

Brain Research in Europe: Shaping FP9 and Delivering Innovation to the Benefit of Patients

23rd - 24th April 2018

University Foundation
Rue d'Egmont 11 - 1000
Brussels, Belgium

Investments into research and innovation have delivered unprecedented results for patients across Europe. Publicly and privately funded innovation schemes in the EU empowered researchers to accelerate scientific discovery, increase the understanding of non-communicable diseases and improve healthcare services. Yet despite the progress that was achieved in recent decades, there is currently no effective treatment to cure a wide range of mental and neurological conditions. What is more, the complexity of many brain disorders hinders researchers in their efforts to develop innovative healthcare interventions.

In 2018, the European Commission is expected to submit proposals for a mission-oriented and impact-focused 9th Framework Programme. In view of the preparations for the forthcoming EU research scheme, the European Brain Council (EBC) aims to bring attention to issues that affect therapeutic innovation and facilitate an exchange of views on how the post-2020 Framework Programme can make a real difference for patients living with brain disorders.

The event, which consists of three individual sessions, will allow leading healthcare stakeholders and policymakers to address key questions in the domain of research, such as: how can the 9th Framework Programme accelerate brain research across Europe? What measures can be taken in order to stimulate the development of new central nervous system drugs for treating brain disorders? What can be done to address the concerns of patients?

Missions and FP9

23rd April, Room F. Cattier

The upcoming EU Framework Programmes have the potential to provide tangible solutions for patients living with brain disorders. In view of the upcoming FP9 proposal, a wide range of independent experts provided recommendations on mission-oriented research and how to gain the most out of EU funded innovation programmes. The “Lab - Fab - App” report, written under the leadership of Pascal Lamy, recommended to double the budget of the next Framework Programme. Increasing the budget was subsequently recommended amongst others by the European Parliament, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and Commissioner for budget Günther Oettinger. Additionally, Prof. Mariana Mazzucato provided guidance on how research and innovation can address global challenges in the recently released report “Mission-Oriented Research & Innovation in the European Union”. In light of these recommendations, the session “Missions and FP9” aims to facilitate

dialogue amongst experts on the mission-oriented approach of the European Commission and how the next Framework Programme can boost therapeutic innovation.

- 15.00 - 15.30* Keynote:
- Prof. Andrea Renda, Member of the Expert Group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and Innovation (ESIR)
- 15.30 - 16.00* Brain related missions:
- Prof. Monica di Luca, EBC President
- 16.00 - 17.00* MEP panel:
- Lieve Wierinck, ALDE
- 17.00 - 17.30* Concluding remarks
- Jean-Eric Paquet, Director-General for DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- 17.30 - onwards* Cocktail reception

Value of Innovation

24th April, Room F. Cattier

Developing effective treatments to improve the lives of those affected by brain disorders is extremely challenging. Despite decades of publicly and privately funded brain research, there is currently no treatment available to cure a wide range of mental and neurological conditions. What is more, research efforts do not always translate into tangible results for patients. In view of this and in the light of the high burden that brain disorders impose on European society, the session “Value of Innovation” aims to empower healthcare experts and stakeholders to present their views on issues that hinder therapeutic innovation and discuss potential solutions.

- 10.00 - 10.15* Welcome and introduction:
- Joke Jaarsma, EBC Treasurer
- 10.15 - 10.45* Patient perspective:
- Hilkka Kärkkäinen, President, GAMIAN-Europe
 - Jacobo Santamarta Barral, Young Person's Network at the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform
- 10.45 - 11.00* Research perspective:
- Prof. dr. Guus Smit, Department of Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology, VU Amsterdam
- 11.00 - 11.15* Industry perspective - challenges in clinical trials:
- Speaker TBD

11.15 - 12.15

Panel discussion and Q&A:

- Menno Aarnout, Executive Director, Association Internationale de la Mutualité
- Matthias Wismar, Senior Health Policy Analyst, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
- Nathalie Moll, Director General, European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
- Prof. Colm O'Morain, Past President, Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe
- Jaroslaw Waligora, Policy Officer, DG Health and Food Safety
- Marina Schmidt, Coordinator of the Health Insurance Committee, European Social Insurance Platform (*TBC*)

12.15 - 12.45

Conclusions drawn by the moderators:

- Margaret Walker, Executive Director, EUFAMI
- Alexander Schubert, Executive Director, European College of Neuropsychopharmacology

12.45 - 14.00

Lunch

Brain Research: Shifting Gears and Going Global

24th April, Room F. Cattier

Many initiatives aimed at supporting brain research and improving the allocation of research funds were launched at global level in recent years. These efforts have the potential to significantly strengthen collaboration across disciplines and can therefore make a lasting difference for patients and scientists. The session “Brain Research: Shifting Gears and Going Global” aims to provide an overview of the current global brain research initiatives and allows experts to present their perspectives on how to further enhance cooperation at global level.

14.00 - 14.30

Introduction on the global initiatives launched with the support of the European Commission:

- Dr. Karim Berkouk, Acting Head of Unit, Non-communicable diseases and the challenge of healthy ageing

14.30 - 15.00

Examples of existing and potential collaboration:

- Dr. Ari Ercole, CENTER-TBI International Initiative for Traumatic Brain Injury Research (InTBIR)
- Prof. Philippe Ryvlin, Co-Chair of the Joint Task Force for Epilepsy Advocacy Europe, International League Against Epilepsy
- Helena Ledmyr, Head of Development & Communications, International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF)

15.00 - 15.30

Global networks, organization's perspective:

- Prof. Philippe Amouyel, Chair, EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND)
- Chris Ebell, Executive Director, Human Brain Project
- Dr. Hella Lichtenberg, Senior Scientific Officer, ERA-NET Neuron

15.30 - 16.00

Concluding remarks:

- Speaker TBD

16.00 - onwards

Cocktail reception