



**United  
Nations**

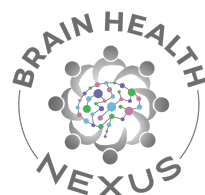
## **BRAIN HEALTH & RESEARCH DAY @ UNGA78**

**SCIENCE SUMMIT AT THE 78TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
18 SEPTEMBER 2023 - HARVARD CLUB OF NEW YORK CITY  
35 W 44TH ST. 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, the Brain Capital Alliance, and the Brain Health Nexus 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.

# Programme

All speakers listed below are confirmed. Please find all speaker biographies at the back end of this booklet.

## 8:00-9:00 Registration and Light Breakfast

## 9:00-9:20 Welcome and Introduction by the Organisers

- **Prof. Claudio Bassetti**, Vice President, European Brain Council; Professor, Chair of Neurology and Dean of the Medical Faculty, University Hospital Bern, Switzerland
- **Dr. Rola El-Serag**, L.E. and Virginia Simmons Senior Fellow in Health Policy and Director of the Center for Health & Biosciences, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy
- **Dr. Ramamoorthy Ramesh**, Executive Vice President for Research, Rice University, United States - *Video Message*

## 9:20-9:45 The Need for Action: The Global Burden of Brain Disorders

Brain disorders are a significant driver of illness, spending, and death globally. The associated burden is expected to grow in the years to come, creating new challenges for health systems, employers, patients, and families. The time for action is now - but how? Better evidence drives policy action and having the latest, striking data at hand can help spur political action towards improving health outcomes for populations around the world. Experts present ongoing action at the global level and address the increasing burden of brain disorders.

- Presentation of the Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031
  - **Dévara Kestel**, Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use, World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland
- The Global Burden of Brain Disorders
  - **Dr. Gregory Roth**, Director, Program in Cardiovascular Health Metrics Associate Professor of Medicine Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, United States
- The Brain Health Collaborative
  - **Simona Skerjanec**, Senior Vice President and Global Neuroscience Head, Roche

## 9:45-10:30 Community Perspectives and Addressing the Challenges...Together?

The 'brain community' is made up of a number of key players in the fields of neuroscience, neurology, psychiatry - researchers, clinicians, patients - and their associated experts in this panel will examine how different countries and regions have mobilised thus far in addressing the presented burden and what areas for collaboration exist in order to tackle brain health collaboratively at a global scale.

Chaired by **Frédéric Destrebecq**, Executive Director, European Brain Council

- **Dr. Mahmoud Bukar Maina**, Independent Research Fellow, Sussex Neuroscience (UK); Team Leader, Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre, Yobe State University (Nigeria); Outreach Coordinator, TReND in Africa Outreach Programme
- **Prof. Paul Boon**, President, European Academy of Neurology
- **Prof. Kevin Rostasy**, President, European Paediatric Neurology Society
- **Prof. Yifeng Xu**, Director, WHO/Shanghai Collaborating Center for Research and Training on Mental Health; Honorary Dean, Institute of Psychology and Behavioral Science, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Dean, Institute of Mental Health, Fudan University
- **Julie Lefelar**, Executive Director & Co-Founder, The MOG Project; Ambassador to the OneNeurology Partnership
- **Dr. Mitchell Elkind**, Chief Clinical Science Officer, American Heart Association-American Stroke Association

## 10:30-11:00 Discussion with the Audience

## 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break





# Programme

## 11:30-12:10 A Policy Response: How Are Countries Doing in the Quest for Global Brain Health?

*Country- and regional-level representatives respond to how they are tackling the challenges at home - investing in brain research, tackling the societal burden of brain conditions and exploring ways in which collaboration can help boost efforts of achieving better brain health for all. Furthermore, to compliment the discussion, we touch on the importance of capacity building specifically for brain research in order to consider the ethical and societal implications and to integrate community perspectives and values into all stages of the research process.*

Chaired by **Dr. Caroline Montojo**, President, Dana Foundation

- **Dr. Walter Koroshetz**, Director, NIH-National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, USA
- **Dr. Facundo Manes**, Founder, INECO Foundation for Research in Cognitive Neuroscience and Institute of Neurosciences, Favaloro University Argentina; President, Committee on Science, Innovation, and Technology of the Argentinian Parliament, Argentina
- **Prof. Jafri Malin Bin Abdullah**, Chairman of The Brain Behaviour Cluster and Professor in Neurosciences, Department of Neurosciences at the School of Medical Sciences/Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia and official government representative of The Academy of Science, Malaysia

## 12:10-12:30 Discussion with the Audience

## 12:30-13:00 The importance of basic brain research for understanding and treating brain disorders

*The brain is our most complex organ. Understanding how the brain works is the first step towards addressing the wide array of brain conditions, in finding treatments and, potentially, cures. This panel will discuss the importance of supporting basic brain research in the quest to improve global brain health and speak on success stories of funding programmes and collaboration efforts in North America, Africa and beyond in this international endeavour towards understanding the human brain.*

Chaired by **Dr. Alyssa Picchini Schaffer**, Vice President & Senior Scientist, Neuroscience Collaborations, Simons Foundation

- **Dr. Mie Rizig**, Lead Coordinator, International Parkinson Disease Genomics Consortium (iPDGC) Africa
- **Dr. Antonella Santucci Chadha**, CEO, Women's Brain Project
- **Dr. John Ngai**, Director, NIH Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies® (BRAIN) Initiative

## 13:00-14:00 Networking Lunch

## 14:00-15:00 Breaking Silos and Bridging Borders: Uniting Regions, Sectors, and Care Delivery Models

*Cross-sector collaboration is critical to transforming mental and brain health internationally and is critical to our economies. This session will highlight the importance of uniting diverse perspectives, sectors, and innovative approaches from around the world to create meaningful and scalable solutions for today's mental health challenges.*

- **A vision for international collaboration to advance innovation in mental health**
  - **Dr. Andy Keller**, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
- **Video Message from Stella Kyriakides**, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
- **Panel Discussion**
  - **Kacie Kelly**, Chief Innovation Officer, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
  - **Dr. Cara Altimus**, Senior Director, Center for Strategic Philanthropy, Milken Institute
  - **Danish Munir**, Founding Partner, GreyMatter
  - **Kana Enomoto**, Director of Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute

## 15:00-15:30 Building an innovation ecosystem for brain diseases

*Innovation in the brain space is crucial. Despite major advances in the last decades, neuroscience timelines are usually significantly longer than other fields and continuously hindered by the complexity of the conditions. Enhanced multi-stakeholder engagement in the brain ecosystem is needed to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge, accelerate investment in research and innovation and facilitate treatment and cure development.*

Chaired by **Frédéric Destrebecq**, Executive Director, European Brain Council

- **Dr. Norman Putzki**, Global Therapeutic Area Head - Neuroscience, Novartis
- **Josh Cohen and Justin Klee**, Co-CEOs & Co-Founders, Amylyx
- **Dr. Angela Genge**, Director, ALS Centre of Excellence for Research and Patient Care





# Programme

## 15:30-16:00 Break

### 16:00-17:00 Prospective Approaches in Policy Making

*At the global level, many efforts are underway to raise brain health to the level of political prioritisation and enhance cooperation in the space. Invited speakers will highlight the work underway in their regions to hook governmental attention towards brain health using the case of socioeconomic impact.*

- Science Diplomacy and fostering North-South Collaboration
  - **Prof. María Castelló**, Associate Professor of Research, Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable, Montevideo, Uruguay; Alternate Member, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, LATBrain; Founder and Deputy Secretary, Fibras.org
- Advances in Brain Care
  - **Prof. Jonathan Rosand**, Professor, Neurology at Harvard; J.P. Kistler Endowed Chair in Neurology, Massachusetts General Hospital and Associate Member, Broad Institute of MIT and HarvardCo-Founder and Managing Co-Director of the McCance Center for Brain Health, USA
- Mental Wealth: Shaping Economic and Social Environments to Foster Brain Capital
  - **Prof. Jo-An Occhipinti**, Co-Director, Mental Wealth Initiative, and Head, Systems Modelling, Simulation & Data Science, Brain and Mind Centre, The University of Sydney, Australia
- Brain Deals to Harness AI and Drive SDG Implementation 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
- A European Charter for the Responsible Development of Neurotechnologies: An Initiative by the Research and Innovation Strategy Department of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research of France
  - **Prof. Hervé Chneiweiss**, Chair, Inserm Ethics Committee; Former Chair, International Bioethics Committee UNESCO
- Building global collaborations under the forthcoming European Brain Health Partnership
  - **Frédéric Destrebecq**, Executive Director, European Brain Council
- The Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative: a collaborative action-oriented global mechanism in brain health
  - **George Vradenburg**, Founding Chairman of the Board, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative

### 17:00-17:45 Next Steps Towards Key Milestones

*Looking towards the key milestones ahead for brain health and research and the post-SDG era, there is plenty of momentum for the brain community to demonstrate the importance of addressing brain health in a collaborative, global manner. With the Summit of the Future 2024 and the High Level Conference on the UN NCD Strategy 2025 on the horizon, a Call to Action and Policy Recommendations on Global Partnership in Brain Research is timely and imperative.*

- Collective Action Around a Common Vision
  - **Inez Jabalpurwala**, Executive Leader, Brain Health Nexus
  - **Dr. Magali Haas**, Founding Chair, Brain Health Nexus; CEO & President, Cohen Veterans Bioscience
  - **Frédéric Destrebecq**, Executive Director, European Brain Council

### 17:45 Concluding Remarks by the Organisers and Call to Action

### 17:45-19:00 Networking Reception

Supported by the Dana Foundation



# 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:



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

# Co-Organisers



[Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy](#) provides fact-based policy analysis and solutions on the most critical challenges facing Texas, the U.S. and the world. It is considered among the world's most respected, action-oriented public policy institutes, and is an integral part of Rice University. Institute experts work with government, business, academia and nongovernmental organizations to provide data-driven, non-partisan examination to society's most serious public policy issues. Whether its work touches global concerns or matters closer to home, the Baker Institute's overarching objective is the same: to translate practical, data-driven analyses into realistic policies that effect positive change.

The [Brain Capital Alliance](#) was launched following on from the success of the OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative as an expanded, multi-national and multi-organisational programme. The programme focuses on neuroscience-inspired investment and public policy innovation as the two most powerful levers for change. It brings together radically diverse stakeholders spanning fields from brain science to policy, economics and finance. Brain Capital is a new asset class which recognises brain skills and brain health as indispensable drivers of the brain economy. The Alliance brings together world-class contributors from various backgrounds to explore approaches to building Brain Capital at societal scale.

The [Brain Health Nexus](#) Founding Steering Committee (FSC) is composed of international leaders in the brain health ecosystem who have directly participated in and/or led previous roadmapping efforts; embrace the one system vision of working across diseases, disciplines and other silos; and are committed to driving a shared mission and collective action. The main purpose of the FSC is to establish a framework for developing an actionable roadmapping strategic and operational plan, based on collective experience. This framework will be communicated via a Draft White Paper to the participants of the Summit for input and consensus.

# Supporters

This event was made possible thanks to the support of the following organisations:



## 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](#)





# Participants



## Professor Claudio Bassetti

**Vice President, European Brain Council; Professor, Chair of Neurology and Dean of the Medical Faculty, University Hospital Bern, Switzerland**

Professor Claudio Bassetti has been full professor and chair of neurology at the University Hospital in Bern since 2012. He received his medical degree in Basel and trained in neurology in Bern and Lausanne. In 2000, he became professor and vice-chair of neurology in Zurich. In 2009 he founded the Neurocenter of Southern Switzerland.

He completed his research fellowships in basic neurophysiology in Basel and sleep in Ann Arbor, Boston and Madison. His major scientific interests are the relationship between sleep and neurological disorders, narcolepsy, and the teaching of general neurology. He uses clinical and experimental approaches and has published more than 500 articles and eight books.

Prof. Bassetti has previously served as president of the European Neurological Society, European Sleep Research Society and Swiss Neurological Society, and founded the Swiss Federation of Clinical Neurosocieties. He is an elected member of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences, which he served as board member for eight years. He has been president of the European Academy of Neurology since 2020 and was appointed Dean of the Medical Faculty in Bern that same year.



## Dr. Rola El-Serag

**L.E. and Virginia Simmons Senior Fellow in Health Policy and Director of the Center for Health & Biosciences, Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy**

Rola El-Serag, M.D., is the L.E. and Virginia Simmons Senior Fellow in Health Policy and director of the Center for Health & Biosciences. She was previously the medical director of the Women Veterans Health Program at the Michael E. DeBakey Veterans Affairs Medical Center and an associate professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. She served as an expert educator in women's health within the Department of Veterans Affairs, both locally and nationally, as well as an advocate for female veteran health.

Her work at the VA focused on program development, improving the quality of health care, expanding health care services, reducing gender disparities and changing institutional culture by educating employees and patients about women's health issues and gaps in care. El-Serag has received multiple teaching and clinical awards, including the Norton Rose Fulbright Faculty Excellence Award and Women of Excellence Award at Baylor College of Medicine. She received her medical degree from the Tufts University School of Medicine and completed residency in internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in 2002.

# Participants



**Dr. Ramamoorthy Ramesh**

**Executive Vice President for Research, Rice University, United States**

Ramamoorthy Ramesh is an internationally recognized leader in materials science and physics, with applications to energy. As vice president for research, Ramesh oversees Rice's internal and external research ventures. He partners with Rice's senior leadership — together with deans, faculty and staff — to bolster the university's research infrastructure and works to propel productivity and impact to new heights. Prior to joining Rice, Ramesh held a number of leadership positions University of California at Berkeley, including the Purnendu Chatterjee Chair in Energy Technologies, director of the Berkeley Nanoscience and Nanoengineering Institute, founding director of the U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative, deputy director of science and technology at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and associate laboratory director at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

Ramesh earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Madras University, a bachelor's degree in metallurgy from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and a master's and Ph.D. in materials science and engineering from UC Berkeley. Ramesh has more than 600 publications and 98,000-plus citations. He has given more than 300 invited/plenary/keynote talks and received many honors. He was named a Citation Laureate for his research on multiferroics in 2014 and was elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in 2011. He was also named a Foreign Member of the Royal Society of London in 2020 and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Indian National Science Academy in 2022. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Materials Research Society.



**Dévora Kestel**

**Director, Department of Mental Health and Substance Use, World Health Organization (WHO), Switzerland**

Dévora Kestel is a senior mental health policy specialist with more than twenty-five years of international experience in Europe, the Caribbean and Latin America, implementing and advising governments on national policies related to mental health systems. She is a strong advocate for the rights of people with mental health issues. Ms. Kestel obtained her MSc in Psychology from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata, in Argentina and her MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK. After completing her university studies in Argentina, she worked for 10 years in the development and supervision of community-based mental health services in Trieste, Italy.

In 2000 Dévora Kestel joined the World Health Organization (WHO) as a mental health officer first in Kosovo and then in Albania where she became the WHO Representative to Albania. In both countries, she worked closely with the Ministries of Health to help establish comprehensive community-based mental health systems. In 2007 Ms. Kestel joined the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) as the Sub-regional Mental Health Advisor for the English-Speaking Caribbean Countries, based in Barbados. In 2011 Ms. Kestel was appointed to the position of the Regional Mental Health Advisor, at the headquarters in Washington DC, providing technical cooperation in the mental health field to the entire region. In 2015 she became the Unit Chief for Mental Health and Substance Use at PAHO/WHO. Over the years, Ms. Kestel has contributed to and co-authored to publications in the area of mental health. Since 2019 Ms. Kestel is the WHO Director of the Department of Mental Health and Substance Use.



# Participants



## Dr. Gregory Roth

**Director, Program in Cardiovascular Health Metrics Associate Professor of Medicine Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, University of Washington, United States**

Gregory Roth, MD, MPH, is Associate Professor in the Division of Cardiology and Adjunct Associate Professor of Health Metrics Sciences and Global Health at the University of Washington School of Medicine, where he is Director for the Program in Cardiovascular Health Metrics at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME). He also leads cardiovascular disease research for the multinational Global Burden of Disease Study. He is attending cardiologist and echocardiographer at Harborview Medical Center, Seattle.

Dr. Roth's research focuses on global cardiovascular risk surveillance, population health, and quality of care and outcomes for cardiovascular diseases including heart failure, coronary heart disease, and stroke. His research funding has included grants from the National Institutes for Health (USA), American Heart Association, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Dr. Roth earned his bachelor's and medical degree from Brown University and his masters in public health from the University of Washington, where he also trained in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, and echocardiography. He has practiced as a consultant physician at Whakatane Hospital, New Zealand. He received additional training as a postdoctoral fellow with the Veterans Administration Health Services Research and Development branch and IHME.



## Simona Skerjanec

**Senior Vice President and Global Neuroscience Head, Roche**

**Simona Skerjanec** is a senior executive and general manager with broad international and USA experience in the pharmaceutical industry with demonstrated achievements in delivering business results and shaping the vision and strategy to bring transformative treatments to patients. In her current role as a Senior Vice President and Global Neuroscience Head at Roche, she leads the business and global strategy for Roche's portfolio of neurological and rare diseases and is a member of the company Global Product Strategy Leadership Team.

Simona is an experienced people leader with global mindset and ability to lead across cultures and diverse working environments with keen interest to inspire and develop the next generation of senior leaders. She is an agile learner with ability to grasp diverse scientific and technical environments and a thoughtful strategist with ability to drive change and transform vision into results in small, medium and large organizations.

Prior to her current role, Simona served as a General Manager of Roche Portugal and led the development and commercialization within Neuroimmunology and Alzheimer's disease at Roche. Prior to joining Roche, Simona was a Senior VP and franchise head at a mid-size biotech in cardiovascular health and held various roles of increasing responsibilities within small and large pharma in the USA.



# Participants



## Dr. Mahmoud Bukar Maina

**Independent Research Fellow, Sussex Neuroscience (UK); Team Leader, Biomedical Science Research and Training Centre, Yobe State University (Nigeria); Outreach Coordinator, TReND in Africa Outreach Programme**

Dr. Mahmoud Bukar Maina serves as an independent Research Fellow, funded by the Alzheimer's Association, at Sussex Neuroscience in the UK. Concurrently, he holds the position of Founder and Team Leader at the Biomedical Science Research & Training Centre (BioRTC) at Yobe State University, Nigeria. Dr. Maina completed his BSc in Human Anatomy at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria, followed by an MSc in Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience, and a PhD in Neuroscience, both at the University of Sussex, UK.

Dr. Maina's research primarily focuses on uncovering the underlying mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis. Given the role of genetic background on health outcomes, his research also focuses on understanding the influences of African ancestry on the basic Alzheimer's disease mechanisms by generating and using induced pluripotent stem cell-derived models from the indigenous African population – an underrepresented group in Dementia research.

In addition to his research, Dr. Maina is committed to strengthening scientific capacity in Africa. He has founded multiple organizations to facilitate this, including the TReND Outreach Programme, Science Communication Hub Nigeria, and the African Science Literacy Network. Throughout his career, he has provided mentorship to numerous undergraduate and graduate students in the UK and Africa and has offered his expertise as an adviser to diverse institutions both within and beyond Africa.

One of Dr. Maina's recent contributions is the establishment of the Biomedical Science Research & Training Centre in Nigeria, which aims to foster neuroscience research in Africa. His dedication and contributions have been recognized through several awards, including the Royal Society of Biology Science Communication Award in 2017, the New England Biolabs Passion for Science Humanitarian Duty Award in 2019, and the ALBA-FKNE Diversity Prize in 2022, for promoting diversity in basic neuroscience. In 2020, he received an endorsement from the Royal Society for a special Global Talent UK Immigration Status.



## Prof. Paul Boon

**President, European Academy of Neurology**

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.

# Participants



**Prof. Kevin Rostásy**

**President, European Paediatric Neurology Society**

Professor Kevin Rostásy, Head of Paediatric Neurology, Witten/Herdecke University, Children's Hospital Datteln, Dr. Friedrich Steiner since 2014. Graduate of medical studies at the Albert-Ludwig's-University in Freiburg, Germany. General Paediatrics training at the Royal Aberdeen Sick Children's Hospital, Scotland; Paediatric Neurology residency training and NIH- funded Research Fellowship at the New England Medical Center/Tufts with Paul Rosman, MD, Boston/USA; further postgraduate training at the Department of Paediatrics and Paediatric Neurology, Medical University Göttingen with Prof. Hanefeld/Prof. Gärtner. Research interest: Immune-mediated inflammatory diseases of the gray and white matter of the central nervous system, MOG spectrum diseases. President of the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) since 2022 and Board Member of the German Paediatric Neurology Society.



**Prof. Yifeng Xu**

**Director, WHO/Shanghai Collaborating Center for Research and Training on Mental Health; Honorary Dean, Institute of Psychology and Behavioral Science, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Dean, Institute of Mental Health, Fudan University**

Dr. Xu Yifeng received his MD and MS degrees from Shanghai Medical University and completed his residency and fellowship in psychiatry at Shanghai Mental Health Center in Shanghai, China. In 1997, he received a Freeman Fellowship to study medical anthropology at Harvard Medical School for one year, where he was later appointed Visiting Professor in 2012.

Yifeng XU, MD, MSc, is a distinguished psychiatrist, scholar, and leader in the field of mental health in China. He is the former president of Shanghai Mental Health Center (2011-2021) and now serves as honorary dean of Institute of the Psychology and Behavioral Science, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, director of WHO/Shanghai Collaborating Center for Research and Training on Mental Health, and dean of Institute of Mental Health, Fudan University. His academic interests are social psychiatry, health management, and global mental health. He has made great achievements in China's mental health service reform, as well as the local reform in Shanghai, and is one of the chief architects of the "686 Project". He is the head of the Department of Psychiatry, and a member of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Committee, as well as the Academic Degree Evaluation Committee. In addition, he is the Editor-in-Chief of *General Psychiatry*, and the past Chairman of the Chinese Psychiatrist Association. Dr. Xu maintains active basic and applied research programs, with interests centered on the clinical and environmental determinants of major psychoses, especially schizophrenia and depression. He has participated in multiple national and international research programs as a principal investigator. He has published more than 170 peer-reviewed journal articles( WoS "times cited" count >6,000), and edited/translated dozens of books, textbooks, and monographs. His work has appeared in the *Social Science & Medicine*, *Progress in Neuro-Psychopharmacology and Biological Psychiatry*, *BMC Medical Ethics*, *Journal of Affective Disorders*, *PLoS One*, *British Journal of Psychiatry*, *World Journal of Biological Psychiatry*, *Psychiatry Research*, *Nature Genetics*, *Schizophrenia Research*, and *Lancet Psychiatry*. Dr. Xu's clinical and consulting practice specializes in the treatment of resistant schizophrenia and mood disorders.



# Participants



**Julia Lefelar**

**Executive Director & Co-Founder, The MOG Project; Ambassador to the OneNeurology Partnership**

After many years of occasional temporarily dimming vision and chronic fatigue, Julia had a series of acute attacks of optic neuritis in 2014 and was diagnosed with Neuromyelitis Optica Spectrum Disorder (NMOSD). However, once the MOG antibody live cell-based assay was available, she was diagnosed with MOG Antibody Disease (MOGAD) in 2017. It was this long, emotionally painful journey through the unknown that inspired the start of The MOG Project. After looking for answers for so many years, she did not want anyone else to ever feel alone in the search for help. Julia has worked as a Software Engineer and Project Leader at the senior and principal levels for over 35 years. She uses her skills in project management to help organize the team's activities and realize their goal to provide the most up-to-date information possible to those in need. She co-leads the Wings of Hope, MOG Sloggers Support Group and is a key driving force around the success of The MOG Project.



**Dr. Mitchell Elkind**

**Chief Clinical Science Officer, American Heart Association-American Stroke Association**

Dr. Elkind is a tenured Professor of Neurology and Epidemiology at Columbia University. He received his medical degree from Harvard Medical School, and he trained in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and in Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital, both in Boston, MA. He completed a fellowship in Vascular Neurology and Neuroepidemiology at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Elkind holds a Master's degree in Epidemiology from Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health. Dr. Elkind's research focuses on stroke prevention, inflammatory and infectious biomarkers in stroke risk prediction, atrial cardiopathy, immune therapy for acute stroke, and vascular causes of cognitive aging.

He is only the second neurologist to serve as President of the American Heart Association (AHA) in its 100 year history. After completing his term 2020-2021, he joined the AHA in a new executive position, Chief Clinical Science Officer, with the vision of expanding the work of the organization from its traditional focus on cardiovascular disease and stroke to brain health more broadly defined. In this vision, Elkind develops and leads initiatives on basic and clinical brain science (including stroke, aging and dementia, migraine, traumatic brain injury, and mental health), nutrition and Food Is Medicine approaches to health, cardiometabolic and kidney health, digital health, and others. He believes "...that maximizing health and human potential requires bridging the traditional divides among disciplines, and no organization does that better than the AHA."

The AHA is one of the largest public health organizations in the US and globally. Founded in 1924, it has over the past century provided innovation and advances in cardiovascular health ranging from:

1. funding > \$5 B in scientific research (largest funder of cardiovascular research after NIH);
2. widespread dissemination of cardiac defibrillators;
3. developing and publishing key guidelines for cardiovascular care across multiple disease areas;
4. convening the top international scientific conferences in cardiovascular and stroke medicine;
5. implementation of quality programs that have improved care of patients in the US and globally.



# Participants



**Dr. Walter Koroshetz**

**NIH-National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Director**

Walter J. Koroshetz, M.D., was selected Director of NINDS on June 11, 2015. Dr. Koroshetz joined NINDS in 2007 as Deputy Director, and he served as Acting Director from October 2014 through June 2015. As NINDS Director, Dr. Koroshetz directs program planning and budgeting, and oversees the scientific and administrative functions of the Institute. He has held leadership roles in many NIH and NINDS programs including the NIH's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, the NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience Research, the Traumatic Brain Injury Center collaborative effort between the NIH intramural program and the Uniformed Health Services University, and the establishment of the NIH Office of Emergency Care Research. Additionally, Dr. Koroshetz serves as a member of the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee (IPRCC) and the Executive Committee for the NIH Pain Consortium.

Before joining NINDS, Dr. Koroshetz served as Vice Chair of the neurology service and Director of stroke and neurointensive care services at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He was a professor of neurology at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and led neurology resident training at MGH between 1990 and 2007. Over that same period, he co-directed the HMS Neurobiology of Disease course with Drs. Edward Kravitz and Robert H. Brown.

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Koroshetz graduated from Georgetown University and received his medical degree from the University of Chicago.



**Dr. Facundo Manes**

**Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, Member**

Facundo Manes is a neurologist and neuroscientist, graduated from the University of Buenos Aires and the University of Cambridge, England, where he obtained his Doctorate in Sciences.

In 2001, he returned to Argentina and created the Institute of Cognitive Neurology, INECO, the Institute of Neurosciences of the Favalaro Foundation, and the INECO Foundation for research in cognitive neurosciences.

He is a CONICET (National Council for Scientific and Technical Research) researcher and has published more than 230 investigations in the most prestigious international scientific journals.

In addition, he was the first Spanish-speaking president of the International Frontotemporal Dementia Society and consultant to the Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit of the Medical Research Council of the University of Cambridge (England).

Since December 2021, he has also served as a national deputy for the Province of Buenos Aires.

Facundo Manes is convinced that the wealth of a country, is measured by human capital, education, science and technology, and that this is the basis of social development. For several years, he has been touring Argentina giving talks in order to invite civil society to commit to the construction of this knowledge society.

# Participants



## Prof. Jafri Malin Abdullah

**Chairman of The Brain Behaviour Cluster and Professor in Neurosciences, Department of Neurosciences at the School of Medical Sciences/Hospital Universiti Sains Malaysia and official government representative of The Academy of Science, Malaysia**

Prof. Dr. Jafri Malin Abdullah, a renowned translational neuroscientist in fundamental, applied and especially clinical neurosciences, graduated with a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1986 from Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), a Diplomate of Certification Specialization Neurosurgery from Ghent University, Belgium (1994), and a PhD (Magna Cum Laude) in the Biomedical Sciences (1995) from University of Ghent, Belgium. He later went on to pursue postdoctoral training at the famous Department of Neurosurgery, Karolinska University Hospital and Institute (Prof. Bjorn Meyerson and Prof. Bengt Linderoth) and Department of Neurosurgery, Hospital University Ghent, Belgium (Prof. Jacques De Reuk), in the field of neuropathic and nociceptive pain, advanced neurophysiology and radiosurgical sciences both in fundamental (animal) and applied clinical neurosciences until the end of 1995. He later worked in the field of neuroanatomy with the late Prof. Rhoton in Florida, USA.

Prof. Dr. Jafri Malin Abdullah returned to Malaysia, where the neurofacilities were scarce; he decided that a developing country should not give up and build up its facilities in the state of Kelantan (one of the poorest states in Malaysia). He managed to build a team over a five-year period that focused on clinical, applied and fundamental neurosciences. None of these endeavours were done in the capital city of Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur, which indicates that good things can happen in 'rural states' and still be sustainable with support from governmental and non-governmental bodies.

As a fellow at the Academy of Science Malaysia, he established the facilities of the department of neurosciences in 2001, the first and only establishment in South East Asia that covers the teaching, learning, research and community aspects of undergraduate medical sciences as well as postgraduate neurosciences, including basic, fundamental, applied and clinical neurosciences. He then established the Master of Surgery (Neurosurgery), Master and PhD Integrated Neurosciences Programme (Master of Neurosciences and Doctor of Neurosciences) by pure research mode, Integrated Clinical Psychology Universiti Sains Malaysia – Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris and a Master of Cognitive Neurosciences in 2018.



# Participants



**Dr. Caroline Montojo**

**Dana Foundation, President**

Caroline Montojo, Ph.D., is the President and CEO of the Dana Foundation, a private philanthropic organization in New York City dedicated to advancing neuroscience and society by supporting cross-disciplinary intersections such as neuroscience and ethics, law, policy, humanities, and social sciences. Dr. Montojo leads the Foundation's new mission to advance neuroscience that benefits society and reflects the aspirations of all people.

Dr. Montojo serves on the Advisory Board of the Science Philanthropy Alliance and is a member of the U.S. National Institutes of Health BRAIN Initiative Neuroethics Working Group. She was previously the Director of Life Sciences and the Director of Brain Initiatives at The Kavli Foundation where she worked closely with the Kavli Institutes to advance science. Dr. Montojo has been deeply involved in catalytic efforts to advance neuroscience, including the U.S Brain Initiative and the International Brain Initiative (IBI). She served as an elected spokesperson for the IBI, giving talks at multiple scientific conferences such as the International Conference on Learning and Memory and the US National Institutes of Health Advisory Committee to the Director of NIH Working Group on BRAIN Initiative 2.0. She also contributes to publications on international neuroscience and neuroethics in editorials, articles, and perspectives.

Dr. Montojo completed postdoctoral research in the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Her research at UCLA focused on investigating neural biomarkers for psychiatric illness using functional magnetic resonance imaging and behavioral techniques, for which she was awarded the Arnold Scheibel Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellow in Neuroscience Award and the Stephen R. Mallory Schizophrenia Research Award. Dr. Montojo received her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and completed her M.A. and Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University. She holds a Women in Leadership Certificate from the Cornell SC Johnson School of Business and was an invited member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Neurotechnology and the National Academy of Sciences' Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders.



**Dr. Alyssa Picchini Schaffer**

**Vice-President & Senior Scientist - Simons Foundation**

Alyssa Picchini Schaffer is a vice president and senior scientist at the Simons Foundation, where she oversees the neuroscience collaborations (the Simons Collaboration on the Global Brain, and the Simons Collaboration on Plasticity and the Aging Brain) and the Pivot Fellowship. Picchini Schaffer has a diverse background and expertise in neural stem cell biology, pharmacology, policy and media across business, government and academic sectors. She is passionate about fostering collaboration among multidisciplinary teams to address significant questions in neuroscience and effective science communication. Before joining the foundation, Picchini Schaffer was scientific director of TEDMED, a division of TED focused on science, health and medicine. She earned her Ph.D. from Columbia University and is an alumna of the AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellowship and Lafayette College. Outside of her work in science, Picchini Schaffer is a board treasurer for Partners in Promise, an organization that advocates for the educational rights of military children with disability, on the board of the IDEAL School of Manhattan, and board treasurer for the Heartbeat Music Project, an organization that offers music education for Navajo (Diné) K-12 students living on the Navajo Reservation in New Mexico.



# Participants



**Dr. Mie Rizig**

**Lead Coordinator, International Parkinson Disease Genomics Consortium (iPDGC) Africa**

Mie Rizig is the lead coordinator of the International Parkinson's disease Genomic Consortium Africa section: A pan African consortium devoted to studying the genetic of Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative condition in Africans. The consortium has a membership of over 140 neurologists and neuroscientists in 50 institutions in 14 African countries. the mission of the consortium is to support clinical and research in neurodegeneration in Africans alongside offering training, education and capacity building opportunities in participating countries. She is currently working as a senior clinical research fellow at the UCL Queen square institute of neurology London UK and a clinical neurologist at Imperial NHS trust London, UK. She studied medicine at the University of Khartoum, in the Sudan and completed her post graduate medical training in several London hospitals. She has a master's degree and a PhD in molecular genetics from University College London (UCL). And she is a member of the Royal College of Physicians of London (UK).



**Dr. Antonella Santucci Chadha**

**CEO, Women's Brain Project**

Dr. Chadha is a highly accomplished medical doctor and internationally recognized expert in neuroscience, neurological disorders, and psychiatric diseases. She co-founded and serves as the pro-bono CEO of the Women's Brain Project and holds the position of Vice-President at Euresearch. Known as a transformative global leader and team builder, she has successfully revitalized start-ups and provided strategic counsel to CEOs of start-ups, boards of directors, and junior colleagues. She has worked as a regulator for the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products and held executive roles at Roche Diagnostic, Roche Pharmaceutical, and Biogen. Additionally, she has served as the Chief Medical Officer and ad-interim CEO at Alftida.

Dr. Chadha has always been focused on solving the puzzles related to Alzheimer's and other psychiatric diseases. She conducted research on immunotherapies for neurodegenerative disorders at the University of Zurich, where the first disease-modifying treatment for Alzheimer's was developed. In her earlier years, she collaborated with multiple European universities and the EU Commission Directorate for Health and Food Safety.

Dr. Chadha has received numerous accolades for her accomplishments. She has consistently been listed among the Top 100 Women in Business in Switzerland since 2018 and was elected Woman of the Year in Switzerland in 2019. She has also been honored with the World Sustainability Award for her contributions to advancing Precision Medicine and the "Premio Medicina Italia" for her efforts in managing the pandemic. In 2021, she was nominated among the top 10 women for innovation in Switzerland. In 2022, she received the Veuve Clicquot Bold Woman Award in Switzerland, followed by the "Dean Martin" International Prize in 2023.

Dr. Chadha is passionate about eliminating bias in the development of solutions for mental and neurological diseases, with the aim of achieving precision medicine. She advocates for the establishment of the first worldwide sex and gender precision medicine research institute, based in Switzerland.

# Participants



**Dr. John Ngai**

**Director, NIH Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies® (BRAIN) Initiative**

John Ngai is the Coates Family Professor of Neuroscience, Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute and the Director, QB3 Functional Genomics Laboratory at the University of California at Berkeley. In January 2020, Ngai was named director of NIH BRAIN Initiative. Dr. Ngai earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry and biology from Pomona College, Claremont, California, and Ph.D. in biology from Caltech. He was a postdoctoral researcher at Caltech and at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons before starting his faculty position at the University of California at Berkeley. Ngai researches the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying the function, development and regeneration of the vertebrate olfactory system. To do this, his lab uses a wide range of experimental tools and model systems, including molecular biology, genomics, computational biology and behavior to study these processes using the mouse and zebrafish as model systems.



**Dr. Andy Keller**

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

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 state and local leaders towards a single goal: improving mental health care delivery in Texas.

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.



# Participants



**Kacie Kelly**

**Chief Innovation Officer, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute**

Kacie Kelly has 20 years of experience with leading innovation in mental health care and translating it into policy and practice. In her role as Chief Innovation Officer at the Meadows Institute, she focuses on opportunities to integrate scalable, data driven innovation into healthcare, schools, justice, and community systems to detect mental health risk earlier and increase access to quality care for more youth and adults. Additionally, she works to harness the power of public and private partnerships to advance innovative funding models that incentivize best practices in mental health care delivery and seeks opportunities to integrate technology into the systems of care to accelerate adoption of high quality solutions and optimize workforce demands.

Prior to joining the Institute, Kacie served as the Director for Health & Wellbeing at the George W. Bush Institute's Military Service Initiative where she advanced innovative outcome-based solutions for mental and brain health challenges through partnerships, collaboration, and alignment among national and international stakeholders including the Bush Institute's Veteran Wellness Alliance and the Stand To Health & Wellbeing Task Force. Kacie spent 15 years leading ground-breaking mental health and suicide prevention initiatives at the Department of Veterans Affairs. During that time, she established public-private partnership programs, led national systems transformation initiatives on innovative care models and directed outreach efforts to reduce stigma associated with mental health. Kacie earned her bachelor's degree and her Master of Health Sciences from Louisiana State University and has a Graduate Certificate in Women in Public Policy and Politics from the University of Massachusetts.



**Dr. Cara Altimus**

**Senior Director, Center for Strategic Philanthropy, Milken Institute**

Cara Altimus, PhD is a senior director at the Milken Institute Center for Strategic Philanthropy where she leads the Center's biomedical philanthropy portfolio. A PhD neuroscientist, Altimus advises individual philanthropists and foundations on the state of research for various areas including neurodegenerative disease and mental health to identify opportunities where their capital can make the biggest impact. With more than a decade of experience in neuroscience research, including neurological devices, psychiatric illness, learning, and memory, as well as sleep and circadian rhythms, Altimus has led Center projects ranging from the development of a philanthropic drug development program for neurodegenerative disease to a large patient-perspectives study for depression and bipolar research. Prior to joining the Institute, Altimus worked at the Food and Drug Administration leading the Neural Interfaces Laboratory, which evaluates the safety and effectiveness of electrical stimulation methods in the brain. In addition to her research experience, she serves as the chair for the Trainee Advisory Committee for the Society for Neuroscience, is an advisor to the Ontario Brain Institute, and spent a year as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow developing a neuroscience research portfolio at the Department of Justice. Altimus holds a bachelor's degree in genetics from the University of Georgia and a doctorate in biology from Johns Hopkins University. She works at the Institute's Washington office.

# Participants



**Danish Munir**

**Founding Partner, GreyMatter**

Prior to GreyMatter, Danish founded Genoa Telepsychiatry (formerly 1DocWay), one of the first telepsychiatry companies in the country. After growing Genoa to become the largest telepsychiatry company in the country serving 250K patient visits per year, in 35 states, Genoa was acquired by Optum in 2018. After seeing the evolution of digital mental health at Optum, he decided to dedicate his next act in mental health to taking a systems level approach in improving the entrepreneurial journey for the next generation of founders. Danish is also a founder at Watershed Ventures, a venture capital firm that harnesses the power of entrepreneurs from non-traditional backgrounds to cause transformative change in industries that matter, including healthcare. Danish still serves on the Investment Committee at Watershed and has been personally investing and advising behavioral health startups since 2011. Danish started his career at Microsoft focused on Business Analytics and Optimization. He received a Bachelor of Science and Engineering, Computer Information Sciences from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Danish grew up in Karachi, and considers both Karachi and New York home. His interests include cutting edge developments in mental health and therapeutics, ultimate frisbee and live music.



**Kana Enomoto**

**Director of Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute**

Kana is the director of brain health for the McKinsey Health Institute, where she specializes in behavioral health, public health, and delivery-system reform. Kana has more than 20 years of experience as a federal executive in mental-health and substance-use policy, data, programs, and practice improvement. Kana is a global thought leader and accomplished executive with a strong record of achieving public-policy goals, delivering programmatic impact, and inspiring organizational and social change. Since joining McKinsey in 2019, Kana cofounded the Center for Societal Benefit through Healthcare to address underinvested areas of health with a focus on behavioral health. In addition, Kana has supported a wide range of clients, including government entities, payers, providers, investors, employers, and not-for-profit organizations to better serve people with, or at risk for, mental and substance-use disorders. Prior to joining McKinsey, Kana was acting administrator for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, where she provided executive direction and policy leadership. She also served as senior advisor in the US health and human services agency, where she provided strategic guidance on efforts to combat the opioid epidemic. Prior to entering government, Kana did health research and clinical services with a focus on mental health and trauma for minority patients. She has received awards in recognition of her work, including the Arthur S. Flemming Award, the American College of Mental Health Administration King Davis Award, and the Secretary's Award for Distinguished Service.





# Participants



**Dr. Norman Putzki**

**Global Head of Drug Development, Neuroscience & Gene Therapy, Novartis**



**Josh Cohen**

**Co-CEO & Co-Founder, Amylyx**

Josh Cohen co-founded Amylyx Pharmaceuticals in 2013 and has since served as co-CEO and co-Founder. Josh co-invented the oral, fixed-dose combination of sodium phenylbutyrate (PB) and taurursodiol (TURSO, also known as ursodoxicoltaurine), which is being explored for the potential treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Josh, alongside co-CEO Justin Klee, has overseen the growth of Amylyx (NASDAQ: AMLX) from its start as a concept dreamed up in a dorm room at Brown University to a global, commercial stage and publicly traded pharmaceutical company with more than 250 employees and headquarters in the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands to support Amylyx' global operations.

In collaboration with the ALS community, including leading doctors, people living with ALS, and leaders in advocacy, Josh and Justin oversaw global regulatory approvals of AMX0035 for the treatment of ALS in Canada (ALBRIOZA™) and the U.S. (RELYVRIO™). Amylyx' clinical trial results in collaboration with leading experts have been published in several peer-reviewed medical journals, including the New England Journal of Medicine, Muscle & Nerve, and the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.

# Participants



**Justin Klee**

**Co-CEO & Co-Founder, Amylyx**

Justin Klee co-founded Amylyx Pharmaceuticals in 2013 and continues to serve as its co-CEO and co-Founder. Justin, alongside co-CEO Josh Cohen, has overseen the growth of Amylyx (NASDAQ: AMLX) from its start as a concept dreamed up in a dorm room at Brown University to a global, commercial stage and publicly traded pharmaceutical company with more than 250 employees and headquarters in the U.S., Canada, and the Netherlands to support Amylyx' global operations.

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**Dr. Angela Genge**

**Director, ALS Centre of Excellence for Research and Patient Care**

Dr. Angela Genge has served as the Medical Director of the Clinical Research Unit (CRU) at the Montreal Neurological Institute since 2004. The CRU develops and executes clinical trials targeting various neurological conditions, with an emphasis on diseases including amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) neuromuscular diseases and primary brain tumors. Having participated in landmark clinical trials dating back to 1992, she has developed a particular presence in the multiple sclerosis clinical trial community. The CRU concurrently conducts over 100 clinical trials. Financial sponsors for these trials include industry, government, small biotechnology companies, and private donors. As Medical Director of the CRU, Dr. Genge oversees a team of over 30 coordinators, nurses and support staff, in addition to supporting the Principal Investigators of the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery of McGill University.

Since 1998, Dr. Genge has been the Director of the ALS Clinic and Research Program. Consisting of 10 multidisciplinary professionals, the ALS clinic at the Neuro provides the finest clinical care for ALS patients and their families. Under Dr. Genge's direction, the ALS clinical research program develops and tests new ALS therapies. She is working to grow the scope of ALS research through developing novel investigator initiated trials and through the establishment of the ALS Biobank, a collaboration with Dr. Guy Rouleau.

Nationally, Dr. Genge is the Chair of the ALS Working Group of the Canadian Neuromuscular Disease Registry (CNDR), and a member of the Governance and Administrative Committee of the new Canadian-Neuromuscular Diseases network. At the Neuro, she is a member of the Neuromuscular Research Group. She is an executive member of the Canadian ALS Research Network (CALS) and a board member of ALS Canada. Internationally, Dr. Genge is an active member of NEALS and WALs, 2 US based ALS clinical trial networks, and ENCALS in Europe. She is a sought after consultant in clinical trial design for ALS and other orphan neuromuscular diseases. Dr. Genge is particularly interested in collaborating with biotechnology companies who are developing new approaches to manage these currently untreatable conditions.



# Participants



## Prof. María E. Castelló

**Associate Professor of Research, Instituto de Investigaciones Biológicas Clemente Estable, Montevideo, Uruguay; Alternate Member, Strategic Planning Steering Committee, LATBrain; Founder and Deputy Secretary, Fibras.org**

María Castelló obtained a Master's Degree in Neurosciences (1992) and a Doctorate in Neurosciences in (2002) at the Uruguayan Program for the Development of Basic Sciences (PEDECIBA, University of the Republic, UdelaR). For postdoctoral training, she was a GRASS Foundation Fellow at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL, Woods Hole, MA, USA, 2006). María is Research Associate Professor at the IIBCE (2007-); Researcher of the Program for the Development of Basic Sciences (PEDECIBA; 2005-), Researcher of the National System of Researchers (SNI-ANII, Montevideo, Uruguay; 2009-2022) and IBRO/IBE-UNESCO Learning Sciences Scholarship (Geneva, Switzerland; 2018).

She leads the Neural Development and Evolution Research Group of the Department of Integrative and Computational Neurosciences (IIBCE) whose main lines of research are: i) Development and evolution of sensorimotor neural networks, particularly the role of neurogenesis and incoming information. ii) Reproductive biology of electric fish. iii) Science Teaching, from the Science, Technology and Society perspective. and iv) Neurobiological and Psychological Bases of well-being-oriented practices (Mindfulness, Self-Compassion and Yoga) and Science Teaching, from the Science, Technology and Society perspective, focused on Critical Thinking and the Nature of Science, Technology and Society.



## Dr. Jonathan Rosand

**Co-Founder and Managing Co-Director of the McCance Center for Brain Health**

Jonathan is Managing Co-Director of the McCance Center for Brain Health and former Chief of Neurocritical Care at Massachusetts General Hospital, where he is appointed to the J.P. Kistler Endowed Chair in Neurology. He is Professor of Neurology at Harvard and Associate Member of the Broad Institute. An internationally renowned scientist, clinician, educator, mentor and visionary leader, Dr Rosand has created a legacy of multidisciplinary teams that are successfully tackling some of the most pressing challenges in brain disease. His research program in cerebrovascular health, launched over 20 years ago, has been a world leader of high-throughput genetic studies of stroke. Dr Rosand founded the International Stroke Genetics Consortium to bring together the world's pre-eminent stroke investigators and launched the *Cerebrovascular Disease Knowledge Portal* to share data widely.

After founding Mass General's Division of Neurocritical Care and building it into one of the nation's top programs, Dr Rosand stepped down to establish the McCance Center with colleagues in neuroscience and psychiatry. The Center's mission is to transform brain care through prevention of dementia, stroke, and depression. Its four core activities are: 1) Developing tools to motivate choices that reduce risk of brain disease across the lifespan, 2) Conducting clinical trials of low-cost, low-risk drugs to prevent neurodegeneration, 3) Developing markers for routine monitoring of brain health, and 4) Assembling an international network of outstanding centers committed to a joint goal of reducing new cases of dementia, stroke and depression by 10% in ten years and 30% by 2050.

# Participants



**Prof. Jo-An Occhipinti**

**Co-Director, Mental Wealth Initiative, and Head, Systems Modelling, Simulation & Data Science, Brain and Mind Centre, The University of Sydney, Australia**

A/Prof. Occhipinti is an epidemiologist and systems scientist working to improve the health and wellbeing of populations through systems modelling research. These systems models are used by health departments and service planners to improve strategic allocation of investments by forecasting the impact of alternative decision options before they are implemented in the real world. Applications have provided decision support capability to address complex and persistent challenges such as suicide prevention, mental health service planning, alcohol related harms, tobacco control, childhood overweight and obesity, chronic disease prevention, child protection service system reform, and homelessness strategy. A/Prof. Occhipinti has a special research interest in the structural drivers of population mental health and the dynamics between mental health, social, and economic systems. Most recently, her work has been seeking to measure, monitor, and forecast the Mental Wealth of nations, to inform policy towards a Wellbeing Economy, and to elevate the importance of mental health and collective wellbeing as critical levers for sound economic management.



**Dr. Harris Eyre**

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

Harris Eyre MD PhD is a brain capital builder who believes that investing in building brain capital is fundamental to meet modern societal challenges and drive innovation. He leads the development of the brain capital field and seeks to place it at the center of economics, policy, finance, and technology. In his career, he has operated as a physician, scientist, entrepreneur, executive services provider, author, new economic and finance thinker, and neuroscience diplomat. He is a fellow in brain health at Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy, senior fellow for brain capital with the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, advisor to the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association as well as the Latin American Brain Health Institute and an instructor with the Global Brain Health Institute. He has written hundreds of scientific and policy papers with thousands of coauthors and was lead editor for Convergence Mental Health, Oxford University Press. He is an alumnus of Forbes 30 Under 30 and the Fulbright Scholar program. Harris is from the Great Barrier Reef region of Australia and is now based in the USA.



# Participants



**Prof. Hervé Chneiweiss**

**Chair, Inserm Ethics Committee; Former Chair, International Bioethics Committee UNESCO**

Hervé Chneiweiss (MD-PhD) is a neurologist and neuroscientist, senior scientist at CNRS, he has been involved in neurogenetic research on diseases such as cerebellar ataxias and then the molecular mechanisms involved in glial plasticity and the development of brain tumors. Technical approaches include proteomics, metabolism, epigenetics, cell cultures, animal models, single cell. He has published over 170 original scientific papers (h=53, i10 108). He is currently director of the Neuroscience Paris Seine - IBPS research center (CNRS/Inserm/ Sorbonne University). Hervé Chneiweiss is also involved in bioethics, adviser for life sciences and bioethics to the Minister of Research and Technology (2000-02), member of the Scientific Council of the French Parliamentary Office for Scientific and Techniques assesment (2003-16), member of the French National Ethics Committee (2013-17), member and chairman of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee (2014-21), member of the WHO committee on Human genome governance (2019-21), expert for OECD on neurotechnology (2015-19), and currently as chairman of the Inserm Ethics Committee. Former editor in chief of Medicine / Sciences (2006-16). He has published several books for the general public (latest: "Notre cerveau", L'Iconoclaste, 2019).



**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.

# Participants



**George Vradenburg**

**Founding Chairman, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative**

George is Chairman of UsAgainstAlzheimer's which he co-founded in October 2010. He and UsAgainstAlzheimer's co-convene both the Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's disease (LEAD) Coalition and the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's disease (CEOi). He also serves as Chairman of the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, an initiative convened by the CEOi and World Economic Forum. George was named by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to serve on the Advisory Council on Research, Care and Services established by the National Alzheimer's Project Act and has testified before Congress about the global Alzheimer's pandemic. He is a member of the World Dementia Council. George served as Chairman of the Phillips Collection for 14 years and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Economic Club of Washington. He has served in senior executive and legal positions at CBS, FOX and AOL/Time Warner.



**Inez Jabalpurwala**

**Executive Leader, Brain Health Nexus**

Inez has extensive experience leading cross-sector collaborations with organizations in health research, academia, and international development. She is currently Global Director of VINEx, a non-profit corporation initiated by the private medical device company, Rocket Science Health, to understand how viruses and other global environmental phenomena may affect the central nervous system. She was the Founding President and CEO of the Brain Canada Foundation from 2001 to 2020. When she joined, the organization had about \$1 million in assets; she grew this to over \$300 million. Under her leadership Brain Canada provided research grants totaling \$250 million and involving more than 1,000 scientists and clinicians based at 115 institutions across Canada. To achieve these results, Inez managed multiple stakeholders, and secured more than 100 partnerships, including leading the approach to secure \$160 million in matching funds from the Government of Canada, and fundraising to secure \$130 million from a range of donors, institutions and organizations.

Inez has previously been a member of the US National Institutes of Health BRAIN Initiative Multi-Council Working Group; the Institute of Medicine (of the National Academies) Forum on Neuroscience and Nervous System Disorders; and BrainsCAN, a \$66-million investment by the Government of Canada based at the University of Western Ontario, which seeks to create synergies with other Canadian institutions and international partners in the private and public sectors. She currently serves on the Board of Equitas—International Centre for Human Rights Education; is the immediate past President of the McGill Alumni Association, and on the Board of Governors of McGill University; a Desautels Global Expert in McGill University's Faculty of Management; and a mentor through the Loran Scholars Program. Inez is a member of the Economic Development and Public Finance committee of the Board of Trade of Metropolitan Montreal; a member of the Association of Quebec Women in Finance; a member of the International Women's Forum; and a member of the Women's Brain Health Initiative. She is passionate about equity, diversity and inclusion in science and in society.



# Participants



**Dr. Magali Haas**

**Founding Chair, Brain Health Nexus; CEO & President, Cohen Veterans Bioscience**

Dr. Haas is Chair, CEO and President of Cohen Veterans Bioscience, a non-profit brain research organization based in New York City whose mission is to fast-track diagnostics and therapeutics to advance precision brain health. Magali has over 15 years of pharmaceutical executive experience, predominantly at Johnson & Johnson, where she assumed broad end-to-end development leadership roles in early and late stage neuroscience clinical development, translational medicine, diagnostics and integrative solutions. To pioneer new approaches for precision therapeutics for brain health, she founded Orion Bionetworks in 2012, which was transformed to Cohen Veterans Bioscience in 2015, while also serving as founding Chief Science and Technology Officer for One Mind for Research. She serves on several advisory boards including Alto Neurosciences, Partnership for Assessment and Accreditation of Scientific Practice, VirtualBrainCloud, Krembil Centre for Neuroinformatics and IMEC for nanoelectronics. Magali earned her BS in bioengineering from the University of Pennsylvania, an MS in biomedical engineering from Rutgers University, and her MD and PhD in neuroscience with distinction from Albert Einstein College of Medicine.