

# BELGIAN BRAIN COUNCIL



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## Our patient associations and the Symposium on 14 and 15 May

At the BBC symposium on 14-15 May, BBC members will have the opportunity to speak directly to Belgian politicians campaigning to be elected in the June elections, and will also have a session where they can express their views and expectations ([find attached](#)).



**Latest news:** Tineke Van Holland, CEO of Epic 10, a new life sciences external affairs consultancy, will be moderating the policy debate and the session with the European Commission.

**Block the date, stay connected.  
Registration for the symposium opens on March 1st.**



### BBC symposium

**May 14, 15, 2024**

Foundation Universitaire, Egmont street 11, 1000 Brussels

EN & FR & NL translation provided for some sessions.  
REGISTRATION COMPULSORY FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

**Les données sont-elles l'avenir pour une meilleure santé du cerveau et mentale?**

**Zijn gegevens de toekomst voor een betere van gezondheid en de hersenen en mentaal?**

**Are data the future for a better Brain and Mental Health?**



## Update of the BBC's Articles of Association

At its Extraordinary General Meeting on 23 January, the BBC voted unanimously in favour of the new Articles of Association.

As soon as they are published in the Moniteur, they will be available on our website.

## BAW 2024, 11-17 March

### Call for projects

As every year, the BBC is celebrating Brain Awareness Week. As a reminder, the BBC supports our members' events up to a maximum of €1,000 per project. The BAW 2023 events organised in Belgium can be found [here](#)

**Send us your programmes and we will distribute them via our newsletters.**

- On Tuesday 12 March 2024, Mrs Mormal, from the Association des aidants proches, is organising a conference on **stress and burn-out** at the Château du Karreveld, given by psychiatrist Dr Philippe Corten.
- Leuven Brain Institute



## A model predicts the risk of long COVID

**COVID Long** has been associated with more than 200 symptoms, including brain fog, fatigue, chest pain and shortness of breath, which can persist for months or years after infection with SARS-CoV-2.

Researchers have developed a computer model to predict the likelihood of a person developing long COVID, based on an analysis of more than 6,500 proteins present in the blood.

In a study published on 18 January in Science, the team compared blood samples from people who had tested positive for COVID-19 with those from healthy adults, and found notable differences in the composition of the proteins in people with long COVID, those who had recovered and those who had never been infected.

The analysis suggests that proteins involved in immune responses, blood coagulation and inflammation could be key biomarkers for the diagnosis and monitoring of **long-standing COVID, which affects around 65 million people worldwide.**

**Reference :** <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-00158-w>

## Artificial intelligence in the service of drug discovery

### **AlphaFold (AF2) identifies new psychedelic molecules. Nature News 18 January 2024**

AlphaFold is an Artificial Intelligence system developed by DeepMind that predicts the 3D structure of a protein from its amino acid sequence. It regularly achieves competitive accuracy compared with experiments.

Alphafold has identified hundreds of thousands of potential new psychedelic molecules. This discovery could contribute to the development of antidepressants. This is the first time that protein structure predictions from the AI tool can be just as useful for drug discovery as experimentally derived protein structures, which can take months or even years to determine.

On 7 January Isomorphic Labs, the London-based DeepMind drug discovery spin-out, announced deals worth at least \$82.5 million - and up to \$2.9 billion if commercial targets are met - to search for drugs on behalf of pharmaceutical giants Novartis and Eli Lilly using machine learning tools such as AlphaFold.

**Reference:** <https://doi.org/10.1038/d41586-024-00130-8> and <https://doi.org/10.1101/2023.12.20.572662>

## News from our members and partners

### Bayer, Boehringer and Sanofi join the BBC



Boehringer  
Ingelheim



The League, in collaboration with the European Health Authority (EHA) and the Spanish and Bulgarian Leagues, will be launching a transnational Erasmus+ project.

The aim of this project is to develop the "HD-Academy" e-learning platform to promote the training of formal and informal carers. The project will run for 18 months, ending in June 2025.



**AUDIOSCENIC gives you audiodescriptions for great shows at an affordable price.**

Below are the advertisements for:

- **Thursday 8 February:** "L' impresario de Smyrne" at the Théâtre Royal du Parc in Brussels.
- **Friday 23 February:** "TADAM" by the Compagnie Renards at the Théâtre Varia
- **Sunday 11 February:** "Madame Vitesse" at Espace Marexhe in Herstal.

Booking: 0470/67.97.20  
[reservations@audioscenic.be](mailto:reservations@audioscenic.be)

I hope you enjoy these shows, which AUDIOSCENIC will help you to understand.



**Action Parkinson presents its list of activities**

See list of activities [here](#)



**CENTER FOR COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE**

- **22-25 May the SCC is organising the 7th bi-annual ESCAN meeting ([see here](#))**



**KU LEUVEN** offers a series of activities: 3 book readings in February and March, including a commentary on Mathieu Vandebulke's book *Living together with dementia* on 13 March, and a series of psychology lessons for society. [see programme here](#)



As every year, the League is organising a **Gala Concert to be held on 19 March 2024 at BOZAR**. The Ensemble Orchestral de Bruxelles and the Chœurs de l'Union européenne will take us to the heart of Italian, French and Austrian lyrical music.



### **BCNBP presents its 2024 activities:**

More details [here](#)



At its clinically-focused scientific congress on 1er June 2024, the BPS will present the **BPS award 2024**.



**BASS** presents its activities  
For more details click [here](#)



**SRMMB** is organising a morning conference on mental health on 9 March at the Clinique Notre-Dame de Grâce in Gosselies. [see here](#)

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DEVENEZ MEMBRE  
LID WORDEN**

30€ at BE87 7512 0194 0094 with name + email

**BBC ACCOUNT : BE87 7512 0194 0094**

**Composition of the Executive Committee for the period 2024-2028**

**Chairman:** Professor Laurence RIS

**Chief Executive Officer:** Professor Roland Pochet

**Vice-Chairmen:** Dr Gianni Franco, Ms Lia Le Roy

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

**Secretary:** Professor Jean Schoenen

**The BBC is on the following social networks:**



12 videos about different BBC activities/meetings/webinars are visible on UTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@BBCBelgianBrainCouncil>



**BBC acts as a host organization for the EU4EU Programme within its Erasmus+ projects**

## **Dates to remember**

<b>29 January</b> AMD: clinical trials, instructions for use	<b>5-8 February</b> BASS: International Sleep Medicine Course: Blankenberge	<b>9 March</b> SRMM: Mental health conference at the Clinique Notre-Dame de Grâce in Gosselies.
<b>11-17 March</b> Brain Awareness Week	<b>19 March</b> La ligue Sclérose en plaques : Concert at BOZAR	<b>19-20 April</b> BSN annual meeting, Namur
<b>8-9 May</b> 10th NBC's Academy in Pula (Croatia)	<b>14-15 May</b> BBC international Symposium: Are data the future for a better Brain and Mental Health? Brussels	<b>22-25 May</b> 7th bi-annual ESCAN meeting
<b>30 Mai</b> Journée Mondiale de la Sclérose en Plaques	<b>1 Juin</b> BPS scientific congress and award 2024	