



➔ May indicate multiple sites in the same city/area

# EU-AIMS Clinical Network Newsletter 2017



AUTMN NEWSLETTER 2017

IN THIS ISSUE

## Network Update

In 2017 we welcomed new sites to the EU-AIMS Clinical Network, which now includes 106 clinical and/or research ASD centres spread across 37 countries.

We are extremely proud of the large network of expert ASD centres that has continued to come together since we began forming the network in spring 2013.

Over the past year we have made excellent progress across a range of initiatives. For example, we have been actively pooling existing clinical datasets across the network and presented first results of this initiative at the International Meeting for Autism Research in May 2017 in San Francisco. A publication based on this initiative is currently under review (please see page 2 for a

detailed update). We are also coordinating this effort with other European autism initiatives – [ASDEU](#) – in order to improve alignment of database procedures, standardization and capture of information.

As part of the EU-AIMS [Longitudinal European Autism Project \(LEAP\)](#), we have published two companion articles in *Molecular Autism* to provide an overview of the study and the clinical characteristics of the cohort (see page 2).

Findings from this study and other general ASD-related research topics are covered by webinars that we are currently organizing (see page 3). If you want to learn more about other projects in EU-AIMS, please visit our [website](#).

### 1. **Network Update** Page 1

*Clinical Network development update for 2017*

### 2. **Data Sharing** Page 2

*Data pooling - a unique platform for collaboration*

### 3. **LEAP** Page 2

*Publications describing the Longitudinal European Autism Project (LEAP)*

### 4. **Webinars** Page 3

*EU-AIMS Webinars started in June 2017*

### 5. **News** Page 3

*EU-AIMS annual meeting, interaction with autism community & new EMA guidelines*



## Webinars

We are currently organizing online workshops/ webinars aimed at researchers and professionals in order to facilitate the exchange of ideas.

These webinars cover general research topics and other EU-AIMS related topics on autism research and its translatability to the clinic, such as sex/gender differences in autism and comorbidities in autism.

Each of these webinars is delivered by leading experts in the consortium. We will continue these webinars until 2018.

Registration is free of charge.



So far, we have covered the following topics:

### June 2017: **EU-AIMS: Developing a discovery framework for autism spectrum disorders**

Prof Declan Murphy (King's College London) & Dr Will Spooren (Roche)

### July 2017: **Why do we need stratification biomarkers for autism spectrum disorder?**

Dr Eva Loth (King's College London)

### Sep 2017: **Why are sex and gender important for understanding autism?**

Dr Meng-Chuan Lai (University of Toronto)

### Oct 2017: **Genetic and synaptic diversities of autism**

Prof Thomas Bourgeron (Institut Pasteur) & Prof Andreas Meyer-Lindenberg (Central Institute of Mental Health)

Each webinar is recorded and made available on our [EU-AIMS YouTube Channel](#) after the webinar has concluded.



If you would like to receive more information about these webinars, or want to join the emailing list to be kept updated about this initiative, then please contact [Julian Tillmann](#).

## News

### EU-AIMS Annual Meeting

The 6th EU-AIMS Annual Meeting took place in Paris, France on 23<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May. At the meeting, the progress of the clinical network was shared with the consortium and was very well received.

Other news from EU-AIMS can be found on our [news page](#)

### Communication & Interaction

Following two public events organized by members of the EU-AIMS Ethics advisory board, questions from the autism community about EU-AIMS research were submitted to EU-AIMS scientists. We summarized these questions and answered them [in this video](#).

### Publication of EMA Guideline

The EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) has published a [guideline document](#) on the clinical development of medicinal products to establish the efficacy and safety of treatments for ASD.

EU-AIMS is collaborating with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Europe (ASDEU), a trans-European project to increase understanding of autism and to improve care and support for people with autism

ASDEU is a three-year programme run by a consortium of 20 groups from 14 EU member states and is funded by the Directorate-General of Health and Consumers of the European Commission (DG-SANCO)

(For further information, please visit <http://asdeu.eu/>)

*We would like to thank all the members of the EU-AIMS clinical network for their ongoing support and enthusiasm.*

*All the best from,*

*Clinical Network Co-Leads, Tony Charman & Jan Buitelaar; Project Coordinator, Will Spooren; Academic Lead, Declan Murphy*



The research leading to these results has received support from the Innovative Medicines Initiative Joint Undertaking under grant agreement n° 115300, resources of which are composed of financial contribution from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7/2007 - 2013) and EFPIA companies' in kind contribution.

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