



**United  
Nations**

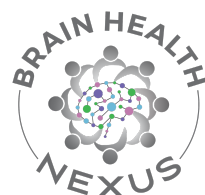
## **BRAIN HEALTH & RESEARCH DAY @ UNGA78**

**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.

## 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
  - **Dévora 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

All speakers listed below are confirmed.

## 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.*

- **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.*

- **Video Message from Stella Kyriakides**, European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety
- **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
- **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



# Programme

## 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. Tracey Dawson**, 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

## 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
- 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
- Towards a Global Partnership Strategy
  - **Frédéric Destrebecq**, Executive Director, European Brain Council

## 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



# 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](#)

