

Brainy Insights

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Week of 11 May

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

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

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

[Submit your feedback](#)

Quote of the Week



"We are working on a health programme that would have substantially more funding"

Anne Bucher, European Commission's director-general for health and food safety, calls for a more considerable long-term budget.

[Read More](#)



Substantial investment needed to avert mental health crisis

The COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting the need to urgently increase investment in services for mental health or risk a massive increase in mental health conditions in the coming months, according to a policy brief on COVID-19 and mental health issued by the United Nations today.

World Health Organization



A European Health Union: increasing EU competence in health - coping with Covid-19 and looking to the future

The coronavirus has highlighted that the European Union does not have strong enough tools to deal with an emergency such as the spread of a novel infectious disease, which by its nature knows no borders. While the EU has significant competence in public health, healthcare systems remain the responsibility of Member States, with minimal cooperation at EU level.

Politico



EU eyeing 'substantially more funding' for health in next long term budget

Brussels is looking to create a greater role for itself in the coronavirus recovery by gaining a bigger health budget and more powers to intervene in member health systems. "We are working on a health programme that would have substantial[ly] more funding," the European Commission's director-general for health and food safety, Anne Bucher, told MEPs on Monday.

Science Business



Commission to launch €50M Horizon call to help industry repurpose manufacturing capabilities in time of crisis

The European Commission is releasing €50 million from the Horizon 2020 research budget to help the manufacturing sector repurpose production lines faster, and is preparing a call worth €20 million dedicated exclusively to switching existing lines over to the manufacture of medical equipment, vaccines and diagnostics. A further €30 million will be dedicated to digital innovation hubs and artificial intelligence for manufacturing, to speed up the digitisation of industrial production.

Science Business



A secret experiment revealed: in a medical first, doctors treat Parkinson's with a novel brain cell transplant

A month before the scheduled surgery, the four researchers were ready to chaperone the brain cells on their 190-mile journey. They never anticipated they were in for "The Amazing Race"-meets-"ER.". It was after midnight on a late summer night in 2017, and they had less than eight hours to get the cells by ambulance, private plane, and another ambulance from Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston to Weill Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan.

Stat

Previous basic and applied biomedical research has created the basis for high standards of healthcare in Europe and has achieved excellent abilities to diagnose and treat diseases and promote health. United European Gastroenterology (UEG) has joined forces with the Biomedical Alliance in Europe (BioMed Alliance) to strengthen European health research, because it now needs even greater support to address many unresolved and novel challenges.

Sage journal

JAMA Psychiatry

Opportunities from the Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic for transforming psychiatric care with telehealth

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic is a seminal event that is precipitating radical transformative change to our society and health care systems. Social distancing, isolation, and deployment of suppression and mitigation strategies are directly influencing the morbidity and mortality rates of the pandemic. Remote communication technologies are being broadly deployed in all spheres of medicine to support these strategies while still delivering effective health care. Telepsychiatry, in the form of videoconferencing and other technologies, was uniquely positioned to push the field of psychiatry to the forefront of these efforts. Prior to the pandemic, telepsychiatry had built a strong scientific foundation and real-world evidence base, demonstrating its effectiveness across a range of psychiatric treatments, populations, and settings. Although previously leveraged temporarily in disaster response, telepsychiatry's use in the COVID-19 pandemic has been distinctive and will have long-lasting and wide-ranging effects on the field of

JAMA Psychiatry

JAMA Psychiatry

Telepsychiatry and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Pandemic—Current and Future Outcomes of the Rapid Virtualization of Psychiatric Care

The mental health outcomes of the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic are producing new demands but also new opportunities for psychiatry. We know that there are mental health outcomes of social distancing policies and financial uncertainty, as well as worries about personal health, family, and friends. This will produce a global increase in adjustment issues and anxiety among the population, which may increase demands on mental health services. On the other hand, the widespread requirement for remote working has also fueled a renewed interest in telehealth with opportunities to increase access to care. Interest and use in telehealth have surged with past disasters, such as September 11, 2001; the Indian Ocean tsunami in 2004; and Hurricane Katrina in 2005—but the unparalleled scope and outcome of the current crisis warrants a different approach than in the past.

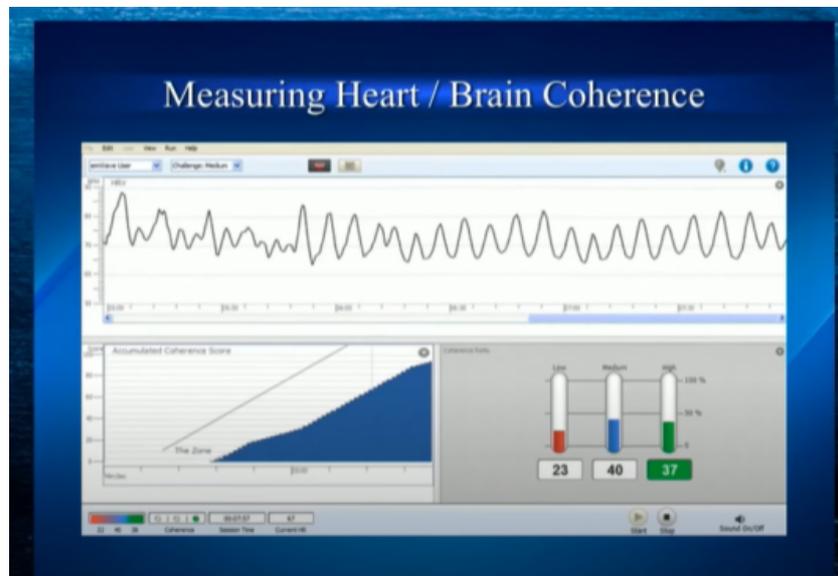
JAMA Psychiatry

JAMA Psychiatry

Childhood Anxiety—If We Know So Much, Why Are We Doing So Little?

Anxiety disorders are the most prevalent mental health conditions among US youth, with more than 30% experiencing an anxiety disorder by the time they reach age 18 years. Childhood anxiety is associated with significant impairment across family, social, and academic domains, typically affecting every area of life. Longitudinal research suggests that this dysfunction persists into adulthood; youth with anxiety are significantly more likely than counterparts without anxiety to go on to develop mood and substance use disorders, drop out of school early, and die by suicide. The high prevalence of childhood anxiety, combined with its pernicious and often unrelenting course, makes it a significant public health issue.

JAMA Psychiatry



72 hours to rewire neurons in your brain

Gregg Braden ' Every system in human body is documented with the ability to stop and reverse the damage - this process is called Bio-plasticity

Gregg Braden Official

Surveys and consultations

Global Brain Health Survey - Deadline 31 August 2020

Do you think about your brain health? What are you willing to do for your brain? The Global Brain Health Survey is to learn about people's views on the brain and brain health. Take our survey now and help them develop policy recommendations for brain health! ([Lifebrain](#))

Consultation on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence - A European Approach - Deadline 14 June 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](#))

Public consultation: European strategy for data - Deadline 31 May 2020

The aim of the European strategy for data is to create a single European data space – a genuine single market for data, where personal as well as non-personal data, including confidential data, are secure and businesses have easy access to an almost infinite amount of high-quality data to boost growth and create value, while minimising our carbon footprint. In its Communication on the European Strategy for data, the Commission gives an overview of the issues at stake, the scale and variety of opportunities and a possible list of targeted policy measures at EU level. ([European Commission](#))

European survey on neurological symptoms in COVID-19 patients

EAN is looking to better to 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 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 Corona 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 Corona 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](#))

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](#))

Resources



During this time of COVID-19, organisations across Europe and the world are working hard to better understand the virus and how it impacts not only society as a whole but the more at-risk groups such as those living with chronic conditions. EBC invites everyone to have a look through the various ongoing consultations as well as resources available for the brain community, listed [here](#).

For your agenda

EBC Meetings

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

23 - 26 May 2020 - [6th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology](#), Virtual Meeting

3 - 5 June 2020 - [Better Future of Healthy Ageing 2020](#), Virtual Meeting

10 June 2020 - [A Norwegian Brain Council/Lifebrain Webinar](#)

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

8 December 2020 - [Encephalitis Conference](#), London

12 March 2021 - [European Life After Stroke Forum](#), Barcelona



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