



# European Brain Council

## Newsletter - November 2023



### Letter from the President

Dear EBC Members, Partners, and Community,

It is my absolute pleasure to be addressing you in this first 'Letter from the President', particularly after yet another important and jam-packed year for EBC.

Since this is my first letter, I take the opportunity to introduce myself. I have served on the EBC Board for over 6 years, linked to my role as Secretary of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology. I am currently Professor of Physiology at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. My research group is trying to figure out pathways in the brain that control appetite, which is relevant for eating disorders at both ends of the body weight spectrum as well as for brain disease and therapy induced changes in body weight. Progress in brain research and innovation, including in my field, is essential to better understand the brain in health and disease and to make therapeutic advances. For this, we need animal experimentation, and hence, I'm pleased to have been part of **EBC's strong science advocacy activities this year**, particularly linked to a recent European Citizens' Initiative calling for the banning of all animal research in Europe.

That was just one of the major activities that took place across 2023. In the last few weeks alone, we rounded out the year with a series of milestone events that not only reflected the end of a fruitful year but also prepared us for another major year ahead of us.

The **Brain Innovation Days** at the end of October, our third in-person edition, was bigger than ever. It brought together the wider brain community – with increased interaction with investors, innovators, patients, and relevant policymakers – to address the common issues and challenges we face, but also showcase the immense strides our community is making to address the burdens and the possibilities of brain health in Europe.

This resonates not only at the European level but nationally as well and carried into an event organised by EBC under the aegis of the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In partnership with the Spanish Brain Council and the Spanish National Research Council, the **"Our Brains, Our Future"** event, hosted in the Senate of Spain, demonstrated just how important and urgent the prioritisation of brain health and research is at the European level.

Working across policy levels is vital for our work, demonstrated by the successful launch of the **Swiss Brain Health Plan** in Zürich last month. An outcome of consensus building from within the key stakeholders within the brain community in Switzerland, the development of such a plan is not only relevant for Swiss citizens but plays a vital role in Europe and beyond, feeding directly in the implementation of the World Health Organization's Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP) on epilepsy and other neurological disorders.

We were pleased to share these latest developments at the final General Assembly of 2023 last week and have such a productive meeting to conclude the year. As we enter the festive season, I take the opportunity to wish you all happy holidays and all the very best for the New Year! EBC already has plenty in the pipeline for 2024 – we can't wait for our continued collaboration with you all.

Sincerely,

*Suzanne L Dickson*

Prof. Suzanne L. Dickson  
President, EBC



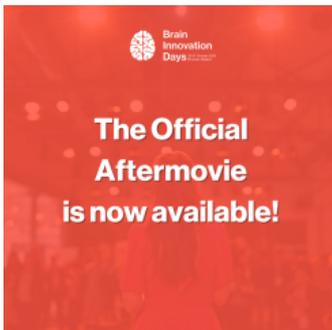
## EBC Activities



### 'Our Brains, Our Future' | Event Report

In the framework of the **Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union**, the European Brain Council (EBC) organised the event **“Our Brains, Our Future: The Value of Brain Research – From Basic to Clinical – to Improve Patient Outcomes in Europe”**, in partnership with the Spanish Brain Council and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), hosted in the **Senate of Spain** on **28 November 2023** in Madrid.

[Read the Event Report](#)



### The Brain Innovation Days Aftermovie is now live!

We would like to renew our thanks to everyone who attended our two jam-packed days of high-level brain innovation.

We look forward to welcoming you at the next edition of the Brain Innovation Days. Until then, if you missed the event or want to relive it, you can watch the Aftermovie on our YouTube channel!

[Watch the Aftermovie](#)



## CSA BrainHealth kicked off in Bonn, paving the way towards an European Partnership on Brain Health

The European Brain Council (EBC) joins members of the ERA-NET NEURON and JPND (namely DLR – German Aerospace Center, the French National Research Agency – ANR, the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research – Inserm) and EBRAINS in partnership within the EU-funded **Coordination & Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth**, officially launched on 1 November 2023.

The two-year CSA aims at preparing the future **European Partnership on Brain Health**, which the European Commission plans on launching in 2025/2026 in its 2nd Strategic Programme of Horizon Europe, with the aim to further coordinate and structure the area of brain health research in Europe.

[Read more](#)



## 2023 Brain Innovation Days Highlights

The European Brain Council (EBC) hosted the 3rd edition of the Brain Innovation Days from 26-27 October 2023 at The EGG Brussels (Belgium) under the overarching theme “**The Brain in the 21st Century**”. With a focus on resilience, better brain health and adaptation to an evolving environment, the event highlighted the challenges faced by over 179 million Europeans living with brain conditions. Despite increasing numbers, treatments remain limited, and research is underfunded.

The **event aimed to foster interaction, knowledge exchange and business development in the brain space**, bringing the community together through a series of plenary sessions, breakouts, inspiring Brain Talks, a Pitch Competition, and much more.

[Read the highlights](#)



## EBC-organized breakfast on GOLUP in the European Parliament

The event, hosted by Dr. Stelios Kypouropoulos MEP (EPP, Greece) reconnects the Good Off-Label Use Practices (GOLUP) Declaration promoters; exchanging ideas and experiences to secure EU and national recognition of the Declaration with the ultimate goal to promote a common European approach for off-label use, call for and propose EU guidelines for the good use of off-label medicinal products.

[Read more](#)



## Launch of the Swiss Brain Health Plan

EBC President, Prof. Suzanne Dickson, was in Zürich for the kick-off of the Swiss Brain Health Plan yesterday. Developed and led by the Swiss Federation of Clinical Neuro-Societies, the Plan is a vital reaction to the growing healthcare crisis related to the very high burden of brain disorders; conceptualized to value, promote, and protect brain health over the entire life course.

[Read more](#)



## EBC took part in 'Migraine: What can Europe do to avoid neglecting unmet medical need' event

Last week, EBC took part in an event 'Migraine: What can Europe do to avoid neglecting unmet medical need', organised in the European Parliament.

During the event, the Rethinking migraine project's outcomes and policy recommendations were highlighted. The project aims to challenge the status quo and refresh the European policy debate on people living with migraine.

[Read more](#)



## EBC Launches Rethinking Schizophrenia Project

Did you know that around 24 million people are estimated to live with schizophrenia?

Despite improvements and innovation in recent years, people living with schizophrenia face variations in access to optimal treatment and care. There is a lot about schizophrenia that is not fully understood and the high-quality care and support needed by people living with this condition is often unavailable.

The Rethinking Schizophrenia project, coordinated by EBC, aims to optimise the way we deal with schizophrenia, find out more

[Read more](#)



## EBC joined WHO Europe meeting on Mental Health of the Youth

As part of the Pan-European Mental Health Coalition, EBC attended WHO Regional Office for Europe meeting in Athens for Mental Health Week!

- Moderated by Joao Breda and Ledia Lazeri, the meeting aimed at:
- evaluating progresses made for the work under the Programme of Quality of Child and Adolescent mental care,
- sharing of good practices and innovations for improving the quality of mental health care,
- refining quality of care standards

[Read more](#)



## A United Front against the Global Brain Health Emergency

The global crisis in brain health — with complicated roots, hard-to-treat disorders and far-reaching effects — is an issue that no single organization or government can solve. Instead, a network of organizations, experts and funding bodies is needed.

EBC is proud to be one of the key actors in building this global community for collaboration in the brain health and research space together with colleagues from across the world and in partnership with the Brain Health Collaborative and, going forward, with the recently launched CSA BrainHealth (tasked to prepare for a future European Partnership on Brain Health).

[Read more](#)

## EBC Members



## Call for applications — ECNP New Frontiers Meeting 2024

The **ECNP New Frontiers Meeting 2024: A roadmap for a new diagnostic framework for mental disorders** will be held from 17-18 March 2024 in Nice, France, and digitally by livestream.

Bringing together key stakeholders, the meeting seeks to explore how the classification of neuropsychiatric disorders can be linked to their underlying biology, creating a pathway to precision diagnostics and the development of new and better treatments for these complex illnesses.

Browse the complete [programme](#) and [apply now!](#)

Please note that [registration fees](#) are applicable for selected participants.

Deadline for in-person participation is **13 December 2023** at 17.00 CET.

[Read More](#)



## World Radiosurgery Day 2023

World Radiosurgery Day was celebrated on November 24th, marking the birthday of Swedish Neurosurgery Professor Lars Leksell, known as the "Father of Radiosurgery."

Radiosurgery, born in the late 1940s, has evolved to treat various brain and skull-base conditions and extracranial applications like stereotactic body radiotherapy.

On this day, healthcare professionals, policy leaders, patients, and caregivers are recognised for their contributions to this vital neurosurgical practice.

The EANS supports and encourages its members to celebrate and promote radiosurgery on this significant day.

[Read More](#)



## EANS, ESNR and EAN joined forces at the 46th ESNR Annual Meeting

During the 46th ESNR (European Society of Neuroradiology) Annual Meeting in September 2023, Prof. Tarek Yousry, ESNR President, initiated a meeting with leaders of EANS and EAN (European Academy of Neurology) to discuss potential areas of cooperation between the three societies as many goals and interests are shared concerning research, education, professional development as well as clinical practice focusing on the ultimate benefit for patients.

Prof. Tarek Yousry, Prof. Cem Calli, ESNR Treasurer, and Prof. Andrea Rossi, ESNR Vice President, participated on behalf of ESNR. EANS was represented by Prof. Torstein Meling, EANS President, and EAN by Prof. Thomas Berger, EAN Board Member and Chair of the Scientific Committee. The close cooperation with the National Member Societies has been emphasized and best practices in this regard have been exchanged as well.

[Read more](#)



## IBRO 2024 Grants Calendar is out!

If you are looking for event support or opportunities to boost your career in 2024 - Check out the online IBRO 2024 Grants Calendar and start planning your applications for next year!

[Read more](#)



## Neuroscience Applied — New open access articles

Check out the latest articles in *Neuroscience Applied*. All are open access and free to download.

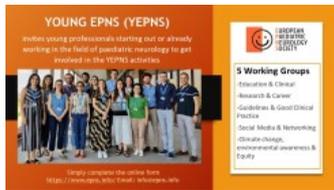
- [Conducting CNS trials during a public health emergency – Lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic: A joint ISCTM/ECNP working group consensus paper](#), Kemi Olugemo et al.

- [Trazodone once-a-day: A formula for addressing challenges in antidepressant safety and tolerability](#), Joseph F. Goldberg et al.

*Neuroscience Applied* is ECNP's fully open-access scientific journal, targeting the intersection between neuroscience, applications and new treatment horizons.

It is still possible to have your papers published **free of charge**, if you submit it before the end of 2023.

[Read more](#)



## Do you want to be actively involved in the activities of the Young European Paediatric Neurology Society (YEPNS)?

If you want to learn more and be actively involved in the activities of the YEPNS Working Groups, like and follow their social media accounts on Instagram **@young\_epns** and Facebook **@YEPNS** and fill out the YEPNS free subscription form which can be found on this webpage.

[Read more](#)



## Save the Date: European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) Research Meeting

Regular registration for the Brain Conference on “Structuring knowledge for flexible behaviour” is open until 14 June 2023! This high-level meeting will bring together outstanding speakers to tackle the latest questions on how knowledge is organised systematically in the brain and provide early insights into how such representations are learned. Register now and gain unique insights into this new neuroscience field!

[Read more](#)



## Call for Satellite and Networking Events

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) is excited to announce the opening of early registration, abstract submission and FENS travel grants for the FENS Forum 2024, that will take place in Vienna, Austria, from 25-29 June.

Occurring biennially since 1998, the Forum is Europe’s largest international neuroscience congress and attracts thousands of scientists and students from all over the world to celebrate and share discoveries about the brain and nervous system, and their significance in health and disease.

You can register and submit your applications on the FENS Forum website.

[Read more](#)



## Save the date: 13 December 2023 | 14:00 – 15:45 (CET)!

As part of the GAMIAN-Europe Peer Support Project, we are hosting a series of workshops exploring different aspects of peer support as well as sharing best practices. Don't miss the last workshop, focusing on the digital peer support and the innovative effect of these interventions. Register [here](#) to join the conversation.

[Join the Conversation](#)



## Last chance to be part of "The Vibrant Mind!"

GAMIAN-Europe promotes mental health through creativity and invites people with lived experience across Europe to submit their artwork and seize to the opportunity to see their art featured in galleries across Europe. Submit your artwork [here](#) by the **10<sup>th</sup> of December**. More information on how to be involved [here](#).

[Read more](#)

## National Brain Councils



## 10th Academy of National Brain Councils

The 10th National Brain Councils Academy will take place in Pula (Croatia) on **May 8-9, 2024**.

National Brain Councils (NBCs) are independent and multidisciplinary councils that unite scientific organisations of neuroscientists, psychiatrists, neurologists, neurosurgeons, patients' associations, as well as the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, in order to speak with one strong voice — at the national level — on behalf of the “brain space”.

[Read more](#)



## Belgian Brain Council Launches the Brain Data Hub

The BBC with the support of EBC and 5 other NBCs is preparing a Data Altruistic Association.

The Brain Data Hub is pioneering the establishment of Europe's first data altruism organization in the brain and mental health domain. Our mission is to fuel research and support evidence-based public policy.

[Read more](#)

# EBC Members & Industry Partners

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

Find out the latest from our [Members](#) and [Industry Partners](#)!

## For your Agenda

### EBC Events

25 January 2024 - Brain Health for Society: Insights from Brain Capital, Basel (Switzerland)

7 April 2024 - Assessing the value of mental health treatments for youth in Europe, 32<sup>nd</sup> European Congress of Psychiatry, Budapest (Hungary)

8-9 May 2024 - 10th Academy of National Brain Councils, Pula (Croatia)

### Events of Interest

6-9 December 2023 - 17<sup>th</sup> European Headache Congress, Barcelona (Spain) & Virtual

6 December 2023 - EPA 40th Anniversary event, Brussels (Belgium) & Virtual

6 December 2023 - Brain-Specific Post-Diagnostic Support, Dementia Research Network Ireland Webinar, Virtual

13 December 2023 - Brain Health in Dementia and Physical Activity, Dementia Research Network Ireland Webinar, Virtual

5-9 March 2024 - AD/PD™ 2024 International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases and related neurological disorders, Lisbon (Portugal) & Virtual

11-12 March 2024 - Life Beyond Stroke, European Life After Stroke Forum, Dublin (Ireland)

6-9 April 2024 - 32nd European Congress of Psychiatry, Budapest (Hungary)

7 April 2024 - Assessing the value of mental health treatments for youth in Europe, 32nd European Congress of Psychiatry, Budapest (Hungary)

24-26 April 2024 - 36th Global Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, Krakow, Poland

9-12 May 2024 - 3rd International Conference on Neurological Disorders and Neurorestoration (Croatia)

25-29 June 2024 - FENS Forum 2024, Vienna (Austria)

29 June-2 July 2024 - 10th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, Helsinki (Finland)

21-24 September 2024 - 37th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) Congress, Milan (Italy)

24-27 September 2023 - 27th Congress of the European Sleep Research Society, Seville (Spain)

13-17 October 2024 - Congress of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS), Sofia (Bulgaria)

8-12 July 2025 - 16th European Paediatric Neurology Society Congress, Munich (Germany)



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