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ELAN CORP PLC  
Form 6-K  
May 17, 2004

FORM 6-K

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Report of Foreign Private Issuer  
Pursuant to Rule 13a-16 or 15d-16  
under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

For the month of May, 2004

Commission File Number 001-13896

Elan Corporation, plc

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(Translation of registrant's name into English)

Lincoln House, Lincoln Place, Dublin 2, Ireland

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(Address of principal executive offices)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant files or will file annual reports under cover of Form 20-F or Form 40-F:

Form 20-F

Form 40-F

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b) (1):

Yes

No

Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b) (1) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted solely to provide an attached annual report to security holders.

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is submitting the Form 6-K in paper as permitted by Regulation S-T Rule 101(b) (7):

Yes

No

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Note: Regulation S-T Rule 101(b) (7) only permits the submission in paper of a Form 6-K if submitted to furnish a report or other document that the registrant foreign private issuer must furnish and make public under the laws of the jurisdiction in which the registrant is incorporated, domiciled or legally

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organized (the registrant's "home country"), or under the rules of the home country exchange on which the registrant's securities are traded, as long as the report or other document is not a press release, is not required to be and has not been distributed to the registrant's security holders, and, if discussing a material event, has already been the subject of a Form 6-K submission or other Commission filing on EDGAR.

Indicate by check mark whether by furnishing the information contained in this Form, the registrant is also thereby furnishing the information to the Commission pursuant to Rule 12g3-2(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Yes / /

No /X/

If "Yes" is marked, indicate below the file number assigned to the registrant in connection with Rule 12g3-2(b):

### EXHIBIT LIST

Exhibit -----	Description -----
99.1	Press release dated May 17, 2004 titled: Elan to sponsor The 9th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease. Company to present new data from its Alzheimer's Immunotherapy Program and host symposium featuring leading Alzheimer's disease researchers. Leading researchers to share groundbreaking information and resources on the etiology, pathology, and treatment of Alzheimer's.

### SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

ELAN CORPORATION, plc

By: /s/ William F. Daniel

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William F. Daniel

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Company Secretary

Date: May 17, 2004