

# EUROPEAN BRAIN COUNCIL

## NEWSLETTER - January 2021

[braincouncil.eu](http://braincouncil.eu)



### EBC Activities



#### EBC launches statement on the impact of COVID-19 on brain health

The European Brain Council has released a new statement on the impact of COVID-19 on brain health, summarising known mental and neurological consequences and stressing the importance of public health response to also take the severe long-term consequences into account.

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**Brain  
Innovation  
Days**

#### 2nd Brain Innovation Days digital session held on 26 January

On Tuesday 26 January, the Brain Innovation Days session "From Innovative ideas to creative brain interventions" took place, organised by EBC and BeLean.net. During the event, a pitch competition was also held to award the first Brain Innovation Days Best Pitch award. The event also discussed the European situation regarding innovation in healthcare and research and the available support for start-ups seeking to innovate in the world of brain research.

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## EBC President featured in January edition of Open Access Government

Prof Monica Di Luca, EBC President, was featured in the January 2021 edition of Open Access Government. Her piece covered brain health policy and the urgency of investing in brain research.

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## BRAINTEASER, a project bringing AI home for better care of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and multiple sclerosis, kicked-off

Officially started on the 1st January 2021, the H2020 BRAINTEASER project launched its operational activities. The project's kick off meeting, organised in two days January 28th and 29th 2021, gathered the project's partners, a multidisciplinary gender-balanced consortium from academia, industry, clinical settings and the non-profit sector, active in six European Countries, including EBC.

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## New "Brain Talks" episode: a deep dive into the European Medicines Agency

What is the role the EMA can play in facilitating innovation in brain research? Florence Butlen, Senior Scientific Officer at the EMA, Fabio Blandini, IBRO-PERC Chair, and Patrice Boyer, EBC Vice President, continue the discussion started at the Brain Innovation Days launch event in October 2020 in this new episode of the Brain Talks podcast.

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## A blueprint on good off-label use practice

Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, was interviewed by Stockholm Science City after the Virtual workshop on good practices for the off-label use of medicines in Sweden and Norway, on the importance of a coordinated approach for off-label prescription.

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## Event report: Virtual workshop on the off-label use of medicines in Sweden and Norway

The event, hosted by the Swedish Brain Foundation, the Norwegian MS Association and the European Brain Council was held virtually on 24 November 2020. It brought together over 80 representatives from Norway and Sweden, and a distinguished list of speakers – including physicians, patient organizations, pharmaceutical industry representatives and the authorities – to discuss the safety of medicines used off-label as well as the framework regulating their use.

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Prof. Monica Di Luca  
European Brain Council  
(Italy)

"...) Enhanced multi-stakeholder engagement is needed to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge, accelerate investment in research and innovation and facilitate treatment and cure development, (...) the EU needs a vision that addresses brain research as one key priority."

## EBC and EBRA presented at NEURON Cofund2 kick-off symposium

Monica Di Luca, EBC President, presented EBC and EBRA at the ERA-NET NEURON Cofund2 kick-off symposium. NEURON will continue its work and particularly the Joint Transnational Calls in the coming five years. The 27 network participants from 23 countries celebrated the start of the new period with a scientific symposium held on January 27th, 2021.

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## EBC Members



### 'Me and My Brain' – Art Competition winners announced!

EFNA is delighted to announce the winners of its recent art competition on the theme 'Me and My Brain'. Our judges were extremely impressed by not only the quality of entries but by the meaningful nature of the works and their accompanying stories.

The winner is Stacy Hart, for her entry 'Marshmallow Head'. Stacy, who lives with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) explains "It often feels like my brain is a wall of marshmallow and the thoughts I have and the words I want to speak are somewhere right at the back, behind it all." The runners-up are Melanie Hobday, Danielle Sysmans, Debbie Ayles and Ioana Dobriou. You can see their fantastic pieces, along with the other competition entries, [here](#).

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## Ray Dolan is the keynote speaker of the 34th ECNP Congress, 2-5 October 2021

Ray Dolan, United Kingdom is Mary Kinross Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Director of the Max Planck-UCL Centre for Computational Psychiatry and Ageing. Fellow of the Royal Society and co-recipient of the 2017 Brain Prize, he has been ranked by Semantic Scholar as the second-most influential neuroscientist in the modern world.

His research interests include the neural mechanisms of reward, learning and decision making, and how impairment in these relate to neuropsychiatric disorders.

He will present the lecture entitled '[How we build internal models of the world](#)'.

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## Call for Papers on neurological manifestations associated with SARS-CoV2 to be featured in EJN Spring 2021 Special Issue

The European Journal of Neurology is accepting submissions on topic of neurological manifestations associated with SARSCoV2 which will be featured in its Special Issue in 2021. The deadline is 31st March, 2021. Manuscript submission [here](#).

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## IBRO Appoints New Executive Director

IBRO is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Lars Kristiansen as its new Executive Director. His international experience with neuroscience research and senior management will contribute to IBRO's strategic growth and vision. Dr. Kristiansen has been serving as FENS Executive Director since 2012 and IBRO's interim Executive Director since September 2020. He will officially transition into his permanent role at IBRO beginning in February.

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## Call for Abstracts for EANS2021 Annual Congress

The EANS is delighted to announce the Call for Abstracts of the upcoming EANS2021 Annual Congress, which will be held in Hamburg, Germany from 3 to 7 October 2021!

Don't miss the opportunity to present your research and outcomes and have substantive conversations with peers!

The Congress Scientific Committee welcomes the submission of abstracts for oral, video, oral e-poster or e-poster presentation.

Deadline for submission is on March 8th, 2021.

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## FENS Regional Meeting 2021: early registration and abstract submission opening soon!

The FENS Regional Meeting 2021 (25-27 August) will feature a programme presenting the latest results from researchers in Central and Eastern Europe as well as members of other FENS-affiliated societies. Jointly organised by the Polish Neuroscience Society and the Lithuanian Neuroscience Association, the FRM 2021 aims to promote scientific collaboration within the region and showcase research to the broader neuroscience community. Further information can be found on the FRM 2021 website.

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## National Brain Councils



### National Brain Plan for Germany

A National Brain Plan for Germany is in progress. A respective GBC working group (Falkai, Mawrin, Mokrousch, Rose, Schara, Schnitzler) is currently bringing forward an outline draft, to collect all available knowledge on brain disorders. This knowledge will be gathered exemplarily on more prominent brain disorders such as traumatic brain injury, stroke depression, as well as on more rare diseases such as spinal muscular atrophy.

The National Brain Plan aims to gather all current scientific knowledge (prevalence, burden, costs etc.) as well as research knowledge (basic, clinical and translational) to close knowledge gaps and eventually set the agenda for an expansion of research activities until 2050.

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## Contributions from the Belgian Brain Council

Researchers from Oxford University estimated the incidence of ICD (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems) diagnose in the 6 months after a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19.

236,379 patients survived a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. Among them, the estimated incidence of neurological or psychiatric sequelae at 6 months was 33.6%. Most diagnostic categories were commoner after COVID-19 than after influenza or other respiratory infections (hazard ratios from 1.21 to 5.28). The study provides evidence for substantial neurological and psychiatric morbidity following COVID-19 infection. Risks were greatest in, but not limited to, those who had severe COVID-19. The information can help in service planning and identification of research priorities.

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## For your Agenda

3 February 2021 - EBC Strategic Meeting, Virtual

11 February 2021 - EBC General Assembly Meeting, Virtual

27 February 2021 - Global Webinar Series 2020-2021: Part 4 – Treatment (Hydrocephalus Society), Virtual

12 March 2021 - European Life After Stroke Forum, Virtual

15-21 March 2021 - Brain Awareness Week

19 March 2021 - Global Webinar Series 2020-2021: Part 5 – Complications and how to handle them (Hydrocephalus Society), Virtual

10-13 April 2021 - EPA Congress, Virtual

24 April 2021 - Global Webinar Series 2020-2021: Part 6 – Outcome (Hydrocephalus Society), Virtual

20 May 2021 - EBC Board & General Assembly Meetings

8 June 2021 - VoT2 Virtual Joint Meeting

19-22 June 2021 - EAN 7th Congress, Virtual

25-27 August 2021 - FENS Regional Meeting, Virtual

1-3 September 2021 - 7th European Stroke Conference, Helsinki (Finland)

2-5 October 20201 - ECNP Congress, Lisbon (Portugal)

3-7 October 2021 - EANS Congress, Hamburg (Germany)

12-13 October 2021 - [Brain Innovation Days](#): United for Brain Innovation, Brussels (Belgium)

7 December 2021 - [Encephalitis Conference 2021](#), Royal College of Physicians, London (and virtual)

28 April-2 May 2022 - [14th European Paediatric Neurology Society Congress](#), Glasgow (UK)



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