



10 Years of Connections



Significant milestones for the European Brain Council

● Significant increase in funding. Funding of EU research in the four years prior to the formation of the European Brain Council EU funding of brain research was €85 million; research is now nearly one and a half billion euros.

● Cost of disorders of the brain in Europe 2005. This study was successful in alerting European politicians and policy makers to the prevalence and high cost of brain diseases as well as the low levels of associated research funding.

● Cost of disorders of the brain in Europe 2010. The significant success of the 2005 Report motivated this follow-up report which achieved global coverage. This Report was a far wider reaching project incorporating more disease areas as well as data from additional countries.

● Resource Allocation for Brain Research in Europe (RABRE). This pivotal study sought to build on the EBC's previous finding that brain diseases represent 35% of the burden of all diseases in Europe. Studies of this nature are unprecedented in Europe, making RABRE a pioneering project in an area that is receiving increasing attention from both the research community and European policy-makers.

● The patient voice. The election of Dr Mary Baker as President of the European Brain Council demonstrates the inclusive nature of EBC and its desire for the European Brain Council to truly listen to, and engage with, the patient voice as Dr Baker is the first patient representative president to be elected.

● Consensus document on European Brain Research 2006. This described the needs and achievements of research in Europe presenting proposals for future research programs.

● Consensus Document on European Brain Research 2011. In 2011 the document underwent a major revision providing updates focused on reflecting changes in research priorities and advances in brain research since 2006.

● Engaging with the EU. The PARADISE FP7 project (Psychosocial factors relevant to brain disorders in Europe) represented the EBC's first major role in an EU funded project.

● The Year of the Brain in European 2014. This ambitious and exciting project is set to change the way people think about their brains forever. The EBC has already brought together a coalition of over 200 supporters.

2012 marks the tenth anniversary of the European Brain Council. The anniversary signifies the end of an exciting and significant decade for the European Brain Council and the start of the next phase of the journey which will ensure everyone across Europe values and appreciates the most vital and precious asset which is the brain.

One of our greatest achievements has been to create a single, united voice raising the awareness of brain disorders and putting them on the agenda with other conditions which have traditionally been better at gaining a share of voice. Until the formation of the European Brain Council the focus on brain disorders was relatively disparate often missing out on the support and funding that centralised and focussed lobbying can achieve.

Since its formation the European Brain Council's membership has continued to grow. It now boasts a diverse membership representing all areas involved in brain disorders. The broad range of knowledge and support is one of the organisations most valuable assets; something parliaments throughout Europe recognise.

As well as its valuable membership one of the key reasons the European Brain Council warrants such respect and political attention is because of its focus and genuine desire to improve the lives of those

with brain disorders. During the past decade it has not only produced significant evidence, such as the Cost of Brain Disorders Reports it is also focussed on providing solutions. The ambitious and exciting project titled Year of the Brain in Europe 2014 has the potential to change the landscape of this vital health area forever as well as the way all European citizens think about their brain; we hope that one day we will be successful in ensuring that people respect their brains as much as they do their hearts. The Year of the Brain in Europe 2014 will go a long way to achieving that.

Schizophrenia affects around 24 million people worldwide and around 5 million* in Europe

(*figure for all psychotic disorders in Europe).

An example of where we have effected real change is the increase which has been seen in research funding during the past ten years. In the four years prior to the formation of the European Brain Council EU funding of brain research was €85 million; research is now nearly one and a half billion euros.

We are also not just driving the health research agenda. We now understand a great deal about the brain and its functions and how it is responsible for the

very root of humanity. With this in mind we are keen to look at a wide variety of research topics including food and nutrition and nanomedicine. Whilst we maintain focus we also know that tunnel vision can prevent you from seeing the obvious. Therefore we have further widened our membership base attracting support from the nutrition and transport sectors.

EU funding of brain research has risen from

€85

million to

€1.47

billion

We also appreciate the vital role all of our members have to play including the 25 National Brain Councils which have been developed which push for research a local level. The Councils also provide vital grass roots knowledge to the European Brain Council and also enable significant progress to be achieved at country level. This local focus helps generate increased momentum for the overall objectives.

As well as appreciating their individual roles we are also keen to maximise the benefits we can realise from bringing our members together. Clinicians, industry, the media, politicians; we facilitate dialogue across our membership as we recognise the valuable role everyone has to play in achieving the necessary outcomes.

We have become a well respected commentator for the media across Europe.

Within hours of release

the Cost of Brain Disorders Report 2010 went global with millions of people around the world reading about the study, its results, and the European Brain Council.

Despite the significant achievements there is no time to rest on our laurels. There is still a great deal which needs to be achieved. We are determined to become the leading and most respected organisation in the field of brain disorders with the National Brain Councils warranting the same respect at local level. We intend to continue our political focus intensifying our messaging ensuring brain disorders becomes a priority funding area.

We are also focused on continuing to widen our support base as the world accepts more readily and

understands that the brain is responsible for everything the human race has ever achieved. With this in mind there are no industries, sectors or specialist areas which cannot attribute their success to the brain and, therefore, wouldn't benefit from collaboration with the European Brain Council. The last ten years have been more than significant. We plan on ensuring the next decade changes the landscape of brain disorders forever.


The cost of brain disorders is substantially higher than other comparable disease areas like cardiovascular disease or cancer.

The European Brain Council has become a respected and leading media commentator

The total cost to European society of brain disorders is

798 billion euros

affecting more than a third of the continental population. This equates to 1,550 euros per European.



Political outreach programmes ensure key messages are heard at a local and EU level

Annually,

15 million

people worldwide suffer a stroke, of these, 5 million die, making it the second leading cause of death. Of these another 5 million are left permanently disabled, placing a burden on family and community. Across Europe around 1.3 million people suffer a stroke each year.



The European Brain Council is regularly invited to speak at European Commission meetings as well as meetings of MEPs.



In 2001 there was an estimated

4.9 million people affected by Alzheimer's Disease

in Europe, which is estimated to double by 2040.

The total cost to European society of brain disorders is

798 billion euros

affecting more than a third of the continental population. This equates to **1,550 euros per European**.

1 in 5 people are affected by depression

Depression is the most common psychiatric disorder with with 1 in 5 people affected worldwide. The World Health Organisation considers it to be the leading cause of disability worldwide.

Visitors to the European Brain Council website originate from

55 countries

Around

6.3 million

people worldwide have Parkinson's disease; **1.2 million people** in Europe. There is no differentiation for race or culture.

Migraine affects

11%

of the world's population and costs an estimated

€27

billion per year across Europe

The Year of the Brain in Europe **2014** has attracted support from over

200 organisations



EBC

European Brain Council

European Brain Council (Brussels Office)
Fondation Universitaire
11, Rue d'Egmont
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

www.europeanbraincouncil.org