



European Brain Council

Newsletter - January 2024



Letter from the President

Dear EBC Members, Partners, and Community,

I wanted to take the opportunity of the January newsletter to wish you a belated Happy New Year and I hope you have had a wonderful start to 2024.

2024 is set to be a momentous year across the globe, with major elections taking place across 64 countries worldwide, including European and US elections, and we are witnessing times of political, economic, and overall societal shifts and instability. These developments will certainly impact us all, but also provide opportunity to build on the work we have already achieved together, and we look forward, as EBC and as a community, to continue working to make an impact for the recognition and prioritisation of brain health at the highest levels, both in Europe and beyond.

As you will see in this edition of the EBC newsletter, 2024 has kicked off at full speed, with a number of activities and events already underway, and plenty more to come in the months ahead. I am certain it will be another big year for EBC and the brain community.

With the **Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth** fully underway, we enter a crucial time for brain health and research in Europe, as we lay down the foundations and key priorities for a **European Brain Health Partnership** as from 2025. With EBC leading the Communication and Dissemination, Global Outreach and contributing actively to the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, our well-established European and budding global presence is firmly set to expand this year. With **EBC's debut in Davos** within three side events of the World Economic Forum and the 25 January EBC-led event on "**Brain Health in Society: Insights from Brain Capital**" in Basel, these two Switzerland-based activities demonstrated our growing presence at a more global scale, putting EBC on the agenda with organisations and contacts from across the Atlantic and beyond.

This provides perfect traction for the year, with the upcoming launch of the **Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem** later in February; our annual **Brain Awareness Week** event on 7 March in the European Parliament and **Academy of National Brain Councils** on 9 May in Pula, Croatia, both focused on the dissemination of EBC's **2024 European Elections Manifesto** as well as active involvement in the fostering and establishment of **National Brain Health Plans and/or Strategies**; continued collaboration with our members with key events at their **upcoming congresses**; and planning kicking off for the **79th United Nations General Assembly** side event, in a pivotal year for global policy as the post-Sustainable Development Goals era planning begins. These are just to name a few of the exciting initiatives coming up in

Looking forward to another year of close collaboration with you all and wishing you all the best in your endeavours for 2024. Please keep in touch and let's keep up our work together for the brain.

Sincerely,

Suzanne L. Dickson

Prof. Suzanne L. Dickson
EBC President



EBC Activities



EBC in Davos during the 2024 World Economic Forum

During the 2024 World Economic Forum in Davos, EBC was invited to take part in several panels and events to push for a better prioritization of brain health and research in the international economic agenda.

Discover the highlights of EBC's participation in Davos on our website:

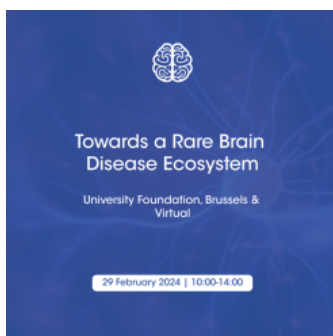
[Read more](#)



European Brain Foundation Event on Concussion in Sports

On February 24, the European Brain Foundation (EBF), in partnership with Rugby Europe, will host its first public event on the subject of Brain in Sport dedicated to concussion, providing the most comprehensive information possible on concussion and its treatment, including key opinion leaders and experts in field to share state of play in a medico-scientific perspective and testimonies from players, to better understand where the risk of concussion and head trauma in a particular sport exists and how it best to manage it.

[Read more & Register](#)



Towards a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem

On the occasion of the Rare Diseases Day, join us to explore what can be done to improve the lives of people living with a rare disease!

Date: 29 February 2024

Time: 10:00-14:00

Location: Brussels & Online

The event bring together researchers, clinicians, persons living with brain disease and industry to share their perspectives and priorities in the rare brain disease research, care, and policy space.

[Read more & Register](#)



Prioritising brain health in Europe and beyond

Without a substantial increase in efforts and resources to promote a fundamental understanding of the mechanisms that generate proper brain function, it will be impossible to design treatments that address the real pandemic of brain health.

In December 2023, EBC published an article titled 'Prioritising Brain Health in Europe and Beyond' in Open Access Government.

[Read the article](#)



From fragmentation to collaboration in European brain research

In the European Journal of Neurology, EBC founder Jes Olesen discussed the role of EBC in advocating for a better prioritization of brain health, research and innovation in Europe. Here, its formation, early history and the results of its advocacy are described.

[Read more](#)



EBC joined HEREDITARY kick-off meeting

EBC attended the HEREDITARY kick-off meeting taking place on 25-26 January 2024 in Padua!

HEREDITARY is an EU-funded research project integrating different data sources to enable clinicians, researchers and policymakers to better understand the gut-brain interplay and develop more effective treatment strategies.

For the next 4 years, EBC will partner on the community building and the creation of policy impact.

[Read more](#)

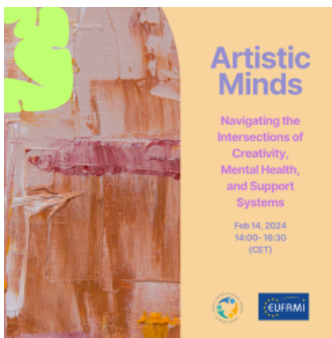


EBC is hiring a Policy Trainee!

EBC is looking for an intern to join the Brussels office to support our policy monitoring efforts to feed into our core work. If you are someone who enjoys analysing policy trends to feed into advocacy efforts, advising on strategies and working in a dynamic, fast-paced, and social environment, please submit your application! Aside from day-to-day monitoring, expect to get involved in supporting EBC's main advocacy-related projects and initiatives, helping drive performance and build plans for the future. The role has a very broad scope and will require an individual who is good at communicating across functional teams.

[Learn more](#)

EBC Members



Artistic Mind: Navigating the Intersections of Creativity, Mental Health, and Support Systems

GAMIAN-Europe, in collaboration with EUFAMI, invites you to the "Artistic Mind: Navigating the Intersections of Creativity, Mental Health, and Support Systems" webinar on Wednesday, 14th February. This event is part of the Vibrant Mind Project that aims to spotlight the complex relationship between artistry and mental health, fostering dialogue, challenging stigmas, and enhancing understanding.

Join this crucial conversation on the nexus of creativity and mental well-being.

[Further details & Registration](#)



GAMIAN-Europe joins two EU-funded research projects

GAMIAN-Europe is proud to announce its involvement in two new European-funded research projects. In the "Virtual Brain Twin," a 4-year initiative with 18 partners led by EBRAINS, GAMIAN-Europe will contribute ethical perspectives on creating virtual brain twins for psychiatric patients, aiming to optimise treatments. Meanwhile, in "EARLY: Evaluating, Identifying and Reducing Determinants of Mental Health Conditions in Youth," coordinated by the University of Applied Sciences in Emden, Germany, GAMIAN-Europe will support efforts to mitigate mental health conditions among youth, focusing on dissemination and communication strategies. These projects underscore GAMIAN-Europe's commitment to advancing mental health research and support.

[Learn more](#)



Early registration, abstract submission and FENS travel grants deadline approaching!

Seize your chance to be part of the FENS Forum 2024: the early registration, abstract submission and travel grant applications are still open! The deadline is 9 February 2024.

Join us 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.

[Register](#)



'Brain Health Matters' – a new podcast from the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)

In late 2023 EFNA launched the Brain Health Matters podcast series. The podcast is presented by EFNA's Senior Communications Manager, Elizabeth Cunningham, and features the life stories of people affected by neurological conditions as well as voices from industry and the patient advocacy community.

Through this podcast, EFNA hopes to raise awareness of how precious our brain health is, how many of us will be affected by neurological conditions and how, while many of those conditions are unavoidable, there are ways that all of us can protect and improve our brain health.

You can listen to the Brain Health Matters podcast via the EFNA website, at Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you like to listen to your podcasts!

[Listen to EFNA's podcast](#)



The latest e-learning module from the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) explores the EU Health Data Space for Neurology.

In this module users can learn what the European Health Data Space (EHDS) is, what it can be used for, and what protections are in place for European health data.

In addition to how the EHDS can be used broadly for improvements in health care delivery, the audience is taken through how the EHDS can be used to support policy implementation- both through support of the WHO's 10-year Intersectoral Global Action plan on Epilepsy and Other Neurological Disorders (IGAP), relevant to all neurological conditions, and also for rare neurological conditions in support of the Rare 2030 Recommendations.

EFNA's e-learning modules are free to access, though registration is required. Participants will be able to access personalised certificates of completion following each module.

[Learn More & Register](#)



European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) Research Meeting 2024

Taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia on 17-18 October 2024, this meeting is a forum for researchers in Paediatric Neurology, where they present their work, ideas, results, creating the possibility for good interaction between researchers and premises for networking, future collaborative research in Europe and beyond. Experienced professionals and young researchers get together, in an environment where interactive, vivid discussions can take place around the presented topics.

[Submit an Abstract / Apply for a Bursary](#)



European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) Congress 2025

Taking place in Munich, Germany on **8-12 July 2025**, with the topic 'A for Acute, B for Brain Health & Science, C for Chronic', be part of this unique ABC format to learn, meet and exchange ideas on an international stage

[Learn More & Register](#)

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](#)

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

24 February 2024 - Brain in Sport: Preventing & Managing Concussion and its Consequences, European Brain Foundation, Brussels (Belgium)

29 February 2024 - Towards a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem, Brussels (Belgium)

7 March 2024 - EBC Brain Awareness Week 2024 Event: No Health without Brain Health, European Parliament, Brussels (Belgium)

6-9 April 2024 - Beyond the Voices of Schizophrenia (e-poster), 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 - Rethinking Alzheimer's disease: Cross-roads in the earlier detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer's (poster presentation), 36th Global Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, Krakow (Poland)

26 April 2024 - Rethinking Alzheimer's disease: Scaling up health systems' readiness, 36th Global Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, Krakow (Poland)

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

25 June 2024 - Boosting Youth Brain Health: The Key to a Thriving Society in Europe, FENS Forum 2024, Vienna (Austria)

13-14 November 2024 - Brain Innovation Days, Brussels (Belgium)

Events featuring EBC

14-15 February 2024 - Bio-Neuroscience, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

22 February 2024 - Launch of the research report on 'Alcohol and the Brain', Brussels (Belgium)

25 August - 1 September 2024 - Walking the Talk for Dementia, Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

Events of Interest

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 - European Life After Stroke Forum, Dublin (Ireland)

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

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

25-27 April 2024 - 13th Neuronus Neuroscience Forum, Krakow (Poland)

2-3 May 2024 - Tech Tour Mental & Brain Health, Carcavelos, Portugal

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

15-16 May 2024 - 12th European Conference on Rare Diseases & Orphan Products, Brussels (Belgium)

15-17 May 2024 - 10th European Stroke Organization Conference, Basel (Switzerland)

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 2024 - 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)

17-18 October 2024 - EPNS Research Meeting, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

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



[Manage your communication preferences](#)