

## WP4 – Dissemination &amp; Outreach

## D4.5 Public event proceedings and videos - Year 3

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## Definitions and abbreviations

Partners of the NEURONET Consortium are referred to herein according to the following codes:

1. **SYNAPSE:** Synapse Research Management Partners SL
2. **NICE:** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
3. **AE:** Alzheimer Europe
4. **JANSSEN:** Janssen Pharmaceutica NV
5. **LILLY:** Eli Lilly and Company Limited
6. **ROCHE:** F. Hoffman – La Roche AG
7. **TAKEDA:** Takeda Development Centre Europe LTD (*terminated partner*)
8. **SARD:** Sanofi-Aventis Recherche & Développement
9. **PUK:** Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom LBG
10. **TPIZ:** Takeda Pharmaceuticals International AG

**Grant Agreement:** The agreement signed between the beneficiaries and the IMI JU for the undertaking of the NEURONET project.

**Project:** The sum of all activities carried out in the framework of the Grant Agreement.

**Work plan:** Schedule of tasks, deliverables, efforts, dates and responsibilities corresponding to the work to be carried out, as specified in Annex I to the Grant Agreement.

**Consortium:** The NEURONET Consortium, comprising the above-mentioned legal entities.

**Consortium Agreement:** Agreement concluded amongst NEURONET participants for the implementation of the Grant Agreement. Such an agreement shall not affect the parties' obligations to the Community and/or to one another arising from the Grant Agreement.

**IMI:** Innovative Medicines Initiative

**ND:** Neurodegenerative Disorders

**WP:** Work Package

## Abstract

Neuronet aims to provide a platform for research projects that are focussed on medical conditions that cause neurodegeneration, defined as the progressive loss of brain cells. This includes diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. In particular, Neuronet brings together research projects that are funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), Europe's largest funder of public-private partnerships in the life sciences.

Amongst others, Neuronet aims to support scientists to enhance the visibility of their research, providing a platform that will act as a multiplier of impact (towards the wider society but also selected stakeholders). Neuronet aims to identify research synergies and overlaps, creating links between IMI projects as well as with other international research initiatives and enabling stronger and more fruitful collaborations.

To help fulfil these aims, Neuronet supports the communication and dissemination activities of IMI projects working in the area of neurodegeneration, also highlighting the achievements and activities of the projects. As part of these activities, Neuronet has established a network of communication experts joining from the individual projects.

Neuronet also organises an annual networking and outreach event in collaboration with the individual projects, to shine a spotlight on the IMI neurodegeneration portfolio. The event proceedings are then disseminated to the general public through Neuronet's communication channels, which include a website, regular newsletters and social media feeds.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2022 Alzheimer Europe organised a virtual conference instead of an in-person event in which Neuronet participated.

This document provides an overview of the annual event as well as associated outreach activities that have been conducted in the third year of the Neuronet initiative.

# 1 Introduction

Dissemination of the activities and achievements of the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) Neurodegenerative Disorders (ND) portfolio (towards wider society but also selected stakeholders) is of vital importance.

IMI-funded research projects are partly financed by taxpayers, who are justly entitled to be informed about how and why their money is being spent, the outcomes of research and how these in turn affect society, both as a whole and at the individual level. In this context, Neuronet aims to act as an “ambassador”, reaching out to the public and other stakeholders, raising awareness and highlighting the value of research and its findings.

In its role as an ambassador for the IMI ND portfolio, Neuronet organises an annual networking and communication event involving IMI ND projects as well as relevant external experts and stakeholders.

In order to reach a wider audience, the annual networking and communication event is organised as a series of four parallel sessions as part of the annual Alzheimer Europe conference. Proceedings of the event are published and disseminated as widely as possible.

During this event, presentations on the individual projects and Neuronet’s activities are delivered to an audience of people living with dementia, healthcare professionals, representatives from Alzheimer Europe’s member organisations, policymakers, academic researchers, representatives of industry, payers, regulators and HTA bodies.

The following document provides an overview of the public event for the third year of the Neuronet initiative. The event was organised virtually on 29 November to 2 December 2021, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions throughout Europe.

The virtual conference platform will be kept active until 31 March 2022 to allow delegates to have access to the content and the recording of sessions. After 31 March 2022, all information on the virtual conference together with videos of Neuronet speakers will be made available via other platforms, such as YouTube.

These will then also be added to the Alzheimer Europe website and published on the Neuronet website. Due to this business model for the conference, the videos are not public at the date of submission of this deliverable.

## 2 Themes

The Neuronet event took place at the virtual Alzheimer Europe Conference on 29 November to 2 December 2021. The series of four themed parallel sessions was entitled “Working together to address common challenges for European neurodegeneration research – *Four parallel sessions exploring the outcomes of European public-private partnerships and where we need to go*”.

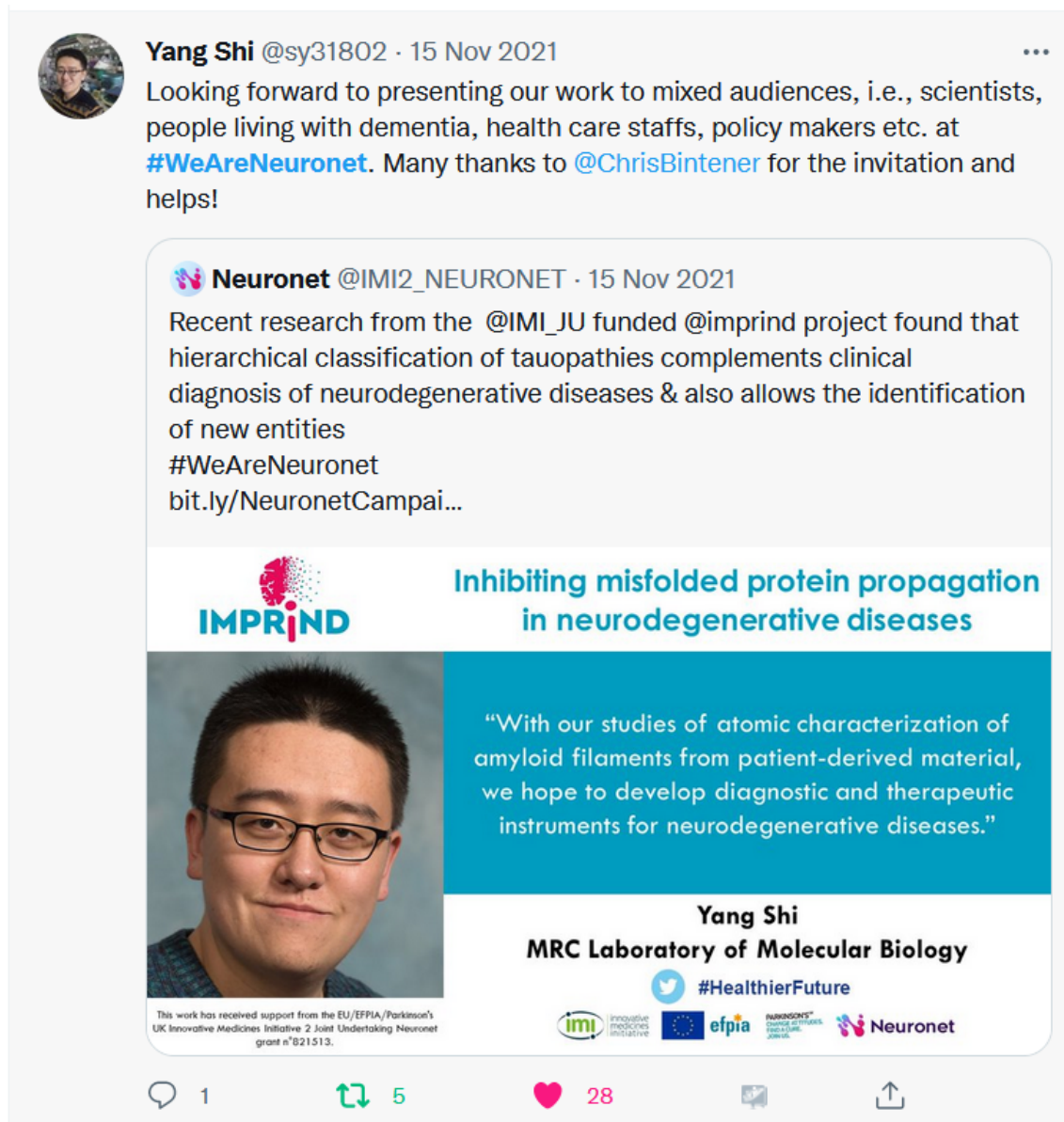
The main themes of the sessions revolved around four topics:

- Session 1: Elevating the patient voice: public involvement in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects
- Session 2: Collaboration and best practice: common challenges & lessons learned from the Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration portfolio
- Session 3: From bench to bedside: preclinical research in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects
- Session 4: Looking to the future: Impact of the Innovative Medicines Initiative’s neurodegeneration portfolio

Furthermore, Neuronet invited Early Career Researchers (ECRs; defined as graduate students or researchers within 10 years of completing their graduate studies) working on projects within the IMI neurodegeneration portfolio to submit abstracts in order to showcase the breadth and depth of IMI-funded neurodegeneration research as well as the diversity of project collaborators involved.

### 3 Pre-event outreach

The event was announced through Neuronet communication channels and supported via partner channels. In addition to this, a social media campaign entitled “2021 Programme impact analysis - where we are and where we need to go” was launched on 8 November and concluded with the conference. This campaign was built around a series of Twitter cards, with quotes from authors of recent project publications, a colour scheme coordinated with the project logo, and selected hashtags (see example below). Each Twitter card was linked to a news article on the Neuronet website, providing additional information on the work that is being carried out in the associated IMI project – highlighting a recent project publication. The campaign evaluation found that this approach resulted in 494 clicks towards the Neuronet website during the month of November 2021.



The timing of the campaign was set to build up attention to the Neuronet event. Project communication representatives were invited to share the announcement of the event publicly as well as the invitation to submit abstracts for the ECR presentations with their consortia (see the following table, which lists the published website posts and newsletter articles).

Partner/Project	Channel(s)	Title	Link(s)
<b>Alzheimer Europe 21 May</b>	<b>Website &amp; Newsletter</b>	Neuronet ECR submission for the virtual Alzheimer Europe Conference is open!	<a href="https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/neuronet-ecr-submission-virtual-alzheimer-europe-conference-open">https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/neuronet-ecr-submission-virtual-alzheimer-europe-conference-open</a> (website) <a href="https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/2021-05%20Alzheimer%20Europe%20newsletter.pdf">https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2021-11/2021-05%20Alzheimer%20Europe%20newsletter.pdf</a> (newsletter)
<b>Neuronet, 27 May</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>	Mark the dates!	<a href="https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=2ba88b3faff70d1dc5d5df35b&amp;id=a3e257ca47">https://us20.campaign-archive.com/?u=2ba88b3faff70d1dc5d5df35b&amp;id=a3e257ca47</a>
<b>Neuronet, 16 November</b>	<b>Website &amp; Newsletter</b>	Neuronet social media campaign “Programme impact analysis – where we are and where we need to go”	<a href="https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/neuronet-social-media-campaign-programme-impact-analysis-where-we-are-and-where-we-need-to-go">https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/news/neuronet-social-media-campaign-programme-impact-analysis-where-we-are-and-where-we-need-to-go</a> (website) <a href="https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/2021-11%20November_0.pdf">https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/2021-11%20November_0.pdf</a> (newsletter)
<b>Neuronet, 5 September</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>	EU research collaboration in neurodegeneration research	<a href="https://mailchi.mp/d32a5368a010/neuronet-newsletter-issue-5">https://mailchi.mp/d32a5368a010/neuronet-newsletter-issue-5</a>
<b>PD-MitoQUANT 21 October</b>	<b>Website</b>	Dr Desai will present PDMitoQUANT at Neuronet public event of 31st Alzheimer Europe conference	<a href="https://www.pdmitoquant.eu/2021/10/dr-desai-will-present-pdmitoquant-at-neuronet-public-event-of-31st-alzheimer-europe-conference/">https://www.pdmitoquant.eu/2021/10/dr-desai-will-present-pdmitoquant-at-neuronet-public-event-of-31st-alzheimer-europe-conference/</a>
<b>Mobilise-D 2 June</b>	<b>Website</b>	Neuronet ECR submission for the virtual Alzheimer Europe Conference is open!	<a href="https://www.mobilise-d.eu/neuronet-ecr-submission-for-the-virtual-alzheimer-europe-conference-is-open">https://www.mobilise-d.eu/neuronet-ecr-submission-for-the-virtual-alzheimer-europe-conference-is-open</a>



## 4 Conference session graphics

Working together  
to address common  
challenges for European  
neurodegeneration  
research

Four parallel sessions exploring the outcomes of  
European public-private partnerships and where we  
need to go

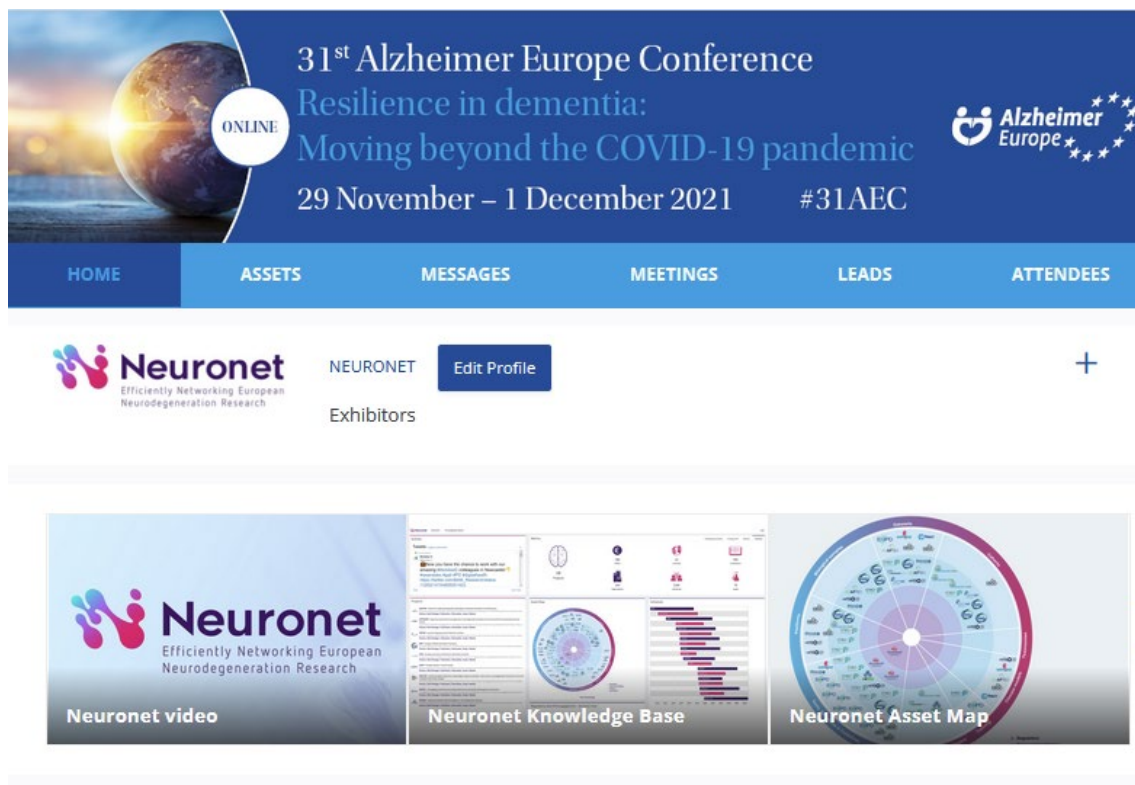


In order to further increase the visibility of the event as well as the individual sessions, WP4 developed graphics that are included on the event page of the Neuronet website.

The graphics were also shared via social media channels to provide maximum exposure.

## 5 Conference Booth

Neuronet was also represented through a virtual booth that conference attendees could visit. This booth provided information on the research portfolio, as well as links to the different platforms where Neuronet is represented, a highlight of the Neuronet Knowledge Base and Asset Map as well as a short introductory video to introduce Neuronet in a lay format. In order to enable interaction, participants could submit questions about the initiative via the virtual booth to two Neuronet representatives who were available throughout the conference duration.



## 6 Videos

The presentations that were given during the event were recorded and the videos will be added to the Neuronet YouTube channel after 31 March 2022. The videos will also be available on the Neuronet website, and shared via Neuronet's social media channels for wider visibility.

In addition, the videos will be added to the Alzheimer Europe Conference playlists which will also be embedded into the [alzheimer-europe.org](http://alzheimer-europe.org) website. Below is an overview of the presentations.

## 7 Sessions

The Neuronet programme held four parallel sessions as part of the Alzheimer Europe conference on 29 November to 1 December 2021. The four sessions showcased patient and public involvement; common challenges & lessons learned from neurodegeneration research projects; how preclinical research can have a potential impact on people's lives; and the impact and future perspectives for public-private partnership research on neurodegenerative disease.

### 7.1 Elevating the patient voice: public involvement in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects

Monday, 29 November  
14.15-15.30

Elevating the patient voice:  
public involvement in  
Innovative Medicines Initiative  
neurodegeneration projects



Chairperson: Dianne Gove, Alzheimer Europe

Ana Diaz (Alzheimer Europe) – Alzheimer Europe's work to promote Public Involvement in dementia research

Stina Saunders & a member of the participant panel (The University of Edinburgh) – The European Prevention of Alzheimer's Dementia Research Participant Panel

Johanna Graeber (University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein) – Patient Involvement and Engagement in IDEA-FAST

Alison Keogh (University College Dublin) – A roadmap of activity to develop patient and public involvement and engagement structures in Mobilise-D



The first parallel session was chaired by Dianne Gove from Alzheimer Europe. It was entitled “**Elevating the patient voice: public involvement in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects**”. The four presentations in this session introduced the work of involving people affected by neurodegenerative conditions in IMI projects. First, Ana Diaz (Alzheimer Europe) spoke about Alzheimer Europe's work to promote Public Involvement in dementia research, for example via the creation of patient advisory panels in projects such as RADAR-AD and ROADMAP. Stina Saunders (University of Edinburgh) and a member of the EPAD participant panel explained how their contributions led to the development of improved patient information materials and enhanced recruitment to the EPAD study. After that, Johanna Graeber (University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein) reflected on the patient involvement & engagement in IDEA-FAST, which is developing novel digital measures for fatigue and sleep disturbances. The session closed with a presentation by Alison Keogh (University College Dublin), who described their roadmap of activity to develop patient and public involvement and engagement structures in Mobilise-D.

## 7.2 Collaboration and best practice: common challenges & lessons learned from the Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration portfolio

Monday, 29 November  
16.00-17.15

Collaboration & best practice:  
common challenges and  
lessons learned from the  
Innovative Medicines Initiative  
neurodegeneration portfolio



Chairperson: Carlos Diaz, SYNAPSE

Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE) – The Neuronet approach: supporting collaboration and showcasing achievements

Lennert Steukers (Janssen) – Data sharing & Re-use

Dalia Dawoud (NICE) – Health Technology Assessment/Regulatory

Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) – Ethics & Patient Privacy

Lewis Killin (SYNAPSE) – Sustainability

Each speaker will present 2-3 slides, followed by general discussion between panel members.

**“Collaboration and best practice: common challenges & lessons learned from the Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration portfolio”.** First, Lennert Steukers (Janssen) summarized the work done as part of the Neuronet data sharing working group, which identified several interwoven challenges that act as a barrier to data sharing. Dalia Dawoud (NICE) then spoke about the development of the Regulatory & HTA decision tool, which guides users through the engagement process with these bodies during medicines development. Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) then explained how the Ethics and patient privacy working group is addressing key topics relating to ethics and data protection, looking to extract key learnings from the IMI portfolio projects. Lewis Killin (SYNAPSE) was the final speaker of the session, addressing the concept of sustainability and extending the impact – and value – of research projects beyond the funded period.

## 7.3 From bench to bedside: preclinical research in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects

Tuesday, 30 November  
14:15-15.30

From bench to bedside:  
preclinical research in  
Innovative Medicines Initiative  
neurodegeneration projects



Chairperson: Craig Ritchie, The University of Edinburgh

Shruti Desai (RadboudUMC) – PD-MitoQUANT: Quantification of mitochondrial morphofunction in neuronal cells

Tania Fowke (MIMETAS BV) – Modeling ischemic stroke in a triculture neurovascular unit on-a-chip

Yang Shi (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology) - Structure-based classification of tauopathies and identification of PET ligand binding sites

Jannis Wißfeld (University Hospital Bonn) – Alzheimer’s Disease-protective Variant of CD33 Increases Microglial Activation

The third session was chaired by Craig Ritchie, Director of the Centre for Dementia Prevention at Edinburgh University, and was entitled **“From bench to bedside: preclinical research in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects”**. In this session, Shruti Desai (Radboud UMC) delivered a presentation about the quantification of mitochondrial morphofunction in neuronal cells, a topic that is being investigated within the PD-MitoQUANT project. Next, Tania Fowke (MIMETAS) reported on the progress they have made with the neurovascular experimental model they developed in the ADAPTED project, showcasing how developments from closed projects can benefit new research initiatives. She explained that they are now using these models in the IM2PACT project, creating a model system where they can study the blood-brain barrier during stroke and in Alzheimer’s disease

(collaborating with the Horizon 2020 projects ENTRAIN and CoSTREAM). Showcasing how developments from closed projects can be repurposed and developed further. After that, Yang Shi (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology) introduced the most recent findings from the IMPriND project about the structure-based classification of tauopathies and identification of PET ligand binding sites, a significant contribution to the field which was acknowledged as a front cover feature of Nature. The session closed with a presentation by Jannis Wißfeld (University Hospital Bonn) who presented about Alzheimer's disease and PHAGO's findings that a protective variant of CD33 increases microglial activation.

Wednesday, 1 December  
14:15-15:30

Looking to the future:  
Impact of the Innovative  
Medicines Initiative's  
neurodegeneration portfolio



Moderator: Lennert Steukers, Janssen

This session will start with two presentations, followed by a roundtable discussion involving all participants.

Fatima Salih (NICE) – Outcomes from the consultation on the IMI neurodegenerative disease research agenda

Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE) – Neuronet's NEURO Cohort, Knowledge Base & Asset Map

**Participants:**

Fatima Salih (NICE), Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE), Laurent Pradier (SANOFI), Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) & Martin Hofmann-Apitius (Fraunhofer SCAI)

The fourth session was chaired by Lennert Steukers (Janssen), entitled **“Looking to the future: Impact of the Innovative Medicines Initiative's neurodegeneration portfolio”**. It started with two presentations. The first, delivered by Fatima Salih of NICE, presented the outcomes of a series of stakeholder consultations held by Neuronet to assess gaps and priorities for neurodegeneration research. The second speaker, Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE), focused on tools and assets developed by Neuronet itself, explaining how the NEURO Cohort, Knowledge Base and Asset Map could support ongoing and future research initiatives. This was then followed by a roundtable discussion involving representatives of a HTA/regulatory authority – Fatima Salih (NICE), an SME – Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE), Industry – Laurent Pradier (SANOFI), Patient advocacy – Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) as well as academia – Martin Hofmann-Apitius (Fraunhofer SCAI), bringing together the perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders to the table.

## 8 Neuronet website

All public information on the event was brought together on a dedicated subpage of the [imi-neuronet.org](http://imi-neuronet.org) website. The website subsection is set up with anchors so that users can click on the title of a selected session which will direct them towards the right part of the page. The videos and the presentation slides will be accessible on the [imi-neuronet.org](http://imi-neuronet.org) and [alzheimer-europe.org](http://alzheimer-europe.org) websites, once public.



## 2021: Virtual event

### Working together to address common challenges for European neurodegeneration research

Four parallel sessions exploring the outcomes of European public-private partnerships and where we need to go



In 2019, the Neuronet Sessions introduced the projects of the Innovative Medicines Initiative's (IMI) neurodegeneration portfolio to a broad audience composed of patients, caregivers, patient associations, researchers and clinicians. This was followed by the 2020 event where we expanded the focus, entitling it "Working together to address common challenges for European neurodegeneration research". Over the course of four parallel sessions, we showcased the work of IMI neurodegeneration projects with a focus on data sharing, ethics and regulatory/HTA interactions. In addition, we held a roundtable discussion, during which project leaders discussed the challenges experienced by public-private partnerships during the COVID-19 pandemic, and how research will evolve in the critical post-COVID period.

This year, we organise a concluding event, titled "Programme impact analysis - where we are and where we need to go". Over the course of four parallel sessions, we showcase public and patient involvement, common challenges & lessons learned, how preclinical research can have a potential impact on people's lives and have a look into the future as well as the portfolio's impact.

**Elevating the patient voice: public involvement in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects**

**Collaboration and best practice: common challenges & lessons learned from the Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration portfolio**

**From bench to bedside: preclinical research in Innovative Medicines Initiative neurodegeneration projects**

**Looking to the future: Impact of the Innovative Medicines Initiative's neurodegeneration portfolio**

## 9 Public event proceedings

### 9.1 Press release

During the event, Alzheimer Europe released three press releases after each day of the conference, highlighting the Neuronet sessions:

Day 1: <https://alzheimereurope.newsweaver.com/ConferenceAnnouncement/1ilh8x4hu0t>

Day 2: <https://alzheimereurope.newsweaver.com/ConferenceAnnouncement/ziwa5mslckf>

Day 3: <https://alzheimereurope.newsweaver.com/ConferenceAnnouncement/1d8bno29gss>

### 9.2 Online articles

Following the initial press release, an article about the event was posted on the neuronet website: <https://www.imi-neuronet.org/neuronet-convenes-annual-event-on-european-research-collaboration-in-alzheimers-disease-beyond/>

This article will be followed by another one that includes the link to the YouTube playlist once the videos are public. It will also be shared on different platforms and with partners for further outreach.

PD-MitoQUANT featured a blog post in which researcher Shruti Desai reflects on a career first: interfacing with a PPI audience at Neuronet's public event:

<https://www.pdmitoquant.eu/2021/12/researcher-shruti-desai-reflects-on-a-career-first-interfacing-with-a-ppi-audience-at-neuronets-public-event/>

Neuronet partner Synapse, also reflected on its participation in the 31st Alzheimer Europe Conference through Neuronet:

<https://synapse-managers.com/synapse-participates-in-the-31st-alzheimer-europe-conference/>

### 9.3 Dementia in Europe Magazine

An article on the event is featured in the most recent online Dementia in Europe Magazine issue 38.

Alzheimer Europe publishes an online Dementia in Europe magazine three times per year to a mailing list of all the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and many high-level decision makers in the European Commission. It also reaches lawmakers and politicians in the countries of Alzheimer Europe's member associations, who receive and forward each issue. In addition, the magazine is read by research professionals from public and private bodies, such as the JPND and the 2nd EU Joint Action on Dementia. Finally, the magazine is distributed to academic and scientific partners who work together with Alzheimer Europe in various projects.

The Magazine can be downloaded here: <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/reports-publication/dementia-europe-magazine-issue-38>


**SPOTLIGHT ON 31AEC**

## Showcasing collaboration in European research initiatives at #31AEC

Neuronet – A coordination and support action bringing together 21 Innovative Medicines Initiative research projects on neurodegeneration, was strongly represented at the 31<sup>st</sup> Alzheimer Europe Conference (#31AEC).

Neuronet, a coordination and support action funded by the [Innovative Medicines Initiative \(IMI\)](#), brings together 21 IMI research projects working on neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, encompassing over EUR 386 million in research funding.

The Neuronet programme held four parallel sessions as part of the Alzheimer Europe conference on 29 November to 1 December 2021. The four sessions showcased patient and public involvement; common challenges & lessons learned from neurodegeneration research projects; how preclinical research can have a potential impact on people's lives; and the impact and future perspectives for public-private partnership research on neurodegenerative disease.

The first parallel session was chaired by Dianne Gove from Alzheimer Europe. It was entitled "[Elevating the patient voice: public involvement in innovative medicines initiative neurodegeneration projects](#)". The four

presentations in this session introduced the work of involving people affected by neurodegenerative conditions in IMI projects.

First, Ana Diaz (Alzheimer Europe) spoke about Alzheimer Europe's work to promote Public Involvement in dementia research, for example via the creation of patient advisory panels in projects such as RADAR-AD and ROADMAP.

Stina Saunders (University of Edinburgh) and a member of the EPAD participant panel explained how their contributions led to the development of improved patient information materials and enhanced recruitment to the EPAD study.

After that, Johanna Graeber (University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein) reflected on the patient involvement & engagement in IDEA-FAST, which is developing novel digital measures for fatigue and sleep disturbances.

Working together to address common challenges for European neurodegeneration research

Four parallel sessions exploring the outcomes of European public-private partnerships and where we need to go



The session closed with a presentation by Alison Keogh (University College Dublin), who described their roadmap of activity to develop patient and public involvement and engagement structures in Mobilise-D.

The second parallel session was chaired by Carlos Diaz from SYNAPSE, who is the Coordinator of Neuronet. The session revolved around "[Collaboration and best practice: common challenges & lessons learned from the innovative medicines initiative neurodegeneration portfolio](#)".

First, Lennert Steukers (Janssen) summarized the work done as part of the Neuronet data sharing working group, which identified several interwoven challenges that act as a barrier to data sharing.

Dalia Dawoud (NICE) then spoke about the development of the Regulatory & HTA decision tool, which guides users through the engagement process with these bodies during medicines development.

Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) then explained how the Ethics and patient privacy working group is addressing key topics relating to ethics and data protection, looking to extract key learnings from the IMI portfolio projects.

Lewis Killin (SYNAPSE) was the final speaker of the session, addressing the concept of sustainability and extending the impact – and value – of research projects beyond the funded period.

The third session was chaired by [Craig Ritchie](#), Director of the Centre for Dementia


**Efficiently Networking European Neurodegeneration Research**



"This newly developed platform is key in Neuronet's effort to centralize and integrate the vast amount of knowledge generated within the Innovative Medicines Initiative's neurodegeneration portfolio."

**Lennert Steukers**  
Associate Director, Clinical Scientist,  
Janssen Pharmaceutica NV

#HealthierFuture



This work has received support from the EU (EPIC), Parkinson's UK, Innovative Medicines Initiative 2 Joint Undertaking Neuronet grant n°821513.

## SPOTLIGHT ON 31AEC



Metrics module from the Neuronet Knowledge Base

Prevention at Edinburgh University, and was entitled ["From bench to bedside: preclinical research in innovative medicines initiative neurodegeneration projects"](#). In this session, [Shruti Desai](#) (Radboud UMC) delivered a presentation about the quantification of mitochondrial morphofunction in neuronal cells, a topic that is being investigated within the PD-MitoQUANT project.

Next, [Tanja Fowke](#) (MIMETAS) reported on the progress they have made with the neurovascular experimental model they developed in the ADAPTED project, showcasing how developments from closed projects can benefit new research initiatives. She explained that they are now using these models in the IM2PACT project, creating a model system where they can study the blood-brain barrier during stroke and in Alzheimer's disease (collaborating with the Horizon 2020 projects ENTRAIN and CoSTREAM). Showcasing how developments from closed projects can be repurposed and developed further.

After that, Yang Shi (MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology) introduced the most recent findings from the IMPRIND project about the structure-based classification of tauopathies and identification of PET ligand binding sites, a significant contribution to the field which was acknowledged as a front cover feature of Nature. The session closed with a presentation by Jannis Wißfeld (University Hospital Bonn) who presented about Alzheimer's disease and PHAGO's findings that a protective variant of CD33 increases microglial activation.

The fourth session was chaired by Lennert Steukers (Janssen), entitled ["Looking to the future: Impact of the Innovative Medicines Initiative's neurodegeneration portfolio"](#). It started with two presentations. The first, delivered by Fatima Salih of NICE, presented the outcomes of a series of stakeholder consultations held by Neuronet to assess gaps and priorities for neurodegeneration research. The second speaker, Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE), focused on tools and assets developed by

Neuronet itself, explaining how the NEURO Cohort, Knowledge Base and Asset Map could support ongoing and future research initiatives. This was then followed by a roundtable discussion involving representatives of a HTA/regulatory authority – Fatima Salih (NICE), an SME – Carlos Diaz (SYNAPSE), Industry – Laurent Pradier (SANOFI), Patient advocacy – Angela Bradshaw (Alzheimer Europe) as well as academia – Martin Hofmann-Apitius (Fraunhofer SCAI), bringing together the perspectives from a wide range of stakeholders to the table.


**Neuronet**  
 Efficiently Networking European  
 Neurodegeneration Research  
 For more information, visit:  
<https://www.imi-neuronet.org/>  
[@Neuronet](#)  
[info@imi-neuronet.org](mailto:info@imi-neuronet.org)

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