



Global action against dementia  
Action mondiale contre la démence

# ***The Challenges of Dementia : The French experience***

**Etienne C Hirsch**

**Director of the Institute for Neurosciences, Neurology and Psychiatry**



**L'ENGAGEMENT  
DE TOUS**

**Plan Maladies Neuro-Dégénératives**

**2015-2019**

# The 3 levels organization of care for AD In France

## *Level 1: the GP*

- identification and screening of patients with simple tools;
- orientation to level 2 for a more complete investigation;
- follow-up of patients in connection with the local network of professionals.

## *Level 2: the Memory Clinic or the Specialist (N,G,P)*

- confirmation of the diagnosis based on a specialized neuropsychological investigation and neuro-imaging ;
- therapeutic initiation.

# Local care system for AD

## *Services at home*

- Physical therapist, home-maker, home-cleaner, occupational therapist
- Specific team for AD including physical therapist, occupational therapist, nurse and psychologist who reorganize the home and teach how to behave
- Nurse care at home
- Day care structures with transportation from and to home
- Personalized financial help

## *More complex service*

- Specialized case manager (often a specialized nurse)
- Center for autonomy and integration of AD patients : single window approach

# Local institutions

## *Medicalized institution for elderly*

- Often with a coordinator who is a GP with a specialization in geriatry and/or in AD
- 1/3 paid by social security, 1/3 paid by the French national funding agency for the elderly and handicapped and 1/3 by the families

## *Hospital*

- *Cognitive and behavior units for agited patients or patients with behavior disorders*
- Long term care unit for AD patients in public hospitals

# Recommendations for a timely diagnosis for AD

*December 2000*

## *Level 1: the GP*

- identification and screening of patients with simple tools
- orientation to level 2 for a more complete investigation
- follow-up of patients in connection with the local network of professionals.

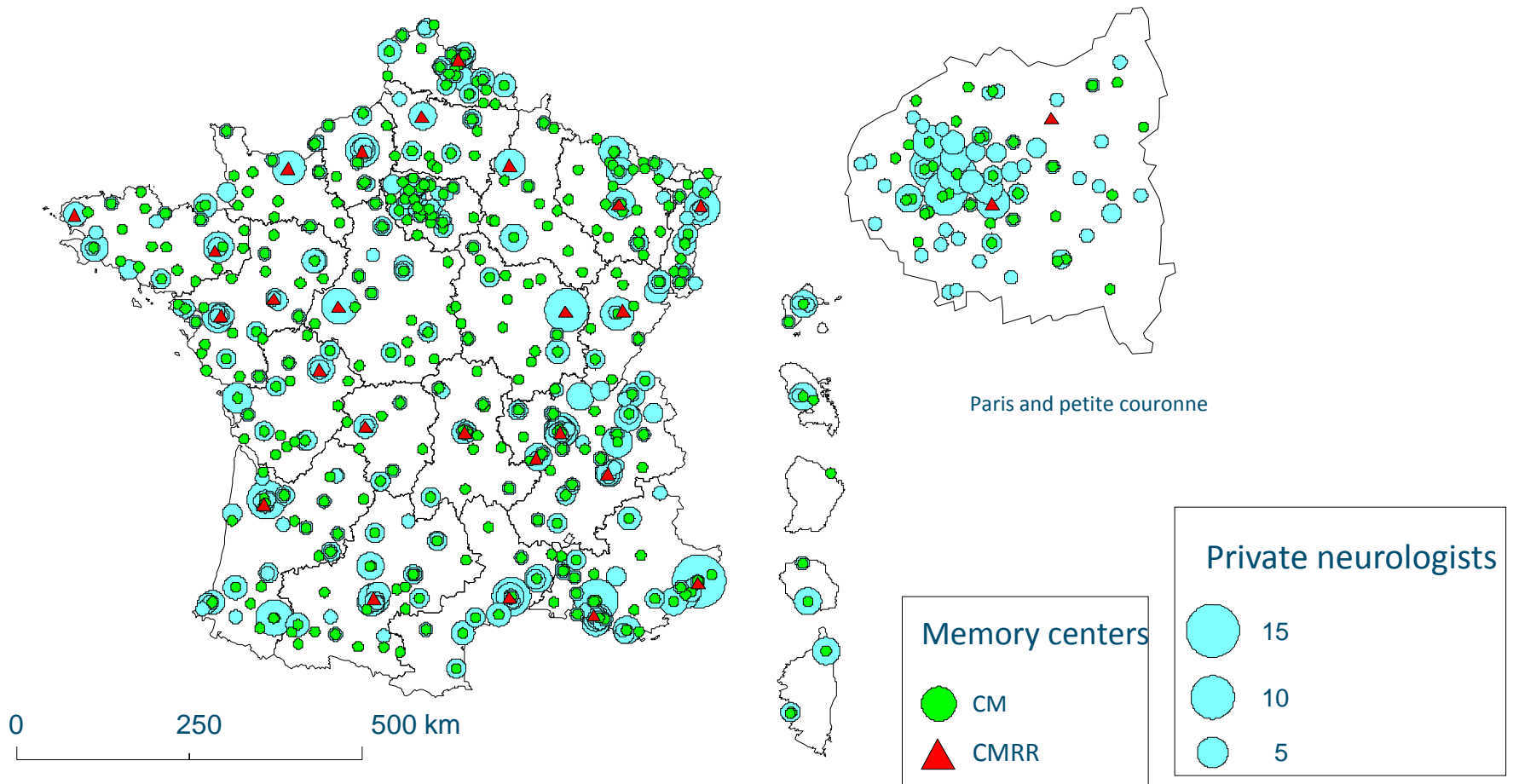
## *Level 2: the Memory Clinic or the Specialist (N,G,P)*

- confirmation of the diagnosis based on a specialized neuropsychological investigation and neuro-imaging
- therapeutic initiation

## *Level 3: Regional Expert Centre (platform of resources)*

- for complex diagnosis and Young-onset AD patients
- for clinical research
- for clinical trials mainly on disease modifier treatments

# The 3-level organization in France



Source : DHOS 2009 & CNAM 2009



CENTRE NATIONAL DE RÉFÉRENCE

MALADES ALZHEIMER

JEUNES



National reference centre  
for young Alzheimer's  
patients

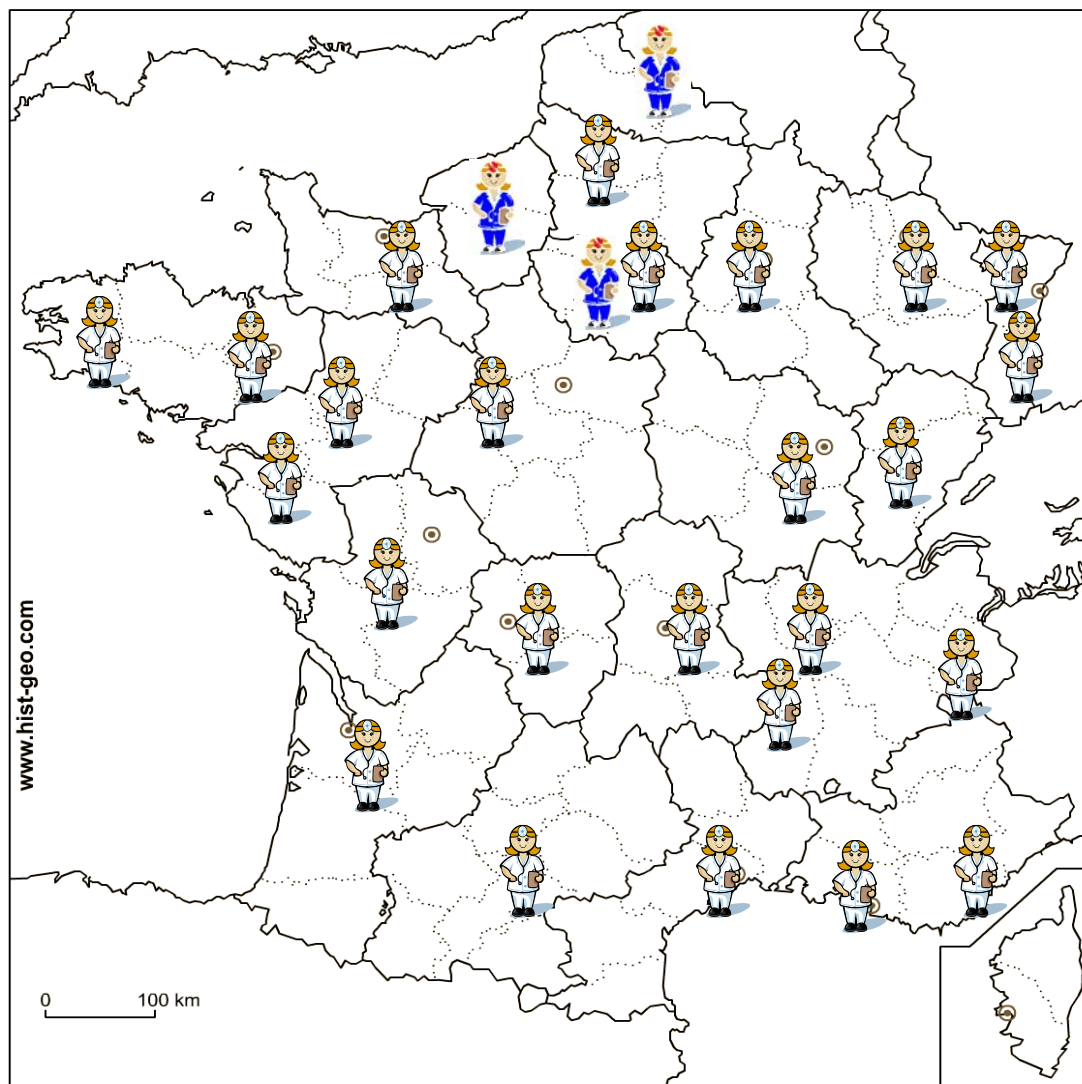


Local correspondants

In September 2012 :

-Nb of young patients followed by national  
center : 10 000

- Nb of patients in epidemiological cohort  
of young patients : 207





# The 3 level organization of care for AD in France

Allows a local care of the patients suffering from dementia

Allows the patients to stay at home as long as possible

Addresses the different stages of the disease

Allows a cost efficient treatment

**But**

The number of patients will increase in the coming years

GP needs to be better trained

The system needs to be adapted for other neurodegenerative disorders