

Brainy Insights

braincouncil.eu



Week of 20 April

The External Environment Report (EER) has been given a new look and name, "EBC Brainy Insights"!

We would be happy to hear your feedback on the previous EERs and we would like to ask you a few short questions about your experience so we can adjust our weekly report to your expectations.

We would be grateful to you for sharing your feedback with us!

Submit your feedback

Quote of the Week



"Horizon 2020 currently funds the European Brain Research Area, aiming to provide recommendations to build an EU brain research strategy. The recommendations will be used to develop the brain health partnership in the Horizon Europe programme."

Stella Kyriakides, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, provided a written reply in response to a priority question led by Belgian MEP Pascal Airmont and coordinated by the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA).

[Read More](#)

Articles of Interest



Lessons learned from COVID-19: the importance of putting health and research first

EBC President, Prof. Monica Di Luca, reflects on the lessons learned from COVID-19 for the brain research community in these extraordinary times.

[European Brain Council](#)



WHO guidance helps detect iron deficiency and protect brain development

Detecting iron deficiency early during pregnancy and in young children is crucial. Iron deficiency in children under two years of age can have significant and irreversible effects on brain development. This can lead to negative consequences on learning and school performance later in life. Cognitive development of a child can also be affected if a mother is iron-deficient during her last trimester of pregnancy. New *World Health Organization guidelines on the use of ferritin concentrations to assess iron status in individuals and populations* will help health workers to detect iron deficiency early and avoid the most severe impacts.

[WHO](#)



Parliament decides to postpone new requirements for medical devices

To prevent shortages or delays in getting key medical devices on the market, the European Parliament has decided to postpone the application of the Medical Devices Regulation.

The Parliament adopted the Commission proposal on Friday, by urgent procedure with 693 votes to 1 (and 2 abstentions), allowing the application of the Medical Devices Regulation to be postponed by one year until 26 May 2021.

[European Parliament](#)



Protect independent research in the EU budget

Considering the current European debate on the next long-term EU budget, there is significant reason to fear a budget cut for research, affecting also the European Research Council (ERC). In an open letter, Friends of the ERC call upon the EU Presidents and the Heads of States and Governments in Europe to secure funding for the European Research Council in the new, long-term EU budget. Before sending the letter, they have started a petition to gather support.

[Change.org](#)



LGBTQI+ and mental health

LGBTQI+ young people are one of the most vulnerable groups in society due to their increased risk of mental health problems. Although LGBTQI+ represent only a small proportion of the total population of young people, they are at increased risk, compared to heterosexual young people, of experiencing hostile environments at home and in wider society.

[European Parliament](#)



Researchers debate the long-term effects of COVID-19 induced recession on R&D budgets

COVID-19 may have brought academic/industrial research cooperation to new levels, but researchers wonder whether the upcoming recession will hit R&D budgets and lower the appetite for international collaboration.

Research into COVID-19 is taking precedence over work in any other fields. Governments all over the world have introduced travel restrictions and shut down campuses and laboratories working on any projects not related to the pandemic. The lockdown has stifled supply chains and slowed down R&D projects in companies too.

[Science Business](#)



COVID-19 clean-up will threaten EU digital and green goals

The EU commissioner who oversees regional funds says Europe should not “destroy [the] path we’re on” towards green and digital growth, but accepts that criteria for issuing cohesion funding in the coming years will be dominated by the huge rebuilding task that will follow the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We need a more digital and green economy. It makes more sense than ever now,” Elisa Ferreira said on Tuesday in a web conference hosted by the Bruegel think tank in Brussels.

Science Business



Lockdown stifles supply chains and sends start-ups into a slump

Europe’s small innovation companies are running out of cash- as the lockdown measures enforced to halt the spread of COVID-19 strangle supply chains and slash demand.

A report by consulting company Startup Genome says four out of ten start-ups will close down in the next three months if their cost base and revenues remain the same and they cannot raise capital. Two thirds of start-ups surveyed by Startup Genome have had to lay off full-time employees since the beginning of the crisis.

Science Business



EU considers new Horizon Europe partnership on pandemics

Horizon Europe could have a new industrial research partnership on pandemic preparedness and societal resilience, EU Commissioner for Research and Innovation has told MEPs.

During a video conference with the European Parliament Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), Mariya Gabriel said the Commission is thinking about adding a new research partnership on pandemics in the EU’s next research and innovation programme.

Science Business



Interview: We should tackle COVID-19 head on, but now is not the time to cut basic research

Bergen University rector, Dag Rune Olsen, says researchers need to gird themselves for a renewed battle in Brussels over basic research funding, after putting his signature to a petition calling for the €2 billion a year budget for the European Research Council (ERC), to be safeguarded.

“With everything that is happening, perhaps fundamental research isn’t high on everyone’s agenda right now. We launched the campaign to bring it firmly back to the table,” Olsen said.

Science Business



Analysis of Early Intervention Services on Adult Judicial Outcomes

New-onset psychotic disorders can increase entanglements with the criminal justice system. The resulting convictions and incarcerations can increase risk of suicide, delay access to care, and irrevocably impair employment and other opportunities for already vulnerable young adults. Specialty team-based services for first-episode psychosis (FES) are effective across a range of outcomes, but little is known about their effect on criminality.

JAMA Psychiatry



Mood Homeostasis, Low Mood, and History of Depression in two Large Population Samples

Is impaired mood homeostasis (i.e., failure to stabilize mood via mood-modifying activities) associated with low mood and a history of depression?

In two case-control studies, including a total of 58,328 participants from low-, middle-, and high-income countries, mood homeostasis was lower in participants with low mood and those with a history of depression. Dynamic simulations showed that impaired mood homeostasis may lead to increased incidence and longer duration of depressive episodes.

JAMA Psychiatry



What Does Covid-19 Do to Your Brain?

Scientists are racing to figure out why some patients also develop neurological ailments like confusion, stroke, seizure, or loss of smell.

Wired



Strokes Reported Among Some Middle-Aged COVID-19 Patients

Several hospitals in the US have observed strokes in a number of patients being treated for coronavirus, leading to concern that the infection may be causing devastating blockages in the brain. For at least two facilities, these events account for a spike in stroke cases among middle-aged patients.

[The Scientist](#)

Video of the Week



How menopause affects the brain

Many of the symptoms of menopause - hot flashes, night sweats, insomnia, memory lapses, depression and anxiety - start in the brain. How exactly does menopause impact cognitive health? Sharing groundbreaking findings from her research, neuroscientist Lisa Mosconi reveals how decreasing hormonal levels affect brain ageing and shares simple lifestyle changes you can make to support lifelong brain health.

[TedX](#)

Surveys and consultations

Consultation on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence - A European Approach - Deadline 31 May 2020

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a strategic technology that offers many benefits for citizens and the economy. It will change our lives by improving healthcare (e.g. making diagnosis more precise, enabling better prevention of diseases), increasing the efficiency of farming, contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, improving the efficiency of production systems through predictive maintenance, increasing the security of Europeans and the protection of workers, and in many other ways that we can only begin to imagine. ([European Commission](#))

European survey on neurological symptoms in COVID-19 patients

EAN is looking to better understand the neurological manifestations of COVID-19 disease which may differ between countries. This will be important information to help management and service reorganization across Europe for patients. Please take part and help provide insight by filling in this survey on your experience of COVID-19, as neurologists or other physicians. ([EAN](#))

Keep the EU and UK collaboration in science #DEALFORSCIENCE - ongoing

We invite Researchers, Students, Research Organisations, and the Civil Society to sign the petition to their representatives in local governments and to the European Council, asking for a more ambitious budget allocation to the next Research Framework Programme, Horizon Europe. Below, you can read the original letter in English and the letters to the ministries of the some Member States in their official language. ([Wellcome Trust](#))

Protect independent research in the EU budget

Considering the current European debate on the next long-term EU budget, there is significant reason to fear a budget cut for research, affecting also the ERC. In an open letter, Friends of the ERC (European Research Council) call upon the EU Presidents and the Heads of States and Governments in Europe to secure funding for the European Research Council in the new, long-term EU budget. Before sending the letter, they have started a petition to gather support. ([Friends of the ERC](#))

Ongoing petition for a more ambitious budget allocation in Horizon Europe

Researchers, Students, Research Organisations, and the Civil Society are invited to sign the petition to their representatives in local governments and to the European Council, asking for a more ambitious budget allocation to the next Research Framework Programme, Horizon Europe. ([Initiative for Science in Europe](#))

EFNA launched survey on stigma and neurological disorders - Deadline 15 June 2020

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) represents 20 European and International associations across a wide variety of neurological disease areas. In 2018, EFNA conducted a survey of young people affected by neurological disorder, to assess the impact of these conditions on their lives. Stigma was identified as one of the biggest issues affecting respondents, after access to medication/treatment and isolation. As a result, EFNA

has developed a new survey, delving deeper into this issue and identifying areas where attention is most required and move to develop strategies that will combat stigma. ([EFNA](#))

Pain Alliance Europe survey on how much chronic pain patients use and benefit from “Electronic-Health” and “Mobile-Health”

Patients who live with chronic pain or their carers are invited to fill in the survey launched by Pain Alliance Europe with the help of national organisations from across Europe. The aim is to find out what they think about electronic-health and mobile-health information and the use of apps. ([Pain Alliance Europe](#))

DynaCORE - the DynaMORE study on psychological responses to the coronavirus pandemic

In the European research consortium DynaMORE, scientists work together to find out how people adapt to adverse life circumstances and stress, and which factors protect them from developing stress-related mental disorders. Oftentimes, stressors differ a lot from person to person. However, the coronavirus pandemic is currently affecting the lives of people all around the world and offers the opportunity to investigate which strategies are helpful in overcoming such big challenges. Therefore, DynaMORE is interested in getting to know how people are coping with this pandemic and the accompanying changes. For this, you are welcome to fill out some questionnaires. ([DynaMORE](#))

European Pain Federation (EFIC) COVID-19 Survey

As a response to the global pandemic, the European Pain Federation (EFIC) has created a COVID-19 task force with the intended outcome to distribute relevant news on our website and other communication channels. Their goal here is to put forward what is being said in an objective manner and provide a neutral overview on current research. They have launched a short survey where the general public can let them know about their experience with the novel coronavirus COVID-19. ([EFIC](#))

For your agenda

EBC Meetings

- 18 May 2020 - **Value of Treatment 2** - Joint Meeting, Virtual Meeting
- 18 - 19 May 2020 - **Board Meeting and General Assembly**, Virtual Meeting
- 24 May 2020 - [Special Session at the EAN Congress: Severe patients in neurological and psychiatric disorders](#), Virtual Meeting
- 24 May 2020 - [EBRA and RethinkingMS - Scientific Theatre at the EAN Congress](#), Virtual Meeting
- 25 May 2020 – [MULTI-ACT - Scientific Theatre at the EAN Congress](#), Virtual Meeting
- 14 July 2020 - [EBC Special Interest Event: Global Research Collaboration at FENS Forum 2020](#), Virtual Meeting
- 23 - 24 September 2020 - **Board Meeting and Strategic Workshop**, Brussels
- 13 - 14 October 2020 - **Brain Innovation Days**, Brussels

Events of Interest

- 12 May 2020 - [Webinar: Paroxysmal dyskinesias: an update on clinical and genetic aspects](#)
- 23 - 26 May 2020 - [6th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology](#), Virtual Meeting
- 4 - 7 July 2020 - [28th European Congress of Psychiatry](#), Virtual Meeting
- 11 - 15 July 2020 - [12th FENS Forum of Neuroscience](#), Virtual Meeting
- 7 - 9 September 2020 - [HIMSS & Health 2.0 European Conference](#), Helsinki
- 12 - 15 September 2020 - [33rd ECNP Congress](#), Vienna
- 21-24 September 2020 - [NEURO 2020 Summit](#), Salamanca
- 22 - 24 September 2020 - [European Research and Innovation Days 2020](#), Brussels
- 18 - 22 October 2020 - [EANS2020](#), Belgrade
- 19 November 2020 - [European Life After Stroke Forum](#), Barcelona
- 8 December 2020 - [Encephalitis Conference](#), London



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