

The European Brain Council's External Environment Weekly Update

Week of 6th June 2011

Quote of the week

"For some Parkinson patients it comes as a revelation and relief, not to mention their spouses, that the condition may be responsible for things that go 'bump' or 'kick' in the night"

Simon Lewis, neurologist at The University of Sydney's Brain and Mind Research Institute, discussing the often unrecognized early symptoms of Parkinson's disease (please see articles of interest for further details)

Agenda Watch

- i) The Polish Alzheimer's Association and Alzheimer Europe have announced that the 21st Alzheimer Europe Conference in Warsaw will take place between 6th and 8th October 2011. The main theme will be **European Solidarity Without Borders**, please click [here](#) for more information;
- ii) It's been announced that the **14th European Health Forum Gastein** will take place from 5th to 8th October 2011. Please click [here](#) to access a provisional programme of the event;
- iii) The Health Council met in Luxembourg last Monday to discuss the adoption of council conclusions including **The European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being: results and future action** ([Draft conclusions](#)), **Innovation in the Medical Device sector** ([Draft conclusions](#)), **Provision of information on medicines** ([Commission document](#)) and **Active and Healthy Ageing Partnership** ([Commission document](#)). These will also be discussed at **The 3095th Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council** who are to meet on 6th June 2011. Please click [here](#) to access the draft Agenda.

Institution Watch

- i) The Hungarian government is organizing a conference entitled **Action for Prevention** which will address the main health determinants related to the prevention of non-communicable diseases, namely nutrition, physical activity and smoking. This will take place in Budapest over two days – please check future updates for further details;
- ii) Between 15th and 18th June 2011, the Hungarian presidency is organizing the **3rd European Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion** in Godollo, Budapest. The forum's main focus will be the challenges of implementing good practice in safety promotion;
- iii) The Hungarian government is organizing a conference on child safety, to take place in Godollo, Hungary from 16 – 17th June 2011. The conference will hold extensive sessions touching on key areas like protecting the brain using cycle helmets and decent eating habits;
- iv) The European Commission has organized an Open Information Day on **FP7 Health Research** to take place in Brussels on 9th June 2011;
- v) The European Research Council (ERC) has joined forces with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences to organize a conference on **promoting excellence in research in Europe**, to take place in Budapest, from 19 – 20th June 2011;
- vi) 10th June 2011 will see an **FP7 Health Partnering event**, organized by The European Commission, take place. It will focus on the content and planning required to create a good consortium; researchers from the small business community and academia will be invited to present their project ideas during five minute presentations;
- vii) On June 10th 2011, The European Commission is facilitating a conference on the **Common strategic framework for EU research and innovation funding**, to take place in Brussels. EBC President Dr Mary Baker is amongst the speakers.

[Key updates this week](#)

➤ *Promoting Health and Well-being at Workplaces*

DG SANCO held a thematic conference on **Promoting Health and Well-being at Workplaces** in Berlin during March of this year.

The post conference report, including key conclusions is available to view [here](#).

➤ *Channeling research*

The Council of The European Union has now published its Council Conclusions on the development of the European Research Area (ERA) through ERA-related groups which took place in Brussels at the end of May 2011.

Please click [here](#) to access the full set of conclusions.

➤ *Progress update*

The Council of The European Union has reported on the progress of The European Research Council (ERC), please click on the following link to view the report in full:

[<image001.gif>](#)

➤ *Use of dependency-forming substances by minors*

EFD (Europe of Freedom and Democracy) member Nikolaos Salavrakos posed a number of questions to the European Commission regarding the prevalence of drug taking amongst minors within EU member states, and what measures are being taken to address this. Ms Reding responded on behalf of the Commission and highlighted that The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) collects information on drug use in the EU. She also touched on the number of times Greece has submitted statistics on drug use by minors, and the programme of support and encouragement put into practice by the EU (via European Action on Drugs as well as facilitating member states to put preventative measures in place).

➤ *Continuing to strengthen the framework for innovation and research*

Following the news of a number of key responses (most specifically EBC's) to the European Commission's Green Paper entitled **From Challenges to Opportunities: Towards a Common Strategic Framework for EU Research and Innovation Funding**, IMCO (The Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection) has also submitted key reactions.

This is available to view [here](#).

Articles of interest

- *Times of India*, People who kick in sleep signal Parkinson's,
http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-02/health/29612437_1_parkinson-patients-symptoms-disease

- *Seattle University Spectator*, How the brain controls organs in the body,
<http://www.su-spectator.com/news/bio-prof-pioneers-study-in-human-brain-research-1.2355636>

- *BBC News online*, Scientists to create computer simulation of the brain,
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-13577120>

Dates for your diary

EBC Board Meeting, June 14th , 2011

EBC Industrial Board Meeting, June 15th , 2011

FENS & SfN Advisory Workshop, Brussels, June 16th – 17th, 2011

EBC Board Meeting November, Warsaw, 17th , 2011

EBC Polish Presidency Meeting, Warsaw, November 18th , 2011

First European Day of the Brain November 18th , 2011

AB/es