



Annual Report 2006-2007

Prof. Julien Mendlewicz
Secretary General to EBC

It is my pleasure to report on the 2006-2007 major activities carried out by EBC.

September 2006: the results of the RABRE study (research Allocation for Brain Research in Europe) were accepted for publication in the EJN.

At the September 2006 General Assembly [the AEP - Association of European Psychiatrists](#) joined EBC as an official member.

In order to make sure that our work is in line with the EC and EP policy, a network meeting with delegates of various DGs and the EP was organised. These planning meetings will be organised twice a year.

October 2006: A first associate member – [ESCAP – European Society for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry](#), joined EBC as an associate member.

November 2006: Jean Schoenen and the Belgian Brain Council held a first two-day meeting “NeuroBelgium 2006”. The meeting saw the participation of scientists, industry and patient associations.

4th meeting of the EBC Industrial Board took place at the GE Healthcare headquarters in London, UK. Dr. A. Benbow (GSK) stepped down and a new delegate to the EBC Board was elected. Dr. Andrew Sleight (Roche) was appointed. Dr. Reijo Salonen (Orion Pharma) was appointed as his alternate.

Upon the invitation of Dr. N. Matfield, EBC became a member association of the ECBR, a coalition of bioscience associations in Europe lobbying to ensure that research needs are protected in the revision of the European directive on animal research. Information on ECBR can be found at www.ecbr.eu

December 2006: The first calls of FP7 were published and opportunities for project applications were identified. The programme of the **European Brain Policy Forum** took definite shape and speakers were identified and contacted.

Nils Erik Gilhus took part in the DG SANCO working party on Major & Chronic Diseases.
 Antonio Federico took part in the meeting of the DG SANCO working party on Rare Diseases.

January 2007: Following discussion with the Board, EBC's Code of Practice and its finances were placed on the open part of the website.

A dinner debate for Board members, invitees and John Bowis, MEP, took place. John Bowis pointed out that because “brain” is not a priority issue on the agenda of the EP and EC, EBC's work is of utmost importance. He insisted that EBC makes itself better known in parliamentary circles. Cooperation with EFNA on this issue will be implemented.

During the January Network meeting with EC officials, delegates from the EP and industry, Jes Olesen mentioned the low number of brain related topics in the first two calls of FP7 . According to the EC officials this was due to reduced budget for these first two calls - a situation that should improve in future calls as more money will be available. Without the work of EBC brain research would have fared worse and the EC officials insisted that we carry on the lobbying work.



Mr. Jose Vazquez joined the EBC staff at the Brussels office. He will work in particular on the dissemination of EBC publications, the formation of National Brain Councils and lobbying at the EP.

March 2007: A call covering the aims of the Brain Policy Forum was identified and the application was prepared.

EBC, together with EFNA, is closely involved in the project “Accelerated Access to Treatment”. The project brings together academia, industry, the EC, EMEA and patient organisations. Prof. W. Oertel and Prof. Jes Olesen took part in this first workshop. The aim of the project is the review the way clinical trials are conducted and to explore whether the time of phase 3 can be shortened making thus new drugs available to patients faster.

The plans for the European Brain Policy Forum were taken ahead and the application for EU funding was drafted.

April 2007: EBC was invited to take part in the EC meeting dedicated to “European Public Health Research in Action - Opportunities in FP7 Health Research: Optimising the Delivery of Health Care to European citizens”. This meeting was intended to familiarise the 300 or so participants with opportunities in the first two calls of FP7.

EBC’s lobbying strategy was developed and a document illustrating the strategy was circulated.

May 2007: It was agreed that a follow-up study to the “Cost of disorders of the Brain in Europe” will be initiated. The follow-up study is called “CUBE”. The purpose of the CUBE study (Costs and Utilities of Brain disorders in Europe) is therefore to estimate the costs of brain disorders in Europe by using an observational approach, collecting patient-level data on resource use and productivity loss due to disease. The aim of this study is to more accurately estimate the costs of brain disorders in Europe.

The 5th meeting of EBC’s Industrial Board took place at the Johnson and Johnson headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. It was unanimously agreed to increase the industry’s annual membership fee. For the first time a delegate of the Health Insurance industry attended the meeting

A special edition of the GA took place in May 2007 in the presence of a Notary. The Decisions of the 2006 GA were noted and will be submitted for publication in the Official Journal.

Jes Olesen and several Board members were invited by the EC to discuss topics for future calls within FP7. It is encouraging to see that input from EBC and its member associations is being asked for.

CUBE – EBC’s project on prospective costs of disorders of the brain held its start-up meeting for experts in Stockholm, Sweden.

June 2007: A very successful start-up meeting for a Spanish Action Group and national brain council took place in Madrid. The planning for the Portuguese action group is progressing.

A very positive meeting with delegates of DG Research to discuss the CUBE study took place. The possibility to apply for EU funding for the projects was taken into consideration.

Antonio Federico and EBC staff attended DG SANCO Task Force meetings in Luxembourg.

Funding is being sought for the Accelerated Access to Treatment project. Novartis was successfully approached and pledged €100.000/ for the project. Other companies will be contacted too.

National Brain Councils: The EBC model has been transferred at a national level and, apart from the Belgian Brain Council successfully founded by Prof. Jean Schoenen, Italy (Prof. G. Biggio – Italian Society of Pharmacology), Hungary and Slovenia now have officially established brain councils. Progress is being made for Spain (Prof. J. Matias-Guiu) and Portugal.



These councils are very important with regard to the **dissemination** at the national level of all EBC publications and work. The interaction with the **national policy makers**, who then are elected for European positions, closes the loop of interacting at the national/European level.

Copies of two recent publications on the work of EBC, written by Jes Olesen, were published respectively in the EJM and Nature were tabled.

EBC's office will be restructured and additional space will be added.

ES/IR – September 2007