

# EUROPEAN BRAIN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER - April 2020

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### A Message from the President



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

"Diseases do not know borders; this is now more vital to understand and recognize than ever before."

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

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### EBC Activities



#### EU Health Commissioner Kyriakides outlines measures for addressing brain disorders

Stella Kyriakides, EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, recently confirmed the commitment of the European Commission to meet the Sustainable Development Goals and, within this context, outlined some of the Commission's current and foreseen measures aimed at addressing the impact of brain disorders in Europe. Commissioner Kyriakides made these remarks in response to a priority written question, led by Belgian MEP Pascal Aumont and coordinated by the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA).

Amongst other issues, Commissioner Kyriakides confirmed the Commission's current support to the [European Brain Research Area](#), coordinated by EBC, and highlighted that this flagship initiative aims to provide recommendations to build an EU brain research strategy. Moreover, she said, these recommendations will be used to develop the brain health partnership that is expected to be funded under Horizon Europe.

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## EBC-coordinated EU project, European Brain Research Area (EBRA), launches 3rd call for clusters

The 3rd EBRA Call for Clusters is currently underway! You have until 1 June 2020 to submit your application to become a cluster. Clusters can benefit from coordination, guidance and support from the EBRA project, to expand their community and increase collaboration and visibility.

Further details - including what makes a cluster, the application process and further deadlines and the application form can be found on the EBRA website.

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## EBC supports Alzheimer Europe position on the issue of triage of patients in the context of access to intensive care services during the COVID-19 pandemic

EBC has endorsed Alzheimer Europe's call for caution and sound ethical principles in the current triage guidelines, which would exclude people with dementia from life-saving access to ventilators during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Alzheimer Europe emphasises its commitment to a human rights-based approach to dementia care and its firm belief that after diagnosis, people with dementia can live many years of meaningful existence with a high quality of life. A diagnosis of dementia on its own should therefore never be a reason to refuse people access to treatment, care and support.

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## EBC celebrates Autism, Multiple Sclerosis & Parkinson's Disease Awareness Days in April

EBC celebrated World Autism Awareness Day, Parkinson's Disease (PD) Awareness Day and Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Awareness Week (led by MSSociety UK) through social media channels in April.

These disease-specific awareness days take place annually in order to draw attention to the diseases and help educate the general public on what people living with these diseases are going through and how it affects not only their lives but the lives of their carers, family and friends.

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## EBC shares COVID-19 resources from the brain community

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 please have a look through the various ongoing consultations as well as resources available for the brain community.

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## #ScienceFromHome: research does not stop

In these difficult times researchers play an increasingly important role. That's why their work is not stopping.

EBC welcomed the EU Science Hub's initiative to celebrate all researchers who continue their work from home. Vital work continues despite #COVID19 and #WeStandTogether for the #brain, #research, #health and for all society

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## EBC Members



### EANcore Covid-19

In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the European Academy of Neurology launched EANcore CoVID-19. This resource centre aims to support neurologists in their efforts to prepare for and manage the challenges that the current crisis is bringing. Amongst other issues, EANcore Covid-19 will provide up-to-date information on the pandemic, provide clinical information on COVID-19 and its impact on neurological disorders, collate emerging data on neurological complications in COVID-19 and publish reports from front-line doctors.

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### Virtual 6th EAN Congress - 22-26 May 2020

The 6th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, to be held as a virtual meeting from 22-26 May, offers the neurology community education, scientific news and best practice exchange without leaving home. This year's overarching theme "Predict, Prevent, Repair" aims to address challenges in dealing with neurological diseases.

Online participation to the EAN Virtual Congress is free-of-charge. For further information, please visit the [Frequently Asked Questions area](#).

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### Get ready for the first virtual EPA Congress!

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged our model of face-to-face meetings. To adapt to the current situation, the EPA Board has decided to transform the **28th European Congress of Psychiatry** into a fully virtual meeting, taking place **4-7 July 2020**.

[Visit the EPA Congress website](#) for more information about the virtual congress platform that will feature live sessions, chats with delegates and speakers, access to a virtual industry area, and pre-recorded sessions available for convenient viewing for all registered participants.

**Registration will remain open**, so don't miss the chance to exchange with other delegates, speakers, and industry leaders in a secure, innovative, and engaging online environment.

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## 2020 ECNP Congress: early registration deadline extended to 1 June

We know that for many in the ECNP community, making plans is difficult in the current environment. To make it easier for you, and to give you as much flexibility as possible, we are extending the [33rd ECNP Congress](#) early registration deadline to **1 June 2020**.

You can register by clicking on [this link](#).

And don't forget: if you register for the congress, you can cancel right up to 1 August, with a refund. [Read more](#).

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## EANS2020 Belgrade: Registration is now open!

Belgrade will host the annual congress of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies on 18-22 October 2020.

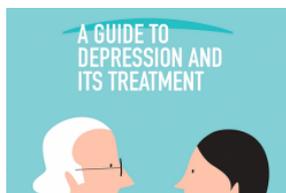
Abstract submission has been concluded and now abstracts are currently under evaluation.

Registration is now open! Do not miss the opportunity to join the neurosurgery community and be part of EANS2020 Congress.

Plenary sessions with outstanding oral and e-poster announcements will be presented.

Take advantage of the early bird rates and register now.

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## A Pocket Guide to Agitation and What to Do in a Crisis

This month GAMIAN-Europe launched '[A Pocket Guide to Agitation and What to Do in a Crisis](#)' for people who experience agitation, their carers and close friends.

They have also published two booklets: '[A guide to depression and its treatment](#)' and '[Take care and be kind to yourself](#)'. Both booklets were co-created by GAMIAN-Europe, with its members and Servier, specifically for people living with depression.

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## FENS 2020 Virtual Forum

The FENS Forum 2020 is taking place online!

The FENS 2020 Virtual Forum will feature the same high quality scientific programme and provide delegates with exciting opportunities to learn, interact, grow and network. Following the live event, an extended on-demand access of three months will allow delegates to go back and enjoy all sessions and events.

There is still time to take part and share your research: abstract submission and early registration have been extended until 18 May 2020.

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## COVID-19: A Message from those living with Neurological Disorders

Neurological disorders are mostly chronic, long-term conditions. Those affected may be at increased risk from COVID-19, not only from the virus directly, but through being exposed to disruptions in healthcare provision. There are also concerns around the slowing pace and prioritisation of neuroscience research.

In a statement recently published, the European Federation of Neurological Associations [EFNA] explores these challenges, as well as looking at the role of neurological patient organisations during and after this crisis.

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## IBRO COVID-19 Series

Everyone has, by now, been affected in some way by the COVID-19 pandemic. To be flexible and responsive, IBRO is working on a case-by-case basis to address issues of activity changes. Their policy and updates can be found [here](#).

IBRO have also launched a [video series on COVID-19 global neuroscience experiences](#).

We hope that this serves as an inspiration and acknowledgement of the commitment and solidarity of scientists during such challenging times.

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## For your Agenda

- 12 May 2020 - [Webinar: Paroxysmal dyskinesias: an update on clinical and genetic aspects](#)
- 18 May 2020 - Value of Treatment 2 - Joint Meeting, Virtual Meeting
- 22 - 26 May 2020 - [6th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology](#), 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](#), Virtual Meeting
- 25 May 2020 - [MULTI-ACT - Scientific Theatre at the EAN Congress](#), Virtual Meeting
- 4 - 7 July 2020 - [28th European Congress of Psychiatry](#), Virtual Meeting
- 11 - 15 July 2020 - [12th FENS Forum of Neuroscience](#), Virtual Meeting
- 14 July 2020 - [EBC Special Interest Event: Global Research Collaboration at FENS Forum 2020](#), 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
- 13 - 14 October 2020 - [EBC Brain Innovation Days](#), 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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