



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS IN BRAIN RESEARCH

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK EVENT
COMET MEETINGS - LOUISE • BRUSSELS

16 MARCH 2023. 10:00 - 17:00 CET
2ND FLOOR. ROOM 2.5



Background

Enhancing global collaboration in the domain of research and innovation is key for effectively addressing today's societal challenges and improving the health and well-being of citizens. This is particularly true for brain disorders, including both neurological and mental conditions, which are widespread and highly disabling diseases that are often difficult to treat. It is crucial to explore how global research collaboration can support brain research in a meaningful way, to the benefit of people living with brain conditions across the globe.

Understanding the brain is not just to tackle a “burden”. It is also to allow people to thrive; to live healthily, to power our economies and to build for future generations. Investing in the brain and brain research is critical.

The fostering of concrete global partnerships and alliances for brain research is urgently needed – sharing knowledge and learning from peers, working in collaboration rather than silos and strengthening alignment across diverse public and private entities to structure and track investments for the benefit of international research and the health of all populations. Brain health is global and should not be tackled solely at the regional level – but at a global level, particularly as our world grows increasingly borderless. Competition in this space would be futile.

This high-level, international event — organised by the European Brain Council in collaboration with the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) — will bring together key stakeholders to reflect on the global burden of brain disease, enhancing brain health and how to approach the challenges together through knowledge and data sharing, capacity building, funding and policy: key areas to forge a path towards stronger international alliances and a grander brain plan.

We invite you to join in the discussion, in person and online, tagging @EU_Brain and our speakers.

Thank you for joining us this Brain Awareness Week!

Brain Awareness Week (BAW), an initiative by the Dana Foundation, is the global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research. Every March, Brain Awareness Week unites the efforts of partner organizations world-wide in a celebration of the brain for people of all ages.



This event is moderated by Lisa Burke

Programme





A Networking Breakfast is offered as from 9:00 on the 1st Floor

Time	Topic	Speaker
10:00 - 10:05	Welcome Address	  Prof. Juan Lerma & Prof. Suzanne Dickson Vice President and President European Brain Council
Brain Health: the Burden of Brain Disorders and the way towards better brain health globally		
10:05 - 10:20	Keynote Address on Global Brain Health	 Dr Tarun Dua Head of Brain Health Unit Department of Mental Health and Substance Use World Health Organisation (WHO)
10:20 - 10:30	Discovery Research and Brain Health	 Prof. Irene Tracey President, Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) and Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford
10:30 - 11:30	Reflections from the Brain Community	 Dr Elena Becker-Barroso Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Neurology  Prof. Paul Boon President, European Academy of Neurology  Dr Orla Galvin Executive Director, European Federation of Neurological Associations  Prof. Philip Gorwood Past President, European Psychiatric Association  Péter Kéri President, GAMIAN-Europe

Time	Topic	Speaker
11:30 - 12:00	Coffee Break	
12:00 - 12:15	Keynote Presentation: New and Emerging Trends in Brain Disorders	 Prof. Theo Vos Professor of Health Metrics Sciences Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington
12:15 - 12:45	Mapping the Data: You Can't Address What You Can't Measure In Discussion with Prof. Theo Vos	 Prof. Theo Vos Professor of Health Metrics Sciences Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington  Dr Tarun Dua Head of Brain Health Unit Department of Mental Health and Substance Use World Health Organisation (WHO)  Lisa Toni Burke Moderator
12:45 - 14:00	Networking Lunch <i>Location: Rooftop, 8th floor</i>	

Capacity Building and Keys to Action at the Global Level

Time	Topic	Speaker
14:00 - 14:20	Brain capital: moving beyond the burden	 <p>Dr Harris Eyre, Brain Capital Alliance, OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Institute, The Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute</p>
14:20 - 15:20	Panel Discussion Key areas of action to strengthen brain research at the global level	 <p><i>Policy</i> – Dr. Andy Keller, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute</p>  <p><i>Capacity building</i> – Prof. Tracy Bale, President, International Brain Research Organization</p>  <p><i>Funding</i> – Dr Tomás Ryan, FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence</p>  <p><i>Data</i> – Dr Joachim Scholpp, Global Head Translational Medicine CNS & Emerging Areas, Boehringer Ingelheim</p>
15:20 - 16:00	Interventions from key opinion leaders: Regional viewpoints from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Australia	 <p>Prof. Mu-ming Poo, Founding Director, Institute of Neuroscience of the Chinese Academy of Sciences</p>  <p>Dr Mahmoud Bukar Maina, Independent Research Fellow, Serpell Sussex Neuroscience (UK), Team Leader, Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre, Yobe State University (Nigeria) and Outreach Coordinator, TRenD in Africa Outreach Programme</p>  <p>Dr George Barreto, Neuroscientist, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Limerick and IBRO Latin America Regional Committee (LARC) Committee Member</p>  <p>Prof. Michael Berk, Alfred Deakin Professor and Director of IMPACT Faculty of Health, School of Medicine, Deakin University, Australia</p>

Time	Topic	Speaker
16:00 - 16:20	Coffee Break	
16:20 - 16:50	A Shared European Brain Research Agenda: calling for a Brain Health EU Action Plan	 <p>Frédéric Destrebecq Executive Director European Brain Council</p>
	Canadian Brain Research Strategy	 <p>Dr Jennie Z. Young Executive Director Canadian Brain Research Strategy</p>
	A Global Partnerships plan	 <p>Paweł Świeboda CEO EBRAINS</p>
16:50 - 17:00	Concluding Remarks	 <p>Prof. Juan Lerma Vice-President European Brain Council</p>

Speaker Biographies



Lisa Burke
Moderator

Lisa Burke is an experienced broadcaster having spent the bulk of her career presenting live television with Sky News, plus BBC, Channel 4, Fox News, many other Sky channels, RTE (Ireland) and RTL (Luxembourg). Her reporting has covered national and international assignments, documentaries and radio.

In Luxembourg, Lisa created RTL Today which has now become the biggest English news platform in the country. Now, she hosts and produces a weekly radio show (also available with video) and podcast: 'The Lisa Burke Show'.

Lisa is in high demand as a host and moderator, covering TED talks, all Luxembourg Space Agency work, finance, health, entrepreneurship, tech, science, European Institution events and many more. She is a public speaking coach, and launched the first Presenting & Debating Society at the University of Luxembourg. Additionally, Lisa is a sought-after voice-over artist.

Whilst living in Abu Dhabi for two years, Lisa wrote for The National newspaper.

Other writing includes children's science books. Lisa has been a science consultant and author with Dorling Kindersley since 2005. She studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, gaining a double first. Her specialism was chemistry.

Lisa is on the Cambridge University Communications Working Group. She is also a board member for Angel Aid Cares, a Californian-based foundation raising aid for the care-givers of children with rare disease.

Lisa is a trained classical singer and pianist. She has two daughters.



@lisa_toni_burke



Juan Lerma
Vice-President, European Brain Council

Professor Juan Lerma is Vice President of the European Brain Council and a Professor at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). His research is related to the molecular basis of neuronal communication, specifically the mechanisms used by glutamate and its receptors in synaptic transmission and plasticity to orchestrate fundamental physiological activities and trigger brain diseases when they are deregulated. He has been Director of the Institute of Neurosciences CSIC-UMH; President of the Spanish Society of Neuroscience (SENC); President of the Pan-European Regional Committee of the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO) and Secretary General of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS). Currently, he is Editor-in-Chief of Neuroscience, Director of the Cajal International Neuroscience Centre (CINC-CSIC) and Councillor of the Society for Neuroscience (SfN).



@JuanLerma1
@EU_Brain



Tarun Dua
Unit Head, Brain Health Unit, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use, World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr Tarun Dua is the Unit Head of Brain Health Unit in the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use at World's Health Organization Headquarters. The aim of the unit is to promote optimal brain development, cognitive health and wellbeing for all, and prevention and management of neurological disorders across the life-course. The unit is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the intersectoral action plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders as well as the specific global action plan on public health response to dementia.



@WHO



Irene Tracey
President, Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)

Professor Irene Tracey is FENS President (2022-2024) and Vice Chancellor at the University of Oxford. She is a former Warden of Merton College, Oxford, as well as Professor of Anaesthetic Neuroscience and Head of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences. She did her undergraduate and graduate studies in Biochemistry at the University of Oxford, where she focused her research on the early use of magnetic resonance imaging methods to study disease mechanisms in humans. Subsequent to a postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard, she was a founding member of the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain and was its director from 2005 until 2015.

Alongside senior leadership roles within the University, Irene has served and continues to serve on many national and international committees, such as the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), British Neuroscience Association, the Lundbeck Brain Prize Committee and by appointment of the government, the UK Medical Research Council.

She is a passionate advocate for women in science and is involved in several mentorship schemes. Over the past 25 years, her multidisciplinary research team has contributed to a better understanding of pain perception, pain relief and nociceptive processing within the injured and non-injured human central nervous system using advanced neuroimaging techniques and novel paradigm designs. They have also been investigating the neural basis of altered states of consciousness induced by anaesthetic agents.



@FENSorg



Orla Galvin
Executive Director, European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)

Dr Orla Galvin came to patient advocacy with a PhD in Medicine and background in drug discovery and design in both academic and industry environments. Transitioning to advocacy work at the umbrella patient organisation Retina International, Orla led high impact, multi-stakeholder socio-economic studies, patient preference studies, and accessibility studies across the globe assessing both rare and common conditions. Orla is an internationally invited speaker to both research and clinical learned societies (for example EURORDIS, EU Retina, ERN-EYE), patient organisations, and industries on topics such as patient and public involvement in advocacy, research and policy; research in advocacy and policy/evidence-based advocacy; education in advocacy; generation of real-world data; patient reported outcomes; and health economics. She is currently Executive Director of the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA).



@EUneurology



Paul Boon
President, European Academy of Neurology (EAN)

Professor Paul Boon is senior full professor of neurology and Director of Neuroscience at Ghent University, Belgium. He is also chair of the Department of Neurology and Chair of the Division of Head, Movement and Senses, as well as professor of Neuromodulation, at Eindhoven University of Technology. As a board member and former chair of the EAN Programme Committee, he has actively contributed to the annual EAN congresses. He has also previously served as co-chair of the EAN Scientific Panel on Epilepsy, member of the European Journal of Neurology Editorial Board, and as a member of the EAN Scientific Committee. He is a Fellow of the European Academy of Neurology (FEAN). Prof. Boon's main neurological interests are clinical epilepsy, neurological sleep disorders, quantitative EEG and MEG analysis, neuromodulation and functional neuroimaging. He founded the 4Brain Laboratory for Clinical and Experimental Neurophysiology, Neurobiology and Neuropsychology at Ghent University.



@EANeurology



Elena Becker-Barroso
Editor-in-Chief, European Brain Council

Dr Elena Becker-Barroso is the Editor-in-Chief of The Lancet Neurology since July 2012. She graduated with a BSc in Life Sciences and, in 1997, received a doctorate cum laude in Molecular Biology from the Universidad de Salamanca (Salamanca, Spain). Elena completed her postdoctoral training at the Skirball Institute for Biomolecular Medicine (New York University, New York, USA), from 1998 to 2001.

Elena moved from New York City to London on March 2002, after her post-doctoral training in the USA. For 3 years, she worked as a research fellow for the Medical Research Council (MRC), at the MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Neurobiology at King's College London. In 2005, she completed a Diploma on Science Communication at Birkbeck University of London and decided to pursue an editorial career. She then joined The Lancet Neurology as a Senior Editor. She became the Deputy Editor of the journal in 2008 and, in 2012, was promoted to Editor-in-Chief.

The Lancet Neurology is now firmly established as the leading academic publication in clinical neurology and a major forum for the brain health community worldwide.



@beckerbarroso



Péter Kéri
President, GAMIAN-Europe

Péter Kéri was born in Budapest and graduated as a teacher in 1992. He received his second degree in Public Relations in 2007. He taught briefly in primary and secondary schools and then obtained a certificate in advanced travel management. For ten years he designed special incentive group travel for multinational companies in Hungary. He has travelled to many countries around the world and his work has opened him up to different cultural environments. During this period, his outspoken blog was a popular read not only in his cultural circles but also across the country. For several years, Peter he has worked at the Hungarian organisation Awakenings Foundation, where he is responsible for the foundation's innovations and projects. Alongside his self-help groups, he has helped with his own innovations to ensure that people with chronic mental illness in different care systems can access help daily, like other chronic patients. "My experience of mental illness at the age of 43 and the journey out of it has helped others learn how to get through some of life's most difficult situations." He has co-authored numerous studies and research and has received the Anti-stigma Award in Hungary. Peter has been working with GAMIAN-Europe for more than 5 years, determined to bring the knowledge and to make the best models of care, research and self-help available to all.



@KeriPeter71
@GAMIAN_Europe



Philip Gorwood
Past President, European Psychiatric Association (EPA)

Professor Philip Gorwood is a psychiatrist specialised in addictive and eating disorders. He is leading a 60-bed department at Sainte-Anne hospital in Paris (GHU Paris Psychiatrie et Neurosciences), teaching at Université Paris Cité, and head of a research team devoted to behavioural genetics at the IPNP (Institute of Psychiatry and Neurosciences, INSERM U1266). Prof. Gorwood has published over 300 scientific articles (h-index=50) and has been quoted as the presently "most frequently quoted French psychiatrist" (Ioannidis et al., 2019). He has served on 16 editorial boards for journals in psychiatry, neuroscience, and genetics, and was editor-in-chief of the journal European Psychiatry (IF=5.3), from 2005 to 2017. He is past president (2020-2022) of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA) and a current Board Member of the European Brain Foundation.



@philipCMME
@Euro_Psychiatry



Theo Vos

Professor of Health Metrics Sciences, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington

Professor Theo Vos, MD, MSc, PhD is a Professor of Health Metrics Sciences at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington. He is a key member of the research team for the landmark Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study, which is coordinated by IHME. In this role, he is working to improve the GBD methods, update sources of data, and develop partnerships with countries and disease experts to produce GBD estimates that are most relevant to policy decision-making. Dr. Vos received his PhD in Epidemiology and Health Economics from Erasmus University and his medical degree from State University Groningen, both in the Netherlands. He also studied at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, where he obtained an MSc in Public Health in Developing Countries. IHME was established at the University of Washington in 2007. Its mission is to deliver to the world timely, relevant, and scientifically valid evidence to improve health policy and practice.



@IHME_UW



Harris A. Eyre

Brain Capital Alliance, OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Institute, The Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Dr Harris A. Eyre MD PhD is lead of the Brain Capital Alliance, a public-private-people partnership to optimize the brain, brain health and brain skills in the modern economy. He is also co-lead of the OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative, senior fellow with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Initiative and fellow with The Baker Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. In his career, he has operated as a physician, scientist, entrepreneur, executive services provider, author, new economic and finance thinker, and neuroscience diplomat. He has published 140+ papers with 1000s of coauthors. Dr Eyre was recently awarded a United States of America EB1A Green Card, an honor typically reserved for Nobel and Pulitzer Prize winners. He holds adjunct and advisor positions with universities, non-profits and companies across the world.



@HarrisAEyre
@AllianceBrain



Anna Jansen

Head of the Advocacy and Collaboration Committee, European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS)

Professor Anna Jansen heads the Advocacy and Collaboration Committee of the European Paediatric Neurology Society. As a neurologist and paediatric neurologist by training, she is involved in the diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the nervous system from birth to adulthood. She provides guidance and counselling to individuals and families affected by brain disorders. Her clinical work is complemented by teaching in paediatric neurology and preventive medicine. She is involved in translational research on the genetics of brain development and in multi-stakeholder participatory research that focuses on empowering families living with rare brain disorders.



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Andy Keller

President, Chief Executive Officer and Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute

Dr Andy Keller, PhD, is President, Chief Executive Officer, and Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, a Texas-based nonprofit that provides nonpartisan policy and program research, development, and advice to local, state, and national leaders towards a single goal: improving mental health care delivery in Texas and across the country. Andy is a licensed psychologist with more than 20 years of experience in behavioral health policy, financing, and best practices. His work has centered on helping state and local health systems implement evidence-based and innovative care, as well as helping local and state governments develop the regulatory and financial frameworks to support them. Prior to moving full time into policy work, Andy was a managing partner for 15 years at a national behavioral health management consulting firm where he focused on health financing and system improvement. Before that, he worked in Colorado with a leading Medicaid HMO and the local community mental health system, where he directed and led a range of community-based and care management programs.



@AndyKellerPhD
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Tracy L. Bale

President, International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)

Professor Tracy L. Bale is the Anschutz Foundation Endowed Chair in Women's Integrated Mental and Physical Health Research at the Ludeman Center and Professor and Director for InterGenerational Stress and Health and the Director for Sex Differences Research in the Department of Psychiatry in the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of Washington in the Department of Pharmacology, and her postdoctoral work at the Salk Institute with Dr. Wylie Vale. Dr. Bale was Professor of Neuroscience at the University of Pennsylvania for 15 years prior to her move to the University of Maryland, Baltimore, where she was recruited to develop the Center for Epigenetics Research in Child Health and Brain Development in 2017. Her research focuses on understanding the role of stress dysregulation in neurodevelopmental and neuropsychiatric diseases, and the sex differences that underlie disease vulnerability in humans using the mouse as a preclinical model. She is interested in stress and adversity across the lifespan, including examining the effects at the germ cell level and the mechanisms involved in altering brain development. Dr. Bale's lab examines these mechanisms, attempting to translate research findings to humans to identify those processes and biomarkers important for promoting disease risk and resilience, especially in vulnerable populations. In her Directorship roles, Dr. Bale works to engage in the community, developing collaborations and partnerships with local organizations, health officials, social workers, and policy makers. In a translational approach, Dr. Bale brings neuroscience research and outcomes into the community. Partnering with local government, schools and staff, families, and community leaders, Dr. Bale's approach provides a lens through which policy, education and community can be viewed, focusing on the lasting and significant effects across generations of trauma, discrimination, and violence. She serves on many internal and external advisory committees, panels, and boards including the NIMH Board of Scientific Counselors, and has been the recipient of numerous awards for her research, including the Richard E. Weitzman Memorial award from the Endocrine Society, the Medtronic Award from the Society for Women's Health Research, and the Daniel H. Efron award from the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. She is the President of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and was awarded Top 100 Women in Maryland 2020.



@TheBaleLab
@IBROorg



Joachim Scholpp

Global Head Translational Medicine CNS & Emerging Areas, Boehringer Ingelheim

Dr Joachim Scholpp is Global Head Translational Medicine CNS & Emerging Areas at Boehringer Ingelheim. In this role Joachim leads translational strategies for BI's neuroscience and psychiatry portfolio and is responsible for the implementation of innovative concepts and development strategies for new treatment modalities and new indications. He and his team are aiming to advance research projects efficiently to an early clinical value inflection and decision point. Before joining BI Joachim held a number of global leadership positions in all phases of translational and clinical development at several pharma companies. Joachim is a physician, board certified in Clinical Pharmacology, Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care, is a Diplomat of the European Society of Anaesthesiology, and an authorized physician for speciality training in Clinical Pharmacology.



@Boehringer



Tomás Ryan
Past-Chair, FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence

Dr Tomás Ryan is Associate Professor of Neuroscience in the School of Biochemistry and Immunology at Trinity College Dublin. He is also a Past-Chair of the FENS-Kavli Network of Excellence (FKNE). Tomás leads a research group at the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, focussed on the question of how information is stored in a usable format in the brain, with a focus on memory engrams and their relationship to instinct. His team's research has been supported by the European Research Council, the Irish Research Council, Science Foundation Ireland, the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, the Jacobs Foundation, and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. Tomás originally graduated with a BA in Genetics from Trinity College Dublin (2005) and a PhD in Molecular Biology from the University of Cambridge (2010).



@TJRyan_77
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Michael Berk
Alfred Deakin Professor and Director of IMPACT Faculty of Health, School of Medicine, Deakin University, Australia

Professor Michael Berk is currently a NHMRC Senior Principal research Fellow and is Alfred Deakin Chair of Psychiatry at Deakin University and Barwon Health, where he heads the Institute for Innovation in Mental and Physical Health and Clinical Translation (IMPACT). He also is an Honorary Professorial Research fellow in the Department of Psychiatry, the Florey Institute for Neuroscience and Mental Health and Orygen Youth Health at Melbourne University, as well as in the School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University. He was awarded the Brain & Behaviour (NARSAD) Colvin Award for Mood Disorders in 2015, the Victoria Prize for life sciences in 2019, the International Society for Bipolar Disorders Bob Post award for mentorship in 2020 and the RANZCP Senior Research Award in 2021. He is past president of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders and current vice president of the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry. He has published over 1300 papers and is listed by Thompson Reuters ISI as highly cited (2015-2021). He has been awarded over \$144M in grant funding. His major interests are in the discovery and implementation of novel therapies, and risk factors and prevention of psychiatric disorders.



@IMPACTDeakin



Mahmoud Bukar Maina
Independent Research Fellow, Serpell Sussex Neuroscience (UK), Team Leader, Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre, Yobe State University (Nigeria) and Outreach Coordinator, TRenD in Africa Outreach Programme

Dr Mahmoud Bukar Maina is an Independent Research Fellow Research Fellow at Sussex Neuroscience (UK) and visiting scientist at Yobe State University (Nigeria). He obtained a BSc in Human Anatomy from the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria and a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Sussex, UK. His research majorly focuses on understanding the basic mechanism of disease in Alzheimer's disease, with a special focus on the role of Tau, amyloid beta and APOE. Concurrently, his work partly focuses on generating human-induced pluripotent stem cell-derived brain models from indigenous African populations to understand Dementia mechanisms.

Dr Maina is also passionate about open science and inspiring/training the next generation of African scientists. He recently established the Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre in Nigeria (BioRTC – www.BioRTC.com) to facilitate neuroscience research in Africa. In addition, he is the Outreach Coordinator for TRenD in Africa, the founder of Science Communication Hub Nigeria and the African Science Literacy Network to increase access to science role models and public understanding of science in Africa. His work and science engagement activities have been supported by the Wellcome Trust, Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Alzheimer's Research UK and the University of Sussex. He has received many awards, including the Royal Society of Biology Science Communication Award in 2017, the young African of the year nomination for the Future Awards Africa, the New England Biolabs Passion for Science Humanitarian Duty Award in 2019 and the 2022 ALBA-FKNE Diversity Prize for promotion of basic neuroscience in Africa. In 2020, he was endorsed by the Royal Society as a Global Talent.



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@TRenDinAfrica



Mu-Ming Poo

Founding Director, Institute of Neuroscience of the Chinese Academy of Sciences

Professor Mu-ming Poo is the Scientific Director of Institute of Neuroscience, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Director of CAS Center for Excellence in Brain Science and Intelligence Technology, Director of Shanghai Center for Brain Science and Brain-Inspired Technology, and Paul Licht Distinguished Professor in Biology Emeritus at University of California, Berkeley. He studied physics at Tsinghua University in Taiwan and received PhD in biophysics from Johns Hopkins University in 1974. During 1976-2012, He had served on the faculty of UC Irvine, Yale, Columbia, and UCSD, and UC Berkeley. He was the chair of Department of Biological Sciences and Biotechnology of Tsinghua University (1984-1986) and the founding director of Institute of Neuroscience, CAS (1999-2019). He is a member of Chinese Academy of Science, Academia Sinica, and Hong Kong Academy of Science, and an international member of US National Academy of Science. He also received Docteur Honoris Causa from Ecole Normale Supérieure (Paris), Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Claude Bernard University (Lyon), and was awarded Ameritec Prize, International Science & Technology Cooperation Award of P. R. China, Qiushi Distinguished Scientist Award, and Gruber Neuroscience Prize. Poo's research interest in the past include neuronal polarization, axon guidance, synaptic plasticity and neural circuit functions. His recent interest is focused on the use non-human primates as animal models to study higher cognitive functions and human brain disorders. He currently serves on many editorial boards including Neuron and Progress in Neurobiology, and is the Executive Editor-in-Chief of National Science Review. He is one of the main organizers of the China Brain Project ("Brain Science and Brain-Inspired Technology") and International Mesoscopic Brain Connectome Project.



George Barreto

Neuroscientist, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Limerick and IBRO Latin America Regional Committee (LARC) Committee Member

Dr George Barreto earned his PhD in Neuroscience (2009) from the Universidad Complutense Madrid (Spain) studying the effects of neurosteroids on reactive glia with traumatic brain injury. His Post-doctoral training in Neuroscience at Stanford University School of Medicine (2009-2011) focused on addressing the role of astrocytes activation following stroke and enhance astrocytic functions targeting neuronal protection. Nowadays Dr George Barreto is a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor) in Cell Biology/Immunology in the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Limerick (UL, Ireland) and a member of the Health Research Institute from the same University. He is also the ERASMUS contact point within the Dept and member of the EDF Steering Committee and Events and Media subgroup, the Chair of Action Plan subgroup in the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Forum Committee, and the Athena Swan Steering Committee at UL. Dr Barreto is also a member of the IBRO Latin America Regional Committee (LARC) and served as President of the Colombian Neuroscience Society (COLNE) in 2014-2018. He has served in numerous grants panels and editorial boards and is nowadays the Section Editor in Neuroendocrinology for Pharmacological Research.

His main research interests are to better understand how natural and synthetic androgens and estrogens affect brain functions, particularly on how these hormones control the mitochondrial functions in the healthy and diseased brain during lifespan in a sex-dependent manner (UN SDGs 3 and 5).



@gesbarreto
@FalanIbroLarc



Frédéric Destrebecq

Executive Director, European Brain Council

Frédéric Destrebecq is the Executive Director of the European Brain Council since October 2014. In this capacity, he is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership while managing the day to day operations of EBC and its ongoing relationships with its member associations and other stakeholders, as well as representing the organisation in various European and national forums.

Fred holds a Master Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the Université Catholique de Louvain (Belgium). He also studied at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Paris) and University of Wales College (Cardiff), in the framework of the former EU Socrates exchange programme. Prior to EBC, Fred served the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS) as Chief Executive Officer, and previously as Director for European Affairs.

Fred is also Executive Director of the recently launched European Brain Foundation.



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@EBRA_EU



Jennie Z. Young
Executive Director, Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS)

Dr Jennie Z. Young, PhD is the Executive Director of the Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS). Dr. Young holds a PhD in Neuroscience from the University of Alberta, Canada. She then spent 14 years at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and served as scientific chief-of-staff to Nobel Laureate Susumu Tonegawa and to Picower Institute Director Li-Huei Tsai. Her work has spanned the fields of learning and memory and Alzheimer's disease and has led to publications in leading peer-reviewed journals, including Nature, Science, Cell, Nature Neuroscience, Nature Biomedical Engineering, and Neuron. Dr. Young joined CBRS in March, 2021. As Executive Director, she leads a pan-Canadian effort to develop a national research strategy for brain and mental health. The mission of CBRS unites a broad, diverse coalition of government, academic, private, non-profit, research funding, patient, and Indigenous stakeholders. Together, they envision a future where Canada pioneers a powerful paradigm shift towards collaborative, transdisciplinary, and open brain research worldwide.



@cbrs_scrc



Paweł Świeboda
CEO, EBRAINS

Paweł Świeboda is CEO of EBRAINS AISBL. In this capacity, he manages one of the largest research programmes in the area of brain science in the world. He oversees the building of the state-of-the-art Research Infrastructure for the study of the brain - EBRAINS. He is also Director General of the Human Brain Project, the EU flagship scientific programme. He is a contributor to the OECD Neuroscience-Inspired Policy Initiative. In his earlier role, he was Deputy Head and Head of Research of the European Political Strategy Centre at the European Commission. He had served on the European Commission's Sounding Board on the EU's Science, Research and Innovation Performance and the Global Agenda Council on Europe of the World Economic Forum. He has been an advisor to European and global companies and policy organisations.



@pswieboda
@EBRAINS_eu

About the Organisers



European Brain Council (EBC)

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a network of key players in the “Brain Area”, with a membership encompassing scientific societies, patient organisations, professional societies and industry partners.

A non-profit organisation based in Brussels, its main mission is to promote brain research with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the estimated 179 million Europeans living with brain conditions, mental and neurological alike.

With the aim to speak with one voice, EBC stands as the platform to foster cooperation between its member organisations and other stakeholders, consistently promoting dialogue between scientists, industry and society. As showcased by its growing portfolio of projects, research and policy papers, as well as events, EBC emphasizes the importance of continued interaction with the European Institutions to build strong European health policies, raising awareness and encouraging education on the brain and the repercussions of neurological and mental health conditions on society as a whole.



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Event Partners



Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS)

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies is the voice of European neuroscience, representing 44 neuroscience societies across 33 European countries and more than 22,000 neuroscientists. Its activities span five broad areas: scientific meetings, higher education and training, the European Journal of Neuroscience, outreach and advocacy and membership.

FENS promotes neuroscience research to policy-makers, funding bodies and the general public, both regionally and internationally. FENS promotes excellence in neuroscience research and facilitates exchanges and networking between neuroscientists within the European Research Area and beyond.



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International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)

The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) is the global association of neuroscience societies established in 1961 that aims to promote and support neuroscience around the world through training, education, research, outreach and engagement activities, and the publication of two journals, Neuroscience and IBRO Neuroscience Reports.

More than 90 international, regional and national scientific members constitute IBRO's Governing Council which, together with the IBRO Executive Committee and five Regional Committees, address the needs and advance the work of individual scientists and research communities everywhere. In addition, IBRO has partnerships with like-minded scientific organizations to identify priorities and help bridge gaps in knowledge, investment and resources in the field of brain research.



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