

## **Rodney Elgie**

### ***President European Patients' Forum / President GAMIAN-Europe***

Rodney Elgie was a lawyer in private practice for over 20 years specialising in company and commercial law. After suffering from clinical depression in 1990, Mr. Elgie joined Depression Alliance and became its first Executive Director. Over a period of six years he was responsible for the charity becoming the leading patient organisation in the UK within the field of clinical depression with three offices in the UK, a paid staff of 18 with 180 volunteers, responding to some 90,000 requests annually for help, information and support, and the growth of the annual budget from around 30,000 Euros to over 1 million Euro.

In 1999, Mr. Elgie began working for GAMIAN-Europe, a pan-European federation of international advocacy groups whose main purpose is to raise awareness of all aspects of mental health. As the current President of GAMIAN-Europe, he is responsible for liaising with members of the European Parliament and the European Commission to raise the profile of mental health and the value of the patients' perspective. Mr. Elgie is also instrumental in the formulation of funding activities to further develop educational initiatives across Europe, particularly training packages for self-help and self-management projects for patient groups in Central and Eastern Europe, and the promotion of good mental health in the workplace.

Mr. Elgie serves on numerous committees and working groups related to health matters and is an expert panel member of several national and international organisations. He is President of The European Patients' Forum, Vice President of the European Men's Health Forum, a member of the Boards of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders, The European Brain Council, EPPOSI (European Platform for Patients' Organisations, Science and Industry), The Health Coalition Initiative, The GMC Patient Reference Group and Institut des Sciences de la Santé. He is a Fellow of the International Society of Affective Disorders and a member of the Faculty of The Lundbeck Institute. He is a member of the 45 person EU Health Policy Forum operated jointly by DG Enterprise and DG SANCO, a member of DG SANCO's Working Group looking at Mental Health Challenges in Europe, the EFPIA Think Tank and the patient representative on the High Level Group of the European Commission examining "Patient Mobility" in the EU. Mr. Elgie has written many articles on mental health and men's health from the patient's perspective, and has presented at numerous international meetings.

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