



**United  
Nations**

## **BRAIN HEALTH AT THE SCIENCE SUMMIT AT THE UNGA79**

**NEUROSCIENCE & SOCIETY: A LIFE COURSE APPROACH TO BRAIN HEALTH  
19-20 SEPTEMBER 2024**

**CURE. | 345 PARK AVE S. NEW YORK CITY, USA**



Brain  
Capital  
Alliance



MEADOWS  
MENTAL HEALTH  
POLICY INSTITUTE



**UsAgainst  
Alzheimer's**



# INTRODUCTION

The [European Brain Council \(EBC\)](#), [Brain Capital Alliance](#), [Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative](#), [Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute](#) and [UNICEF](#) will host a two-day, high-level side event at the 79th United Nations General Assembly, in collaboration with partner organizations, in the framework of the [Science Summit at the 79th United Nations General Assembly \(UNGA79\)](#) in New York City.

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 and demonstrate the role and contribution of science in attaining the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs, the two-day event will highlight existing partnerships and the immense potential and benefits of extending global collaboration in the brain space, for science, policymaking, and society as a whole.

Brain disorders – encompassing neurological diseases and disorders and mental illnesses – are widespread, disabling, and difficult to treat. In fact, it is estimated that up to three billion people worldwide live with a neurological condition and 970 million people around the world were living with a mental health disorder as of 2019. These conditions represent a high individual, social and economic burden and contribute immensely to the global burden of disease – in fact, as of 2024, neurological conditions alone are now the leading cause of ill health and disability worldwide.

With this growing burden in mind, we need to not only find ways to address the ongoing issues but to work towards a society fully recognizing the potential of supporting citizens' brain health. At its best, optimal brain health allows people to thrive: to live in health and in happiness, to power our labour markets and economies, and to build for future generations. Instead of divesting in a cost, policymakers and society at large should view the prioritization and support of brain health, research, and innovation as an investment into prevention, wellness, and optimization, creating a better future for every citizen of the world.

To work towards explicit and tangible next steps in solidifying global efforts in brain health, EBC proposes a two-day event, which will showcase the importance and urgency of prioritizing brain health across all policies at the global level and build on the [Call to Action](#) launched during last year's event. Addressing the immense global burden of brain disorders means investing in research and innovation in the brain health space to power our understanding of the brain, stay ahead in the quest to find treatment and cures and work to prevent any further increase in the prevalence of these conditions. Furthermore, at the socio-economic level, policies and investments to boost brain power can increase productivity, stimulate greater creativity and economic dynamism, afford social cohesion, and create a more resilient, adaptable, and sustainability-engaged populace.

Key stakeholders from across the wider brain community – patients, scientists, clinicians, policymakers, industry leaders, economists and other relevant actors – will meet to present on their work and co-create towards further action to place brain health at the top of global policy agendas in the post-Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) era. This action is incredibly timely, as dozens of countries worldwide host major elections, and we are witnessing times of major political, economic, and overall societal shifts and instability. Furthermore, at the global level, the United Nations enters a period of preparation for the future, with the Summit of the Future kicking off during UNGA79 to plan for the post-2030 agenda and a High-Level Conference on NCDs planned in 2025.

The coordinated implementation of national, regional, and global brain health plans and/or strategies, under the leadership of the WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan (IGAP), to better coordinate brain health and overall brain wealth advances across the Global North and Global South is more important than ever before.

We foresee the days examining three key areas, through presentations, guided panel discussions and interactive discussion:

- The challenge, impact and need for action;
- Brain health and society – the brain in the life course;
- Boosting global partnerships, capacity building and investing in neuroscience.



# EARLY PROGRAMME

Day One – September 19, 2024		
8:30-9:30	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
9:30-9:50	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Moderated by Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director, European Brain Council</p>	<p>Prof. Suzanne Dickson, President, European Brain Council</p> <p>George Vradenburg, Founding Chairman, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative &amp; Chairman and Co-Founder, UsAgainstAlzheimer's</p> <p>Dr. Andy Keller, President, Chief Executive Officer, and Linda Perryman Evans Presidential Chair, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute</p> <p>Dr. Harris Eyre, Lead, Brain Capital Alliance</p>
9:50-10:00	Welcome Keynote	Governor Kathy Hochul, 57th Governor of New York
10:00-10:10	Prioritizing child and youth brain health and development: a life course approach	Dr. Zeinab Hijazi, Global Lead on Mental Health, Programme Division Director's Office (PGLT), UNICEF HQ
10:10-10:20	Patient Perspective	
10:20-10:30	Developments in the Global Action Plan	Devora Kestel, World Health Organization
10:30-11:15	Implementing the IGAP through national brain health plans – insight from Chile, India, Finland & Switzerland	<p>Prof. Josefina Cruzat, BrainLat, Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, Chile</p> <p>Prof. Rajinder Dhamija, Chair, National Task Force on Brain Health, Indian Government</p> <p>Mika Pyykkö, Executive Director, Finnish Brain Association</p> <p>Prof. Kristina Adorjan, Swiss Brain Health Plan</p> <p>Prof. Zul Merali, Founding Director, Brain and Mind Institute, Aga Khan University, Kenya</p>
11:15-11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45-11:55	<p>Business and Brain Health</p> <p>Led by UsAgainstAlzheimer's</p>	<p>Brian Jebb, Partner, Global Co-Head, Compensation, Employment &amp; Governance</p> <p>James Mitchell Garvie, Senior VP Total Rewards and Technology, Southern Company</p>
11:55-12:30		<p>Krystal Sexton, Health Analytics, Shell</p> <p>Representative from GN Group</p> <p>Moderator: Karen Moseley, CEO, HERO</p>
12:30-13:15	In Discussion With: Neuroscience for Health and Society	Dr. Tarek Samad, Senior Vice President and Global Head of Research, Lundbeck
13:15-14:15	Lunch	

14:15-15:00	Implementing Innovation in Brain Health Across Sectors	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
15:00-15:20	Setting the Scene: The brain in the life course	Prof. Sameer Zuberi, European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS)
15:20-15:30	Youth Brain Health	Krista Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, UnitedHealthcare
15:30-16:15		Hazel Health
16:15-16:30	Audience Discussion	
16:30-17:00	Neuroscience and the Built Environment: Advancing Brain Health and Resiliency	Perkins&Will
17:00-17:15	Wrap-up of Day One	
17:15-19:00	Networking Reception	

Day Two – September 20, 2024		
8:30-9:00	Networking Coffee	
9:00-9:05	Welcome Back, Recap of Day One	
9:05-9:20	Innovations in Parkinson's Disease: Unveiling Co-Pathologies and Advancing Brain Health	Dr Sohini Chowdhury, Chief Program Officer - Research Programs & Partnerships, The Michael J. Fox Foundation
9:20-10:05	Reflecting on the Global Burden of Brain Conditions	The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) Chaired & Moderated by Prof. Matilde Leonardi, European Academy of Neurology
10:05-10:15	The Yaounde Declaration: a roadmap for the deployment of brain science-inspired policies and investments across Africa	Prof. Alfred K. Njamnshi, CEO and Founder, Brain Research Africa Initiative (BRAIN); World Federation of Neurology Delegate for Cameroon
10:15-10:25	Strategies to Support Brain Health and Cognitive Function Starting in Midlife	Davos Alzheimer’s Collaborative
10:25-11:10		
11:10-11:25	Audience Discussion	
11:25-11:45	Coffee Break	
11:45-12:30	Open Science Solutions: Pioneering Global Capacity in Developmental Mental Health Research  Led by the Child Mind Institute	Dr. Michael Milham, Chief Science Officer, Child Mind Institute Dr. Adriana Di Martino, Autism Center Research Director, Child Mind Institute Dr. Ting Xu, Director of the Center for Integrative Developmental Neuroscience Child Mind Institute Dr. Pedro Valdes-Sosa, General Vice-Director for Research, Cuban Neuroscience Center Dr. Soraya Seedat, Executive Head of the Department of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University, South Africa Dr. Giovanni Salum, Vice President of Global Programs, Child Mind Institute
12:30-12:45	Audience Discussion	
12:45-13:45	Lunch	

13:45-14:30	Unlocking the science of adolescent brain development to promote effective policy and practice	Led by UNICEF and UNODC
14:30-14:40	Audience Discussion	
14:40-15:30	Applying Neuroscience in the Courtroom  Led by the Dana Foundation	Judge Gloria Tan, Massachusetts Juvenile Court Oliver Rollins, MIT (transitioning from University of Washington)  Diego Alejandro Borbón Rodríguez, Universidad Externado de Colombia  Eric García-López, Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas de Toledo (UCLM)  Moderator: Deborah Denno, Fordham University
15:30-16:15	Neurotechnology for Good: Moving Forward Together	Institute of Neuroethics, International Center for Future Generations
16:15-17:00	Building a Statewide Ecosystem of Supports	Hazel Health
17:00-17:30	Audience Discussion and Closing Remarks	

## 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 conjured 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](#) | [National Brain Councils](#)



## CO-ORGANISERS

The **Brain Capital Alliance** was launched following on from the success of the OECD Neuroscience-inspired Policy Initiative (NIPI) as an expanded, multi-national and multi-organizational program. The program 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 recognizes 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 on a societal scale.



Brain  
Capital  
Alliance

The **Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative (DAC)** is a global partnership of like-minded organizations that is mobilizing the world against Alzheimer's disease. Advised by leaders in science, finance and healthcare, DAC is working with international organizations, governments, and the private sector to accelerate innovation and deliver solutions around the globe. Led by the World Economic Forum (WEF) and The Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease (CEOi), the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative (DAC) is investing over \$700 million over 6 years to accelerate innovation in drug development and transform the way healthcare systems diagnose and treat Alzheimer's for all people in all places.



The **Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute** works at the intersection of policy and programs to create equitable systemic changes so all people in Texas, the nation, and the world can obtain the health care they need, providing independent, nonpartisan, data-driven, and trusted policy and program guidance to improve mental health services in Texas. It's about more than funding at the state level. It's about leveraging our resources statewide at a grassroots level—sharing best practices, making resources available, accessing information, building protocol—and using that information to help those who need it most.



## CO-ORGANISERS

**UNICEF**, the United Nations Children's Fund, is an agency of the United Nations responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. The organization is one of the most widely known and visible social welfare entities globally, operating in 192 countries and territories. UNICEF's activities include providing immunizations and disease prevention, administering treatment for children and mothers with HIV, enhancing childhood and maternal nutrition, improving sanitation, promoting education, and providing emergency relief in response to disasters.



**UsAgainstAlzheimer's** is engaged in a relentless pursuit to end Alzheimer's, the sixth leading killer in America. Its work centers on prevention, early detection and diagnosis, and access to treatments – all regardless of gender, race, or ethnicity. To achieve its mission, UsAgainstAlzheimer's gives voice to patients and caregivers while partnering with government, scientists, the private sector, and allied organizations. The Business Collaborative for Brain Health, an initiative of UsAgainstAlzheimer's is uniting leading private sector companies and institutions to optimize cognitive health for better business results and healthy longevity.



## PARTNERS

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





# PREVIOUS EVENTS

Over the last few years, EBC has served as a convener for experts in brain science, brain health, brain resiliency and mental health 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. 2024 kicked off with a first event on Brain Health for Society: Insights From Brain Capital and will build towards the UNGA79 event with related meetings at the World Health Assembly, FENS Forum and possibly the G20 Meeting, as well as other relevant events at national and/or regional levels such the Brain Awareness Week 2024 and Academy of National Brain Councils Meeting.

Two main discussions took place in 2023:

- Brain Health and Research Day @ Science Summit at the 78th United Nations General Assembly
- Global Partnerships in Brain Research @ Brain Awareness Week 2023

Prior to 2023:

- Global Partnerships in Brain Research Roundtable @ Science Summit at the 77th United Nations General Assembly
- Global Brain Research Collaboration - Special Interest Event at the FENS Forum 2020

