

EMSP Spring Conference 2014: “Care where it counts - as you journey with MS”

Brussels, 28 April - **The European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP)** will mark its 25th anniversary during a two-day Spring Conference on 8-9 May, at the Gibson Hotel in Dublin, Ireland. Together with co-organisers **Multiple Sclerosis Ireland** and **Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis (RIMS)**, EMSP will offer a dynamic mix of presentations, debates and workshops, as well as a special gala dinner and entertainment to an audience of around 150 stakeholders.

The list of special guests includes proven MS advocates such as Emma Rogan and Shana Pezaro, MS athletes such as the Sochi Paralympics silver medallist Cécile Hernandez-Cervellon and MS specialists such as Doctor Alexis Willett and Professor Gavin Giovannoni.

The EMSP Spring Conference theme is *“Care where it counts - as you journey with MS”*. As the slogan suggests, Day 1, prepared in collaboration with RIMS, will focus on rehabilitation, the needs of carers and young people with MS. Day 2, organised with MS Ireland, will focus on key developments and best practices in MS. Special moments will include the launch of a new EMSP programme aiming to boost employment for young people with MS, *“Believe and Achieve”*, and six workshops where participants will debate on topics such as carers’ concerns and social isolation.

Find out more about RIMS on www.eurims.org.

Find out more MS Ireland on www.ms-society.ie.

EMSP will also invite participants to celebrate the progress made over 25 years and to plan for the road ahead. President John Golding from Norway makes a brief introduction:

“It all started when the creation of MS platforms in each continent was proposed at a Multiple Sclerosis International Federation (MSIF) meeting. Europe went ahead and, in 1989, the European Multiple Sclerosis Platform (EMSP) was founded as an umbrella organisation of 21 MS societies. Over the years, we have grown to 38 members in 34 European countries. A mark of long-term success will be the take up of pan-European projects by member societies and their implementation in individual countries.”

The EMSP Spring Conference is part of the **Year of the Brain (YotB)**, which is a **European Brain Council (EBC)** initiative designed to highlight the needs of the millions of Europeans affected by brain disorders.

Find out more about EBC on www.europeanbraincouncil.org.

About EMSP

*25 years, and more to come, as the
voice of people with MS in Europe*

En route to its ultimate vision of a world without multiple sclerosis, the **European Multiple Sclerosis Platform** (EMSP) works to ensure that people with MS have a real voice in determining their own objectives and priorities. We are engaged in *advocacy and awareness raising* campaigns to empower people with MS, we gather and provide *knowledge and expertise* among relevant stakeholders and we *encourage research* and the dissemination of information on MS.

Among our achievements from recent years, we can list the following:

- the “European Code of Good Practice in MS”, a guideline which stemmed from a first EU Report on MS, presented in the European Parliament in 2003;
- a series of projects launched between 2004 and 2011 to capture the realities in essential areas such access to treatment and employment for people with MS (Under Pressure) and specialised care, MS databases and research on MS (MS Nurse Pro, European Map of MS, the MS Barometer and the European Register of MS);
- a Written Declaration on Multiple Sclerosis passed by the European Parliament in 2012.

Find out more at www.emsp.org.

Contact

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