

YUVEDO Foundation publishes expert report on market failures in research on Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases

YUVEDO Foundation today publishes an economic report by Professor Maier-Rigaud, Paris/Lille, NERA Economic Consulting. According to the report, there are indications of market or regulatory failure in the development of causal treatments for Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases (NDD): high risk in product development is associated with massive costs, but relatively little profit potential. As a result, many pharmaceutical companies have stopped or reduced their R&D investments in drugs or other therapies for the prevention and treatment of NDDs.

The main points of this report were already presented on Friday, 18 September 2020, at a high-level online conference organised by YUVEDO Foundation in cooperation with kENUP Foundation.

The conference, which was attended by internationally renowned experts and doctors, highlighted the great relevance of combating the growing threat of Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases. It was agreed that despite the foreseeable medical, social and economic challenges, too little had been done in recent years to tackle the underlying causes. 'Brainstorm' promotes the development of solutions for effective treatments for NDDs. In the run-up to the online conference, an international team of experts, authors, artists and researchers launched the call to raise awareness of these diseases on 12 September 2020 - with a bicycle tour from Cologne to Baden-Baden made possible through the generous support of main sponsors Dentons and Daimler.

In this context, the internationally renowned Parkinson's researcher Bas Bloem underlined that the spread of Parkinson's disease (MP) and other NDDs has reached pandemic proportions.

'Brainstorm' aims to develop a financing mechanism that provides the right incentives to address this apparent market failure," said Dr. Jörg Karenfort, co-founder of the YUVEDO Foundation and partner at DENTONS.

Holm Keller, Executive Chairman of the kENUP Foundation said: "'Brainstorm' aims to revive the fight against NDDs by creating a new innovative funding mechanism. This mechanism will, for example, provide risk loans on preferential terms for scientifically promising projects that are not yet being pursued by the pharmaceutical industry. This will help to expand economically relevant activities in the field of NDDs".

"To boost and accelerate the fight against diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's, I call on everyone to join Project 'Brainstorm'. The YUVEDO Foundation addresses an important public health problem that needs to be solved sooner rather than later", added Elmar Brok, former Member of the European Parliament and Committee Chairman of the European Parliament.

Dr. Katarina Barley, Vice-President of the European Parliament, said: "With 'Project Brainstorm', developed by patients with the broad support of leading researchers, YUVEDO Foundation is responding to the indicated market failure that explains the lack of development of effective treatment for neurodegenerative diseases. I support the need for further empirical research on these issues, ideally in conjunction with an exemplary project like the 'Brainstorm Fund Project'.

Project 'Brainstorm' is currently looking for promising initiatives, both in the scientific community and in the environment of start-ups or the wider pharmaceutical industry, that can develop effective interventions for the treatment of neurodegenerative diseases (with a special focus on Parkinson's disease) and contribute to the success of the portfolio.

Speakers at the online conference were:

Dr. Katarina Barley, Vice President European Parliament

Elisabeth Ildal, Cure4Parkinson, Denmark

Elmar Brok, Former Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, European Parliament

Prof. Dr. Trenkwalder, President, International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society, University Medical Center Goettingen, Kassel

Prof. Dr. Christine Klein, President of the German Society for Neurology, Luebeck

Prof. Dr. Frank Maier-Rigaud, NERA Economic Consulting, Paris

Prof. Dr. Nicotera, Deutsches Zentrum für Neurodegenerative Erkrankungen e.V. (DZNE), Member Academia Europaea and Leopoldina

Holm Keller, Chairman kENUP Foundation

Prof. Dr. Thomas Gasser, Tuebingen University

Prof. Dr. Bas Bloem, Radboud University

Prof. Dr. Susanne Schneider, Ludwig Maximilian University

Stream available at <https://www.brainstormfund.org/event>.

Further information on support and cooperation possibilities can be found at:
www.brainstormfund.org.

YUVEDO Foundation

Non-for-profit YUVEDO Foundation was founded in June 2019 by Dr. Jörg Karenfort and Jens Greve. Through its own projects and events as well as partnerships and project funding, the foundation aims to improve the living conditions for people with Parkinson's disease and their families and to contribute to the healing of the disease. The Foundation is also committed to bringing together leading figures from industry, politics, ethics and law with recognised medical and scientific experts in order to accelerate the vital research into Parkinson's disease. Project partners of the YUVEDO Foundation are national and international research institutions and patient associations such as the German Centre for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), the Movement Disorder Society (MDS), the German Parkinson Association (DPV), Parkinson Youngsters, Cure4Parkinson, the Parkinson Terminator Project and the European Parkinson Disease Association (EPDA).

kENUP Foundation

kENUP Foundation was established in 2014. It is a global innovation partnership that promotes research-based innovation for Europe with public and societal benefits. With the EU Malaria Fund, kENUP has conceived an innovative investment instrument for the fight against malaria. kENUP has also initiated the co-investment programme of the State of Israel with the European Union, „Bioconvergence“.

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