

BELGIAN BRAIN COUNCIL



IN THIS EDITION

National Brain Plan Campaign

Tribute to Colin Blakemore

#Migraine-Too

Save the dates!

BBC launches a campaign to accelerate the achievement of a national brain plan

To date two recent actions have been launched:

- A letter dated 13 July to Dr Ri De Didder, Director of the [Public Health/Health Policy Unit](#);
- Endorsement of this action to the Minister of Health by all BBC members and partners. Despite the summer period, the response has been positive, in particular the patient organisations have already responded massively and all positively.

This action is part of a wider campaign led by the National Brain Councils of Germany, Croatia, Spain, Norway, Portugal and Serbia.

As a reminder and as a preamble to our campaign, the BBC has endorsed the press release published by the Belgian Stroke Council and notably taken up by La Libre Belgique on 23 February:

L À quand un registre national des AVC ? "Il est urgent que les autorités résolvent ce problème"

Aujourd'hui, on estime à 25 000 le nombre d'accidents vasculaires cérébraux par an en Belgique. Mais ces données imprécises sont basées sur des chiffres d'il y a 20 ans...

This campaign is in line with the conclusions that Dr. Ri De Ridder published in his book "Au Chevet De Nos Soins De Santé. Comment les améliorer sensiblement?" (Mardaga, 2020, p. 17, ISBN 9782804708757). A first task is therefore to create a burning platform in order to make it clear that our system is really not "good enough". A burning platform means that you create a sense of concern, which is necessary to change.

Tribute to Colin Blakemore (1944–2022)



Neuroscientist, outstanding science communicator, advocate of animal rights, rationality and openness.

The Observer described Blakemore as one of the UK's most influential scientists and a determined and courageous opponent of the violence of the animal rights movement. Colin, despite threats to himself and his family, including a parcel bomb opened by his children (which did not explode), continued to defend the use of animals in his brain research. Colin wrote and spoke about science with warmth and elegance and these qualities made him much in demand in the print and broadcast media.

In 1976, at the age of 32, he became the youngest person to give the BBC Radio Reith Lectures. Entitled Mechanics of the Mind, these six lectures link neuroscience to society through topics such as sleep, language, consciousness and mental illness. He has received several awards for science communication, including the Royal Society's Michael Faraday Prize. This research has contributed to a growing understanding of neural plasticity - the idea that the brain retains the ability to rewire itself in response to changes in its environment - which has radically revised the traditional view that brain damage is irreversible.

In 2003, Blakemore was appointed Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council. A few months after his appointment, the Sunday Times published a leaked document showing that, unlike all previous MRC chiefs, officials had deemed him 'unfit' for a knighthood because of his uncompromising stance on animal research. Blakemore threatened to resign if a minister did not publicly reaffirm the government's support for scientists who used animals in their laboratories. He received the support of the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, but was not knighted until 2014, six years after his tenure as director general ended.

The BBC had the opportunity to invite Colin, then vice-president of the European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB) in 2011 to present at the European Parliament during International Brain Week, in collaboration with STOA (Science and Technology Assessment), to give a lecture to a group of students and members of Parliament. This was followed by a workshop on 'Ethical dilemmas in brain research' in which Colin explained: 'All research, no matter how well intentioned, necessarily involves risks'.

Colin was President of the Motor Neurone Disease Association from 2008 to 2019. A long-distance runner who completed 18 marathons and maintained an enviable level of fitness into his 70s, Blakemore himself was diagnosed with the fatal neurodegenerative disease in 2021.

The BBC loses a friend and a champion of the values we support.

BBC, EBC and the European Commission

Following the launch by the European Commission of an invitation to health stakeholders to submit proposals for a new round of thematic networks, organised within the framework of the European Health Policy Platform, the European Brain Council has prepared a response (see attached text). The EBC suggests that the community should once again speak with one voice to advocate for a shift in the priority of brain health - neurological and mental - for the benefit of society as a whole. The BBC Executive Committee, on behalf of its members, has wholeheartedly agreed to be a co-signatory. To be followed...

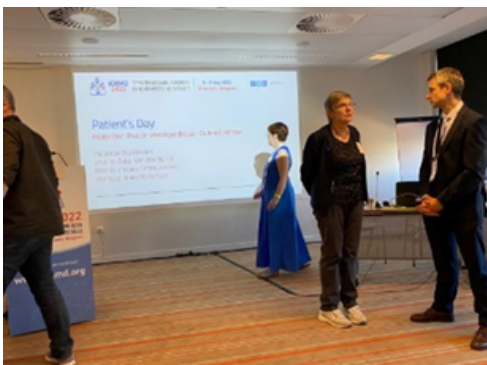
The BBC was there

World Parkinson's Day Liège 8 April 2022



14th Meeting of the Belgian Society for Neurosciences May 9, 2022

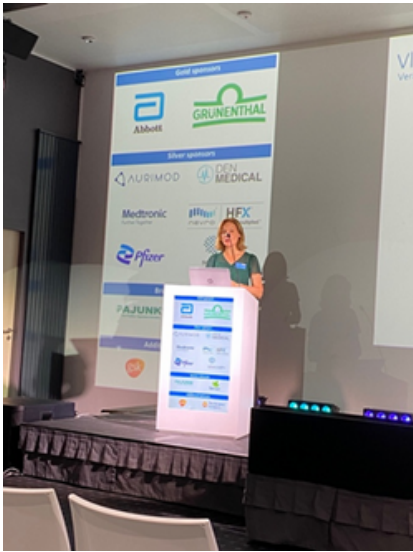
17th International Congress of Neuromuscular Diseases Patient's Day July 5, 2022



Véronique Bissay, Alexandra Belayew, Gauthier Rémiche

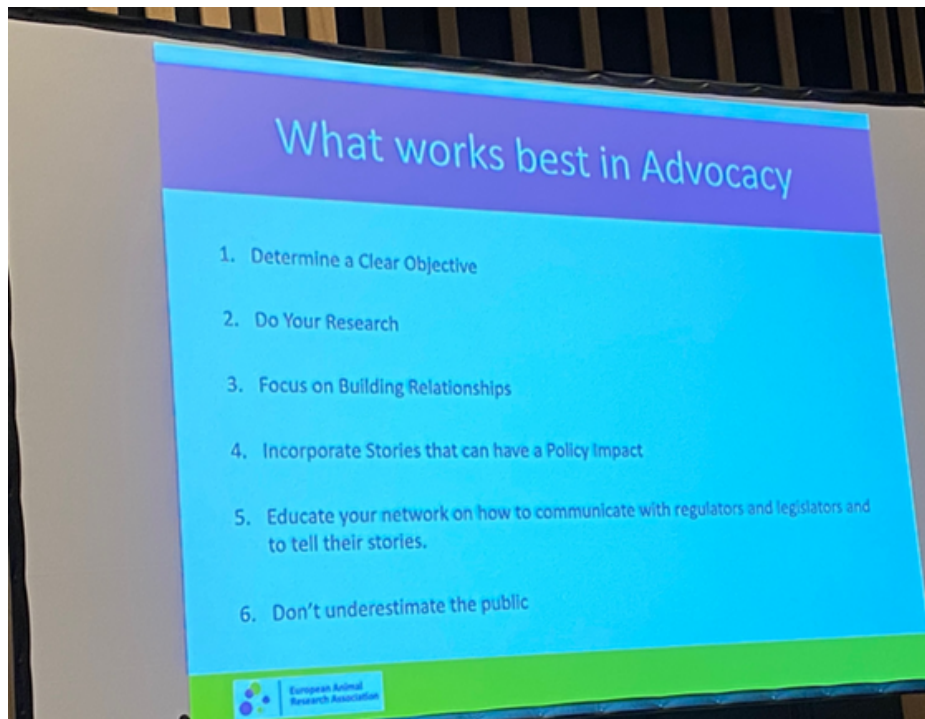
11th June 2022 Belgian Pain Society

10th July FENS FORUM 2022



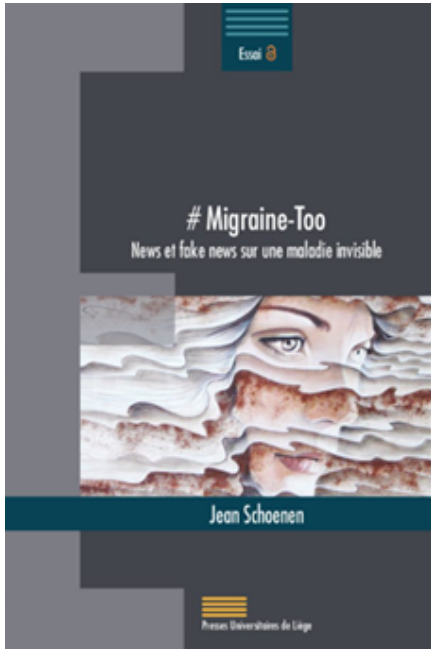
The Advocacy Training Workshop for FENS National Societies and National Brain Councils, took place on **Sunday, 10 July 2022, from 14:30-15:45**

Featured speakers included Jean-Antoine Girault (President, Federation of European Neuroscience Societies), Kirk Leech (Executive Director, European Animal Research Association) and Frédéric Destrebecq (Executive Director, European Brain Council). The training will include group discussion and serve to bring together National Brain Councils and FENS member societies to share experiences, voice advocacy needs and encourage **more coordinated promotion and advocacy for brain research and health in Europe**.



News from our members

The e-book "#Migraine-Too" by Jean Schoenen is now available to all [here](#). Paper version (19€) is available under this [link](#).



As a reminder and as announced in our newsletter n°41 of June 2021, the Wernaers 2021 Fund of the FNRS has unreservedly rewarded Professor Jean Schoenen, Founding President of the Belgian Brain Council, for the creativity, innovation and relevance expressed in his general public e-book on migraine.

Become a member Devenez membre Lid worden

Support our actions and become a personal member by paying 30€ on the account BE87 7512 0194 0094 by indicating your name and email.

Soutenez nos actions et devenez membre à titre personnel en versant 30€ sur le compte BE87 7512 0194 0094 en indiquant votre nom et email.

Steun onze acties en word persoonlijk lid door €30 over te maken op rekeningnummer BE87 7512 0194 0094, met vermelding van uw naam en e-mail.



The BBC is on the following social networks:



Composition of the Executive Committee for the period 2021-2022

President: **Professeur Laurence RIS**

Secretary General: **Professeur Roland Pochet**

Vice-President: **Professeur Chris Bervoets, Docteur Gianni Franco,
Baron Charles van der Straten-Waillet**

Treasurer: **Baron Charles van der Straten -Waillet**

Secretary: **Madame Lia Le Roy**

Dates to remember

1-2 September

vCare Shaping a
new approach
to home-based
rehabilitation

13-14 September

EBC Strategic
Workshop &
Board Meeting

19-20 September

Leuven Brain
Institute
conferences



Scan de code
om u te registreren

Wereld Alzheimer Week
Lezingen in Leuven



Lezingen over alzheimer en dementie

19 september, 17u prof. dr. Bart De Strooper,
VIB – KU Leuven en DRI (VK) over de stand van
zaken in het onderzoek en de zoektocht naar
een geneesmiddel

20 september, 17u prof. dr. Rik Vandenberghe,
UZ Leuven en KU Leuven over implementatie
van onderzoeksresultaten in de klinische
praktijk



Dates to remember

27 September

Action Parkinson

8 October

NeuroVision hôtel
Van Der Valk
(Diegem)

14 October

Autumn BASS
Meeting in Nivelles
+ André Kahn
Sleep Award

18 October

Le Parkinson
dynamique!

