting the activities of the European Alzheimer's Alliance.
- Collaborating with the Alzheimer Europe's national member associations in the development of national reports on dementia policies.

Owen can be reached at: owen.miller@alzheimer-europe.org

8 August: Alzheimer Europe adds new trials to its Clinical Trials Watch



In September 2016, Alzheimer Europe (AE) launched the Clinical Trials Watch (CTW). This online resource for anyone interested in clinical trials for the prevention and treatment of dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease (AD) provides accessible and up-to-date information on Phase III clinical trials that are investigating drugs for both conditions. All the clinical trials included are currently recruiting participants in at least one European country.

In July and August 2018, AE added four clinical trials to the service:

- GENERATION S2 study (Novartis)
- GRADUATE 1 study (Hoffmann-La Roche)
- GRADUATE 2 study (Hoffmann-La Roche)
- HARMONY (Acadia).

Furthermore, the CREAD 2 (Hoffmann-La Roche), ENGAGE (Biogen) and EMERGE (Biogen) Phase III studies have been moved from the recruiting clinical trials section to the no longer recruiting section. These three studies are ongoing, and participants are receiving an intervention or being examined, but new participants are not currently being recruited.

Further information about the CTW is available on: <http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Research/Clinical-Trials-Watch>

For more information about the CTW please contact Project Officer Cindy Birck: cindy.birck@alzheimer-europe.org

Sponsors of the month

Alzheimer Europe would like to express its gratitude to two new sponsors for our 2018 activities.

Read more about sponsorship opportunities here:

<https://goo.gl/ckVNeC>



22 August: Working group on intercultural care and support meets in Amsterdam

The expert working group addressing intercultural care and support for people with dementia from minority ethnic groups met in Amsterdam on 22 August 2018 to discuss the first draft of the planned report and the development of the tool to collect information on good practices across Europe. The group was pleased to welcome Brigitte Staehle from the Robert Bosch Stiftung, which is co-financing the project (which is also funded by the European Commission).



The group worked together on the structure and content of the report, which will be targeted mainly at health and social care professionals, as well as policy makers. It will start with an in-depth analysis of terminology and concepts surrounding minority ethnic groups, followed by a section on raising awareness and communicating about dementia, promoting initial help seeking and the

development of culturally-sensitive assessment and diagnostic tools. This will be followed by a section on support and care, which will address issues related to the uptake of services and support, specific aspects and intercultural care and support, and issues related to the professional dementia carers both of and from minority ethnic groups. A first draft of the report will be sent out for wider feedback from relevant experts working with and/or from minority ethnic groups in Europe. The report will go to print at the beginning of November and will be available at the beginning of December. Information for our planned online database of ongoing initiatives and materials for people with dementia and carers from minority ethnic groups (or for professionals and service providers) would be greatly appreciated.

Alzheimer Europe Networking

On 2 July (Barcelona, Spain), Gwladys and Jean met with CEAFA for a study visit of the #28AEC conference venue.

On 5 July (Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Jean attended the AETIONOMY Steering Committee Meeting which took place in the AE office.

On 11 July (London, UK), Dianne attended a meeting at the European Medicines Agency in London.

On 13 July (Strasbourg, France), Jean participated in a meeting of the ADDIA consortium.

On 16 July (Luxembourg, Luxembourg), Jean met with Charles Betz from Luxinnovation to discuss collaboration opportunities.

On 18 July (London, UK), Dianne and Ana attended a PARADIGM WP3 meeting on selection of case studies for application of metrics.

On 18 July (The Hague, Netherlands), Gwladys and Jean met with Alzheimer Nederland for a field visit of the #29AEC conference venue.

On 21 July (Chicago, US), Jean attended Biogen's Global Alzheimer's Advocacy Steering Committee.

From 22 July to 26 July (Chicago, US), Jean attended the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).

On 25 July (Chicago, US), Jean attended the meeting of the Elected Board of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI).

On 26 July (Chicago, US), Jean attended the ADI Council Meeting.

From 27 to 29 July (Chicago, US), Jean attended the ADI Conference.

On 22 August (Amsterdam, Netherlands), Alzheimer Europe organised a working group meeting for its project on dementia in ethnic minority groups.

EU PROJECTS

7 July: MinD project colleagues meet to prepare designs for evaluation



In July 2018, colleagues from the designing for people with dementia mindful self-empowerment and social engagement (MinD) team have met for the third time in Luxembourg. The University of Luxembourg and Alzheimer Europe hosted visiting researchers from Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Spain, to finalise design ideas and prepare for their evaluation.

During two weeks, healthcare partners and designers worked on the design development of the "Good Life Kit". The "Good Life Kit" aims to support people with dementia in managing everyday life confidently. The design concept had been selected in October 2017 from a shortlist with the help of people with dementia, caregivers and healthcare experts in Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom.

During the July meeting, one of the key tasks revolved around finalising the design concepts of the three different parts of the "Good Life Kit", so that prototypes can be prepared over the summer for the evaluation in autumn. The three parts are: "This is Me", "Living the Life" and "You & Me". "This is Me" offers a board game with which people are stimulated to

reflect on their past, present and future but also to think about experiences, feelings and values, abilities as well as wishes. "Living the Life" offers information on health and how to keep well following mindfulness principles. "You & Me" offers input on reflecting on and putting in place one's own support team to face the challenges of dementia.

A second key task was to work on preparing a framework for the evaluation of the designs in the next phase of the project in autumn. The intention is to present the designs to people with dementia, carers and health professionals in four countries (Germany, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Spain). The evaluation will assess the potential benefits and impacts of the designs.

18 July: Members of PARADIGM WP3 meet in London



On 18 July, members of WP3 held a progress meeting and case selection workshop in London. This Work Package (WP) is dedicated to understanding and developing metrics for monitoring and evaluating

the impact of patient engagement (PE) in the development and life cycle of medicines. In the morning, participants had the opportunity to learn about the preliminary results of a scoping review, conducted by the academic partner CASMI (Oxford University and UCL) on existing frameworks for Patient and Public Involvement. Members of the Athena Institute (VU University Amsterdam) presented the suggested approach for monitoring and evaluating the impact of PE in the project. In the afternoon, WP leaders presented different case studies for application of metrics that had been identified by members of the consortium. These cases showcased practical examples of engaging patients in setting the research agenda, in the design

of clinical trials and in early dialogues with Health Technology Assessors and regulators. 4 out of the 48 case studies collected had been put forward by Alzheimer Europe and described practices of PE in dementia in the process of developing medicines. Participants worked in small groups and provided feedback on issues such as diversity and representation of the suggested cases studies and the information that would be needed to progress on the cases studies. The next meeting to discuss the framework will be held at the beginning of 2019. Dianne Gove and Ana Diaz attended the meeting on behalf of Alzheimer Europe.

22 July: EPAD exhibits at AAIC in Chicago



The European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia (EPAD) consortium is pleased to have exhibited for the first time the EPAD study at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) held on 22-26 July in Chicago.

With its neat white walls and signature green colours, the EPAD booth at the start of the exhibition area at this year's record size AAIC stood out not only for the constant stream of attendees stopping by at the booth but also for acting as a great meeting area for catching up with the many current and future EPAD collaborators. Around 400 people stopped by at the EPAD booth to hear about the study and to exchange ideas. The EPAD leadership used the AAIC as a fantastic opportunity to manage a back-to-back diary with an intense four days of meetings with other world experts on Alzheimer's disease prevention. At AAIC 2018, the aim of the EPAD booth was not only to introduce the EPAD study and learn from its academic and industry partners, but crucially, to showcase the EPAD Proof of Concept (PoC) trial platform. On the second evening of the AAIC, the EPAD team held a satellite symposium dedicated to the EPAD PoC trial to allow for presentations and a question and answer session from interested intervention owners.

24 July: The MOPEAD project launches citizen science screening platform to help identify Alzheimer's disease cases in Spain, Sweden and Slovenia



On 24 July, the Models of Patient Engagement for Alzheimer's Disease (MOPEAD) project launched

their fourth model to help identify cases of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and support timely diagnosis. Until now, the website is promoted in Spain, Sweden and Slovenia with Germany and the Netherlands soon to follow.

MOPEAD Citizen Science is designed to reach a large number of citizens through online campaigns adapted to each of the countries. People will find the portal website from their browsers when searching for issues related to memory care, healthy life-style or AD. It provides a series of educational content related to the importance of prevention, social awareness as well as the project.

This web-based approach is used to help people to find out if they might have cognitive impairment, giving around 100 citizens between the ages of 65 – 85 per participating country the opportunity to check their memory. Those, whose performance is lower than expected, will be advised to visit a MOPEAD memory clinic in order to get a full evaluation.

You can find the website [here](#).



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26 July: INDUCT updates on participation at the ADI Conference



On 26 – 29 July, the INDUCT – Interdisciplinary Network for Dementia Using Current Technology (Marie Curie Skłodowska project) harnessed

the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) Conference's focus on technology by providing evidence to show how technology can support the lives of people with dementia, their caregivers and families.

INDUCT early stage researchers provided a European-wide, psychosocial perspective on technology and dementia care, including oral presentations from Hannah Christie (Maastricht University) and Sophie Gaber (Karolinska Institutet), and poster presentations by Sara Bartels (Maastricht University) and Kate Shiells (Charles University).

INDUCT findings from the Cognitive Accessibility and Technology Use when aging in home and Society (CACTUS) research group, supervised by Professor Louise Nygård and Dr Camilla Malinowsky, Karolinska Institutet (Sweden), highlighted that whilst there is potential for everyday technologies and innovations to aid participation in activities and places for people with dementia, it may also create new challenges and expectations.

The conference underlined that there is a shortage of dementia data and in the future data may become “more valuable than gold”. INDUCT is ideally located to contribute to the knowledge-gap. For further information, please visit the INDUCT website [here](#) or contact:

Sophie Gaber (INDUCT ESR3 – Karolinska Institutet)

Email: sophie.gaber@ki.se

27 July: ROADMAP participates in "Women and Dementia" session at ADI Conference



On 27 July, Claire Tochel from the Real World Outcomes Across the Alzheimer's Disease spectrum for better care: Multi-modal data Access Platform (ROADMAP) Consortium participated in a parallel session dedicated to research on women and dementia at the Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) Conference 2018.

The sex- and gender-based diversity in the caregiving role may lead to differences in the quality of the experience and magnitude of the risk for negative outcomes for male and female caregivers. This session discussed various aspects of this gender disparity and implications for caregiver services and research on psychosocial interventions. The symposium included contributions by caregiver and Alzheimer's disease (AD) experts focusing on various aspects of caring for a person with AD.

Claire Tochel gave insights into the work of the Outcome Definition team. She presented a brief overview of the findings from ROADMAP on which outcomes of AD / dementia are considered important and what this implies for female caregivers of persons living with dementia. Other speakers included Elina Suzuki who presented newly collected data on the quality of dementia care in OECD countries and Jill Lesser who gave a short presentation about the current framework of the Global Alliance for Women's Brain Health. Furthermore, Lynn Posluns talked about the Women's Brain Health Initiative in Canada and MaryAnne Sterling discussed the unique ways in which the AD-PCPRN is engaging dementia family caregivers in clinical research. Prof. Mittelman based her presentation on various findings including the original study of the NYU Caregiver intervention (NYUCI). Maria Teresa Ferretti then closed the session with an overview of the Women's Brain

Project's current understanding of the topic of sex and gender in AD and the position that the Women's Brain Project has taken with respect to this issue. You can find the ROADMAP presentation [here](#).

31 July: Report of Innovative Medicines Initiative project "EMIF" closing meeting now online



On 31 July, the European Medical Information Framework (EMIF) published a comprehensive report on its closing meeting.

The project aimed to connect data on 52 million individuals to decipher links between genetic background, biological

abnormalities, brain imaging changes, mental symptoms and disease progression.

The main objective was to create an environment that allows for efficient re-use of existing health data. The project included two specific therapeutic research topics including the onset of Alzheimer's disease (AD), which aimed to discover and validate biomarkers of AD onset and identify high-risk individuals for therapeutic trials for prevention.

The report covers all the closing meeting presentations and offers a high-level overview of EMIF achievements. Additionally, it includes some of the Q&A and discussions held throughout the meeting. It is available for download [here](#).

21 August: INDUCT reports on preliminary findings of surveillance and empowerment study



On 21 August, the Interdisciplinary Network for Dementia Using Current Technology (INDUCT) project's Early Stage Researcher Yvette Vermeer based at University College London reported on preliminary findings from her study to understand how surveillance technologies are marketed, and how this impacts people living with dementia and carers.

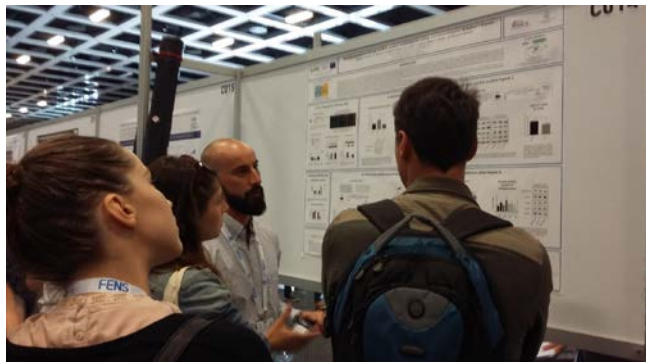
Previously, Yvette discussed the growing awareness of the role that surveillance has on addressing the needs of people with dementia and carers. Recent findings suggest that there are many lessons to be learned in exchanges between Europe and North-America. In Europe and North-America, a universal language is used to sell surveillance products online. This universal language emphasises the importance of increasing safety and independence, accompanied by the same stock photos of people depicted as wandering, lost and in grave danger. The portrayal of people with dementia as a 'problem to be managed' has been highlighted in previous research. The question what people living with dementia think about such

media messages and technologies will be asked in future discussions.

Interested in more information? Email y.vermeer@ucl.ac.uk

You can also consult the INDUCT website: www.dementiainduct.eu

22 August: The SyDAD project updates on recent activities



The SyDAD (Synaptic Dysfunction in Alzheimer Disease) early stage researchers (ESRs) have been very active during the summer.

On 24-29 June, Una Smailovic participated in the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, met with several Nobel Laureates and got the opportunity to network with young scientists from the top institutions. In addition, on July 7-11, six SyDAD ESRs presented their work as posters at the FENS Forum in Berlin and received a lot of attention. Sebastien Therin (pictured) presented his work on cell permeable peptides that reduces formation of the amyloid beta-peptide.

27 August: AMYPAD reports on recent progress and activities



In its August newsletter, the Amyloid imaging to prevent Alzheimer's disease (AMYPAD) project reported the important advances that have been made during the past quarter.

After the successful enrolment of the first participant (and 12 others) in the Diagnostic and Patient Management Study (DPMS) by the University of Geneva, the past quarter has seen another two sites come on board. The team in Amsterdam (VUmc) has received approval by their ethical committee late in May, and has already enrolled 7 participants into the study. Recently, AMYPAD colleagues in Barcelona (BBRC) were also happy to report green light from their review board, and have been working hard on getting everything ready for their first inclusion.

In parallel, a big change of gears has happened in the Prognostic and Natural History Study (PNHS). Over the past quarter, the VUmc team has taken on the role of study Sponsor and started to coordinate other sites in their participation into this study. The first round of ethical review of the protocol has happened in Amsterdam, and five other sites are expected to submit the study to their review boards before October and initiate the study before the end of the calendar year.

As busy as the centres are with setting up both studies, AMYPAD researchers have made great advances in producing relevant scientific output, with many scientific posters and oral presentations at large conferences in the field such as the 2018 Mapping NeuroReceptors at Work (9-12 July, London) and the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (22-26 July, Chicago). In addition to the interest received from the attendees stopping by at these posters, oral presentations were very well received.

The presented results will be developed into scientific articles in the near future.

Publications that arise from the AMYPAD scientific framework can now be downloaded on the AMYPAD ResearchGate page. To stay up-to-date, ask questions and find AMYPAD collaborators, follow the AMYPAD ResearchGate page [here](#).

Finally, thanks to the Project Management Office, the first Periodic Report of AMYPAD has been submitted and approved by IMI, a great achievement that allows the project to move forward and continue to grow.

EU project acknowledgement

A number of the projects in which Alzheimer Europe is a project partner receive funding from Horizon2020 or from the Innovative Medicines Initiative and Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertakings. The Joint Undertaking receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and EFPIA.

The projects in this newsletter with EU funding are:

- AMYPAD – grant agreement 115952
- EMIF – grant agreement 115372
- EPAD – grant agreement 115736
- MOPEAD - grant agreement 115985
- PARADIGM - grant agreement 777450
- ROADMAP - grant agreement 116020



Members of the European Alzheimer's Alliance



Currently, the total number of MEPs in the Alliance stands at **126**, representing **27** Member States of the European Union and six out of seven political groups in the European Parliament. Alzheimer Europe would like to thank the following MEPs for their support of the European Alzheimer's Alliance:

Austria: Heinz K. Becker (EPP); Karin Kadenbach (S&D); Barbara Kappel (NI); Paul Rübig (EPP). **Belgium:** Mark Demesmaeker (ECR); Frédérique Ries (ALDE); Bart Staes (Greens/EFA); Marc Tarabella (S&D); Kathleen van Brempt (S&D); Hilde Vautmans (ALDE). **Bulgaria:** Andrey Kovatchev (EPP). **Croatia:** Biljana Borzan (S&D); Tonino Picula (S&D); Ruža Tomašić (ECR). **Cyprus:** Costas Mavrides (S&D); Eleni Theocharous (EPP). **Czech Republic:** Olga Sehnalová (S&D); Pavel Svoboda (EPP); Tomáš Zdechovský (EPP). **Denmark:** Ole Christensen (S&D); Jens Rohde (ALDE); Christel Schaldemose (S&D). **Estonia:** Urmas Paet (ALDE); **Finland:** Liisa Jaakonsaari (S&D); Anneli Jäätteenmäki (ALDE); Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (S&D); Merja Kyllönen (GUE/NGL); Sirpa Pietikäinen (EPP). **France:** Dominique Bilde (ENF); Nathalie Griesbeck (ALDE); Françoise Grossetête (EPP); Philippe Juvin (EPP); Elisabeth Morin-Chartier (EPP); Gilles Pargneaux (S&D). **Germany:** Angelika Niebler (EPP); Udo Voigt (NI). **Greece:** Kostas Chrysogonos (GUE/NGL); Manolis Kefalogiannis (EPP); Kostadinka Kuneva (GUE/NGL); Kyrkos Miltiadis (S&D); Dimitrios Papadimoulis (GUE/NGL); Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL); Maria Spyraiki (EPP); Eleftherios Synadinos (NI); Elissavet Vozemberg-Vrionidi (EPP). **Hungary:** Ádám Kósa (EPP). **Ireland:** Lynn Boylan (GUE/NGL); Matt Carthy (GUE/NGL); Nessa Childers (S&D); Deirdre Clune (EPP); Brian Crowley (ALDE); Luke 'Ming' Flanagan (GUE/NGL); Marian Harkin (ALDE); Brian Hayes (EPP); Seán Kelly (EPP); Mairead McGuinness (EPP); Liadh Ni Riada (GUE/NGL). **Italy:** Brando Benifei (S&D); Elena Gentile (S&D); Stefano Maullu (EPP); Pier Antonio Panzeri (S&D); Aldo Patriciello (EPP); Remo Sernagiotto (EPP); Patrizia Toia (S&D); Damiano Zoffoli (S&D). **Lithuania:** Vilija Blinkevičiute (S&D). **Luxembourg:** Georges Bach (EPP); Frank Engel (EPP); Charles Goerens (ALDE); Viviane Reding (EPP). **Malta:** Roberta Metsola (EPP); Alfred Sant (S&D). **Netherlands:** Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE); Esther de Lange (EPP); Jeroen Lenaers (EPP); Annie Schreijer-Pierik (EPP); Lambert van Nistelrooij (EPP). **Poland:** Elżbieta Lukacijewska (EPP); Krystyna Lybacka (S&D); Jan Olbrycht (EPP); Marek Plura (EPP); Bogdan Wenta (EPP). **Portugal:** Carlos Coelho (EPP); Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL); Sofia Ribeiro (EPP). **Romania:** Cristian-Silviu Busoi, MEP (EPP); Marian-Jean Marinescu (EPP); Daciana Octavia Sarbu (S&D); Claudiu Ciprian Tanasescu (S&D); Renate Weber (EPP). **Slovakia:** Miroslav Mikolášik (EPP); Ivan Stefanec (EPP); Anna Záborská (EPP); Jana Žitňanská (ECR). **Slovenia:** Franc Bogovič (EPP); Tanja Fajon (S&D); Alojz Peterle (EPP); Igor Šoltes (Greens/EFA); Patricija Šulin (EPP); Romana Tomc (EPP); Ivo Vajgl (ALDE); Milan Zver (EPP). **Spain:** Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (ALDE); Soledad Cabezon Ruiz (S&D); Luis de Grandes Pascual (EPP); Rosa Estarás Ferragut (EPP); Juan Carlos Girauta Vidal (ALDE); Sergio Gutiérrez Prieto (S&D); Juan Fernando López Aguilar (S&D); Pablo Zalba Bidegain (EPP). **Sweden:** Jytte Guteland (S&D); Peter Lundgren (EFD); Cecilia Wikström (ALDE). **United Kingdom:** Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL); Richard Ashworth (ECR); Theresa Griffin (S&D); Ian Hudghton (Greens/EFA); Jean Lambert (Greens/EFA); Linda McAvan (S&D); Claude Moraes (S&D); Rory Palmer (S&D); Alyn Smith (Greens/EFA); Catherine Stihler (S&D); Keith Taylor (Greens/EFA); Derek Vaughan (S&D); Julie Ward (S&D).

EU DEVELOPMENTS

17 July: European Commission establishes a steering group on health promotion, disease prevention and management of non-communicable diseases



On 17 July, the European Commission adopted the establishment of the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases as a formal expert body. The objective of this Steering Group is to help the Member States in reaching the health targets of sustainable development goals and to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases.

The Steering Group will provide expert advice to the European Commission on developing and implementing activities in the field of health promotion, disease prevention and the management of non-communicable diseases. It will foster exchanges of relevant experiences, policies and practices between the Member States. It will also advise the European Commission on the selection of best practices and using them to support their transfer and scaling up at the national and European level.

The Commission will chair the Steering Group made up of the Member States and will hold its first formal meeting on 6 November 2018 in Luxembourg. <https://goo.gl/siStCT>



18 July: The Innovative Medicines Initiative launches two calls for proposals



innovative
medicines
initiative

On 18 July, the Innovative Medicines Initiative announced the

launch of two new calls for proposals with a total budget of EUR 434 million.

Call 16 is a single-stage Call, dedicated to the Antimicrobial Resistance Accelerator Programme. Call 15 focuses on a broader range of topics including blockchain, enabled healthcare, translational safety technologies but also digital endpoints in neurodegenerative and immune-mediated diseases.

An important topic aims to find out if the synapse problems found in different neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases (e.g. Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's, major depression, and schizophrenia) have the same underlying cause or not.

<https://www.imi.europa.eu/news-events/press-releases/new-antimicrobial-resistance-accelerator-programme-part-latest-imi-calls>

MEMBERS' NEWS

18 July: Spominčica-Alzheimer Slovenia reports on its magazine



In 2003, Alzheimer Slovenia (Spominčica) founder Dr Aleš Kogoj and his team published the first issue of the "Spominčica" magazine. This first issue was printed in 2,000 copies and mostly distributed to nursing homes and caregivers.

In 2013, Štefanija L. Zlobec, the Vice President of Spominčica, suggested that the magazine could become a separate supplement of a well-known magazine in Slovenia leading to a higher outreach. The circulation of the magazine is now at 24,000 issues, accessible throughout Slovenia in many nursing homes, daily centres for elderly people and public places such as community health centres, pharmacies, fire stations, police stations, hairdressers and centres for social work.

All past issues and articles are now also freely available in e-form on Spominčica's website to reach a wider audience and to promote an active role for people with dementia in the society.

In 2015, the Spominčica magazine was a special edition with a front cover on the 25th annual Alzheimer Europe Conference, held in Cankarjev Hall in Ljubljana.

Topics of magazine cover different aspects of dementia in Slovenia such as ongoing initiatives about forming dementia friendly communities, formal and non-formal types of help, financial management and cost-effectiveness, awareness raising events, education and training activities as well as scientific news summarising the latest research in a comprehensive and dementia friendly format. It contains a section introducing the ongoing projects that Spominčica is involved in and particularly those that raise awareness about dementia, contribute to timely diagnosis, maintain autonomy and quality of life of those with dementia such as AD-GAMING, AD-AUTONOMY, MOPEAD and IONIS. The magazine also contains personal stories from caregivers, interviews with policy makers and regulatory bodies or activists. Past issues also included interviews with MEPs.

The next issue will be circulated in September, including an interview with Tomaž Gržinič, the Slovenian president of the working group of people with dementia and a Slovenian member of the European Working Group of People With Dementia.

26 July: Alzheimer Nederland welcomes new Executive Director Gerjoke Wilmink



On 26 July, Alzheimer Nederland announced that Gerjoke Wilmink will become their new Executive Director beginning 1 September 2018. She currently holds the same position at the Nibud (national institute for budget information in the Netherlands).

Commenting on the new post Gerjoke said that she looks forward to working together with staff and volunteers from Alzheimer Nederland to find ways to face up the challenges dementia raises and to ensure that our society becomes dementia friendly. You can find out more about the organisation [here](#).

29 July: Alzheimer Society of Ireland attends ADI conference in Chicago



The Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) Research & Policy Manager Dr Bernadette Rock was invited to participate in the 33rd International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) in Chicago. Her presentation was entitled 'A Human Rights Based Approach to Dementia Research', and her participation was generously supported by Home Instead Senior Care. Bernadette discussed how at ASI they engage people with dementia in research, drawing on their Charter of Rights for People with Dementia. The conference was an excellent opportunity to network with researchers, scientists, clinicians, allied healthcare professionals, people living with dementia, family carers, care professionals, and staff and volunteers of Alzheimer associations from over 100 countries. The conference featured a range of international keynote speakers and a high standard of scientific and non-scientific content. ASI is thankful to Home Instead for supporting Bernadette's participation at this unique event.

29 July: Alzheimer Society UK attends the 33rd ADI conference in Chicago



On 26 and 29 July, Alzheimer's Society attended the 33rd Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) conference in Chicago. The event was a huge success and offered a great opportunity to hear

the latest in developments in dementia-friendliness, care and national and global policy. The delegation was also joined by

two members of the 3 Nations Dementia Working Group, Dianne Campbell and Keith Oliver, who both provided powerful personal accounts of living with dementia in their respective presentations, 'Youth and Dementia' and 'Rights of people with dementia'.

Other highlights from the conference include:

- *Youth and Dementia session.* Alzheimer's Society, alongside the national Alzheimer associations of Japan, Australia, Iran and South Korea presented work on how they are engaging young people in the topic of dementia. Sally Copley, Director of Policy, Campaigns and Partnerships spoke extensively about the partnerships, schools resources and Dementia Friends materials Alzheimer's Society has designed to engage with young people between the ages of 5 and 16, including the A Million Hands partnership with the Scouts Association. Dianne Campbell, Alzheimer's Society Ambassador, also spoke personally about her involvement with the animation 'Memories with Grandma' and why she considers raising awareness of dementia and encouraging action with young people so important in order to create a dementia-friendly generation. If you would like any further information please contact youngpeople@alzheimers.org.uk.
- *Global Dementia Friends Network meeting.* Members of the Global Dementia Friends Network from Australia, Costa Rica, Germany, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Puerto Rico, South Korea, Thailand, the USA, England and Wales, joined a face-to-face breakfast meeting. It was a wonderful opportunity to share highlights from the past year and plans moving forward as well as celebrating country successes. A group discussion also explored current, upcoming and future resources that network members would find helpful to support in the delivery of their national Dementia Friends programmes. Contact dfinternational@alzheimers.org.uk to find out more about the Global Dementia Friends Network and how to join.

30 July: Alzheimer Portugal announces the launch of its "Dementia Friends" campaign

On 30 July, Alzheimer Portugal launched its Dementia Friends Campaign. The launch was organised to coincide with the "International Friendship Day" and took place under the High Patronage of His Excellency the President of the Republic.



The campaign receives support of the Alzheimer Society UK, is sponsored by different organisations and counts on the institutional support of municipalities.

In 21 different places of the country, mainly beaches but also islands as well as cities, 180 Alzheimer Portugal workers and volunteers invited people to become dementia friends by following 4 steps:

- visit the website www.amigosnadementia.org;
- make the registration on the website;
- watch a video to learn more about dementia;
- assure the commitment to do a concrete action (such as: becoming a volunteer at Alzheimer Portugal; Not using stigmatising words like "demented"; making friends, colleagues or family aware about dementia).

This nationwide awareness campaign aims to challenge stigma and to change the way people think, talk and act regarding dementia. Further, it aims at showing that it is possible to live well with dementia and that people are much more than the disease.



The campaign is in line with the WHO Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017 – 2025, which second action area is "Dementia awareness and friendliness". It is also in line with the Alzheimer Europe recommendations, where Alzheimer Portugal aims to work towards having a higher score in the next "European Dementia Monitor" concerning inclusiveness.

At national level, the campaign is a significant contribution to raise awareness and is in line with the recently launched Health Strategy for Dementia that recognises the need of developing awareness campaigns in order to tackle a lack of knowledge regarding the condition.

The Dementia Friends Campaign is planned to be carried out until the end of 2020 and it is expected to reach 60 000 people. For now, the process of becoming a dementia friend is accessible only through the website but from the beginning of 2019 on it will also be possible by attending a one-hour informational meeting that is led by Alzheimer Portugal staff or volunteers.

Alzheimer Portugal commented that the launch of the Dementia Friends campaign went quite well with a good media coverage in television, radio and newspapers. They underlined that this included a great deal of involvement from Alzheimer Portugal staff, volunteers as well as the general public.

20 August: Alzheimer Croatia supports European dementia program proposal between Croatia and Serbia

Interreg - IPA CBC Croatia - Serbia

Following the successful completion of the European Interreg program "Demenca aCROsSLO" to improve the quality of life of people with dementia in Slovenia and Croatia, Alzheimer Croatia has supported the proposal of a similar program that should be realised between Croatia and Serbia in the region of Syrmia, covering East Croatia and South of the autonomous province of Vojvodina in Serbia.

Alzheimer Croatia in this program needs to realise education programs for formal carers of people with dementia and general practitioners within the next two years. The main activities will take place in the City of Ruma in Vojvodina and in the City of Vukovar in Croatia.

22 August: Greek Society for Alzheimer's Disease and Relative Disorders organises game design festivals to bridge the gap between generations



On 22 August, the Greek Society for Alzheimer's Disease and Relative Disorders located in Chalkida, Euboea provided an

update on the festivals "Bridge Game Jam- Games as Life-Bridges", which are co-founded with Challedu.

These 3-day festivals bring together patients, caregivers and experts in order to provide a basis for different generations to work towards minimising the gap between them.

The first "Bridge Game Jam-Games as Life-Bridges" took place in Chalkida with over 140 participants with the support of the Regional Unity of Euboea on 8 to 10 December 2017.

Evidence shows, that gaming might play a role in improving cognitive functions and could help maintaining essential skills such as selective attention, orientation and language. Furthermore, the gaming experience offers pleasure and motivation not only to patients but also to caregivers, especially the younger family members. The 49 young people (under 40 years old) and experts participated in the first event. They created 10 innovative board games that combine entertainment (e.g. singing) with culture and tradition as well as general knowledge questions.

The second event took place from 20 to 22 April 2018 at the Serafio Centre in Athens with the support of the General Secretariat of Information and Communication. This event also integrated digital gaming in addition to the board games that were introduced earlier.

The two events' evaluations showed that the main goal of the event - aiming to bring up positive emotions - was accomplished for people with dementia while the experience of young people was also considered a great result.

Reporting on the future of "Bridge Game Jam- Games as Life-Bridges", the organisation stated, "The increasing use of innovative games in services for the welfare of the elderly is the festival's next objective and could be maximised through younger people and children. Gaming could be further developed as a cornerstone to non-pharmaceutical interventions, combining entertainment and the development of cognitive skills. Actions integrating cognitive stimulating games for grandparents and children are planned in schools and libraries too. The third "Bridge Game" festival will be held in the city of Chalkida in November 2018."

23 August: Alzheimer Society of Finland launches a website for enhancing brain health



On 23 August, the Alzheimer Society of Finland (Muistiliitto) announced that it will launch a new Finnish website providing new ways for enhancing brain health on 12 September. This unique website called

Muistipuisto® (Memory Park) applies game-design elements and game principles to improve user's motivation, engagement, learning and motivate lifestyle changes.

User engagement played an essential role in a three-year co-creation process of the Muistipuisto. The Miina Sillanpää Foundation and the Alzheimer Society of Finland have involved numbers of people with memory diseases, their caregivers, volunteers and professionals in service creation ensuring website value, satisfaction and usability for its' users.

The service consists of five main themes based on multiple research evidences: cognitive training, mental wellbeing, exercise, brain healthy diet, and music and memories. According to the [FINGER study published in Lancet](#), multidomain intervention including nutritional intervention, physical exercise training, cognitive training, and monitoring and maintenance of metabolic and vascular factors, could prevent or slow down cognitive decline. This long-term, randomized controlled trial suggests further that adopting a healthy lifestyle may potentially prevent or postpone dementia.

Muistipuisto guides towards brain healthy routines and lifestyle changes by various activities. For example, mental

wellbeing includes mindfulness, meditation, relaxation and elements of nature. On the other hand, physical exercises consist of brain gym, yoga and light gymnastic. Muistipuisto provides also recipes and options for enjoying music, singing and memories from own history. Information regarding brain health and healthy lifestyle are provided through articles and interactive quizzes.

The Muistipuisto service is free. It has been developed in a three-year project supported by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health with proceeds from Veikkaus. You can visit Muistipuisto here: <https://www.muistipuisto.fi/intro/>.

23 August: Alzheimer Society UK reports highlights of the summer Roadshow



The Alzheimer's Society Roadshow is travelling across England, Wales and Northern Ireland throughout the year, to give an opportunity to everyone to speak to dementia experts. The Roadshow has been on top form this summer visiting a variety of events from country shows to Pride events, and melas to music festivals. Having engaged with over 7,800 people at special events so far, the Roadshow is set to have its best summer tour yet! The Roadshow has visited a total of 23 key events this summer with Manchester Pride and Clacton Air Show still to go.

Highlights include its presence at Pride events, starting off with Birmingham Pride and followed by parades in Newcastle and Southend. The association took part in London Pride for the fourth year running where 32 Society employees and volunteers took part in the parade. The volunteers managed to make a splash without the Roadshow vehicle using their bubble machine, music, whistles and "Here for everyone" banner.

The team also attended Camp Bestival in Dorset where they met with over 1,000 people and had a great weekend getting support for the Fix Dementia Care Campaign, despite the festival being cut short by a day due to high winds. The stand offered free glitter, a giant game of snakes and ladders, and photo opportunities that proved a great success with children and parents alike.

Finally, from 17 to 19 August, the Roadshow van was at the Southport Flower Show. Over 650 people visited it and wanted

to discuss their own experiences and learn more about the Society's services. The team was so fantastic that it won a top award for Best Trade Stand at the show. For more information, please contact roadshow@alzheimers.org.uk.

POLICY WATCH

4 July: ADI and the Karolinska Institutet publish report on the global estimates of informal care

Global estimates of informal care

On 4 July, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and the Karolinska Institutet published a report on the global estimates of informal care. The report's lead author is Anders Wimo who works at the Department of Neurobiology, Care Sciences and Society at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.

The report focuses on accurately estimating the global amount of informal care hours. These estimates are based on information retrieved from a database used in ADIs 2010 and 2015 World Alzheimer Reports. The authors write that the annual global number of informal care hours provided to people with dementia living at home was about 82 billion hours in 2015, equating to 2,089 hours per year.

In addition to this, the report also aims to contrast the global distribution of carer time estimates with the distribution of costs. The report stresses that, "60% of people with dementia live in lower and middle income countries (a proportion that continues to increase), and as almost all (96%) of people with dementia in lower and middle income countries live at home, this has a significant impact on the global distribution of caregiver time". You can find the report here:

<https://www.alz.co.uk/adi/pdf/global-estimates-of-informal-care.pdf>

18 July: The Portuguese Parliament approves law on the promotion of autonomy of people with incapacity

On 18 July, the Portuguese Parliament approved a very important law. This law is an initiative of the Government with the special involvement of the Minister of Justice (Proposta de Lei nº 110/XIII)¹. The law still needs to be promulgated by the president of the republic and will enter into force only 180 days after its publication.

The law, slightly inspired by the "Betreuungsgesetz" of the German law, will end with "interdiction" and "incapacitation" previewed in the Civil Code of 1966. Instead, a much more flexible and autonomy promoting legal framework will come into force. It complies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities mainly its Article 12^o, nº 4 : "States Parties shall ensure that all measures that relate to the exercise of legal capacity provide for appropriate and effective safeguards to prevent abuse in accordance with international

human rights law. Such safeguards shall ensure that measures relating to the exercise of legal capacity respect the rights, will and preferences of the person, are free of conflict of interest and undue influence, are proportional and tailored to the person's circumstances, apply for the shortest time possible and are subject to regular review by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body. The safeguards shall be proportional to the degree to which such measures affect the person's rights and interests."

A clear example of this is that the person may choose, in the judicial process or in advance, by whom he/she wants to be helped or represented in the different areas of his/her life: personal issues, health care, managing financial or property subjects, among others.

The law also states that the court decision shall clearly refer if the person had made a living will or a health care proxy and that her/his will expressed in advance has to be respected.

This is a huge shift of paradigm and it urges to come into force as, currently, Courts still decide according to a supplementary rule that states that if there is no husband or wife, the eldest child shall be appointed as a guardian (Article 143^o of the Civil Code). And this has been happening even against the will of the person, even when expressed in written and before official authorities, completely ignoring Human Rights and International Conventions signed and ratified by Portugal.

Alzheimer Portugal is very happy with this important step forward to the effective promotion of legal rights of people with dementia and this will be one of the main topics to be developed at the conference "An holistic perspective of dementia" that will be held in Lisbon next November to celebrate its 30th anniversary.

1 August: UK dementia charities write to UK Government Health Ministers about dementia omission

Dementia charities in the UK, (and Alzheimer Research UK, Alzheimer Scotland and Dementia UK) have written an open letter to Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, and Simon Stevens, NHS Chief Executive, expressing concern about the approach of the UK Government and NHS England in relation to dementia.

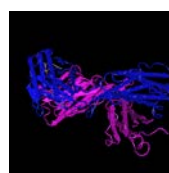
In the letter, the charities highlight that despite dementia being the leading cause of death in the UK (13% of deaths in the UK last year attributed to dementia), the priorities which have been set out by Mr Stevens and Mr Hancock as part of a 10- year plan for the NHS in England, have not included dementia.

Mr Hancock was appointed health secretary last month and has set out a number of strategic priorities, including workforce, technology and prevention of ill-health. In addition, Mr Stevens has said a £20bn investment in the NHS promised by the Prime Minister Theresa May would be used to expand services for other conditions such as cancer and mental health, with no mention of dementia.

The letter calls for dementia to be made a priority and for greater government support for increased funding for dementia research, reducing the inequity people with dementia face when accessing care and support through reforming the social care system. As part of this, the letter further calls for improvements to be made in timely and accurate diagnosis, including greater post-diagnostic support.

SCIENCE WATCH

12 June: Hoffmann-La Roche starts two Phase III trials for AD drug gantenerumab in Europe



On 12 June, the German biotechnology company MorphoSys AG announced that its partner Hoffmann-La Roche has launched two Phase III trials of gantenerumab for Alzheimer's disease (AD) in Europe. This experimental AD drug is a monoclonal antibody targeting amyloid beta plaques.

The Phase III trials, named GRADUATE 1 and GRADUATE 2, are randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled and parallel-group studies to evaluate the efficacy and safety of gantenerumab in people with early AD. Both trials are expected to recruit 760 participants worldwide. In Europe, the GRADUATE 1 study is currently recruiting participants in Russia and Spain and the GRADUATE 2 study in Turkey and United Kingdom. They will also be conducted in other European countries such as Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

The drug will be administered via a subcutaneous injection once every four weeks for the first nine months and then every two weeks. These trials started in June 2018 and are expected to run until 2023.

<https://www.morphosys.com/media-investors/media-center/new-phase-3-clinical-trials-by-morphosys-partner-with-gantenerumab-in>

12 June: Study suggests that routinely collected data may help to identify undiagnosed dementia



On 12 June, a team of scientists led by the University of Plymouth (UK) published an article on an approach that may help to detect dementia in the British Journal of

General Practice. The aim of this study was to develop a machine learning-based model that could be used in general practice to diagnostic dementia from routinely collected NHS data.

Researchers used National Health Service (NHS) routinely collected primary care data from 18 consenting GP for 26,483 patients aged over 65. They identified read codes - term used to summarise clinical and administrative data for UK GPs - associated with dementia to train the machine-learning classification model to identify people with risk factors for dementia.

The findings showed good sensitivity and specificity value with 84.5% and 86.7% respectively. Indeed, 84.5 % of people who had dementia were detected via this tool as having the condition. The study showed that routinely collected primary care data may be used to identify undiagnosed dementia. Researchers underlined that this tool needs further validations before to be implemented in clinical practice. Some strengths and limitations have been identified including the need for extending the list of read codes associated with dementia that are used to identify people with dementia.

<http://bjgpopen.org/content/early/2018/06/06/bjgpopen18X101589>

2 July: Study on Alzheimer's disease mouse model investigates the influence of aspirin on the formation of new brain cells



On 2 July, researchers from the Rush University Medical Center in Chicago published findings on an investigation of administering aspirin on Alzheimer's disease (AD) mouse models in The Journal of

Neuroscience.

Since more and more results suggest that the impaired clearance of a protein called β -Amyloid is involved in the death of nerve cells in people with AD, researchers are looking into ways to interfere with the flawed mechanism involved in the removal of β - Amyloid.

For their study, the team extracted brain cells (Astrocytes) from AD mouse models. They then treated the cell cultures with different doses of aspirin. They also gave AD mouse models aspirin. The findings suggest that their approach may be able to reduce the protein clumps influencing the death of brain cells in.

The findings suggest that their approach may be able to reduce the protein clumps influencing the death of brain cells and in addition, that aspirin could help improve the brain's waste disposal system in mice.

While these findings are very interesting for basic research, they should not be understood as a recommendation to take aspirin on a regular basis to prevent AD. Since this is a study with mice, results can't be translated to humans, in addition possible side effects of aspirin include the potential of a bleeding stroke as well as gastrointestinal bleeding.

<http://www.jneurosci.org/content/early/2018/07/02/JNEUROSCI.0054-18.2018>

9 July: Anavex Life Sciences receives approval to start Phase II/III trial for AD drug ANAVEX2-73

On 9 July, Anavex Life Sciences Corp, a biopharmaceutical company developing differentiated therapeutics for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease (AD), announced that it has received approval by the Australian Human Research Ethics Committee to initiate its 48-week double-blind, randomised and placebo-controlled Phase II/III study investigating the safety and efficacy of ANAVEX2-73 for the treatment of early AD.

This clinical trial is expected to recruit approximately 450 participants in Australia and North US. Primary and secondary endpoints will evaluate safety and both cognitive and functional efficacy.

Results from the Phase IIa study showed improvement in exploratory endpoints of both cognition and function. The company also announced that it has received approval to initiate Phase II clinical trial of ANAVEX2-73 for the treatment of Parkinson's disease dementia in Europe.

<https://www.anavex.com/anavex-life-sciences-receives-approval-to-initiate-phase-2-clinical-trial-of-anavex2-73-for-the-treatment-of-parkinsons-disease-dementia/>

10 July: Review stresses the importance to consider sex differences in clinical studies to develop the precision medicine approach for AD



NEUROLOGY

On 10 July, a group of international researchers from the two initiatives "Women's Brain Project" (WBP) and the "Alzheimer's Disease Precision Medicine Initiative" (APMI) published a review of sex-related differences in the phenotypes of sporadic Alzheimer's disease (AD) in the

journal Nature Reviews Neurology. The review and perspective was led by Dr Maria Teresa Ferretti (University of Zurich, Switzerland) and Professor Harald Hampel (Sorbonne University, Paris, France).

Together, the WBP and APMI have reviewed the scientific literature to document whether and how AD differentially affects men and women. The authors looked at sex-differences in symptoms, biomarkers, risk factors, and in response to medical intervention.

This review, underlines that sex and gender differences are of high relevance for diagnosis and treatment of AD, as supported by several independent studies. However, this important issue has only begun to be addressed by the community, and more systematic and rigorously controlled work needs to be done.

The authors have identified 5 domains to be addressed for future studies, with recommendations for each:

- reporting of sex and gender specific data
- biomarkers
- risk factors
- clinical trials
- preclinical research.

Recommendations include actively studying both male and female animals in pre-clinical research, explicitly reporting sex-differences in scientific reports (also if negative results are found) and examining the outcomes of clinical trials with respect to how men and women's responses to drugs differ.

You can find the publication here:

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41582-018-0032-9>

17 July: Genentech completes recruitment of participants for second Phase III trial of AD drug crenezumab

On 17 July, the Swiss-based biopharmaceutical company AC Immune announced that its partner Genentech, a member of the Roche group, has completed global recruitment of its Phase III CREAD 2 clinical trial of crenezumab. The study is investigating the drug crenezumab, which is a monoclonal antibody that specifically recognises amyloid beta (Aβ).

The CREAD2 Phase III trial is a multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of crenezumab in people with prodromal to mild Alzheimer's disease (AD). CREAD2 started in the first quarter of 2017 and completed global recruitment in July 2018.

"We are very happy that the CREAD 2 recruitment has been completed ahead of schedule. This clearly shows the strong commitment of our partner Roche/Genentech to the development of crenezumab as a potential disease-modifying therapy for Alzheimer's disease - one of society's biggest healthcare challenges", said Prof. Andrea Pfeifer, CEO of AC Immune.

<https://seekingalpha.com/pr/17217339-crenezumabs-second-phase-3-trial-cread-2-fully-recruited-updates-ac-immunes-pipeline>



19 July: Green Valley Pharmaceutical reports Phase III positive results for its experimental AD drug GV-971

On 19 July, the pharmaceutical company Shanghai Green Valley Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. announced that its Phase III study investigating GV-971 (sodium oligomannurate) for the treatment of mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD) met its primary endpoint. The Phase III was a randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled 36 week study in China to determine the efficacy and safety of GV-971 in people with mild to moderate AD. Participants took a placebo capsule or a capsule of GV-971 (450 mg) twice a day.

The results showed that GV-971 met its primary endpoint, which was the improved change of the Alzheimer's Disease Assessment Scale-cognitive subscale (ADAS-cog) score after 36 weeks of GV-971 treatment compared to the placebo control. Findings showed that the experimental drug significantly improved the cognition impairment. The rate of adverse events was similar to participants who took the placebo control. The company plans to submit the GV-971 application for treatment of mild-to-moderate AD to the China National Drug Administration later this year.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/innovative-alzheimers-treatment-from-china-concludes-phase-3-clinical-trials-300683455.html>

20 July: US FDA grants Roche's CSF assays for AD diagnosis

On 20 July, the company Roche, which is focused on advancing science to improve people's lives, announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation to two new Roche Elecsys® cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) assays to aid in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (AD). These immunoassays tests are aiming to measure β-Amyloid and Phospho-Tau concentrations in the CSF in people with mild cognitive impairment being evaluated for AD and other causes of dementia.

The diagnosis of AD is currently largely based on clinical symptoms including cognitive tests. A significant number of people are diagnosed when their disease is already in an advanced stage. The measure of biomarkers associated with AD pathology with CSF immunoassays can be used to help in the diagnosis of AD and to evaluate its progression.

"We are excited about FDA's recognition of the potential clinical benefit the Elecsys CSF assays can bring to clinicians, laboratories and their patients in diagnosing AD at an early stage," said Roland Diggelmann, CEO of Roche Diagnostics.

<https://www.roche.com/media/releases/med-cor-2018-07-20.htm>

1 August: Researchers publish an epidemiological investigation on dementia and alcohol consumption



On 1 August, a research team from France and the United Kingdom (UK) published findings on an epidemiological study about the link between alcohol consumption and dementia development in the journal the bmj.

For their evaluation, the scientists used data from the Whitehall II study, which is an ongoing cohort study of people that were originally working for the British civil service in London. Starting recruitment 1985-88, the study included both men and women aged between 35-55 years. The participants took part in up to 8 follow-up clinical examinations every 4-5 years.

Alcohol consumption was assessed during eight follow-ups using a self-report questionnaire. In addition, the researchers also assessed alcohol dependence in 1991/93, using a questionnaire entitled "CAGE". Furthermore, hospital admissions for alcohol related chronic disease were identified by the use of the national hospital episode statistics database. The research-group also traced electronic health records to identify dementia cases.

Including over 9000 participants into their analysis, the team reported that 397 cases of dementia were recorded. According to the publication, the team combined data on participants classified as "10-year abstainers", "former drinkers" and "occasional drinkers" into one group since they showed similar hazards of dementia. Among the people categorised as

“drinkers” the scientists differentiated between those consuming 1-14 units of alcohol per week and >14 units per week, reflecting alcohol guidelines in the UK.

The scientists reported on the following results;

- Abstinence in midlife was associated with a higher risk of dementia compared to consumption of 1-14 units/week.
- Among those drinking >14 units/week, a 7 unit increase in alcohol consumption was associated with a 17% increase in risk of dementia.
- A CAGE score over 2 and alcohol related hospital admission were associated with an increased risk of dementia.
- Alcohol consumption trajectories from midlife to early old age showed long term abstinence, decrease in consumption and long term consumption >14 units/week to be associated with a higher risk of dementia compared with long term consumption of 1-14 units/week.
- Analysis that the excess risk of dementia associated with abstinence in midlife was partly explained by cardiometabolic disease over the follow-up as the risk of dementia in abstainers without cardiometabolic disease was lower compared to the one of the entire population.

The team stresses that these findings “should not motivate people who do not drink to start drinking given the known detrimental effects of alcohol consumption for mortality, neuropsychiatric disorders, cirrhosis of the liver, and cancer”. Since this is an observational study, conclusions about the cause and effect of alcohol consumption and development of dementia need to be taken with caution. It is possible that for example many of the people who were categorised as “abstainers”, and then showed a higher risk of dementia, weren’t at a higher risk because they didn’t consume alcohol but rather due to other health issues impacting their risk of developing dementia and leading them to the decision to not consume alcohol. The group of abstainers is very heterogeneous and more research is therefore needed.

Nevertheless, the authors state that the findings strengthen findings that excessive alcohol consumption is a risk factor for dementia.

You can find the publication here:

<https://www.bmj.com/content/362/bmj.k2927>

8 August: UK Researchers find association between ethnicity and dementia

Researchers from University College London and King’s College London have published findings from a research project examining incidence and diagnosis of dementia across white, black, and Asian ethnic backgrounds, the first study of its kind in the UK. The research team analysed data on more than 2.5 million people between the ages of 50-105, including 66,083 who had a diagnosis of dementia, from 645 GP practices across the United Kingdom between 2007 and 2015.

Publishing their findings in the journal *Clinical Epidemiology*, the research team found that compared to white women, the incidence of dementia diagnosis was 18 per cent lower among Asian women and 25 per cent higher among black women. For men, incidence of dementia diagnosis was 28 per cent higher among the black men, and 12 per cent lower in Asian men, compared to white men.

Overall across genders, the researchers concluded that people from the black ethnic group had a higher incidence of dementia diagnosis and those from the Asian ethnic group had lower incidence compared with the white ethnic group.

The researcher team estimated that black men developing dementia were less likely than white men to have a diagnosis of dementia, indicating that the increased risk of dementia diagnosis reported in the black ethnic group might underestimate the higher risk of dementia in this group.

In addition, the authors highlighted that it was unclear whether the lower incidence of dementia diagnosis in the Asian ethnic group reflects a genuinely lower incidence within this community or was indicative of under-diagnosis, with further research needed to establish this.

The full research article is available [here](#).



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8 August: Study suggests an association between degenerative eye diseases and AD



On 8 August, a team of scientists led by the University of Washington, School of Medicine (US), reported that three ophthalmic diseases might be associated with Alzheimer’s disease (AD). The findings were published online in *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*.

In the published study, researchers analysed 3,877 participants aged 65 and older, who did not have AD at the time of enrolment to evaluate the associations of glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic retinopathy (DR) and cataract with AD risk. Over the five-year study, 792 of them were diagnosed with AD. Scientists found that glaucoma, AMD and DR were associated with increased risk of AD. There was no association between cataract and AD.

Some strengths and limitations have been identified including a diagnostic made by a panel of experts, recent and established conditions incorporated and a geographically confined cohort. Further studies of degenerative eye diseases in relation to AD may provide new findings on potential shared pathological pathways.

[https://www.alzheimersanddementia.com/article/S1552-5260\(18\)33034-6/fulltext](https://www.alzheimersanddementia.com/article/S1552-5260(18)33034-6/fulltext)

9 August: Older kidney disease patients on dialysis may have a high risk of dementia

In a study published in the Clinical Journal of the American Society for Nephrology on 9 August, US researchers from the Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore reported that older kidney disease patients on dialysis are at high risk of diagnosis with dementia, including Alzheimer's disease (AD).

From the US kidney disease registry, scientists estimated incidence and risk factors of diagnosis with dementia among 356,668 patients older than 66 years who initiated dialysis due to end-stage kidney disease. 18% were diagnosed with dementia during study follow-up and 22% of those with a diagnosis of dementia were diagnosed with AD.

Within the first and five year(s) after initiating dialysis, findings revealed that 4.6% and 16% for older women, respectively, and 3.7% and 13% for older men, respectively, were diagnosed with dementia. The corresponding AD diagnosis risks were 0.6% and 2.6% for older women, respectively, and 0.4% and 2.0% for older men, respectively. The risk factors for dementia and AD diagnoses were age, black race, women and institutionalization. The risk of subsequent mortality was also measured and was higher among older patients who were diagnosed with dementia and AD after initiation of dialysis.

<http://cjasn.asnjournals.org/content/early/2018/08/09/CJN.10150917.abstrac>
t?abspop=1&cited-by=yes&legid=clinjasn;CJN.10150917v1

17 August: Researchers from Manchester publish review on storytelling in deaf communities to inform a life-story work intervention for deaf people with dementia



On 17 August, researchers from the University of Manchester (UK) published an article on a thematic review in the Journal Aging and Society.

In their review, the authors investigate the relevance of storytelling practices amongst Deaf communities throughout the lifespan. The work is presented in three themes:

- Cultural positioning of self and others
- Learning to be deaf
- Resistance narratives and narratives of resistance

The researchers use findings from the themes to extract potential conditions that might help to make life-story work interventions more effective. This includes that for example life-story work must be carried out in sign language, that deaf person to deaf person communication is a crucial role and that it is important to recognise the personal and social history of deaf people will not be the same as the one of the hearing majority for different reasons.

These implications not only focus on deaf people who experience dementia but on their formal and informal carers as well. You can find the publication [here](#).

20 August: AC Immune announces two milestones for ACI-24 vaccine in AD and Down Syndrome



On 20 July, AC Immune SA, the Swiss-based clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company developing innovative therapeutics for neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer's disease

(AD), announced the launch of its Phase II trial with ACI-24 in people with AD. ACI-24 is a liposomal therapeutic anti-Abeta vaccine candidate. This double-blind, randomized and placebo-controlled study is investigating the safety, tolerability, immunogenicity, target engagement, biomarkers and clinical efficacy of ACI-24 in people with AD. This clinical trial has enrolled its first participant and is expected to be conducted in several European countries.

In addition, the company announced that it has completed the recruitment for the high-dose cohort of its Phase Ib study with ACI-24 in people with Down Syndrome.

Also known as trisomy 21, Down Syndrome is a genetic disorder with an extra copy of chromosome 21, the gene in which is located the precursor protein of beta amyloid, one of the hallmarks of AD. Interim results of the first-low dose cohort, which has been fully recruited in August 2017, are expected later in 2018.

http://cws.huginonline.com/A/171580/PR/201808/2211934_5.html

23 August: The FDA designates device aiming to mitigate symptoms of agitation and depression associated with AD as "Breakthrough Device"



On 23 August, the digital therapeutic company Dthera Sciences - which focuses on the elderly people and individuals with neurodegenerative diseases - announced the FDA designation "Breakthrough Device" to its "DTHR-ALZ".

According to the FDA, the Breakthrough Device program intends to help patients receive more timely access to medical devices by expediting their development, assessment, and review. Eligibility criteria for the designation can be found [here](#).

DTHR-ALZ is currently under development. The company aims to deliver the final product as a digital therapeutic for patients with Alzheimer's disease (AD). The device will deliver reminiscence therapy to patients with AD and is programmed to optimise the therapy using biofeedback from the patient using Artificial Intelligence. Read the full press release [here](#).

AAIC WATCH



Some highlights emerging from this year's Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), held from 22 to 26 July 2018 in Chicago, US.

22 July: Researchers developed practice guidelines to support the clinical evaluation of dementias at physicians and nurse practitioners



On 22 July, the Alzheimer's Association announced in a press release, that the workgroup they convened developed 20 recommendations in order to help tackle the challenge in recognising and correctly attributing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in primary and specialty care.

At their core, the recommendations include guidance that:

- All middle-aged or older individuals who self-report or whose care partner or clinician report cognitive, behavioural or functional changes should undergo a timely evaluation.
- Concerns should not be dismissed as "normal aging" without a proper assessment.
- Evaluation should involve not only the patient and clinician but, almost always, also involve a care partner (e.g., family member or confidant).

Read the full press release including the recommendations here:

<https://www.alz.org/aaic/downloads2018/Sun-clinical-practice-guidelines.pdf>

23 July: Scientists from the U.S. report on epidemiological study about correlations between reproductive history and dementia



On 23 July, researchers from the United States presented findings from the reportedly first-ever large-scale epidemiological investigation of correlations between aspects of the female reproductive history and dementia in the United States.

For their analysis, the scientists used self-reported data from over 14,500 women aged 40-55 years. Among their findings was, that there is a correlation between the number of children given birth to and dementia. Those women with three or more children showed 12 percent lower "risk" of dementia compared to women with one child.

The number of miscarriages also correlated with dementia. The team reported that each additional report of a miscarriage correlated with a 9 percent increased "risk" of dementia, compared to those women who reported no miscarriages.

Additionally, they reported that in the women who indicated that they had their first menstrual period at age 16 or older, showed a 31 percent greater "risk" than those who reported having their first menstrual period at 13 (the average in the dataset). They also announced that in their analysis women who experience natural menopause at the age of 45 or younger, were at a 28% greater dementia "risk" compared to women who experience natural menopause after age 45.

While these are interesting results, the mechanistic pathways between reproductive events and history are not well understood, yet. Since these findings refer to correlations, a cause and effect cannot be implied and it may be that factors outside of the team's analysis are influencing both reproductive events and the probability of dementia development in future. More research into these pathways is there for needed to better understand causation.

https://alz.org/aaic/releases_2018/AAIC18-Mon-women-dementia-risk.asp

24 July: Researchers find that reduced production of plasmalogens in the liver may be linked to impaired cognition

On 24 July, Mitchel A. Kling from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine presented findings at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference that showed a potential connection between liver products, so called "plasmalogens" and impaired cognition.

Plasmalogens are a class of lipids produced in the liver and taken up by the brain. The researchers collected these blood-based fluids from two groups. The Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative provided access to 304 people with Alzheimer's disease (AD), 876 people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or significant memory concerns, and 367 people who were categorised as "cognitively normal". Furthermore, the team also included samples from participants enrolled in the Penn Memory Center, bringing together another 112 subjects. Of these 112, 43 were diagnosed with AD, 18 with mild cognitive impairment, and 51 categorised as "cognitively normal".

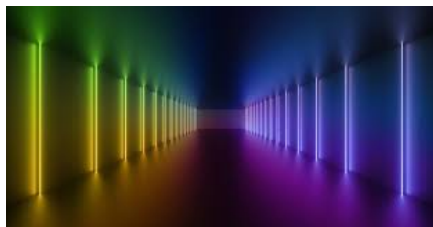
After the development of three indices to be able to measure the amount of lipids related to cognition, the researchers undertook tests to identify whether reduced levels in the bloodstream are associated with an increased risk of AD, MCI, overall cognitive function, and/or other biomarkers of neurodegeneration in AD.

During the conference, Kling provided insights into their observations, suggesting that lower values of these indices were associated with a higher likelihood of AD. He furthermore reported a similar pattern in people with MCI as well as without. Additionally, some of the decreased plasmalogen levels correlated with increased levels of tau in the brain, one of the biomarkers for AD.

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/07/180724174225.htm>

24 July: Scientists present findings on treatments for non-cognitive symptoms in dementia

On 24 July, findings presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference added further hints on potential treatments for non-cognitive symptoms in people with dementia.



A study including nursing home residents introduced lighting as a possible mechanism to improve sleep, mood and behaviour in people with

Alzheimer's disease (AD). Scientists from Troy (New York) exposed forty-three residents to short-term lighting interventions over four weeks. These lighting interventions were set up in areas where the participants spend the majority of their waking hours. Additionally, the group also led a long-term study, including thirty-seven of the participants of the short-term study where they received successive four-week intervention periods spaced by a four-week washout over a duration of six months.

The team reported that they found a decrease in sleep disturbance, depression and agitation in participants who experienced "high-circadian stimulus" as well as that the positive effects continued to improve over the span of the long-term study.

Although the Alzheimer's Association recommends "non-pharmacologic approaches such as psychosocial interventions as first-line alternatives to pharmacologic therapy for the treatment of dementia-related behaviours" scientists also presented findings on a synthetic cannabinoid administration.

A research team from the University of Toronto investigated the effect of a synthetic cannabinoid in a double-blind clinical trial. Thirty-nine participants with AD received capsules during a period of six weeks; this was followed by one week during which the participants did not receive any treatment and another six weeks during which the participants received a placebo.

Their small study sample suggested that in comparison to placebo, agitation as well as overall behavioural symptoms might be improved. Apart from the desired effects, the

participants also experienced sedation (45 percent compared to placebo 16 percent).

Since the effects of cannabinoids in AD are still vastly understudied and the study only provides a very narrow insight, large clinical trials are needed to assess safety and effectiveness of this potential treatment in AD.

https://alz.org/aaic/releases_2018/AAIC18-Tues-non-cognitive-symptoms.asp



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25 July: NIH-funded researchers present preliminary findings from the SPRINT MIND study



On 25 July, researchers reported preliminary results from the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) Memory and Cognition IN Decreased

Hypertension (SPRINT MIND) study at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Chicago (US). SPRINT MIND is a substudy of the SPRINT randomised clinical trial, which previously reported that intensive high blood pressure control (systolic blood pressure target of less than 120 mm Hg) reduced the risk for cardiovascular events and mortality compared to less intensive blood pressure control (systolic blood pressure target of less than 140 mm Hg).

Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the SPRINT MIND study included 9,361 hypertensive older adults with increased cardiovascular risk but without diagnosed diabetes, dementia or stroke and examined whether treating to the lower blood pressure target reduces the risk of developing dementia and mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

The SPRINT MIND trial did not meet its primary endpoint, which was the incidence of probable dementia. There was a non-significant reduction in probable dementia alone. However, the trial showed a significant effect on the secondary endpoints (MCI and a composite outcome of MCI and probable dementia). Intensive blood pressure control showed a significant reduction of new cases of MCI (19%) and the combined risk of MCI plus all-cause dementia (15%) compared to the standard treatment group. In addition, the SPRINT MIND preliminary results suggested that intensive blood pressure control could significantly reduce the increase of the total volume of white matter lesions in the brain as shown by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). No significant change in the total brain volume change was observed.

https://alz.org/aaic/releases_2018/AAIC18-Wed-developing-topics.asp

25 July: Eisai and Biogen present positive results from experimental AD drug Phase II study



The companies Eisai and Biogen announced on 5 July positive topline results from their Phase II clinical trial with BAN2401, a drug targeting beta amyloid. The 18-months Phase II clinical trial is a placebo-controlled, double-blind, parallel-group and randomised study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of

BAN2401 in people with early Alzheimer's disease (AD). Three doses of BAN2401 (2.5, 5 or 10 mg/kg) versus placebo were administered intravenously in a total of 856 participants.

On 25 July at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC), researchers reported additional results of the secondary outcomes. They showed that BAN2401 slowed statistically the cognitive decline and reduced the accumulation of amyloid beta in the brain after 18 months in participants who received the highest dose (10 mg/kg biweekly) as compared to placebo.

Both companies reported in December 2017 that the study failed to meet its primary outcome measure, which was to evaluate the disease progression in the mid-stage trial after 12 months of treatment.

https://www.alz.org/aaic/releases_2018/AAIC18-Wed-3-30-pm.asp

DEMENTIA IN SOCIETY

17 July: Bill Gates announces \$30 Million investment to support AD research



Last fall, Microsoft co-founder and billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates announced he was investigating in Alzheimer's disease (AD) for the first time. On 17 July, he announced his next investment in AD with the launch of the Diagnostics Accelerator - a "venture philanthropy" fund backed

by Bill Gates and Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) co-founder Leonard Lauder. They are joined by other philanthropists, including the Dolby family and the Charles and Helen Schwab Foundation. This coalition of philanthropists has committed more than \$30 million to accelerate innovative new ideas for earlier and better diagnosis of AD and related

dementias. The project is now seeking proposals for funding on the new Diagnostics Accelerator website.

On his personal blog, Gates wrote "My hope is that this investment builds a bridge from academic research to a reliable, affordable, and accessible diagnostic. I expect to see lots of new players come to the table, who have innovative new ideas but might not have previously had the resources to explore them".

<https://www.gatesnotes.com/Health/A-better-way-of-diagnosing-Alzheimers>

24 August: Health Collaboration Award 2018 Launches Call for Applications



Applications for the 3rd Annual Health Collaboration Awards are open for nominations. The awards were established to share best practice and provide a source of inspiration for anyone considering a multi-stakeholder approach to address the needs of patients with a specific illness.

The projects will be evaluated based on:

- Patient benefit from the project (and how it was measured).
- Patient engagement.
- The number of patients that benefit (*taking in to account disease prevalence*).
- The innovative nature of the project.
- Evidence of collaboration, transparency and best practices.
- Health-system benefits.

The awards, operated by the Europe Federation for of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations, are open for multi-stakeholder, collaborative projects which operate on a national or EU-level which have included patient organisations and industry partners.

Projects will be categorised into themes: 'Prevention & Awareness' and 'Service Delivery', with four awards issued in total.

The deadline for submissions is **21 September 2018**.

For more information, please [visit the website](#) or send an email to HCSAwards@efpia.eu.

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA

Former vice-chair of the EWGPWD, Alv Orheim, shares his experience of the Nordic Dementia Conference



I, Alv Orheim, left the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) in December 2017, but have not quite given up working for the dementia cause. This June my wife Berit and I were invited to take part in a Nordic Dementia Conference in Copenhagen, to talk about our experience with the EWGPWD. The overall topic of the conference was a more dementia-friendly society. When talking about our experience with the EWGPWD there are so many aspects that could be mentioned. Upon reflection we think the most important aspect has been that by establishing the EWGPWD is that people with dementia have been given a microphone or arena to speak up and be heard to a wide audience. The annual conference is one such arena. Access through AE's network to researchers, and EU politicians are others. Then there is the exchange of knowledge and experience that takes place during the meetings, and also getting to know each other and be encouraged in that we are many who strive to make our societies more dementia friendly. The fact that many nations have established their own working groups tells us that such groups are vital to our cause, and vital to showing that people with dementia have an important role to play when it comes to forming dementia policies. The Copenhagen conference itself was very well organized and people from all the Nordic countries took part. We had a very good exchange of ideas and possible solutions to challenges that face us all, no matter which country we come from. An added bonus to my wife and myself was the chance to spend time with Karen and Lars Gustafsson from Sweden, our old friends from EWGPWD. Karen gave such a good presentation about living with dementia on the day 1 of the conference. It was great seeing them both again! It also brought back so many fond and fun memories from our time with the EWGPWD! So all the best to all of you good folks now in the group.

Alv and Berit Orheim, Norway

NEW PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES

27 July: Global Coalition on Aging and ADI launch dementia readiness index



On 27 July 2018, the Global Coalition on Aging (GCOA) and Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) published '2018 Dementia Innovation Readiness Index' during ADI's 33rd Conference in Chicago. An Executive Summary of the report is also available.

The index analysed the readiness of countries to develop and implement dementia-specific solutions into healthcare, policy and social frameworks. Following the G7-focus of the 2017 Index, the 2018 report examined Argentina, Brazil, China, India and Saudi Arabia, scoring them on their innovation readiness across 10 categories. Findings and scorings were based on survey research, data analysis and interviews with experts and representatives from each country.

While the report found that these countries have younger populations than G7 nations, it was highlighted that many of the same barriers to dementia innovation exist, including limited public leadership and funding, uneven access to high-quality care and difficulty with timely and accurate diagnosis. Furthermore, their comparatively young populations resulted in many of these countries having a lower awareness and focus on issues relating to dementia. Other key findings from the Index include:

- **Under-diagnosis is a barrier to fully understanding and treating dementia.** Better diagnostic tools and healthcare professionals specializing in geriatrics and dementia are required to ensure that countries can adequately address the individual and societal needs associated with dementia.
- **The regulatory environment has been slow to evolve with the urgency of the disease.** Well-funded and efficient regulatory agencies should be prioritised to ensure therapies can reach people with dementia in a timely manner.
- **The business community is not integrated into strategies to provide solutions for dementia.** More should be done to encourage and incentivise businesses to innovate in medicines and new care models, including maximizing the potential of technology and data.
- **Prevention campaigns can serve as an effective and cost-efficient strategy to raise awareness.** Awareness raising campaigns are crucial to help the public and healthcare providers prepare for projected increases in dementia.
- **Planning now will ensure these countries with younger populations are prepared for the coming demographic shift.** For instance, Saudi Arabia, with currently only 3.3% of its population over 65, has a unique opportunity to innovate now so that in 20 years, solutions that lessen or eliminate the burden of dementia will already be in place.

In parallel to the main report, the GCOA and ADI also published the 'Dementia Innovation Readiness Index: G7 Progress Report', highlighting the progress within G7 nations since the initial report from 2017. Of note, the report

highlights the unprecedented level of investment in dementia research by the U.S. government, a commitment from Canada to create a national dementia plan and the launch of innovative workforce recruitment models in Germany and Japan.

<https://www.alz.co.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/index-2018.pdf>

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

24 July: EFPIA is recruiting a Senior Manager International Market Access and a Assistant Manager for the International Affairs team



The European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), representing the pharmaceutical industry operating in Europe, is recruiting a senior manager international market access and an assistant

manager for the international affairs team. The Senior Manager will develop and execute EFPIA's priorities in the field of international (non-EU) pricing and reimbursement and market access of pharmaceuticals. The role requires liaising regularly with industry experts on pricing and reimbursement and external stakeholders, and defining bold strategies to effectively address market access barriers in international priority countries through the EU trade policy agenda.

The Assistant Manager will support the EFPIA International Affairs team members in achieving the team's objectives. The role requires broad engagement on and team support for the International Affairs team's priority country work, EU-FTA work and other dossier work such as Brexit and Intellectual Property – among others. The deadline for applications is **15 September 2018**. You can find more information about both positions and the recruitment process [here](#).

AE CALENDAR

Date	Meeting	AE representative
3 September	28AEC preparations (Barcelona, Spain)	Gwladys
6 September	PARADIGM Webinar on patient engagement in medicines R&D	Ana
12-13 September	MOPEAD General Assembly meeting (Barcelona, Spain)	Chris
13-14 September	EAHSA-Conference "Is here a future of long-term care in Europe?" (Prague, Czech Republic)	Jean
19 September	EPAD Academy Webinar. Latest trends on patient involvement in AD research	Dianne and Ana
25 September	Patients and Consumer Working Party of European Medicines Agency (London, UK)	Jean
27-28 September	PRODEMOS GA meeting (Toulouse, France)	Cindy and Jean
27-29 September	ICCA Workshop (Valencia, Spain)	Gwladys

CONFERENCES 2018

Date	Meeting	Place
28-29 September	10 th Alzheimer Slovenia Conference, https://www.spomincica.si	Ljubljana, Slovenia
3-5 October	European Health Forum Gastein, https://www.ehfg.org/	Bad Hofgastein, Austria
3-6 October	Croatian Congress on Alzheimer's disease (CROCAD), http://btravel.pro/en/crocad-18/	Novigrad, Croatia
10-12 October	14 th International Congress of the European Geriatric Medicine Society, http://www.eugms.org/2018.html	Berlin, Germany
18-19 October	2 nd MINC Symposium, http://mmni.de/minc-2018/	Cologne, Germany
18-20 October	10 th Alzheimer Germany Congress, https://www.alzheimer-kongress.de/	Weimar, Germany
24-27 October	11 th Clinical Trials on Alzheimer Conference (CTAD), www.ctad-alzheimer.com	Barcelona, Spain
29-31 October	28 th Alzheimer Europe Conference "Making dementia a European priority", www.alzheimer-europe.org/Conferences/Barcelona-2018	Barcelona, Spain
1-4 November	CNS Summit, http://cnssummit.org/	Boca Raton, Florida, USA
11-14 November	11 th International Conference on Frontotemporal Dementias, https://www.dccconferences.com.au	Sydney, Australia
14-15 December	EDUKAL 2018 – Fourth educational conference on Alzheimer's disease, https://www.edukal.alzheimer.hr	Zagreb, Croatia
16-18 January 2019	13 th Human Amyloid Imaging, http://www.worldeventsforum.com/hai/	Miami, Florida
14-17 February 2019	11 th Panhellenic Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders, http://www.alzheimer-conference.gr	Thessaloniki, Greece
20-23 March 2019	13 th Göttingen Meeting of the German Neuroscience Society, https://www.nwg-goettingen.de/	Göttingen, Germany
26-31 March 2019	The 14 th international conference on Alzheimer's & Parkinson's diseases, https://bit.ly/2Jyvw3t	Lisbon, Portugal
4-7 April 2019	13 th World Congress on Controversies in Neurology, http://www.comtecmed.com	Madrid, Spain
19-20 September 2019	International MinD Conference 2019, http://designingfordementia.eu	Dresden, Germany
22-25 October 2019	29 th Alzheimer Europe Conference "Making valuable connections"	The Hague, Netherlands

28th Alzheimer Europe Conference

Making dementia a European priority

Barcelona, Spain

29–31 October 2018

www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences

 #28AEC

