

IN THIS EDITION

- BAW 2025 will take place from March 10 to March 16.
- AI and the Medical Profession April 1st
- 20th anniversary May 17
- Advancements in epilepsy management
- Updates from our members

Brain Awareness Week

Brain Awareness Week, celebrated annually in approximately one hundred countries worldwide, presents a distinctive opportunity for dialogue between the public and scientists regarding the societal challenges of comprehending the brain.

Here is the list of events for 2025 organized in Belgium and coordinated by Ann van der Jeugd, email: ann.vanderjeugd@kuleuven.be.

Caregivers, March 12, 2025, at the Château du Karreveld, Av. Jean de la Hoese 32, 1080 Molenbeek-Saint-Jean. An epilepsy conference presented by Dr. Cathy De Cock, neurologist and member of the Belgian French-speaking League Against Epilepsy. For inquiries and registration, please contact Mrs. Mormal at mmormal@gmail.com.





♥UCL

Celebrate Brain Awareness Week!

Join the global campaign to foster public enthusiasm and support for brain science.

Arte-Fac, UCLouvain, UDA and the Wolubilis' art library « Artothèque » are pleased to invite you to the fourth edition of their Brain Awareness Week. The link between the brain and memory will be explored through a variety of activities.

Monday 10th March 2025 | 6.30pm - 8.30pm Opening of the 'Secrets of Memory' exhibition

Halls of the Central Auditoriums (campus UCLouvain Woluwe) More info coming soon

Tuesday 11th March 2025 | 6.30pm - 9pm Phil'Alma debate

Central auditorium 51B (campus UCLouvain Bruxelles Woluwe) More info coming soon

Wednesday 12th March 2025 | 6.30pm - 8.30pm Board games evening

Venue to be defined More info coming soon



O UCLouvain Culture



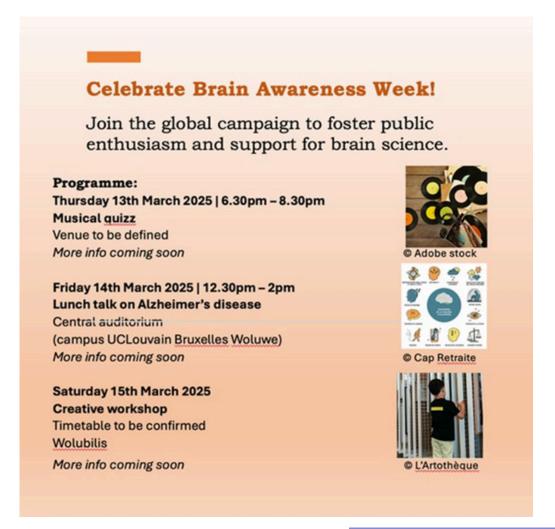






Leuven Brain Institute, in collaboration with the Expertise Centre for Dementia in Leuven, will host an evening on March 12 focused on the positive effects of music on the brains of individuals with dementia. The event will take place at the Cera Leuven site, located at Munstraat 1, 3000 Leuven. For inquiries, please contact us.





Breinwijzer: MOM4Y Meeting of Minds for Youth Festival on March 13 at De Centrale, Kraan 2, 9000 Ghent. For inquiries, please contact info@breinwijzer.be.









Belgian Brain Initiative Phase III

Thanks to the support and confidence of eight partners:



We can commence the operational phase of our project, which builds upon the work accomplished in phases I and II. This phase III serves as a pilot experiment involving patients who are willing to share their health data in the spirit of data altruism.

In this phase III, three seminars are scheduled, with two already organized:

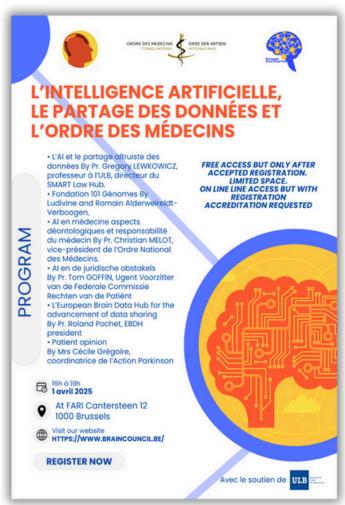




 The inaugural event in collaboration with the National Order of Physicians is scheduled for Saturday, April 1st.

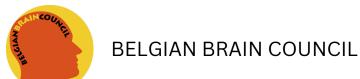




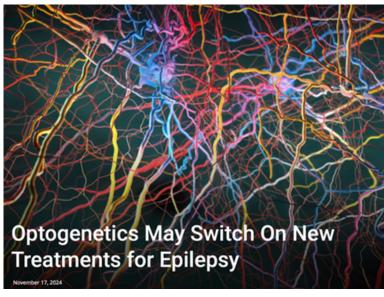




 The second event commemorating the 20th anniversary of the BBC will take place on Saturday, May 17, at the University Foundation.



Advancements in epilepsy management



Utilizing optogenetics, researchers at the University of California have employed light pulses to suppress seizure activity in targeted neurons. This marks the inaugural application of optogenetics to regulate seizure activity in human brain tissue.

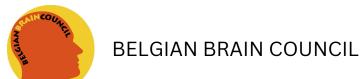
Given that epilepsy is a condition marked by abnormal neuronal activity, specifically an imbalance between excitation and inhibition, regulating neurons within the pathological circuits associated with epilepsy may aid in managing the disorder.

The researchers utilized brain tissue obtained from epilepsy patients during their treatment. They aspire for the technique to ultimately supplant surgery aimed at excising seizure-inducing brain tissue, offering a less invasive alternative for patients whose symptoms remain unmanageable with medication.

Reference:

Multimodal evaluation of network activity and optogenetic interventions in human hippocampal slices by Andrews JP, Geng J, Voitiuk K, Elliott MAT, Shin D, Robbins A, Spaeth A, Wang A, Li L, Solis D, Keefe MG, Sevetson JL, Rivera de Jesús JA, Donohue KC, Larson HH, Ehrlich D, Auguste KI, Salama S, Sohal V, Sharf T, Haussler D, Cadwell CR, Schaffer DV, Chang EF, Teodorescu M, Nowakowski TJ. Nat Neurosci. 2024 Dec;27(12):2487-2499. doi: 10.1038/s41593-024-01782-5. Epub 2024 Nov 15. PMID: 39548326

¹ Optogenetics entails the introduction of a gene into a cell that encodes a photosensitive protein, which becomes activated upon exposure to a specific wavelength of light.



Upcoming events

- March 22, 2025, 3rd Edition of the BPS Young Researchers Day, University of Antwerp, Campus Drie Eiken.
- 1 April BBC seminar on AI (registration here) in Brussels.
- BPS Application 2025 for 'Basic Science' -> Submission deadline: April 4, 2025 (refer to attachment)
- 24-26 April 2025 EFIC 2025 Congress "Comorbidity of Chronic Pain and Mental Health Disorders: Breaking the Cycle," Lyon (France) see https://europeanpainfederation.eu/efic2025/
- 17 May 2025 BBC 20th Anniversary Conference (refer to the program and registration details)
- 24 May 2025 Annual Scientific Congress of the Belgian Pain Society "Quality in Pain Management: Pitfalls, Challenges, and Improvements for Caregivers and Patients," KBR Koninklijke Bibliotheek Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels. For more information, visit www.belgianpainsociety.org.

14 March 2025



Organise au BOZAR son concert de printemps

April 9, 2028





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