

# Brainy Insights

braincouncil.eu



Week of 27 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 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 disappointed to hear that neurology is not seen as a priority by the European Commission despite the fact that brain disorders form the biggest burden amongst all NCDs and that neurological disorders – alone – are the leading cause of disability and second leading cause of death in the world. We will continue to work tirelessly to change this situation in order to meet the needs of the millions of people affected by neurological disorders today.”***

EFNA President, Joke Jaarsma, commented on the response received from Commissioner Kyriakides and DG SANTE to the Parliamentary Written Question submitted by the European Federation of Neurological Associations.

[Read More](#)



### Brain diseases at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic

Prof Monica Di Luca, President, European Brain Council, highlights the importance of continuous prioritisation and attention to brain research during the COVID-19 pandemic in the latest edition of Open Access Government.

The article explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the brain research community and the continued need for the European Union to support brain research and the quest for finding treatment and cures for brain disorders.

Open Access Government



### Top innovation leaders envisage a strong role for the European Innovation Council in coronavirus recovery

"For Europe to come out stronger after the Corona crisis, we need to already direct our investments towards game-changing innovations that create a sustainable and human-centric digital future," according to the vision statement of the European Innovation Council Advisory Board published today.

European Commission



### German Presidency committed to fighting coronavirus while tackling the issues that will define our future

The Federal Government is committed to fighting the virus while also rebuilding Europe's economy and, at the same time, making progress on climate change, the digital transformation and the EU Budget. The goal is to overcome the pandemic while not losing sight of other key priorities. With this in mind, the Federal Cabinet today discussed options for a thematic realignment of Germany's presidency of the Council of the European Union.

German Federal Foreign Office



### Commission confirms no coordinated effort to address neurology as public health priority

With support from 17 MEPs, the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) submitted a Parliamentary Written Question on January 23rd. The question called for the European Commission to acknowledge the burden of neurological disorders and to see better integration of neurology within the Commission's portfolio of work on non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

Unfortunately, the response received from the Health Directorate, DG Sante – on April 22nd – effectively confirmed that there is no coordinated effort to address neurological health from a public health perspective at EU level.

EFNA



### Mediterranean countries fear recession will hit R&D and prompt brain exodus

Countries that saw their research budgets slashed by austerity measures in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis are worrying the recession set in train by the pandemic could have even worse effects on R&D systems.

In a survey by the OECD on how governments around the globe are adjusting research and innovation policies in response to the pandemic, European countries voice their worries about the potential effects of a recession on national research systems.

Science|Business



### Top E.R. doctor who treated virus patients dies by suicide

A top emergency room doctor at a Manhattan hospital that treated many coronavirus patients has died by suicide.

The coronavirus [has] presented unusual mental health challenges for emergency physicians throughout New York, the epicenter of the crisis in the United States.

The New York Times



## EU preparing an array of new funds in draft re-write of seven-year budget

Brussels is preparing a post-Corona budget plan that includes extra funding for regional development, healthcare and small companies, heavy borrowing, and "reinforced" spending on research. The European Commission's revamp of its upcoming seven-year budget, called the multiannual financial framework, proposes to borrow hundreds of billions of euros, so as to avoid going to EU governments for extra financial contributions. The plan would also strengthen liquidity guarantees and reallocate funds as part of a recovery plan targeting the devastating economic toll of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Science|Business



## European Innovation Council gets extra €150M after surge in applications

The European Innovation Council (EIC) is to get a €150 million extra cash injection after being overwhelmed with applications in the last month. More than 1,000 start-ups and small and medium-sized companies submitted ideas for tackling COVID-19, while across all fields there was double the usual number of applications for EIC calls, with about 4,000 companies looking for funding.

"We are seeing a lot of appetite and demand," said Jean-David Malo, Director of the European Commission task force planning the programme. Procedures are in place to speed up the evaluation of projects related to COVID-19. "It's part of our DNA to be agile," he said.

Science|Business



## Addressing the COVID-19 pandemic in populations with serious mental illness

The coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic will present an unprecedented stressor to patients and healthcare systems across the globe. Because there is currently no vaccine or treatment for the underlying infection, current health efforts are focused on providing prevention and screening, maintaining continuity of treatment for other chronic conditions, and ensuring access to appropriately intensive services for those with the most severe symptoms.

JAMA Psychiatry



## Horizon Europe: introducing the EU's new framework programme

The European Union's 9th Framework Programme or Horizon Europe should be a successor of the previous framework programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020. With the mantra "Evolution, not revolution", it is built on H2020's structure, implementing the good practices and improving its shortcomings. The budget for Horizon Europe, as a part of the next MFF, is still unknown, resulting in many emerging initiatives advocating for bigger allocation.

European Commission



## 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 have had to lay off full-time employees since the beginning of the crisis.

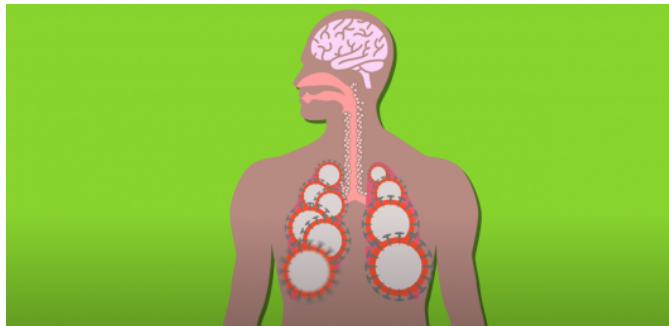
Science|Business



## EFNA position paper on patient involvement in research

All across the world, hundreds of millions of people of all ages struggle with neurological disorders daily. These conditions can include Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, strokes, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy to migraines, brain injuries, brain tumours and neuro-infections. These are in addition to a wide range of rare and neglected neurological disorders. In Europe alone, the death and disease burden due to neurological disorders is staggering and ranks number three among all disease groups, according to recent studies.

EFNA



### How COVID-19 affects the brain

A lot of the information we hear about COVID-19 surrounds how the virus impacts your lungs or how the pandemic has ravaged society due to quarantine. But what about your brain? Might coronavirus have an effect there, too? Come along with Alie Astrocyte to learn about which symptoms might be indicative of the neurological effects of COVID-19.

Neuro Transmissions

## Surveys and consultations

### Consultation on the White Paper on Artificial Intelligence - A European Approach - Extended 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 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

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 a 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](#))

## 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
- 8 December 2020 - [Encephalitis Conference](#), London
- 12 March 2021 - [European Life After Stroke Forum](#), Barcelona



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