

Brain and Cancer: *exploring the mysteries of their connection*

18 March 2020 · 12:30-14:00

European Parliament, Room A8F388

Brussels, Belgium

Hosted by: MEPs Petra de Sutter (Greens, BE) and Tomislav Sokol (EPP, HR) and Frédérique Ries (Renew, BE)

Organised by: The European Brain Council, the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB)

This event will address the close relationships between brain and cancer. The general idea behind the topic is that brain research not only has the fundamentals to understand brain cancer but, even more generally, the burdens of cancer, which have immense implications in mental health and neurological aspects. We will tackle cancer from a “brain” perspective, by first discussing how fundamental neuroscience research on development and differentiation can be informative for the genesis of brain tumours but also discussing neurological and psychiatric complication of systemic cancer.

The brain is not only the site of many different types of tumours, but with its complexity the brain is guiding all our actions including our reactions to distressful situations. The level of distress ranges from being able to adjust to living with cancer to having a serious mental health problem, such as major depression. In addition, neurological complications caused by systemic cancers—those arising outside the nervous system—can cause signs and symptoms that are more distressing and disabling than the cancer itself and, if left untreated, can be fatal.

Agenda:

12:30	Welcome Address by Prof. Monica Di Luca, EBC President) and Co-hosting MEPs Petra de Sutter (Greens, BE), Tomislav Sokol (EPP, HR) and Frédérique Ries (Renew, BE)
12:40 -13:00	Dr Laura Andrae, FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence
13:00-13:15	Kathy Oliver, Chair and Co-Director, International Brain Tumour Alliance)
13:15-13:30	Prof. Riccardo Soffietti, European Association of Neuro-oncology and Member of the EAN Scientific Panel on Neuro-Oncology
13:30-13:45	Prof. Isabelle Merckaert, Psychosomatic and Psycho-Oncology Research Unit, Université Libre de Bruxelles
13:45-13:55	<i>Presentation of the Joint statement on making cancer related complications and comorbidities an EU health priority</i> , Antonella Cardone, Director, European Cancer Patient Coalition
13:55-14:00	Q&A and closing remarks