Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and MS

Last Friday we published updated information for people with MS in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and in line with the recent ‘Global COVID-19 advice for people with MS’ developed by the MS International Federation (MSIF), which is now available in a range of languages.

This information will be reviewed and updated as new evidence about the coronavirus becomes available, therefore we’d like to ask everyone to follow closely the updates and developments around the topic.

EMSP 2020 Annual Conference

Understanding Progressive Multiple Sclerosis

20-21 November, MADRID

Hotel Meliá Barajas

EMSP Annual Conference 2020 (Update)

Due to the recent development of the COVID-19 outbreak, it is with great sadness that the EMSP conference committee decided to postpone its annual event to the 20th and 21st November 2020. As always, our main criteria and interest lie on the safety and protection of our community members.

Mark the new dates in your calendars and stay tuned to receive the update about when the registrations will be re-opened. We thank you for your understanding!

Our Projects

EMSP joins HTx

We have recently joined forces to support EURORDIS and other partners of the HTx project that envisions a new generation of healthcare decision-making.

The main aim of HTx is to create a framework for the Next Generation Health Technology Assessment (HTA) to support patient-centered, societally oriented, real-time decision-making on access to
Executive Committee

Changes in the EMSP Executive Committee

We are excited to announce the new changes to our governing Executive Committee. After 4 years of successful collaboration, **Georgina Carr** – former Head of Campaigns and External Relations of the UK MS Society – decided to embark on a new journey with the UK Neurological Alliance and handed over her responsibility as an EMSP Executive Committee member to her successor at the UK MS Society, **Jonathan Blades**.

Jonathan took over as a "co-optee" until his nomination is formally approved by the EMSP Council at our Annual General Meeting to be held online on 7 May.

Read more

Events

Webinar

“You have MS: Why every word counts’

We are delighted to invite you to our next webinar, ‘You have MS: Why every word counts’ to be held on Wednesday 15 April at 14:00 CET.

During this 1.5 hour session, we will have a lively discussion about the possible impact of poor communication between people with MS and their healthcare teams on patient wellbeing, engagement, and outcomes.

We are also pleased to be welcoming, **Pieter van Galen**, our guest speaker and a person with MS, who will introduce the MS in the 21st Century (MS21) initiative on this occasion.

Register now!

News from our Partners

Year of the Nurse and the Midwife 2020

Nurses and midwives play a vital role in providing health services.

The world needs 9 million more nurses and midwives if it would like to achieve universal health coverage by 2030. That's why the World Health Assembly has designated 2020 the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.

Learn more

“MS Nurses play an integral role in providing support and advice on everyday issues for people with MS and co-ordinate a collaborative approach to management. That’s why our MS Nurse PRO project will also join in the year-long effort soon to celebrate the work of nurses, highlighting the challenging conditions they often face, and advocate for increased investments in the nursing workforce and education. Stay tuned!”

Brain Health as a Global Priority – Time for the EU to Act Now

On 18 February 2020, **EFNA** together with the European Brain Council (EBC) and European Academy of by Jarosław Duda, EPP.

The morning saw an expert-led, action-orientated discussion that aimed to identify the challenges and opportunities lying ahead of EU in the years to come.

Click here to read the meeting report.

Learn more
Brain Awareness Week

This week is Brain Awareness Week, a global campaign to foster public enthusiasm and support for brain science.

EFNA (European Federation of Neurological Associations) announced several initiatives this week, including the launch of the 2020 round of the #BrainLifeGoals Project Grants (with focus on Access) and a Survey on Stigma and Neurological Disorders. More on these below.

Unfortunately, due to the evolving Coronavirus public health concerns, their meeting of the MEP Interest Group on Brain, Mind and Pain has been postponed.

Learn more

Shaping a future EU Mental Health Strategy: Priorities and Activities

On 18 February the Coalition for Mental Health and Wellbeing (coordinated by Mental Health Europe) and the MEP Alliance on Mental Health (coordinated by GAMIAN-Europe) held a joint meeting in the European Parliament, addressing the urgent need to put in place a comprehensive and proactive EU Mental Health Strategy.

Learn more

EFNA publish Position Paper on Access

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) published a position paper on ‘Advocating for access to neurology treatment, services, and support’. The document is based on feedback from an EFNA workshop held in Warsaw in October 2019, attended by approximately 50 representatives of patient and health professional organisations, industry partners and other experts.

Learn more

Share your updates in our newsletter

Would you like to contribute to the next EMSP newsletter? We’d be pleased to receive your input. Share your updates with us via email at mate.tagaj@emsp.org by 10th April for inclusion in the next edition.

#BrainLifeGoals Project Grants for 2020

In 2020, within the framework of the #BrainLifeGoals campaign, the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) will again provide grants to support work in one of their focus areas.

This year the focus will be on Ensuring Equitable Access to Treatment, Services, and Support for Neurology the central #BrainLifeGoals of many neurology patients, and we want to help make that a reality across Europe!

Therefore, EFNA will provide up to 10 grants of €3,000 each to selected organisations.

📅 Application deadline: May 1st, 2020

Survey on Stigma and Neurological Disorder

In 2018, the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) conducted a survey of young people affected by neurological disorders, to assess the impact of these conditions on their lives. Stigma was identified as one of the biggest issues affecting respondents.

As a result, EFNA has decided to develop a new survey, delving deeper into this focus area where it is most required and move to develop strategies that will combat stigma.

This survey is open to anyone who is living with a neurological disorder in Europe.

The survey is available in 8 languages and will remain open until June 15th, 2020.
Share your perspective via the MS21 survey

MS in the 21st Century (MS21) is trying to understand the influence of families and carers on patient decision-making. Please support the group by sharing your experience as a person with MS, or family member. Your responses will remain confidential and will help to inform the development of educational resources to support constructive and positive family involvement in MS care.

Access the survey here

Coming Up

16-22 March | Brain Awareness Week
7 May – Online | EMSP AGM 2020
23-26 May – Brussels | EAN Congress
30 May | World MS Day
4-6 June – Leuven | Annual RIMS Conference
9-12 September – Washington | ACTRIMS-ECTRIMS Congress
30 Sept - 2 Oct – Gastein | European Health Forum Gastein
20-21 November 2020 – Madrid | #EMSP2020 Annual Conference