

BREAKING NEWS - Ex EBC Board member Professor Tamas Freund and two other Hungarian scientists (Peter Somogyi and Gyorgy Buzsaki) have been awarded the 2011 Lundbeck Brain Prize for their work on memory. For more details see www.thebrainprize.org

Message from EBC President Dr Mary Baker MBE

Welcome to the March EBC newsletter. It is a great privilege for me to serve as the President of the European Brain Council. It is such an exciting time for all of those involved with brain research and all those aiming to improve the quality of life of patients with brain diseases.

Unlike many within the European Brain Council, I am not a world leading scientist or researcher, but a patient representative, trying to bring science to society, facilitating the excellence around me for the benefit of all. Your support will be invaluable to me as we continue to make significant progress in the areas in which we work.

2011 promises to be a busy year with key scientific meetings being held during the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies, publication of the latest Consensus document and a new broader Costs of Brain diseases study. The 18th November will be our first European Day of the Brain and we hope 2014 will be named European Year of the Brain.

I would like to thank you for all the support you have shown me and am grateful to the Executive team, Alastair, Tadeusz and Eveline for all they do, together we can make a real difference.



Dr Mary Baker MBE
EBC President

Executive Director's report



Dr Alastair Benbow
EBC Executive Director

We continue to make Brain Diseases a focus of the European Council Presidencies.

During the Hungarian Presidency (January-June 2011) a major meeting focussing on brain diseases has been organised by Professor Tamas Freund, in collaboration with the Hungarian government. "Discovery research in neuropsychiatry: depression, anxiety and schizophrenia in focus" will be held as the main R&D meeting of the Presidency at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences Budapest on March 18-19.

For more details please click on this [link](#).

During the Polish Presidency (July-December 2011) EBC in collaboration with Professor Opala, the Polish Ministry of Health and DG SANCO will hold a Presidency Conference, "Ageing, Stroke and Alzheimer's Disease-finding innovative solutions" on the 18th November 2011 in Warsaw. This will be attended and addressed by European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek, together with representatives of the European Commission and Polish Government. We are also designating the 18th November the first European Day of the Brain.

Later this year Professor Jes Olesen and a large team of epidemiologists and health economists from around Europe will publish up to date Costs of Brain diseases data. This will be a key document for all our efforts to secure funding in FP8 and to obtain the European Year of the Brain. We are aiming for publication in September 2011 and will hold a large meeting in the European Parliament in late September/early October. Further details will be given in a later newsletter.

Consensus Document on European Brain research

The European Journal of Neuroscience is publishing the 2011 version of Consensus Document on European Brain research (see below).

The Consensus document on European Brain Research, prepared by European Brain Council in collaboration with more than 200 European scientists and patients organizations, contains both proposals for future research programmes and describes the needs and achievements of research in Europe. The documents highlights the need for strong basic research in neuroscience and the development of a strong European platform for brain research which is needed to address brain diseases, representing nowadays a societal emergency in European countries.

The present document represents an update to the 2006 Consensus Document, to reflect changes in research priorities and advances in brain research that have taken place since 2006. Multinational and multidisciplinary teams have once again come together to express their views, not only on what needs to be done, but also on the current strengths in European research, hoping that once again the Consensus document could inspire policy makers and stakeholders in directing funding for research in Europe.

For more details see <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1460-9568.2010.07596.x/pdf>



The Consensus Document has been completed thanks to Professor Monica di Luca and a huge array of talented scientists from across Europe.