

Milan, July 21st, 2022



DIGITAL EVENT

Headway – A new roadmap in Brain Health: *Focus Epilepsy*

CLOSING REMARKS

Rafal Kaminski - Chief Scientific Officer, Angelini Pharma

- Interesting key findings on the state of the art of epilepsy:
 - **significant variability in the availability, accessibility, and quality of care** (considerable treatment gap between European countries, with **40%** up to **90%** in some areas).
 - significant role that **marginalization and stigma** continue to play in isolating and restricting people with epilepsy (**51%** of adults feel stigmatized, **18%** of which highly so) whether in **school settings** (between **25-50%** of children with Epilepsy have some degree of educational difficulty), at **work** (in Europe, unemployment is **2-3** times higher among people with Epilepsy vs. general population) or in **society in general** (approximately **1 out of 2 individuals** with epilepsy have coexisting physical or psychiatric conditions).
 - need for **common guidelines on minimum standards of care**, a more **holistic approach**, and **harmonized programs** (**~10%** of countries in Europe have no epilepsy specialists while **>30%** of countries have no neuropsychological or rehabilitation services dedicated).
- While epilepsy is recognized as one of the **most common neurological disorders** (**4th** in Europe, **6 million** people with active epilepsy), with a high **socio-economic burden** (**~20 billion euros** annually, with 1.3 million DALYs and 941.000 YLDs), there is still a clear **lack of awareness** about it across Europe.

- The report outlines several **priority areas of intervention** for key audiences including healthcare providers, researchers, patient associations, and policymakers, calling to action to ensure not only a **comprehensive and integrated approach** but also to define a **common roadmap** to respond to community and patient's needs:
 1. To formulate, pursue and advocate for **research priorities in epilepsy**, to further expand the available options particularly for people who do not respond to first-line treatments, and to reduce side effects.
 2. To **overcome barriers** (e.g., lack of consistent epidemiological data, complicated regulatory processes, insufficient funding, and cultural stigma) to the care of patients with epilepsy.
- To respond to unmet needs of people with epilepsy, **pharma companies** can count on two key tools:
 1. Acting in **collaboration and partnership with other key actors**, both public and private, by pooling specific skills and knowledge
 2. Exploiting the enormous potential of **data collection, systematization, and sharing** to further improve its solutions, making them increasingly personalized, precise, and effective.