



CURE-ND alliance

c/o Professor Bart De Strooper, Director
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Dr Ursula von der Leyen
President, European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
1049 Brussels
Belgium

Re: UK association to Horizon Europe

Dear President von der Leyen,

We write on behalf of CURE-ND (Catalysing a United Response in Europe to Neurodegenerative Diseases), an alliance between four of Europe's leading research institutes in neurodegenerative diseases, based in Germany, Belgium, the United Kingdom and France. CURE-ND was established to galvanize European research on neurodegeneration and dementia, with the ultimate ambition to find new technologies and therapies. Together, our four institutes represent a critical mass of over 2,000 researchers in Europe, many of whom have benefitted from cross-border collaboration facilitated by Horizon Europe.

We write today to ask that you use your position as President of the European Commission to assure the UK's full association to Horizon Europe without delay. Close collaboration between neuroscientists in the UK and EU states is critical if we are to make the breakthroughs so desperately needed to beat dementia and neurodegeneration. Our collective progress in this fight is reliant upon open, inclusive collaboration.

In Europe, an estimated 10 million people are currently living with dementia. Global cases are estimated at 57.4 million, a number expected to [triple by the year 2050](#). The associated economic cost is estimated at around 250 billion Euros annually. The WHO has confirmed dementia as a public health priority, and its [Global Action Plan](#) places research at the heart of the solution. More recently, the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI) has been a key partner in developing the WHO's dementia research blueprint, with a focus on research funding and collaboration.

The UK has been a committed partner in the mission to find new therapies and treatments for dementia. The UK DRI represents an international research community, with one third of its Group Leaders having relocated to the UK from overseas to take up their positions.

These scientists now face losing access to European funding, and the European and UK members of CURE-ND will face further isolation from valued colleagues and collaborators. Whereas we appreciate the complexities of international relations and treaties, our research and the patients we are trying to help should not be held hostage to events that are nothing to do with science.

Neurodegeneration is a global challenge, transcending politics and international borders. Cases of dementia are rising rapidly, and we cannot afford to lose focus. We therefore ask that you intervene on this vitally important issue and confirm the UK's association to Horizon Europe, to give our scientists the best possible chance of beating these cruel diseases.

Yours sincerely,



Prof Bart De
Strooper

Director, UK DRI (UK
Dementia Research
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Prof Pierluigi
Nicotera

Scientific Director,
DZNE (Deutsches
Zentrum für
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Prof Alexis Brice

Director General,
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Prof Mathieu
Vandenbulcke

Chair Scientific and
Executive Committee,
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