

# Launch of JPND Research Strategy

*“Tackling the Challenge of Alzheimer’s and other Neurodegenerative Diseases in Europe”*



Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels

**08:00 - 09:30**      **Registration + Welcome Coffee**

**09:30 - 09:35**      **Welcome and Introduction**  
Philippe Amouyel, INSERM, France  
Chair JPND Management Board

**09:35 - 09:45**      **JPND - An ambitious research agenda to tackle causes, cure and care**  
Máire Geoghegan-Quinn  
European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

**09:45 - 09:55**      **Presentation on JPND**  
Philippe Amouyel, INSERM, France  
Chair JPND Management Board

**09:55 - 10:10**      **Presentation on JPND Research Strategy**  
Thomas Gasser  
University of Tübingen & German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE)  
Chair JPND Scientific Advisory Board

**10:10 - 10:40**      **Questions and Answers**  
Moderator: Philippe Amouyel, INSERM, France  
Panel: Adriana Maggi, University of Milan, Italy  
Thomas Gasser, University of Tübingen & German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases  
Edvard Beem, The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development  
Enda Connolly, Health Research Board, Ireland  
Rob Buckle, Medical Research Council, United Kingdom  
Mogens Horder, Danish Council for Strategic Research

**10:40 - 11:00**      **Coffee break**

**11:00 - 12:00**      **Interactive Panel Discussion**  
Moderator Adriana Maggi, University of Milan, Italy  
Panel: Myrra Vernooij Dassen, Nijmegen Centre for Evidence Based Practice, The Netherlands  
Jean Georges, Alzheimer Europe  
Thomas Rooney, Sanofi  
Marcelis Boereboom, Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, The Netherlands  
Michal Novak, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovak Republic

**12:00 - 13:15**      **Networking Lunch**

## SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS



**Professor Philippe AMOUYEL, MD, PhD**  
Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health,  
University Hospital of Lille,  
France

Philippe Amouyel is Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University Hospital of Lille in the North of France. He is in charge of a large academic research unit working on public health and molecular epidemiology of ageing diseases. A part of his research activity is devoted to cardiovascular diseases, understanding the multiple determinants of coronary artery disease and stroke. The other part is focused on the study of determinants, mainly genetic, of neurodegenerative diseases associated with cognitive decline and of Alzheimer's disease (AD) in particular. He develops large epidemiological studies in population to attempt to decode the individual susceptibility to ageing diseases, using molecular techniques (high throughput genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and bioinformatics). This allowed him to discover several new susceptibility genes for Alzheimer's disease from a large European genome wide association study that offer new perspective for the understanding of this major threat. This work is still in progress through a unique major international collaboration, the IGAP (International Genomic Alzheimer Project) study, gathering the four major consortia on AD genomics. He headed the Institut Pasteur de Lille, a private foundation, between 2002 and 2011. Since 2008 he is the CEO of the French National Research Foundation on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and chairs the Joint Programming Research Initiative on neurodegeneration and Alzheimer's disease in particular associating 25 European countries.



**Professor Thomas Gasser, PhD.**  
Hertie-Institute for Clinical Brain Research, University of Tübingen, and  
German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Tübingen  
Germany

Thomas Gasser is a Professor of Neurology and the Director of the Department of Neurodegenerative Diseases at the Hertie-Institute for Clinical Brain Research at the University of Tübingen, Germany. Prof. Gasser studied medicine at the University of Freiburg, Germany, and at Yale University Medical School, New Haven Connecticut. He received his professional training in psychiatry at the Max Planck-Institute of Psychiatry in Munich and in Neurology at the Department of Neurology of the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich. From 1991 to 1993 he trained as a Post-doctoral fellow with a stipend of the German Research Foundation at the Neuroscience Center, Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, in Boston in the laboratory of Prof. Xandra Breakefield. He returned to Munich to become assistant professor in Neurology and head of the Neurogenetics Unit as well as the Movement Disorders Outpatient Unit at the Department of Neurology of Munich University. In 2002 Prof. Gasser became Director of the Department of Neurodegenerative Diseases at the Hertie-Institute for Clinical Brain Research, since 2009 he is Chairman of the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases in Tübingen and in 2010 he became Dean for Research of the Medical Faculty at the University of Tübingen. His main areas of research are the genetic and molecular basis of Parkinson's disease, dystonia and other movement disorders, as well as their diagnosis and treatment.



**Mrs. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn**

European Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science

European Commission



Máire Geoghegan-Quinn became the European Commissioner with responsibility for research, innovation and science in February 2010. Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn has responsibility for the 7th EU Research and Technological Framework Programme 2007–2013, which is the largest publicly funded research programme in the world, and recently made proposals for the next Framework Programme, Horizon 2020, which proposes a budget of €80 billion. Máire Geoghegan-Quinn was a member of the European Court of Auditors for ten years, before which she was a member of Dáil Éireann. In 1979, she became the female cabinet Minister since the foundation of the Irish state and she served in several Ministerial posts, including the Gaeltacht, European Union affairs, Tourism, Transport and Telecommunications and Justice, when she was one of the negotiators of the Downing Street Declaration which was signed between the Irish and the British Governments in December 1993. Between 1997-2000, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn served as a non-executive director of Aer Lingus and the Ryan Hotel Group. She was a T.V presenter, a columnist in the Irish Times and a part time business consultant. She is also a former member of the Governing Authority of the National University of Ireland Galway. Prior to entering politics in Ireland in 1975, Máire Geoghegan-Quinn qualified and worked as a primary school teacher.



**Professor Adriana Maggi, Ph.D.**

Director, Center of Excellence on Neurodegenerative Diseases

University of Milan

Italy

Adriana Maggi is currently Professor of Pharmacology and Biotechnology and Director of the Center of Excellence on Neurodegenerative diseases of the University of Milan. She Maggi received her doctorate degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Milan. Following her Doctorate, Professor Maggi carried out post-doctoral research at the University of Texas Houston Medical Center, Department of Pharmacology and at Baylor College of Medicine, Department of Cell Biology (1978-1982). In 1983 she moved to the University of Milan as assistant professor. Since 1999 Professor Maggi is Professor of Pharmacology and Biotechnology. In 1994 she was the founder of the Center Milan Pharmacology Lab (MPL) a public-private enterprise between University of Milan and the Pharmaceutical Company Hoffman-La Roche. She directed the Center MPL until 2001. In 2002 she became Chairman of the Center of Excellence on Neurodegenerative diseases of the University of Milan. In 2007 Prof. Maggi founded the Biotech TOP srl spin-off of the University of Milan. Prof Maggi is a member of the Italian Council of Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences. Her academic research for the last 20 years has been centered on the study of the mechanism of action and regulation of estrogen receptors with particular emphasis to the role of steroid receptors in the development of pathologies associated with woman aging. Prof Maggi has been and is the co-ordinator of several European, USA and Italian research projects.

## PANEL MEMBERS



**Mr. Edvard Beem**

Co-Director,  
The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)  
The Netherlands

Dr. Edvard Beem is co-director of the Netherlands Organisation of Health research and Development (ZonMw), holding the present position since the merger of ZON (health care innovation) and MW (medical and health sciences) in 2001. Scientifically trained as biochemist he obtained his PhD in 1988 in Medicine, combining studies on the proteomics of lysosomal storage diseases (Free University of Amsterdam) with experimental chemotherapy of breast cancer (Netherlands Cancer Institute). Following the conduction of several postdoc projects he changed office in 1990 to finally become director of the Medical Research Council (MW) of the Netherlands Organisation of Scientific Research (NWO). In his co-directorship of ZonMw special emphasis is given to strategic research development and international relations.



**Mr. Marcelis Boreboom**

Director General for Long Term Care,  
Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport,  
The Netherlands

Marcelis Johannes Boereboom was born in 1959 in Utrecht, Netherlands. After graduating high school, he studied political science at the 'Vrije Universiteit' in Amsterdam. He specialized in public administration and public finance. In 1984 he started employment with the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, where he filled several positions, such as deputy Director of the Senior Policy Department and Director of the Financial and Economic Department. From 2004 till 2008 he was Director of the Curative Department and deputy Director General for Health Care. Since 1st of April 2008, he fills the position of Director General for Long Term Care. Owing to these positions, he is closely associated with and responsible for the Dutch health care reform.



**Dr. Rob Buckle**

Head, Neurosciences and Mental Health Board & Head, Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine,  
Medical Research Council Head Office,  
United Kingdom

Rob Buckle is Head of Theme for the Neurosciences and Mental Health Board (NMHB), which is responsible for the MRC's programmes and funding in neurosciences and mental health. This remit covers biomedical research addressing fundamental neurobiology through higher-level cognitive systems to translational, clinical and population-level studies. MRC spend in this area was £155m per annum in 2009/10, constituting approximately 20% of the total MRC research spend. Rob also heads the MRC's strategy and funding in regenerative medicine. Rob joined the MRC in 2000 and has worked in several positions within MRC's Research Management Group since that time, including two years as head of MRC's International Section. Prior to joining MRC Rob worked for ten years as a bench scientist studying gene regulation, cell cycle and early development, both in academia and industry. Currently Rob is a member of the Management Board for the EU Joint Programming Initiative in Neurodegeneration (JPND) and during the past 12 months has led the team responsible for delivering the JPND Strategic Research Agenda.



**Mr. Enda Connolly**  
Chief Executive,  
Health Research Board,  
Ireland



Enda Connolly was appointed as Chief Executive of the Health Research Board in June 2008. Since then, his main focus has been to strategically position the organisation to deliver a step change in health research. His aim is to increase research capacity in the health services and create an environment that can absorb new innovations, deliver better service and improve patient care. In doing so, he believes we can create the perfect platform to attract healthcare industry to Ireland and, in turn, help develop the economy. Prior to this, Enda spent more than 30 years in IDA Ireland (Industrial Development Agency), where he played a pivotal role in leading change, developing strategy, building stakeholder confidence and securing significant foreign direct investment. He was instrumental in developing the agency's R & D Strategy following his return in 2001 from a very successful five-year assignment as Head of IDA's marketing operations in North America. Enda continues to play an active role in various Government development bodies, including Enterprise Ireland's Industrial Research & Commercialisation Committee and the inter-agency Health Research Group chaired by the Department of Health and Children. He was recently elected by Member States to the Executive Board of the EU Joint Programming initiative on Neurodegenerative Disease Research.



**Professor Mogens Hørder, MD, DMSc.**  
Head , Institute of Psychology,  
Professor, Institute of Public Health,  
University of Southern Denmark

Mogens Hørder is currently Head of the Institute of Psychology, and Professor at the Center for Health Services Research at the Institute for Public Health, Denmark. Mogens graduated in medicine in 1966 from the University of Aarhus. From 1974-75 he was assistant professor at the University of Connecticut, Hartford Hospital, USA. He was director and chief consultant at the Department of Clinical Bio-chemistry, Clinical Pharmacology, and Clinical Genetics of Odense University Hospital, from 1978 to 2000. He was previously professor in Clinical Chemistry at the University of Southern Denmark from 1982 – 2005 and from 1988 to 2008 was Dean at the Faculty of Health Sciences. From 2004 until 2009, Mogens was a member of the board of the Danish Council for Strategic Research. Currently he represents the Council in two initiatives on “Joint Programming of Research” among those Neurodegenerative Diseases. He is the special advisor to the Danish Agency for Science and Technology on research collaboration between Denmark and India. He has published more than 200 peer reviewed articles within clinical molecular medicine and health services research. Throughout his career Mogens has been involved in the interaction between strategic research, technology assessment and quality development in several contexts-internationally as well as national. From 2005 until 2010 he was responsible for the implementation of a quality organisation at the University of Southern Denmark as member of the management of the university.



**Mr. Jean Georges**  
Executive Director,  
Alzheimer Europe



Before joining Alzheimer Europe as its first Executive Director in 1996, Jean Georges had worked as for the European and International department of the Luxembourg newspaper “Tageblatt” and as a parliamentary researcher for Members of the Luxembourg and European Parliament. As Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, Jean has been in charge of the various projects of the organisation including the three-year European Commission financed “European Collaboration on Dementia – EuroCoDe” (2006—2008) project which brought together over 30 dementia experts from 20 European countries. He has been liaising with various other European organisations and held a number of elected positions including as Secretary General of European Federation of Neurological Associations (2002-2004) or Vice-Chairperson of the European Patients’ Forum (2007-2008). In 2005, he was appointed by the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament as one of two patient representatives to the Management Board of the European Medicines Agency (2005-2008).



**Professor Michal Novak, MD, PhD, DSc**  
Director, Institute of Neuroimmunology,  
Slovak Academy of Sciences  
Slovak Republic

Professor Michal Novak, MD, PhD, DSc, the director of the Institute of Neuroimmunology, is full Professor of neurosciences, immunology and microbiology. He has devoted 35 years of his career to the research on Alzheimer’s disease (AD) in MRC, Cambridge, ISAS Trieste and INSAS Bratislava. A major part of his work on AD has been performed at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology. He was a member of the international research teams led by Nobel Prize laureates Sir Aaron Klug and Cesar Milstein. The group discovered that pathologically modified brain protein tau constitutes one of the major hallmarks of AD, namely neurofibrillary pathology. He received grant awards from Howard Hughes Medical Institute and from Human Frontiers Science Organization. He is the Founding Director of the Institute of Neuroimmunology, Slovak Academy of Sciences (1996), Founding President of the Slovak Alzheimer’s Society (1998) and President of Slovak Society for Neuroscience (2008). He founded the Centre of Excellence for Brain Research that represents the Slovak Republic eligible institution for the COEN initiative. He was the chairman of the FENS-IBRO summer school program (2009-2011). He published more than 135 research papers in peer reviewed scientific journals with more than 3200 citations.



**Dr. Thomas Rooney**  
Head of Translational Research for Neurodegenerative Diseases,  
Aging Therapeutic Strategic Unit,  
Sanofi

Dr. Thomas Rooney is Head of Translational Research for Neurodegenerative Diseases in the Aging Therapeutic Strategic Unit at Sanofi. Dr. Rooney received his BSc in Pharmacology from the University of Glasgow, UK (1984) and his PhD in Neuropharmacology from the University of Leicester, UK (1987). He then moved to Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, USA (1988-1998) where he was a postdoctoral fellow and then Assistant and Associate Professor in the Dept of Pathology and Cell Biology where he directed research focused on studying the organization of Ca<sup>2+</sup> signalling at the subcellular level and the mechanisms by which growth factors and glutamate receptors regulate neuronal survival in the developing and adult brain. Since 1998, Dr Rooney has worked at Sanofi in Paris, France where he has headed research groups and drug development programmes focused on the treatment of Neurodegenerative Diseases, including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s Disease. Dr Rooney has published over 40 scientific articles and is an inventor on 6 patents.



**Professor Myrra Vernooij-Dassen**

Principal Investigator, Nijmegen Centre for Evidence Based Practice,  
Director of Nijmegen Alzheimer Centre,  
The Netherlands



Prof. Myrra Vernooij-Dassen (PhD) is principal investigator in the Nijmegen Centre for Evidence Based Practice and director of Nijmegen Alzheimer Centre. She has a chair on psychosocial aspects of care for frail elderly people. She is affiliated to the scientific Institute of Quality of healthcare and the department of primary care the Radboud University Nijmegen Medical Centre and to the Kalorama Foundation She is trained in sociology and research methodology and has performed a large body of research on quality of care, especially on dementia care and palliative care and on care transitions. She has a 28 PhD students and published more than 100 international articles. She is involved in several European Union funded projects, including the Implementation Palliative Care IMplementation of quality indicators in PAlliative Care sTudy. She is chair of Interdem, a pan-European research group on detection and timely INTERvention in DEMentia and is honorary visiting professor of the School of Health of Bradford University. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the European Joint Programming Initiative for Neurodegenerative Diseases. Myrra Vernooij received the Dutch royal honor to be promoted to officer in the order of Orange-Nassau.