

The European Brain Council's Weekly External Environment Update

Week of 12th and 19th December 2011

Quote of the week

"Unless we get this new system in place and help people before their needs get worse, we are going to see more people in hospital or care homes far too early."

Andrew Chidgey, head of policy at the Alzheimer's Society, speaking to BBC Radio 4's Today Programme about a recent hospital audit carried out by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, see articles of interest for further details

Agenda Watch

- i) Please click [here](#) to register for the European Research Council (ERC) conference on 30th January 2012

Institution Watch

- i) Click [here](#) to access the presentation given at the Meeting of the Expert Group on Social Determinants and Health Inequalities that took place between 12th and 13th December 2011. These include a presentation of the Danish presidency priorities in the field of health
- ii) Click [here](#) to access the CPME statement on Mental Health, combating Stigma and Social exclusion

Key updates this week

EFPIA fully behind the idea of a European Council for Health Research

EFPIA, the voice of the research-based pharmaceutical industry in Europe, supports the idea to establish a European Council for Health Research, which was launched last week by the Alliance for Biomedical Research in Europe, representing 16 leading European biomedical research societies.

This call for action by the biomedical research community coincides with the publication by the European Commission of the next EU research funding framework, Horizon 2020.

Richard Bergström, Director General of EFPIA, said: "We agree with the BioMed Alliance that success and innovation in health research requires a long-term commitment. I warmly welcome this initiative, which is a step towards a European National Institute of Health.

“Such a European body would allow both strategic long-term planning driven by healthcare needs and optimising healthcare delivery across Europe through high level treatment guidelines and a shared understanding on how health technology assessments (HTA) can deliver value for money.”

Proceedings of the European Parliament workshop on Treating and Living with Epilepsy

Click [here](#) to access the **Proceedings of the European parliament Workshop on "Treating and Living with Epilepsy"** that took place on October 12th 2011.

Answer to written question on Chronic Diseases

Glenis Willmott (S&D) recently asked the Commission for an update on progress in the area of chronic diseases, in light of the Belgian Presidency's call for the need to identify options for tackling these and facilitating cooperation between member states.

Responding on behalf of the Commission, John Dalli stated that as part of the recent conclusions on **Innovative approaches for chronic diseases in public health and healthcare** systems, the Council invited member states and the Commission to: "initiate a reflection process aiming to identify options to optimise the response to the challenges of chronic diseases" and "to lead this reflection process in close dialogue with relevant stakeholders "and the Commission to "support member states and stakeholders in the reflection process and summarize its outcomes in a reflection paper by 2012".

Following the adoption of these conclusions, continued Dalli, the Commission has begun a reflection process on chronic diseases which includes an initial request for input from stakeholders through the EU Health Policy Forum. The Commission, he stated, intends to carry out further work over the course of 2012 and summarise outcomes in a forthcoming paper. Details on the process, including actions to engage with additional stakeholders will be published in due course.

Consultation on future members of the ERC Scientific Council

Scientific Council members of the European Research Council (ERC) are appointed by the European Commission on the recommendation of an independent Identification Committee, which is conducting a consultation exercise in order to identify potential new members.

The Identification Committee is directly consulting the main representative organisations of the European research community. It also welcomes contributions from other representative organisations. Contributions should be sent to the following email address: rtd-erc-id@ec.europa.eu. The deadline for responses is 30th March 2012.

Useful links:

[ERC Scientific Council](#)

[ERC Identification Committee](#)

Articles of interest

✓ *BBC News online*, Dementia care: Hospitals 'must make improvements'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-16206169>

✓ *Public Service online*, One in four hospital patients have dementia

http://www.publicservice.co.uk/news_story.asp?id=18311

Dates for your diary

Wednesday, 22 February 2012 - EBC's first Board Meeting of 2012