

# European Brain Council

Newsletter - December 2024



## EBC Activities



## EBC at the Mental Health Day in Davos

On [22 January 2025 in Davos](#) (Switzerland), be at the heart of the mental and brain health movement during the World Economic Forum as global stakeholders are gathered to elevate the mental health movement from awareness into action. From neurotech, to psychedelics, to community-based interventions, this day-long event in the Social Innovation House promises to set the stage for mental health conversations throughout the year.

Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, will be moderating a session titled '[Brain Capital & Human Flourishing: Connecting Brain Health, Purpose, and Economic Prosperity](#)'. This timely session will delve into the significant connection between brain health, purposeful living, and their collective impact on economic and human prosperity. Learn about the concept of "Brain Capital," which emphasises the value of mental health, cognitive performance, and emotional resilience in driving societal and economic growth. Understand how prioritising brain health not only enhances individual well-being and purpose but also fosters innovation, productivity, and equity. Join thought leaders and experts as they discuss actionable strategies for building brain capital, supporting human flourishing, and creating a more prosperous and purposeful future for all.

[Learn More & Register](#)



## 'Towards a Rare Disease Ecosystem' Rare Disease Day Event on 20 February in Brussels

In the framework of Rare Disease Day 2025, EBC will organise an event in Brussels on 20 February 2025! This event will highlight the official launch of the Rethinking Myasthenia Gravis (MG) project, as well as expand on EBC's Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem & Knowledge Hub, introduced in 2024. Researchers, clinicians, persons living with brain disease and industry will share their perspectives and priorities in regards to research, care, and the policy space. This event will serve as a platform to brainstorm on how care and treatment pathways for rare brain diseases can be optimised from both the patient and clinician perspectives.

[Discover the Programme & Register](#)



## Revisit the Brain Innovation Days!

Revisit the BIDays 2024 by watching our [Aftermovie](#) and reading about the [highlights](#)! Filled with insightful discussions and ground-breaking ideas, the 4th edition of the Brain Innovation Days took place on 13 & 14 November in Brussels. Under the overarching theme “Navigating the Brain Across a Lifetime”, the event brought together key opinion leaders & stakeholders. The event examined the journey our brains take across our lifespans, from perinatal to advanced age.

[Watch the Aftermovie](#)



## EBC-led EU Health Policy Platform Thematic Network, “Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain” Releases Joint Statement

Over the past months, EBC has been actively working under the aegis of the European Commission’s DG SANTE to develop a Thematic Network titled “Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain”. After hosting two webinars on the EU Health Policy Platform and surveying the community through a public consultation, EBC was pleased to share its final Joint Statement. This Statement reminds the urgent needs for action and calls for an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain, and for the development of an EU and national brain strategies to match the targets set by WHO Global Action Plans by 2030-

2031. This document is meant to pave the way on how to connect current and upcoming initiatives as building blocks of a future holistic EU Plan, that prepares for the brain-healthy transition of our societies and addresses the burden of brain disorders, neurological and mental alike, in a comprehensive and collaborative manner.

Read the Joint Statement



## 'Towards a Strengthened European Cooperation in Brain Health Research' in Budapest!

On 9 and 10 December 2024, EBC participated in the 'Towards a Strengthened European Cooperation in Brain Health Research' Conference, hosted by the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU in Budapest. This important event brought together diverse stakeholders to promote a multi-stakeholder approach aimed at maximising the societal impact of Brain Health research. It offered a valuable platform to identify challenges and best practices for collaboration across Europe while exploring pathways for dynamic pan-European research and innovation initiatives. The event featured various plenary and interactive formats to engage stakeholders, including workshops and side events. The conference focused on two interconnected aspects: **addressing brain health with a holistic view** through cooperation among stakeholders in the European research and innovation ecosystem, and the **role of joint European research and innovation initiatives in promoting brain health** by incentivizing and funding collaborative research to achieve societal impact.

Rewatch the Conference



## 'Rethinking Alzheimer's Disease: From Diagnosis to Care' at the European Parliament

On 3 December, we met at the European Parliament to bring to life the Rethinking Alzheimer's Disease Perspective Paper launched in September by EBC and the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EPFIA). Key stakeholders joined to discuss how we approach Alzheimer's treatment, care and management - to shape the future of brain health!

By facilitating the interaction between key stakeholders, scientists, and society as a whole - this event in the European Parliament added immeasurable value to the Rethinking Alzheimer's disease project.

Look Back at the Event



## Integration and Impact Initiative EU4Health Forum 2024 on 2 December in Brussels

On 2 December, the EU4Health Forum took place in Brussels, bringing together key experts in the field! The event highlighted crucial discussions on addressing healthcare disparities, improving access, and enhancing diversity in clinical trials to strengthen the European Health Union. A key session focused on the societal and economic impact of brain health, featuring experts who explored the intricate relationships between brain health, societal well-being, and environmental factors across the lifespan. The discussion emphasised how pollution, urban living, and climate change affect neurological health, presenting both challenges and opportunities for innovation. Speakers also addressed the importance of integrating health and environmental policies, with particular attention given to paediatric cancer and environmental factors linked to neurological conditions. The event underscored the significance of prevention and sustainable healthcare solutions within the EU4Health framework.

[Find out More](#)



## First European Non-Pharmacological Interventions (NPI) Forum

The first European non-pharmacological interventions (NPI) forum took place on December 5th with the focus on improving health for European citizens through a common framework for NPIs. NPIs have been mentioned by health and scientific authorities, given their potential to improve health and quality of life in the long-term, reduce healthcare expenditure and trigger behavioural changes. They improve prevention and healthcare and complete biomedical treatments with the progress of early diagnosis and systemic impacts of non-communicable diseases. However, “fake health news” have spread rapidly in the past years and it is crucial that a European tool for citizens (patients, professionals and healthcare operators) be provided to identify evidence-based NPIs. This will allow for better choice, engagement, traceability and possible financial coverage along the whole value chain. Frīdīric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, participated in a roundtable discussion.

[Rewatch the Roundtable Discussion](#)



## “The European Union’s Budget for Health in the Upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028 - 2034.”

On December 10, Stephanie Kramer, EBC Deputy Executive Director, participated in a panel discussion organised by Young Voices in Health Policy (YVHP). The discussion topic revolved around the European Union's Budget for Health in the upcoming multiannual financial framework 2028- 2034. This was a great opportunity for young professionals in the field of health policy to meet and network!

Learn More About the Thematic Network



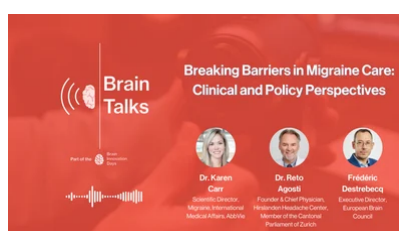
## Final General Assembly Meeting of the PRIME Project in Cologne, Germany.

As a partner, EBC was happy to take part in the final General Assembly meeting of the [PRIME Horizon2020](#) in Cologne, Germany.

The increasing number of people living with two or more chronic disorders highlights an urgent need to better understand the underlying mechanisms to improve prevention and care throughout the life course. Starting from the hypothesis that the co-occurrence of brain and somatic conditions is caused by dysregulated insulin signalling, PRIME has spent the past four years advancing knowledge on body-brain interactions and the comorbidities of insulinopathies.

During this meeting, EBC chaired a World Caf  focused on PRIME's future impact and the exploitation of project results.

Learn More About the Prime Project



Listen now to "Breaking Barriers in Migraine Care: Clinical and Policy Perspectives"



"Globally, we have about 33,000 neurologists. It sounds like a big number, but it's certainly not enough to treat the 1 billion people living with migraine worldwide."

In the latest BrainTalks episode, Sam Pauly sat down with Dr. Karen D. Carr from AbbVie, Dr. Reto [Agosti](#) & Frjđđřric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director to shed light on the many challenges faced by people living with migraine, from diagnosis delays to access to proper care, and explore policy recommendations at both national and EU level.

Tune in to discover how strategic policy actions and clinical innovation can help tackle the burden posed by migraine. Whether you're a healthcare professional, a policymaker, a patient, or an advocate, this episode has something for you!

[Listen Now](#)

## EBC Members



## Invitation to Industry — 38th ECNP Congress 2025

ECNP invites companies and organisations involved in clinical and pre-clinical research into brain disorders to join us at the #ECNP2025 Congress, Europe's largest showcase of innovation in treatment research. Apply for [industry sessions](#) and [exhibition space](#) by **15 January 2025**.

[Watch the Video](#)



## Call for Abstracts FRM2025

The Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) is pleased to announce that the call for Abstract for the FENS Regional Meeting 2025 is open! Share your neuroscience research in Oslo, Norway, from 16-19 June. Present your work, connect with peers, and contribute to the future of neuroscience. Abstract submissions close on 28 February 2025—don't miss this opportunity!

[Learn More & Submit Abstract](#)



## **GAMIAN's Anti-Stigma Campaign and Peer Support Hub / Pathfinder Tool**

The Global Alliance of Mental Illness Advocacy Network (GAMIAN-Europe) concluded 2024 with two major achievements: the impactful social media campaign and report for World Mental Health Day and the expansion of its [Peer Support Hub and Pathfinder Tool](#). The campaign [video](#) garnered 67,000 views, over 1,000 interactions, and 100 new followers. Meanwhile, the updated tool now features over 100 entries, simplifying access to mental health peer support for patients, carers, and the whole mental health community. Read the anti-stigma report [here](#) and watch the video [here](#).

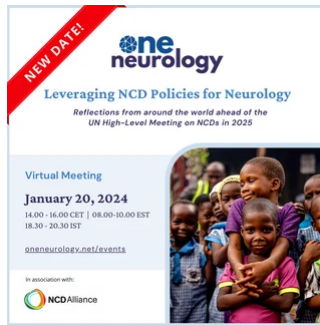
[Access the Virtual Resource](#)



## **GAMIAN at the Brain Innovation Days 2024!**

Last November, GAMIAN-Europe joined the Brain Innovation Days 2024 in Brussels, amplifying the patient voice in mental health and brain research. Eight patients shared their experiences in a powerful video, calling for greater patient inclusion in research and policy. [Watch the video](#) to hear their perspectives.

[Read the Full Story](#)



## Upcoming Webinar: ‘Leveraging NCD Policies for Neurology’

Join [OneNeurology](#), in association with the [NCD Alliance](#), for the upcoming webinar: ‘[Leveraging NCD Policies for Neurology](#),’ taking place Monday, January 20th, from 14.00hrs – 16.00hrs CET. This webinar aims to bridge the gap between global NCD (Non-Communicable Diseases) policies and the needs of the neurology community. The webinar will serve as a platform for sharing knowledge and best practices. Learn from experts in the field and fellow attendees to enhance your understanding of how NCD policies can be leveraged to support neurology. By exploring how progress in global NCD policy can be adapted and applied at the national level, we can truly make a difference in the lives of those affected by neurological conditions.

[Register](#)



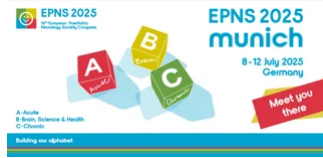
## New Podcast Episode Looks at the Future of Brain Health

Technological advancements are revolutionising the way we approach healthcare. The integration of data analytics and artificial intelligence (AI) in health systems is set to transform the landscape of neurology, offering new possibilities for diagnosis, treatment, and patient care. The latest episode of EFNA’s [Brain Health Matters podcast](#) takes a closer look at how these innovations are poised to impact the neurology community and pave the way for a brighter future for individuals with neurological conditions. You’ll also hear about significant progress in the prioritisation of brain health and neurology in global policy developments in recent years, and how this is gaining momentum, in what has been termed the ‘neurological revolution’.

Listen to the episode now at <https://www.efna.net/new-podcast-episode-the-future-of-brain-health/>, or search for ‘The Brain Health Matters Podcast’ on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or wherever you get your podcasts!

[Listen Now](#)





## Abstract Submission Now Open for the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) Congress on 8-12 July 2025 in Munich

Welcome to the 16th Congress of the European Paediatric Neurology Society (EPNS) where we classify our field into **A for Acute**, **B for Brain, Health & Science** and **C for Chronic**. We invite you to be part of this unique ABC format to learn, teach, meet, network and exchange ideas on an international stage.

Learn more about the stimulating programme and **SUBMIT** your ABSTRACT (closes 15 January 2025).

Any questions, we would be happy to hear from you: [info@epns.info](mailto:info@epns.info)

Submit your Abstract



## Call for Papers: *Neuroscience* Special Issue on Global Diversity and Disparity in Mental Health and Brain Health

*Neuroscience*, the flagship journal of the [International Brain Research Organization](https://www.ibro.org/), invites original research, review articles, theoretical papers, and empirical studies that address the complexities and synergies between brain and mental health through the lens of multimodal diversity and integrated computational models. The deadline for manuscript submission is **1 April 2025**.

Learn More

**National Brain Councils**



## For your Agenda

### SFCNS Swiss Brain Health Plan

On 5 December 2024, the Swiss Brain Health Plan was presented at the 2nd SFCNS Stakeholder Meeting which took place at the Zentrum Paul Klee in Bern.

The event brought together representatives from the Swiss healthcare system, policymakers, patients, and national and international experts to discuss and highlight the importance of good Brain Health throughout the lifespan.

The joint goal of the Swiss Brain Health Plan, chaired by Prof. Claudio Lino Bassetti, EBC Vice-President, is to raise awareness about brain health as a whole and to initiate prevention programs. The strategic task force includes approximately 50 contributors to the publication "The Swiss Brain Health Plan 2023-2033."

EBC supports this initiative and advocates for the continued development of national brain plans and a comprehensive European brain strategy. Such efforts will help elevate brain health on the policy agenda, fostering greater awareness and better protection of brain health.

[Learn More](#)

## For your Agenda

### EBC Events

20 February 2025 - Rare Disease Day: Towards a Rare Disease Ecosystem, Brussels (Belgium)

6 April 2025 - Rethinking schizophrenia care pathway (e-poster presentation), European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid (Spain)

### Events featuring EBC

22 January 2025 - Mental Health Day in Davos, Davos (Switzerland)

25-27 February 2025 - Bio-Neuroscience, Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

Starting March 2025 - EAN Advocacy Training for Neurology and Brain Health (Online)

5-8 April 2025 - 33rd Congress of the European Psychiatric Association (EPA), Madrid (Spain)

21-24 June 2025 - 11th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), Helsinki (Finland)

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

11-14 October 2025 - 38th European College of Neuropsychopharmacology Congress (ECNP), Amsterdam (The Netherlands)

5-9 October 2025 - Congress of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies, Vienna (Austria)

## **Events of Interest**

15 January 2025 - Swiss Longevity Day - Delving into the Future of Aging Better and Healthier, Zurich (Switzerland)

20 January 2025 - One Neurology: Leveraging NCD policies for Neurology, Virtual Webinar

20-21 January 2025 - ECNP Roadmap Meeting on Precision Psychiatry 2025, Frankfurt (Germany)

28 January 2025 - EU Health Summit: Reshaping Health for a Stronger Europe, Brussels (Belgium)

30 January 2025 - European Health Data and Innovation Summit, Warsaw (Poland)

20-23 March 2025 - ECNP Workshop on Applied Neuroscience, Nice (France)

23-24 March 2025 - ECNP New Frontiers Meeting 2025, Nice (France)

1-5 April 2025 - AD/PD 2025: International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases and Related Neurological Disorders, Vienna (Austria)

4-6 June 2025 - 20th International Forum on Mood and Anxiety Disorders (IFMAD),  
Budapest (Hungary)

16-19 June 2025 - FENS Regional Meeting, Oslo (Norway)

1 October 2025 - AI in Health Summit, London (England)

6-7 November 2025 - EARA Conference 2025: Shaping the future of animal research  
communication, Berlin (Germany)

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