



**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	Opening Session	<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> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Frédéric Destrebecq, Executive Director, European Brain Council</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	
11:45-12:30	In Discussion With: Neuroscience for Health and Society	Dr. Tarek Samad, Senior Vice President and Global Head of Research, Lundbeck
12:30-13:15	<b>Business and Brain Health</b>  Led by UsAgainstAlzheimer's  Today's economy demands cognitive skills such as creativity, analytical thinking, focus, and memory retention. Our businesses and institutions rely on brain power more than ever before to solve critical challenges. This brief panel discussion will address how employers are beginning to view brain health as a critical competitive asset that can not only build healthy longevity, but also generate greater economic returns, empowerment, and societal resilience.	<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> <p>Krystal Sexton, Health Analytics, Shell</p> <p>Representative from GN Group</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Karen Moseley, CEO, HERO</p>
13:15-14:00	Lunch	

14:00-15:00	<b>Implementing Innovation in Brain Health Across Sectors</b>	Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
15:00-15:40	<b>Collaborative Partnerships for Improving Access to Neurological Medicines in Lower &amp; Middle-Income Countries</b>  An insightful discussion featuring esteemed panel participants from government, industry, and non-governmental institutions. Together, we will explore collaborative strategies aimed at facilitating broader patient access to neurological medicines in lower and middle-income countries. Our focus will be on increasing the acceptance and adoption of crucial resources such as the WHO Essential Medicines List, the WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Neurological Disorders, and the WHO Report on Improving Access to Medicines for Neurological Disorders. This panel aims to drive impactful partnerships and initiatives for addressing the global need for enhanced access to neurological medicines, to improve patient outcomes.	Kent Jancarik, VP, Global Public Policy, EMD Serono
15:40-16:20	<b>Neuroscience and the Built Environment: Advancing Brain Health and Resiliency</b>  The built environment significantly influences human behavior, cognitive function, and emotional wellbeing. The brain processes sensory input from surroundings, translating it into emotions and physical responses. This session will explore the neuropsychological impact of the built environment and innovative designs that enhance brain health and resiliency. Our panel of experts will discuss creating spaces that engage individuals cognitively and emotionally to improve brain health. We will also highlight two research-driven projects focused on behavioral, mental, and neurological health: the John S. Dunn Behavioral Health Science Center and the UC Gardner Neuroscience Institute.	Perkins&Will
16:20-16:30	<b>Setting the Scene: The brain in the life course</b>	Prof. Sameer Zuberi, European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS)
16:30-16:40	<b>Youth Brain Health</b>	Krista Nelson, Chief Executive Officer, UnitedHealthcare
16:40-17:15		Hazel Health
17:15-17:30	<b>Wrap-up of Day One</b>	
17:30-19:00	<b>Networking Reception</b>	

Day Two – September 20, 2024		
8:30-9:00	Networking Coffee	
9:00-9:15	Welcome Back, Recap of Day One	
9:15-9:30	<b>Innovations in Parkinson's Disease: Unveiling Co-Pathologies and Advancing Brain Health</b>  A keynote address by the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, this presentation will focus on innovative approaches to advancing diagnostic tools and therapies for neurodegenerative diseases. Emphasizing recent findings in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, the presentation advocates for early identification of disease and integrated biological approaches that span multiple neurodegenerative conditions. The message underscores the need for partnerships to advance diagnostic tools and treatments, aiming for a future where early intervention and improved treatments are possible/are the norm.	Catherine Kopil, Senior Vice President, Clinical Research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation
9:30-10:15	<b>From Research to Policy: Shaping a Healthier Future for our Brains</b>  This panel will bring together policy experts, researchers, and scientists to engage in a comprehensive discussion on the global challenges associated with brain disorders. Our primary focus will be on exploring the ways in which enhanced research into brain health interventions and their economic implications can significantly reduce the burden of brain disorders. Additionally, we'll delve into how these advancements can bolster economies and outline the actionable steps required for implementing these strategies on a global scale.	The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME)  Sarah Lenz Lock, Senior Vice President, Policy and Brain Health - Policy, Research and International Affairs, AARP; Executive Director, Global Council on Brain Health  Bitu Moghaddam, Ruth Matarazzo Professor of Behavioral Neuroscience, Oregon Health & Science University  Moderator: Prof. Matilde Leonardi, Chair Communication Committee, European Academy of Neurology; Director of Unit, IRCCS National Neurological Institute Besta, Italy; Director, Italian WHO Collaborating Centre Research Branch
10:15-10:30	<b>The Yaoundé Declaration: a roadmap for the deployment of brain science-inspired policies and investments across Africa</b>	Prof. Alfred K. Njamnshi, CEO and Founder, Brain Research Africa Initiative (BRAIN); World Federation of Neurology Delegate for Cameroon
10:30-11:15	<b>Strategies to Support Brain Health and Cognitive Function Starting in Midlife</b>	Vaibhav Narayan, EVP, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative  Evelyn Gitau, CSO, Science for Africa Foundation  Chris Lynch, Deputy CEO & Director of Policy & Communications, Alzheimer's Disease International
11:15-11:30	Audience Discussion	
11:30-11:50	Coffee Break	



11:50-12:00	<b>The role of stress and resilience in brain health</b>	Sahib Khalsa, Director of Anxiety Disorders Research, UCLA
12:00-12:45	<b>Open Science Solutions: Pioneering Global Capacity in Developmental Mental Health Research</b>  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
12:45-13:45	<b>Lunch</b>	
13:45-14:30	<b>Unlocking the science of adolescent brain development to promote effective policy and practice</b>	Led by UNICEF and UNODC
14:30-15:30	<b>Applying Neuroscience in the Courtroom</b>  Led by Caroline Montojo, Dana Foundation and Francis Shen, University of Minnesota, and Director of the Dana Career Network for Neuroscience and Society  As neuroscience research and neurotechnology development continue to advance, the consideration of neuroscience in legal proceedings becomes increasingly pivotal. This panel aims to explore the burgeoning intersection of neuroscience and law, focusing on the expanding role of neuroscientific evidence in criminal and civil cases. It will delve into opportunities for the international community to foster responsible practices in utilizing neuroscience within legal frameworks. Key themes include current applications of neuroscientific evidence in criminal sentencing and brain injury litigation, prospective uses of brain evidence, complexities in moving from group to individual inference, international disparities in the evidentiary standards for neuroscience, and the evolving socio-legal landscape of neurolaw.	Dr. Caroline Montojo, President and CEO, 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)  <b>Moderator:</b> Deborah Denno, Fordham University
15:30-16:15	<b>Neurotechnology for Good: Moving Forward Together</b>	Virginia Mahieu, Director, Neurotechnology, International Center for Future Generations  Darrell Porcello, Director of National STEM Networks, Children's Creativity Museum  Karen Rommelfanger, Director, Institute of Neuroethics  Arleen Salles, Member of the Board of Directors, Institute of Neuroethics  Paweł Świeboda, Senior Fellow for Neurotechnology, International Center for Future Generations; Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance
16:15-17:00	<b>Building a Statewide Ecosystem of Supports</b>	Hazel Health
17:00-17:30	<b>Audience Discussion and Closing Remarks</b>	

# 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.





## CO-ORGANISERS

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.



[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.



# CO-ORGANISERS

**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

