



## **Launch Luxembourg Brain Council (LBC)**

**Date:** 8 July 2015

**Location:** Personalized Medicine Conference of the Ministry of Health

### **People currently involved in the LBC:**

- Dr. Alexandre Bisdorff (President of the Luxembourg Neurological Society)
- Prof. Dr. Rudi Balling (Director of the LCSB)
- Prof. Dr. Rejko Krüger (researcher and neurologist at CHL and LCSB)
- Marc Graas (Director of the Centre Hospitalier Neuro-Psychiatrique Ettelbrück)
- Mariella Graziano (physiotherapist in neurology, ambassador of the European Brain Council)
- Patient representatives for stroke, Multiple Sclerosis, Alzheimer's disease, neuromuscular and rare diseases (ALAN), Parkinson's Disease.
  
- Patron: Mars di Bartolomeo (President de la Chambre des Députés du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg)

### **Background:**

Luxembourg has been approached by the European Brain Council (past-president Mary Baker) to join in and set up a national brain council as in recent years critical mass in neurology and neuroscience has been building up in our country. These developments have led to international visibility of high-level brain research (e.g. foundation of Luxembourg Centre of Systems Biology, launch of a big cohort study in Parkinson's Disease funded by Fond National de Recherche) that addresses unmet medical needs.

The Luxembourg Brain Council (LBC) brings together different interest groups and disciplines. A core of stake holders representing researchers, industry, patients and scientific societies dealing with brain diseases have come together to set up the LBC. Together they intend to nationally narrow the gap between the needs and the actual research done in normal brain function and brain disease, to encourage young talents to enter a neuroscience career, to help to translate research findings into clinical practice and ultimately to contribute to better patient care.

### **About the European Brain Council:**

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a coordinating council formed by European organizations in neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry, basic brain research (neuroscience), as well as patient organizations and companies from the pharma and biotech industries. It represents a vast network of patients, doctors and scientists, and these stakeholders along with its industrial partners make it eminently suited to work in close partnership with the European Parliament and Commission, national governments as well as other policy making bodies. The EBC was officially founded on 22 March 2002 in Brussels.



The mission of the EBC is to *promote brain research in Europe and to improve the quality of life of those affected by brain diseases*. It is determined to eliminate the discrepancy between the huge human and financial impact of brain diseases on society and the relatively modest financial and human resources allocated to

brain research to improve our understanding of normal and abnormal brain function, the teaching in neuroscience and eventually to address better unmet needs.

The EBC interacts with the European Commission, the European Parliament and other relevant EU and international organizations aiming to bring science and society, particularly patients suffering from brain diseases, closer together.

Finally, the EBC aims to be a partner for European-wide foundations and businesses with an interest in brain research and the treatment of brain disorders.

### **National Brain Councils**

Nearly 30 countries have been or are in the process of forming National Brain Councils, which are independent but aligned with the main goals of the EBC. Since research funds in the member states by far exceed the resources available at European level, the creation of national bodies that can campaign in their respective countries is an important way for the EBC and its member organizations to achieve their goals. Consequently, we have undertaken a project to form the Luxembourg Brain Council.

September 2013

