

BELGIAN BRAIN COUNCIL



IN THIS EDITION

BELGIAN BRAIN PLAN

NOBEL PRIZES IN
MEDECINE, CHEMISTRY
AND PHYSICS

BRAIN AWARENESS
WEEK

NEWS FROM OUR
MEMBERS

Belgian Brain Plan and the European DATA ACT : follow-up

- Eight pharma companies (BMS, EISAI, IPSEN, JANSSEN, LUNDBECK, MERCK, PFIZER and UCB) have considered the Belgian Brain phase 1 plan (6 months duration) as a valuable project and will financially support it.
- Phase 1 is focused on the State of the Art of such plan in which a national registry for brain diseases is the key point.
- Following our letter to Dr. Ri De Ridder, member of Minister Vandembroucke's cabinet, ([readable](#) at Lobbying | BelgianBrainCouncil), a first meeting with the cabinet of the Federal Minister of Health is scheduled for Oct. 27
- Momentum for such registry is highlighted by the RULING (EU) 2022/868 FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL on 30 mai 2022 on european data governance.



Business lunch at the University Foundation gathering sponsors for the presentation of phase 1 of the Belgian Brain Plan.

2022 NOBEL PRIZES

In an age in which we are gradually losing whole sets of values, fundamentally humanistic ones, the Nobel Prizes are one of our last bastions. Here we list the Nobel Prizes for the 3 most fundamental areas in line with our mission.

Medicine : Swante Pääbo for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution.

Humanity has always been intrigued by its origins. Where do we come from, and how are we related to those who came before us? What makes us, Homo sapiens, different from other hominins? Through his pioneering research, Svante Pääbo accomplished something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans. He also made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova. Importantly, Pääbo also found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago. This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections. Pääbo's seminal research gave rise to an entirely new scientific discipline; paleogenomics. By revealing genetic differences that distinguish all living humans from extinct hominins, his discoveries provide the basis for exploring what makes us uniquely human.

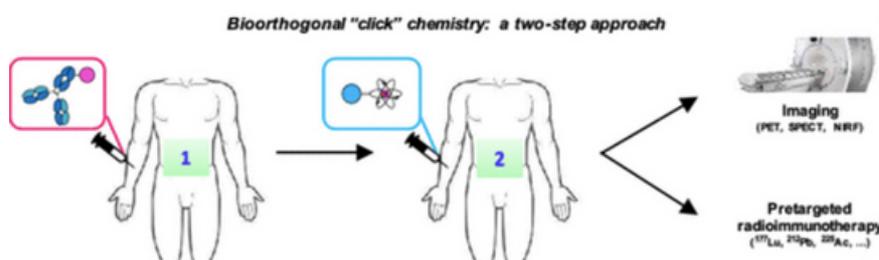
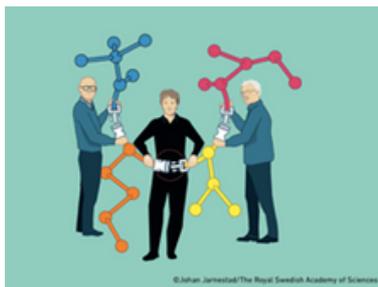


Swante Pääbo, 67 y/o born in Stockholm

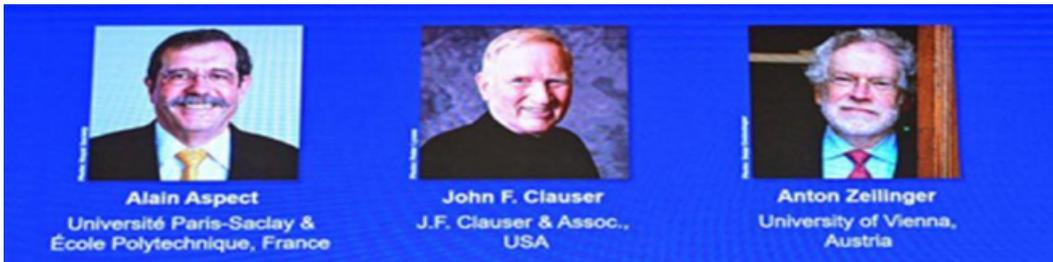
Chemistry : Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal, K. Barry Sharpless on their work on click chemistry.



Sometimes the simple answers are the best. Barry Sharpless discovered reactions in 2001 that can quickly and efficiently assemble blocks of molecules under mild conditions (in water) and generate only harmless by-products (click chemistry). Carolyn Bertozzi has improved these reactions by enabling them to be produced in biological systems without disturbing the native biochemistry. This new dimension of click chemistry is now contributing to more targeted cancer treatments.



Physics : Alain Aspect, John F. Clauser, Anton Zeilinger for their experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science



Alain Aspect
Université Paris-Saclay &
École Polytechnique, France

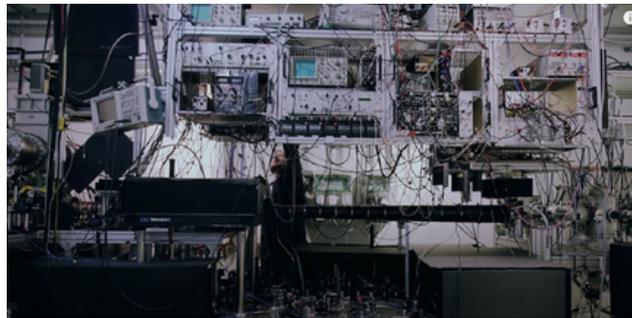
John F. Clauser
J.F. Clauser & Assoc.,
USA

Anton Zeilinger
University of Vienna,
Austria

How entanglement has become a powerful tool

Using groundbreaking experiments, Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger have demonstrated the potential to investigate and control particles that are in entangled states. What happens to one particle in an entangled pair determines what happens to the other, even if they are really too far apart to affect each other. The laureates' development of experimental tools has laid the foundation for a new era of quantum technology.

For more details on what entanglement is in quantum mechanics, you can watch this 8 minutes-long video which has been viewed more than 81,000 times.



BAW (Brain Awareness Week) 2023

BBC topic for BAW 2023 is 'The Societal impact of Basic and Clinical Neurosciences'.

Neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases have a profound impact on patients and families, and a much higher 'misery index' than cardiovascular disease and cancer combined. For instance, burn-out and anxiety disorders impose an economic burden both on the affected individual and on society, e.g. the disorder commonly affects young people in the most productive years of their lives, often leading to avoidable unemployment. But also addiction, stress, depression, and other mental conditions have significant impact on the daily life of millions of people, its number highly increased by Covid (aftermath) and the perilous times we (perceive) we live in.

Moreover, beside the urgent need to take in charge brain diseases, basic and clinical neuroscience can bring a lot to the society through cross-disciplinary interactions such as neuroscience and ethics, law, policy, humanities, and arts.

Join our campaign in raising awareness for the general public, but also other stakeholders like policy makers, politicians, industry to invest more money and time in these delicate matters.

The BBC will be glad to support your project with a max of 1.000€ to facilitate your event (reception, flyers, goody bag for the participants, etc.). Please contact us for more information contact :

Ann Van der Jeugd (ann.vanderjeugd@kuleuven.be) or **Laurence Ris** (Laurence.RIS@umons.be)

In addition, **the Federation of European Neurosciences Societies** (FENS) is now accepting applications! The program is supported by the **Dana Foundation**. Up to 1,000 EUR in funding is available to **Brain Awareness Week** participants in Europe for activities organized in celebration of the 2023 campaign (March 13-19). To apply for a grant visit the FENS website. The deadline for application submission is **November 16, 2022**.

The BBC is pleased to announce our new member



Patrick and Anne-Marie Demoucelle have spent 20 years in 'corporate business' at senior executive level.

They provide personal development seminars throughout the world, from small to large audiences (up to 850 people). They teach at several universities in Belgium, and they practice what they preach – Patrick has Parkinson's since 8 years (he got it when he was 40) – he shows what it is to remain positive when times get tough. So people not only 'hear' but also 'see' the advice.

You can learn more about our new member [here](#).

New BBC intern (Sept. 2022 – Jan.2023)



Victoria Lievens, student at UCLouvain in Biochemistry and Molecular and Cellular Biology, will do a six month-long internship at BBC.

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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: **Professeeur Laurence RIS**

Secretary General: **Professeeur Roland Pochet**

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

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

Secretary: **Madame Lia Le Roy**

News from our members

Vlaamse Parkinson Liga



The **Vlaamse Parkinson Liga (VPL)** won the public prize of the Standard Solidarity Award 2022: two full pages in De Standaard newspaper worth €64,370. **The league received the highest number of votes among 20 other charities.** The

BBC by supporting (through votes of its members) the VPL contributed to this result.

The BBC congratulates the VPL and thanks our members for this solidarity.

Charcot Foundation

This year the **Charcot Foundation** has awarded **€750,000 in grants** for innovative projects in **the treatment of multiple sclerosis**. The winners are teams from 5 universities in the country (more details at www.fondation-charcot.org)



BASS Belgian Association for Sleep research and Sleep medicine



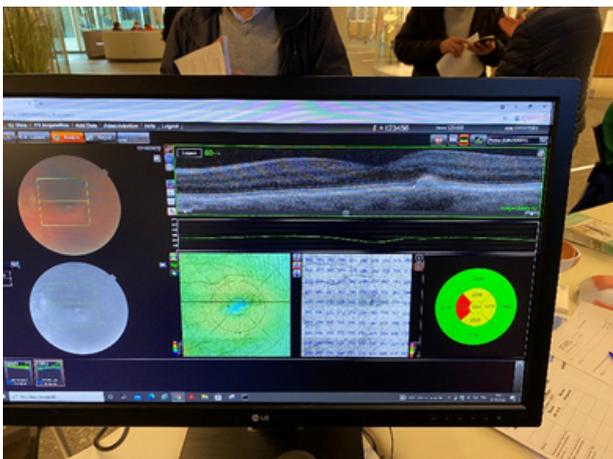
140 participants attended Friday October 4 the BASS Autumn Meeting at Nivelles (Van der Valk hotel)

DMLA (Age-Related Macular Degeneration)

The association organised at these hospitals :

- Chirec Braine l'Alleud (10 October)
- CHU-Brugmann (11 October)
- Chirec-Delta (12 October)

A free screening for AMD by OCT (Optical Coherence Tomography). This rapid examination allows the state of the layers of the retina to be visualised



VIB (KULeuven) and World Alzheimer Week

Professor Bart de Strooper gave a lecture (in dutch) on Alzheimer's disease. You can watch it [here](#).



Dates to remember

Breinwijzer

The non-profit organization will hold two events in the upcoming months :

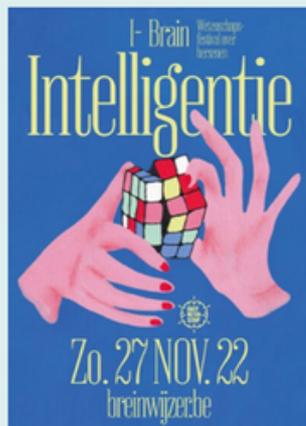
- **The I-Brain festival** : a large event open to the public, based on the theme of intelligence, and how to measure it, if we can develop it, if it exists in several forms, and more.
- **The MOM4Y festival** : a free event for 2nd and 3rd year classes. The teachers can sign up their classes by contacting the organization.

November 27 2022

I-Brain festival on
"Intelligence"
Zebrastraat
Ghent

March 14 2023

"Meeting Of Minds
For Youth" (MOM4Y)
De Centrale
Ghent



I-Brain festival INTELLIGENTIE

27 november | 13:00 - 18:00



Meeting of Minds for Youth
festival voor scholen

14 maart 2023 | 08:00 - 12:00

**Feel free to send us information
about your upcoming key events so
that we can share them!**

