



BRAIN HEALTH & RESEARCH DAY @ UNGA78

SCIENCE SUMMIT AT THE 78TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
18 SEPTEMBER 2023
NEW YORK, USA



Brain
Capital
Alliance

RICE UNIVERSITY'S
BAKER
INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY

Introduction



As part of the [European Brain Council](#) (EBC)'s **Global Partnerships in Brain Research** activities, EBC, in collaboration with the Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Brain Capital Alliance, will organise an event at the [Science Summit at the 78th United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA78\)](#), this coming September 2023.

In line with the Science Summit's core focus of examining policy, regulatory and financial environments needed to implement and sustain the science mechanisms required to support global scientific collaborations, the Brain Research Day will highlight the existing partnerships, roadmaps and potentials of extended global collaboration specifically in the brain area, in the case of neuroscience but also in addressing brain disorders, neurological and mental alike.

Across the globe, society is facing brain challenges like never before—improving the health and well-being of citizens has become the top priority for many governments and brain health should not be left behind. Brain disorders, neurological and mental alike, are pervasive and pernicious diseases that are often difficult to treat. Enhancing global brain research collaboration can spur innovation and quicken effective outcomes to the benefit of people living with brain conditions everywhere.

Over the last few years, EBC has served as a convener for experts in the brain community to share best practices, exchange ongoing work and align priorities to forge a joint path forward to understand and address the brain rather than in silos across continents. Two main discussions took place over the last year, first at the [SSUNGA77 in New York](#) in September 2022 followed by a [full-day event in Brussels on the occasion of Brain Awareness Week](#), where it was determined that coming together and addressing global partnerships in a united, concrete manner was an ideal and vital next step to tackle the global burden of brain disorders together.

In order to move past discussion and work towards explicit and tangible next steps in solidifying global efforts in brain research, EBC proposes a full day event in order to cover a number of important areas for action, with as many relevant actors involved, to build towards a **Call to Action and Policy Recommendations on Global Partnership in Brain Research** to guide national, regional and global policymakers towards better addressing brain health in the future, particularly as they prepare for the post-Sustainable Development Goals era (during the Summit of the Future 2024 and the High Level Conference on the UN NCD Strategy 2025).



The Science Summit is an annual event convened by ISC Intelligence in Science, which works with partner organisations to create an enabling environment for science collaboration, bringing stakeholders together to ensure and strengthen science to contribute to global challenges. The role and contribution of science to attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be the central theme of the 2023 Summit, with the objective to develop and launch science collaborations to demonstrate global science mechanisms and activities to support the attainment of the UN SDGs, Agenda 2030 and Local2030. The meeting will also prepare input for the United Nations Summit of the Future, which will take place during UNGA79 beginning on 12 September 2024.

Draft Programme

9:00-10:00 The Need for Action: The Global Burden of Brain Disorders

- Welcome and Introduction
 - Prof. Claudio Bassetti, *Vice President, European Brain Council; Professor, Chair of Neurology and Dean of the Medical Faculty, University Hospital Bern, Switzerland*
 - Representative from Baker Institute for Public Policy
- Presentation of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031
 - Dévora Kestel, *Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use, World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland*
- The Global Burden of Brain Disorders
 - Dr. Christopher J.L. Murray, *Director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation; Professor and Chair of Health Metrics Sciences at the University of Washington, United States* **TBC**
- The Brain Health Collaborative
 - Simona Skerjanec, *Senior Vice President and Global Neuroscience Head, Roche*
- Discussion

10:00-11:00 Community Perspectives and Addressing the Challenges Together

Short interventions and panel discussion with community leaders in neuroscience, neurology and mental health, examining how different countries and regions have mobilised thus far in addressing the burden and what areas for collaboration exist in order to tackle brain health collaboratively at a global scale.

- 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*
- Prof. Paul Boon, *President, European Academy of Neurology*
- Representative from the World Psychiatric Association **TBC**
- Representative from a patient organisation **TBC**

11:00-11:30 Break

11:30-12:30 Policy Panel on Funding and Capacity Building

- Dr. Walter Koroshetz, *Director, NIH-National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, USA*
- Irene Norstedt, *Director of the People Directorate in the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation at the European Commission*
- Dr. Caroline Montojo, *President, Dana Foundation*
- Delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology
- Delegates from B(R)IC
- Delegates from LMICs

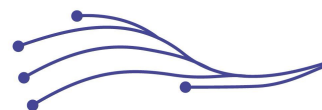
12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:00-14:30 The importance of basic brain research for understanding and treating brain disorders

- Simons Foundation representative
- FENS representative
- IBRO representative

14:30-15:15 Building an innovation ecosystem for brain diseases

- Novartis representative
- Amylyx representative
- Rare Disease International representative



Draft Programme

15:15-16:00 Break

16:00-16:45 Prospective Approaches in Policy Making

- Mental Wealth: Shaping Economic and Social Environments to Foster Brain
 - Prof. Jo-An Occhipinti, *Head, Systems Modelling, Simulation & Data Science | Youth Mental Health and Technology, Co-Director, Mental Wealth Initiative, Brain and Mind Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health | Translational Research Collective, The University of Sydney, Australia*
- Brain Deals: Decisive Push to Meet SDGs by 2030
 - Dr. Harris Eyre, *Brain Capital Alliance, OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Institute, The Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute*
- Andy Keller, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
- Intervention from UN representative

16:45-17:00 Wrap-Up and Next Steps Towards Key Milestones

- Summit of the Future 2024
- High Level Conference on the UN NCD Strategy 2025
- Call to Action and Policy Recommendations on Global Partnership in Brain Research

• 17:00-18:30 Reception

List of Partners/Participants*

80-120 senior representatives expected, including from the following:

- Institute of Health Metrics Evaluation at the University of Washington
- Brain Health Collaborative
- Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
- World Health Organisation (WHO)
- Dana Foundation
- Federation of European Neuroscience Societies
- International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)
- Society of Neuroscientists of Africa
- Permanent Missions to the UN and other Member States representatives
- Micheal J. Fox Foundation
- Cohen Veterans Bioscience/Brain Health Nexus
- Relevant Directorates within the European Commission
- Relevant institutes within the National Institute of Health (NIH)
- ISC Intelligence for Science
- European Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Neurology
- Society for Neuroscience
- Simons Foundation
- EFNA & other patient organisations
- Wellcome Trust

This event is organised in collaboration with the Baker Institute, Brain Capital Alliance and with support from EBC's Industry Partners including Roche, Novartis and Boehringer Ingelheim.

**Based on participation at previous events, discussed interest, expertise in the field, etc.*

Organisers

The **European Brain Council (EBC)** is a non-profit organisation based in Brussels encompassing scientific societies, patient organisations, professional societies and industry partners. Its main mission is to promote brain health and research with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the estimated 179 million Europeans living with brain conditions.

Aiming 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 the network of key players in the "Brain Area" in Europe, EBC uniquely configured to be the go-to organisation to strengthen ties within the broader community at the European and global levels.

EBC Full Members:



EUROPEAN
PAEDIATRIC
NEUROLOGY
SOCIETY

FENS

Federation of
European
Neuroscience
Societies



INTERNATIONAL BRAIN
IBRO
RESEARCH ORGANIZATION

Other Members/Partners include: [Industry](#) | [Associate](#) | [Observer National Brain Councils](#)

Previous Events

Digital Science Summit at the 75th United Nations General Assembly - September 2020

EBC held two virtual sessions focused on "*The Potentials of Increased Collaboration in Science: examples from the brain community*" and "*Do the SDGs address the global burden of disease? A focus on regional health and research policies*" - [read event report](#).

Science Summit at the 77th United Nations General Assembly - September 2022

In partnership with Cohen Veterans Bioscience, Novartis, the Brain Capital Alliance, the OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative, EBC convened a UNGA77 side event on *Global Partnerships in Brain Research* in New York - [read event report](#).

Brain Awareness Week event on Global Partnerships in Brain Research - March 2023

Picking up on the discussions started in New York in 2022, EBC, in partnership with Roche, Boehringer Ingelheim, FENS and IBRO held its annual Brain Awareness Week event on the same subject. The day brought together key stakeholders representing Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia and Australia, 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 research alliances and, perhaps, a grander, global approach to brain health and research. [Read event report](#) | [Watch Event Video](#)

