European Parliament

Workshop

Brain, new approach to brain diseases

Panel 1

Prof Timothy Lynch, MB, BSc., DCH, FRCPI, FRCP, ABPN, University College Dublin

Tim Lynch is a Consultant Neurologist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Clinical Director of the Dublin Neurological Institute at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital; National Lead HSE Neurology Programme and Chief Academic Officer IEHG and Vice Principal Health Affairs UCD. Prof. Lynch is a medical graduate from Royal College of Surgeons Ireland from 1984. He subsequently did a BSc Pharmacology UCD and trained at the Richmond Hospital, Beaumont Hospital, Mater Misericordiae University Hospital and Our Lady's Hospital for Sick Children, Crumlin. He moved to Columbia University in New York for a residency in neurology followed by a Fellowship in Movement Disorders with Prof Stanley Fahn and did a Fellowship in Neurogenetics. Prof Lynch was involved in genetic research of frontotemporal dementia and parkinsonism linked to chromosome 17 (Wilhelmsen-Lynch disease) and part of the team that cloned the tau gene (Nature 1998). Prof Lynch was appointed a Consultant Neurologist at the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital in 1998; Adjunct Professor of Neurology, University College Dublin in 2006; Clinical Director of The Dublin Neurological Institute at the Mater (www.neurologicalinstitute.ie) in 2008 and recently Chief Academic Officer IEHG and Vice Principal Health Affairs UCD. Prof Lynch has served as Chairperson, Division of Medicine; Dean of Postgraduate Education and Chairperson Medical Council at the Mater Hospital. He has published over three hundred research articles in peer-reviewed journals on a number of areas in clinical neuroscience including movement disorders, neurodegeneration, Parkinsonism, frontotemporal dementia linked to chromosome 17, the genetics of neurological disorders and CNS Whipple's disease (H index 52). Successful grants include HRB, NIH and MJIFF.

Dr Angela Schulz

Dr Angela Schulz is the Functional Senior Physician and Medical Specialist in Paediatrics and Youth Medicine at the Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE). Her areas of expertise include neuropediatric and palliative medicine. She is a member of Gesellschaft für Neuropädiatrie; European Paediatric Neurology Society ; Arbeitsgemeinschaft für pädiatrische Stoffwechselstörungen; and the European Study Group on Lysosomal Diseases.

She was awarded the Science Award of the Society for Neuropaediatrics in 2005. Her publications in 2018 include:

- *Disease characteristics and progression in patients with late-infantile neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis type 2 (CLN2) disease*: *an observational cohort study*;
- *Autophagic vacuolar myopathy is a common feature in CLN3 disease;*
- *Study of Intraventricular Cerliponase Alfa for CLN2 Disease;*
- *Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen des Kindesalters;*
- *An Adapted Clinical Measurement Tool for the Key Symptoms of CLN2 Disease*

Prof Hans Lehrach, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics

Hans Lehrach studied Chemistry at the University of Vienna and obtained his Ph.D. at the Max Planck Institute for Experimental Medicine and the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in 1974. As postdoctoral fellow at Harvard University, Cambridge (1974-1978) his research focused on RNA analysis and he carried out one of the first cDNA cloning experiments. As group leader at the EMBL, Heidelberg (1978-1987), he was among the first who initiated positional cloning experiments in mouse (Brachyury) and man (Huntington's disease, Cystic Fibrosis etc), he also contributed to the development of widely used research tools (e.g. the EMBL vector system together with Noreen Murray) and was one of the first who initiated the human genome project. Following this, he moved to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London (1987-1994) as head of Genome Analysis Department, focusing on the development of new structural and functional genome analysis technologies (e.g. development of the first array robotics in 1987). In 1994, he returned to Germany and since then he has been Director and Scientific Member at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, with a focus on genetics, genomics and systems biology.

During the last decade, a major focus of his work has been the development of a new, truly personalised medicine on the basis of 'virtual patient' models, based on a deep –omics analysis of the patient. He has received several awards such as the Ján Jessenius SAS Medal of Honour for outstanding achievements in medical sciences of the Slovak Academy of Sciences (2003) and the Karl Heinz Beckurts Award for achievements in genome research (2004).

Panel 2

Prof. Monica di Luca, European Brain Council (EBC)

Monica Di Luca, EBC President, is Professor of Pharmacology, Director of NeuroNest (Center of Neuroscience) and Head of Laboratory of Pharmacology of Neurodegeneration – DiSFeB at the University of Milano. Her primary research interest is related to synaptic plasticity in physiological and pathological conditions, with the primary aim to apply basic findings to the cure of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease. She has been member of Council of several national and international scientific organizations including Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS, President 2014-2016), the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), EMBO and the European Dana Alliance for the Brain (EDAB).

Joke Jaarsma, President of the European Federation of Neurological Associations

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) brings together European umbrella organisations of neurological patient advocacy groups, to work with other associations in the field of neurology, including the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), in what has been termed a "Partnership for Progress".

In her working life, Joke Jaarsma was senior publisher at one of the major science publishers. She joined the Dutch Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS) patient association in 1999, and she is still active as Vice President of the Dutch group. Having finished full-time paid employment, she decided to spend her retirement in helping give neurology patients a strong and collective voice..