

# NEWSLETTER N°77

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## EDITORIAL - Innovative insights, ahead of their time *by Roland Pochet, PhD, Board Member of the BBC*

One of the strengths of the Belgian Brain Council lies in its ability to disseminate cutting-edge scientific information to its members and associates—frequently prior to its formal acknowledgment. Two recent instances illustrate this.

In Newsletter No. 39, published in February 2021, we emphasized the remarks of Philippe Aghion, who was then a professor at the Collège de France and Harvard, during a conference focused on innovation in the development of COVID-19 vaccines.

Philippe Aghion emphasized the cultural distinctions between Europe and the United States regarding innovation, underscoring the necessity of an ecosystem that fosters experimentation and risk-taking—crucial elements for scientific creativity.

Four years later, the 2025 Nobel Prize in Economics has unequivocally validated this vision, affirming the significance of the ideas shared with our community at that time.

In our most recent Newsletter No. 76 (August-September 2025), we emphasized the significant advancements regarding the role of resident memory CD4<sup>+</sup> T lymphocytes (Trm) in progressive multiple sclerosis, an area that remains relatively underexplored.

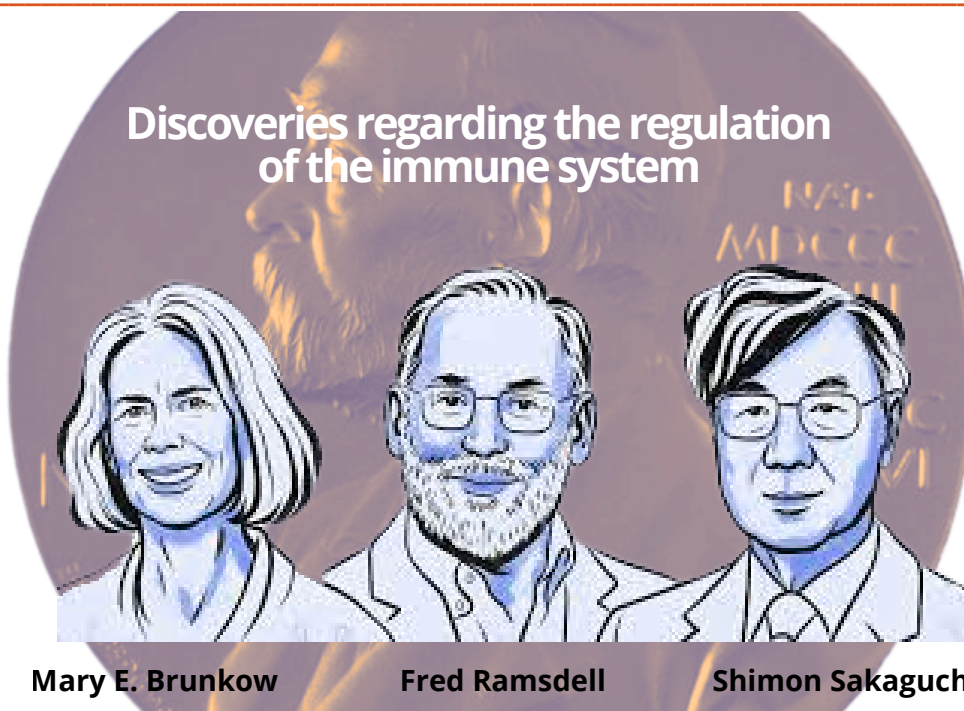


*“Innovation emerges when we embrace risk-taking and failure as essential components of advancement”.*

**Philippe Aghion**  
Nobel Prize in Economic  
Sciences  
2025

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## Discoveries regarding the regulation of the immune system

**Mary E. Brunkow****Fred Ramsdell****Shimon Sakaguchi**

This work holds particular significance today, as the 2025 Nobel Prize in Medicine recognizes essential research into the mechanisms of immunity. Once more, we have anticipated the global scientific developments.

These two examples exemplify our mission: to inform, connect, and inspire regarding advancements in brain science.

We will persist in sharing this prospective monitoring with you, situated at the intersection of research, clinical practice, and innovation, ensuring that the Belgian Brain Council remains a forum for exchange where contemporary ideas evolve into future discoveries.

## The "50 Mandates" campaign has been initiated.

**Phase IV** of the project commenced due to the swift and enthusiastic engagement of seven partners from the pharmaceutical industry: **BMS, EISAI, IPSEN, Janssen, SERVIER, TAKEDA**, and **UCB**.

Four additional companies (**Lilly, Lundbeck, Pfizer, and Sanofi**) are pending decisions from their selection committees.

Four patient associations—Alzheimer Europe, APEPA, Hersenletseliga, and Whiplash—have already responded positively and expressed a strong interest in enhancing the education of their members and securing signatures (consent and mandate).

To assist patients throughout this process, Marina Bassas, a young neuropsychologist, has been appointed by the BBC, effective November 1st.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their generous support.

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This project currently benefits from the support of 11 partners, to whom we extend our gratitude for their trust.



## Operational phase of the Brain Data Hub in France.

At the invitation of Professor Philip Gorwood, Professors Roland Pochet and Gregory Lewkowicz presented an update on the European Brain Data Hub (EBDH) project and its various phases of implementation in France on October 9 at Sainte-Anne Hospital in Paris ([link to the presentationppx](#)).

A photograph was captured following the seminar, and several brief videos of the presentations can be accessed here: (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17dWopraJRwQ8vFlattr-GrNywZmi7P2n>).



From left to right: Catherine Surjous-CADASIL, Benoit Kanabus, PhD, EBDH, Françoise Toman-APTES, Professor Philip Gorwood-Hôpital Ste Anne and French Brain Council, Marguerite Friconneau-AFM-Téléthon, Professor Roland Pochet-EBDH, Emmanuelle Plassart-Schiess-SEP France, Marina Bassas-MSc, EBDH, Professor Gregory Gorwood-FARI, Philippe de Linares-A2MCL



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## The BBC's budget for 2025 was ratified at the General Assembly on September 29.

This budget of €59,000 is allocated into three segments: 44% for the ordinary budget, 31% for the 20th anniversary of the BBC, and 25% for phase III of the Belgian Brain Plan, including the development of the European Brain Data Hub within this framework.

## October 9, the BBC in the Federal Parliament.



The Federal Parliament organized an event focused on enhancing the quality of life and facilitating the reintegration of individuals affected by brain tumors. This initiative stems from a collaboration among the patient association "Brain Tumors," the Belgian Society of Neurosurgery (BSN), the Belgian Association for Neuro-Oncology (BANO), the Belgian Brain Council (BBC), and the Patient Expert Center (PEC), with the backing of Servier. Members of Parliament Kathleen Depoorter (N-VA) and Daniel Bacquelaire (MR) also endorsed this initiative.



On this occasion, **Lia Le Roy** (Vice-President of the BBC) and **Professor Dirk Van Roost** addressed the audience to present our **philanthropic patient association** and its role in the collaborative development of brain health policies.

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## Updates from our members

Click on each logo to discover more. The schedule of activities is provided there.



### 40 years of Alzheimer Belgium

On October 12, the Alzheimer Belgium association commemorated its 40th anniversary at La Tricoterie in Brussels. The BBC was present to commend the entire team.



Roland Pochet alongside Karin Van Loon (President), Lydie Amici, and Dominique Meeus (Administrators).



### 50 years of APEPA



On **October 14**, the **APEPA** association commemorated its **50th anniversary** at the **Walloon Parliament**.

The Belgian Brain Council was also present to demonstrate its support for this enduring commitment to families impacted by autism spectrum disorders.



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The BPS serves as the primary contact and national representative for SIP (Societal Impact of Pain) in Belgium. SIP Belgium is affiliated with Pain Alliance Europe (PAE).



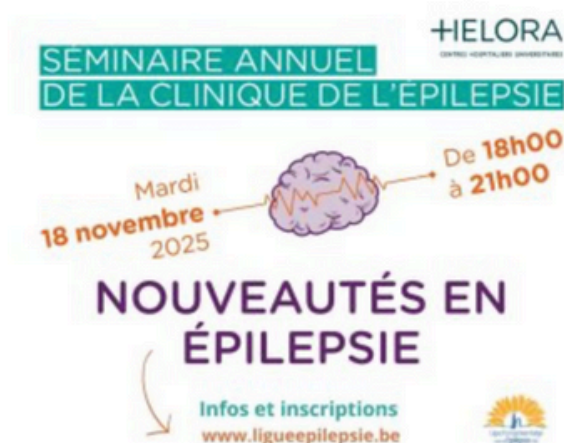
The schedule of activities for June has been reinstated.



The agenda for activities and training is included.



"New Developments in Epilepsy"  
Conference Evening in Mons



"Nouveautés en épilepsie" - Soirée conférence à Mons

**MARDI 18 NOVEMBRE DE 18H00 À 21H00**

Bienvenue au séminaire annuel de la clinique de l'épilepsie organisé par l'antenne hennuyère de la LFBE !

Une nouvelle rencontre vous est proposée le mardi 18 novembre, à Mons.

Conférences et échanges sur le thème "Nouveautés en épilepsie" au programme de la soirée .

Inscrivez-vous à notre nouveau rendez-vous !





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**BBC ACCOUNT:**  
**BE87 7512 0194 0094**

The BBC maintains a presence on the following social media platforms:



## **Composition of the Executive Committee for the term 2025-2026**

President: Professor Alain Maertens de Noordhout  
Director: Professor Roland Pochet  
Vice-Presidents: Dr. Gianni Franco, Mrs. Lia Le Roy  
Treasurer: Baron Charles van der Straten-Waillet  
Secretary: Professor Jean Schoenen