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For more information, please look at the web site www.eufami.org or contact EUFAMI at info@eufami.org

EUFAMI
Diestsevest 100
B-3000 Leuven
Belgium

Tel +32 16 74 50 40
Fax +32 16 74 50 49

Effectiveness of financial incentives to improve adherence

The primary outcome from a recent study in the UK to test whether offering financial incentives to patients with psychotic disorders is effective in improving adherence to maintenance treatment with antipsychotics was the percentage of prescribed depot injections given during the 12 month intervention period. More detail about the study and its results can be obtained at <http://www.bmj.com/content/347/bmj.f5847>.

Expert Group marks World Mental Health Day with call for more integrated approach towards care of people living with schizophrenia

A group of international experts has called for a more comprehensive recovery-based approach towards the management and care of people living with schizophrenia, in order that they can be better integrated into their communities. The report, *Schizophrenia: Time to Commit to Policy Change*, is designed to help improve the lives of people living with the condition. The group's main recommendation is that all those involved in the management and care of people living with schizophrenia – healthcare professionals working in both hospital and the community, social care providers, advocacy groups and their families – should consistently work more closely together to ensure the highest quality care. An additional recommendation is that local and national policy makers include all aspects of caring for an individual with schizophrenia as a priority in financing and program development efforts. The report can be accessed at http://www.pharmagenesis.com/pdf/SchizophreniaPolicyChange_Oct2013.pdf



News from Israel

The Israeli parliament (Knesset) decided to devote the 3rd December, which is the United Nations day for people with disabilities, to mental disabilities. On this day each subcommittee of the Knesset will hold its session on mental disabilities, how to promote the treatment, the rehabilitation and the integration of the disabled persons in the society. Representatives from the relevant NGOs, including Ozma, the EUFAMI's member association in Israel, are invited to participate and address these sessions.



Medicines undergoing additional monitoring: Video and leaflet to explain new symbol

Since 1st September, a black inverted triangle has started to appear in the product information of medicines that are being monitored particularly closely by regulatory authorities. With this measure, the European Commission aims to improve the safety of medicines and also to highlight to patients, the importance of reporting suspected side effects to the medicines they are taking. The easily identifiable symbol takes the form of a black inverted triangle. It looks like this: ▼

To further explain why this symbol is appearing on certain medicines, and how to report suspected side effects, the European Medicines Agency, has produced a video clip and an explanatory leaflet. They can be downloaded from <http://tinyurl.com/2vfxhdh>

EUFAMI Representation at various events in September and October

September and October were busy months for EUFAMI in respect to various meetings, conferences and other events. The following are some examples where EUFAMI Board members and the Secretary General, Kevin Jones, represented EUFAMI. The EUFAMI Vice President, Connie Magro, spoke at the Roundtable on Mental Health which took place in Athens on the 21st September. Our Secretary General represented EUFAMI at a symposium on Social Inclusion and Schizophrenia at the European Health Forum in Gastein at the beginning of October. He also attended the Collaborative Summit Meeting which took place at the ECNP in Barcelona on the 7th October. John Saunders, the EUFAMI Treasurer, attended the WHO mhGAP meeting in Geneva on the 7th October where the WHO Action Plan for Mental Health was unveiled. Bert Johnson, EUFAMI President represented EUFAMI at the opening session of the Lithuanian EU Presidency's major conference on Mental Health where he spoke about the importance of including families in the care and treatment of their ill relatives. The conference took place in Vilnius on the 10th and 11th October. On the 15th October, the Secretary General was a participant at a discussion of the proposed Carer paper from Eurocarers at the EU Special Interest Group on Carers at the European Parliament. Finally Begoñe Ariño, former EUFAMI President, represented EUFAMI at the International congress on employment of people with mental illness which took place in Murcia on the 25th October and spoke on the topic of the view of families in respect to return to employment.

ITHACA Project

The Institutional Treatment, Human Rights and Care Assessment project (ITHACA) identifies and disseminates best practice to improve the protection of human rights and dignity and the general health status of residents in health or social care institutions with mental ill-health, mental disabilities or dependency. Altogether fifteen European countries are participating in the project and carrying out the research. Moreover, a wide range of collaborating organisations are serving as an advisory group. More information can be found at <http://www.ithacastudy.eu/english.html>.



Prospect – EUFAMI's Training Programme

Prospect, EUFAMI's Training Initiative, is currently being used by people in over 14 European countries. *Prospect* is a very unique peer to peer programme and was developed by EUFAMI members from many countries. If you would like to get further information, contact Rita Geerts on project.admin.office@eufami.org.



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