

Brainy Insights

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Week of 4 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



"All citizens have the right to access high-quality, affordable and equal health care. Europe needs a Health Union, based on solidarity and cooperation."

Jytte Guteland, S&D ENVI Committee Coordinator - Group of the Alliance of Progressives and Democrats in the European Parliament, calls for the urgent creation of a European Health Union.

[Read More](#)



World Health Organization

WHO releases guidelines to help European countries maintain essential health services during the COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic is straining health systems worldwide. The rapidly increasing demand on health facilities and health-care workers threatens to leave some health systems overstretched and unable to operate effectively.

Previous outbreaks have demonstrated that when health systems are overwhelmed, disability and preventable mortality can increase dramatically.

World Health Organization



Call for Action: Time to strengthen the EU's public health policy powers

Europe is going through an unprecedented challenge caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a health crisis, an economic crisis, and, potentially, a social crisis. It presents an existential challenge to the European project: are we doing enough to protect the health of our citizens? write Klaus Hänsch, Violeta Bulc and Vytenis Andriukaitis.

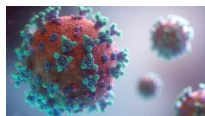
Euractiv



Research chiefs urge more open process to pick next ERC president

After the noisy departure last month of the European Research Council's (ERC) president, several leaders of the European scientific community are pushing for improvements in the way his successor is chosen.

Science Business

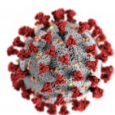


Coronavirus: Lockdown psychiatric care 'severely disrupted'

Isolation during lockdown is exacerbating psychosis in some patients, a consultant psychiatrist at a leading mental-health trust warns.

Steve Church said the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust had now had to shift its focus to crisis management. He leads the psychosis recovery team, one of the trust's five teams helping patients struggling with their mental health during the coronavirus pandemic.

BBC



Mental health in the eye of the COVID-19 hurricane

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an enormous impact on mental health and well-being worldwide. During the pandemic, people become more at risk of experiencing, directly or indirectly, confusion, frustration, anxiety, and fear, sometimes combined with a lack of access to and continuity of care and adequate support for pre-existing ill-mental or physical health conditions.

The International Association of Mutual Benefit Societies (AIM)



When Deploying Predictive Algorithms, Are Summary Performance Measures Sufficient?

The last decade's growth in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and statistical methods for high-dimensional data has driven a zeitgeist of prediction (or forecasting) in medicine and psychiatry. Algorithms for prediction require a model that is governed by parameters whose values are estimated from exemplar training cases. Estimation (or training) of parameters ingrains uncertainty into the resulting algorithm arising from model assumptions in addition to bias and error in the data.

JAMA Psychiatry



Psychiatry on the Streets—Caring for Homeless Patients

Most people have homes. For the estimated 553 000 people in the United States who do not, grappling with mental illness only further disrupts their lives. They struggle with psychosis while navigating the harsh realities of living on the street. They experience posttraumatic stress disorder while sleeping in the crowded confines of a shelter. They battle opioid use disorder while lacking a stable place to recover. Traditionally stereotyped as men with alcohol problems, the modern-day homeless population encompasses a diverse group that includes women-led families, veterans, and LGBTQ youth who experience a range of mental illnesses. Few populations bear a greater psychiatric burden, and yet the role of psychiatrists in caring for the homeless population remains relatively neglected.

[JAMA Psychiatry](#)

Video of the week



Opening Barriers To Brain Research

CBS2's Dr. Max Gomez has the latest on new research opening barriers in the treatment of diseases like Alzheimer's.

[CBS New York](#)

Surveys and consultations

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 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 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**
- 21 May 2020 - **Covid-19: Shaping the Future of Neurology Advocacy**, Webinar
- 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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