



PRESS RELEASE

Paris, September 14, 2016 - The Monegasque Association for research on Alzheimer's disease (AMPA) chaired by Catherine Pastor will publish the first Alzheimer and the Mediterranean report and officially launch the Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance for World Alzheimer's Day during a press conference in the Monegasque Embassy in Paris, in the presence of S.E.M. Claude Cottalorda, Ambassador of the Principality of Monaco in France. This unprecedented initiative in the Mediterranean aims to make Alzheimer's disease a public health priority in this region.

Since 2009, AMPA organises a wealth of initiatives in the Principality and Monaco and overseas in support of research, to organise scientific encounters, better understand the disease and its consequences, raise public awareness and offer assistance to people with Alzheimer's disease and their families.

For World Alzheimer's Day, AMPA will publish the first report dedicated to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in the Mediterranean region and officially launch the Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance, the only Mediterranean network on Alzheimer's disease composed of scientific experts, Alzheimer's associations and healthcare professionals from 17 countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).

The report aims to assess needs related to the illness and to analyse the emerging medical and social challenges in the region. It also makes recommendations on a regional and international level in order to be able to anticipate solutions and provide better support and care for people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

As Catherine Pastor says: *“ In many Mediterranean countries, there is still little knowledge about the problems surrounding Alzheimer's disease, which remains under-estimated and insufficiently documented. This situation is set to have a drastic impact on health and society in years to come. International studies have shown that in the twenty years' time, the number of people with Alzheimer's disease will increase alarmingly.*

Faced with the sudden increase, our privileged links should encourage us to work together to ensure that Alzheimer's disease becomes a public health priority in the region.

I sincerely hope that this first report will serve as a tool to inform political decision-makers and concerned stakeholders in order to anticipate future issues for the Mediterranean region”.

The Alzheimer and the Mediterranean report highlight 11 main issues:

1. An **alarming rise** in the number of people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in the Mediterranean region
2. A **disease that is still not recognised as a priority** in most Mediterranean countries
3. **The difficulty to assess the financial impact** of the disease in the Mediterranean region
4. **The issue of late diagnosis** in the Mediterranean region
5. **The faltering family solidarities**
6. Institutional healthcare supply and services which are **not specific to Alzheimer's disease**
7. A general **lack of training** among health and social care professionals
8. **Unequal access** to medical treatments and psychosocial interventions
9. **Little biomedical, fundamental and clinical research** on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in the Mediterranean area
10. **A persistent negative image, misconceptions and unawareness** of the disease
11. The need to develop adequate **legal safeguards** and a **specific ethical reflection**

In this context, the *Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance* calls on each Mediterranean country:

- **To recognize** Alzheimer's disease and related disorders as a public health priority
- **To develop** a comprehensive national Alzheimer strategy or plan adapted to the needs of people with Alzheimer's disease and their families, with specific and long-term funding
- **To promote** early/timely diagnosis for people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders
- **To develop and diversify** their range of services, care and support throughout the territory
- **To train** all medical, medico-social and social professionals in the specificities of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders
- **To make available** existing treatments throughout each national territories and to encourage the development of standardised and assessable psychosocial interventions
- To encourage **more scientific and academic partnerships** in the Mediterranean area on the prevention of Alzheimer's disease
- **To recognise** specific rights to family carers and **promote** awareness campaign for the general public on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders

About the report

Carried out since 2013 by Salomé Nicaise (Study Analyst) and Federico Palermi (Director), the Alzheimer and the Mediterranean report addresses 11 topics: 1. Prevalence, 2. Public health priorities, 3. Legal and ethical issues, 4. Socio-economic cost, 5. Diagnosis, 6. Care and support, 7. Healthcare professionals, 8. Medical treatments and psychosocial interventions, 9. Research and prevention, 10. Family carers, 11. Public perceptions.

Each theme of the report was analysed through three different angles: an overview, a summary of the challenges and perspectives, and developing recommendations. The report also includes several interviews with Mediterranean and international experts, supporting the results of the ALZMED survey and highlighting innovative initiatives in the Mediterranean area.

About AMPA

The Monegasque Association for research on Alzheimer's disease (AMPA) was established at the initiative of Michel Pastor and Dr Michel-Yves Mourou in 1990. Since 2009, the association has been chaired by Catherine Pastor and its Vice-President Professor Alain Pesce, head of Monegasque geriatric services. AMPA works on a national and international level to support research, encourage scientific meetings, disseminate expertise and knowledge, increase public awareness and inform and accompany people with Alzheimer's disease and their carers. www.ampa-monaco.com

About the *Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance*

Upon the initiative of the Monegasque Association for research on Alzheimer's disease, the *Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance* currently has 17 member countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Croatia, Egypt, France, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Monaco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

The *Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance*, endowment fund domiciled in Paris, is the only network composed of Alzheimer associations, scientific experts and healthcare professionals from each country. Its main objectives are to support Mediterranean Alzheimer's Alliance members in the development of their initiatives, defend interests, needs and specificities of Mediterranean people with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, and their family carers, encourage and promote associative, scientific and academic collaborations in the Mediterranean region. This project is supported by the Union for the Mediterranean.

In 2015, the *Mediterranean Alzheimer Alliance* created a scientific committee, chaired by Professor Jacques Touchon (Montpellier, France). This committee brings together the principal Mediterranean area researchers in biomedical and clinical research and human and social sciences. Its objective is to promote and develop research in this region.



PRESS CONTACT

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THE MEMBERS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ALZHEIMER ALLIANCE

Associations:

- Algeria: ASMGA Alzheimer Club
- Cyprus: Cyprus Alzheimer Association
- Croatia: Alzheimer Croatia
- Egypt: Egypt Alzheimer Society
- France: France Alzheimer 13
- Greece: Panhellenic Federation of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
- Italy: Alzheimer Uniti Italia
- Lebanon: Alzheimer Association Lebanon
- Malta: Mata Dementia Society
- Morocco: Sud Maroc Alzheimer
- Monaco: AMPA
- Portugal: Alzheimer Portugal
- Slovenia: Alzheimer Slovenia
- Spain: Fundació ACE
- Tunisia: Alzheimer Tunisie
- Turkey: Turkish Alzheimer Association

Non-associative members:

- Pr Myriem Abada Bendid (Algiers)
- Pr Sandrine Andrieu (Toulouse)
- Dr Nawal Adali (Marrakech)
- Pr Joël Ankri (Paris)
- Pr Luisa Bartorelli (Rome)
- Dr Mercè Boada Rovira (Barcelona)
- Pr Mathieu Ceccaldi (Marseille)
- Dr Anne Marie Duguet (Toulouse)
- Espace Ethique Méditerranéen (Marseille)
- Fondation Médéric Alzheimer (Paris)
- Pr Riadh Gouider (Tunis)
- Dr Stephane Guétin (Montpellier)
- Pr Olivier Guérin (Nice)
- Pr Najib Kissani (Marrakech)
- Karine Lefeuvre, Ecole des hautes Etudes en Santé Publique, Rennes
- Dr Sandrine Louchart de la Chapelle (Monaco)
- Philippe Migliasso (Monaco)
- Pr Ninoslav Mimica (Zagreb)
- Dr Nabil Naja (Beirut)
- Pr Alain Pesce (Monaco)
- Pr Charles Scerri (Valletta)
- Pr Hala Sweed, Egyptian Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology (Cairo)
- Pr Jacques Touchon (Montpellier)
- Pr Magda Tsolaki (Thessaloniki)
- Pr Bruno Vellas (Toulouse)

International Organisations (observers):

- Alzheimer Europe
- Alzheimer's Disease International