

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS :

- Health and Organizational Innovation Congress (2017)
- Short-listed for *La France s'Engage* (2015)
- Winner of the *des Bonnes Nouvelles du Territoire* prize (2014)
- Fellow *Ashoka* (2013)
- *URML Innovation Award* (2008).

ALOÏS'S ACTIVITY REPORT:

- **8300 patients** diagnosed, treated and given continuing care
- **850 professionals involved**
- **55 training courses** for professionals and patients' relatives
- **Several scientific papers, surveys and research reports published**
- **Organizational innovations** (remote consultations, etc)
- Proven assessed, efficient and replicable **Business & Health model**

Pediatric neuro-developmental disorders : Early diagnosis for a better life !

The Aloïs Network is a recognized non-profit organization supported by both public and private sponsors. Since its foundation in 2004, it has been offering rapid outpatient diagnosis and care for people with cognitive disorders (ranging in age from children to the elderly), thanks to easy access to neuropsychology.

The Paediatrics Department at Aloïs specializes in the neuropsychological assessment of Attention Deficit Disorders, including Hyperactivity (ADHD) as well as learning disabilities: dyslexia, dyspraxia, dispelling, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, etc.

This is a major Public Health issue: an estimated 15% of children between the ages of 3 and 17 suffer from developmental delays.

THE CHILD'S BRAIN : PROTECTION IS ESSENTIAL DURING DEVELOPMENT

The brain of a child develops progressively^[1,2] (between birth and adulthood it grows four times bigger) **and follows a strict temporality:** since some skills can only be acquired at a determined time, they may be irremediably postponed or even lost if the child's development is arrested by undetected and untreated impairments^{3]}.

The brain of a child is also known for its very strong plasticity^[4]. The amount and quality of neuronal connections depend greatly upon the child's environment^[5]: **the more positive the stimuli the child receives, the more she will be able to build her "synaptic reserve," a kind of cognitive capital** ^[6] **or resource centre that she can tap into at any age** whenever she's faced with obstacles. This synaptic reserve also helps build resilience, strengthen empathetic movements, boost creativity, develop communication tools (language), and slow down the manifestation of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's^[7,8]. In contrast, neglected cognitive health has negative impacts on many areas: academic achievements, and psycho-affective, behavioural, social and family life. Also, in the long run, there can be the danger of social precariousness: affective and professional instability; risky, addictive and violent behaviour; criminality; depression etc ^[9-24].

This synaptic reserve depends on many factors but **childhood provides the best opportunity for this reserve to develop and grow** ^[25-26]. **Therefore it is of the utmost importance to detect and treat children's cognitive disorders, and to offer children cognitive stimulation at the earliest stage possible.**

Today's situation :

Currently, children's learning disabilities are seldom properly detected and addressed. Here are the main reasons:

- Parents, health professionals and teachers lack education/information
- Specialized consultation sessions are difficult to access because of the following:
 1. Waiting time: due to a bottleneck within the health system, it takes an average of two years to get an appointment.
 2. Outpatient cost: between 400€ and 1500€ out of pocket expense for a neuropsychological assessment with a private practitioner, not covered by the national medical plan.

This situation causes diagnostic inefficiencies, costly for both society and families, and also seriously delays and hinders children's chances for cognitive improvement.

Alois' response :

Alois is at the leading edge on such issues. Its innovative model (both organizational and philosophical) can respond to the growing demand by offering quick access (less than two months) to treatment programs, at a flexible fee (significantly less than the actual cost).

Today, the expertise of the Alois team is well-recognized. The quality of diagnoses, as well as recommendations to enter patient treatment programs, are guaranteed by the Alois network's dedication to constant improvement and to our policy of sharing best practices.



ALOIS VISION AND GOALS :

Alois has a global approach to the cycle of life, from childhood to old age. Its greatest strength is to consider problems before they tend to occur, through the following approaches:

- early cognitive disorders diagnosis, especially learning disabilities. A follow-up program that helps **the child overcome her disabilities through a series of steps, boost her self-esteem and development** (on an academic, family, psycho-social, and intellectual basis) **and provide her with better chances to prepare for adulthood;**
- cognitive stimulation for all, from early childhood on, to **increase every individual's synaptic reserve so that they can be armed against life's difficulties, including potential accidents or pathologies to come (primary prevention).**

These phenomena have long been overlooked because of the lack of detection and re-education tools. Today, research in neuroscience brings the hope that a new life is possible for children (and adults) with cognitive disorders. Such progress is all the more critical because the number of affected people has been steadily growing.

WHAT DOES ALOIS NEED TO FULFILL THEIR MISSION ?

Current Model:

- Alois' actual cost = 750€ / child
- Fee parents are charged for = 500€

Desirable Model:

To further lower the fees for low-income families, with a fair pricing system based on income.

Alois is asking for financial support in order to:

- **First, strengthen the existing model (close the 250€ gap for each child).**
- **Second, broaden access to treatment to all. No one should be denied access to the program due to finances. Alois is an innovative social model that requires global funding.**

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