

European Brain Council

Newsletter - January 2025



EBC Activities



Brain Health on the Global Stage in Davos During World Economic Forum 2025

The global brain health movement gained unprecedented traction in Davos, with the introduction of the Brain House and numerous events focused on driving innovation and investment in brain health across the life course.

For the first time at the World Economic Forum (WEF), brain health and the brain economy emerged as critical priorities for discussion and attention, included also within a dedicated session on the official convention programme. EBC returns energised and inspired by the collective commitment to advancing brain health research and policy. The European Brain Council (EBC) was thrilled to have taken part in various sessions on brain health in Davos and help propel this momentum.

[Find out More](#)



Join us for the Brain Health Plans Summit on 18 March 2025!

Brain Awareness Week is the global campaign to increase public awareness of the progress and benefits of brain research. On 18 March 2025, EBC plans to hold its annual

event with a focus on the establishment of brain health plans. This is particularly timely with EBC's current involvement in an EU thematic network "Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain", its engagement with National Brain Councils in the creation of brain plans and/or strategies at the national level and in line with EBC's growing global policy work and the explicit call for brain health plans by the World Health Organization (WHO) in the latest Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders. With this event, EBC would like to create a platform for showcasing success stories and best practices, knowledge exchange, brainstorming opportunities and facilitating the emergence of additional brain plans. This would be a key milestone in EBC's global engagement work in 2025, setting the pace and discussion for the 11th National Brains Councils (NBC)'s Academy, the International Workshop on Brain Health in Switzerland, the World Health Assembly, events at the G7 and G20 meetings, as well as at the 80th United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations High Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

[Find Out 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 is organising 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. Please make sure to register by February 13, as our registration will close after that.

[Discover the Programme & Register](#)



Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain: Release of Joint Statement

EBC is pleased to announce the release of its Joint Statement, developed under the 2024 [EU Health and Food Safety's](#) EUHPP Thematic Network. This Joint Statement calls for the urgent development of comprehensive brain strategies, at both EU and national levels.

With brain disorders being the leading cause of disability worldwide, the burden of

neurological and mental conditions must be addressed through collaborative, multidisciplinary and life-course approaches. This Joint Statement emphasises the need for improved research coordination, data sharing, prevention strategies, and workforce support, all while leveraging ongoing initiatives such as the upcoming European Partnership for Brain Health.

[Read the Joint Statement](#)



Transforming Sovereign Wealth to Mental Wealth – Norway’s Social Production Report Launches During the World Economic Forum

The Mental Wealth Initiative (MWI), in partnership with esteemed collaborators from the European Brain Council, Norwegian Brain Council, the European Policy Centre, the World Bank, Rice University’s Baker Institute for Public Policy, and the Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association, proudly announce the release of their report, “[The Value of Social Production in Norway](#),” during the World Economic Forum, in Davos, Switzerland, January 2025.

This report presents a pioneering approach to measuring national prosperity by integrating the concept of Mental Wealth, explicitly valuing social production alongside traditional economic output. It calls for a crucial policy shift to integrate social production into Systems of National Accounts, fostering a more comprehensive view of national prosperity. The report advocates for investments in brain and social capital, suggesting these be considered new target asset classes for Norway’s Sovereign Wealth Fund. By aligning with the EBC’s National Brain Plans, it aims to catalyse a transition to more sustainable wellbeing-oriented economies.

[Read the Report](#)



Accelerating Brain Research and Innovation in Europe and Globally: Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth at the Brain Innovation Days 2024

The 4th edition of the Brain Innovation Days took place on 13-14 November 2024 in Brussels (Belgium) under the overarching theme “Navigating the Brain Across a Lifetime”.

These two days brought together more than 90 speakers and more than 30 sessions, including inspiring Brain Talks and panel discussions, mind-blowing innovation showcases and poster presentations, and last but not least, an abundance of networking opportunities. This panel discussion brought together policymakers, scientists, and key industry players to present the current advances, drivers and barriers in the brain research and innovation space. By prioritizing brain health and fostering innovative solutions, we aim to reduce the societal and economic burdens of brain disorders. Attendees explored strategies to integrate brain health into broader health policies and economic frameworks.

[Rewatch the Session](#)



Suzanne Dickson, EBC President, at Winter Conference on Brain Research by Lake Tahoe in California

The Winter Conference on Brain Research (WCBR) is a leading annual conference on neuroscience research. It brings together a diverse group of scientists to share ground-breaking discoveries in a welcoming and collaborative environment. Through panels, workshops, and poster presentations, Winter Brain fosters the exchange of ideas at all levels of neuroscience, from the fundamental building blocks of the brain to how it influences behaviour. EBC President Suzanne Dickson was honoured to be invited to give the opening plenary lecture titled 'Delving Into the Brain's Orexigenic Systems' and evening public lecture titled 'Brainy Insights About Eating and Obesity'. Lastly, Dr. Dickson participated in a professional development session on Advocacy for Brain Research: 'Navigating the Steeps: Experience, Tips and Tools for Effective Scientific Advocacy'

[See the Full Programme](#)



Advancing Brain Health in Europe: Looking Ahead With Key Priorities and Initiatives

The brain is the most complex organ of the human body. Understanding how it works, how diseases progress and finding effective treatments is one of humanity's greatest challenges. Comprising more than 600 disorders, neurological and mental conditions

impact the lives of millions of Europeans and over one billion people worldwide, accounting for over 18% of total health loss. Collectively, brain disorders represent the primary cause of disability and second leading cause of mortality worldwide. This substantial burden is projected to grow as the population ages, highlighting an increasingly pressing concern.

In this article, published in the [January 2025 edition of Open Access Government](#), the European Brain Council (EBC) discusses efforts aimed at enhancing care and raising awareness about brain health in Europe.

[Read the Article on page 146](#)

EJN European Journal of Neuroscience **FENS** Federation of European Neuroscience Societies
The official journal of

Prioritizing Brain Health in Youth: Bringing Neuroscience to Society and Informing Policy, Lessons Learnt from the European Brain Council Expert Meeting Held at the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies Forum 2024

Good brain health plays a significant role in an individual's well-being and profoundly impacts the collective economy and society. Brain development does not stop at birth, and some aspects continue throughout childhood and adolescence, allowing the full development of cognitive functions. [...] The European Brain Council (EBC) convened an expert meeting during the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS) Forum 2024 to address youth brain health challenges. Although much focus has traditionally been on neurodegenerative conditions affecting the elderly, a paradigm shift towards prioritizing brain health in youth is both timely and necessary. This shift can profoundly impact individual lives and society, necessitating an interdisciplinary approach that brings neuroscience to the forefront of public health and informs evidence-based policy. The topic is of utmost importance as EBC launched this year a new campaign on No Health Without Brain Health rallying support with its member organizations and the wider brain community for the increased prioritization of brain health on EU health and research agendas.

[Read the Editorial](#)



Key Challenges and Opportunities That Lie Ahead in the Field of Neurological and Mental Health: Interview with Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a key player in advancing brain health research and policy across Europe, bringing together diverse voices to address the pressing issues of neurological and mental health. As Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, explains, "We must restore the trust between science and society for innovation to truly thrive," highlighting some of the key challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the field.

Here are some of the questions answered in this article:

- What progress has the EBC achieved in advancing brain research and health policy over the past decade?
- Why is reforming Alzheimer's disease care and diagnosis an urgent priority in Europe?
- What challenges does Europe face in maintaining competitiveness in brain health research, and how can they be addressed?

Read the Article



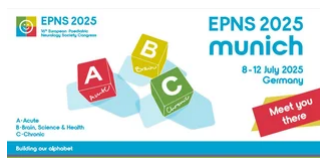
EU Health Summit: Reshaping Health for a Stronger Europe

The EU Health Summit took place on 28 January 2025 bringing together leaders to address the pressing challenges facing European health systems. With ageing populations, rising chronic diseases, and a strained health workforce, Europe is facing a variety of challenges in healthcare. The summit emphasised the need for innovative solutions and highlighted the transformative potential of advancing science and technology to reshape healthcare systems for a healthier future.

It was an honour for the [EU Health Coalition](#) to welcome European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, Olivér Várhelyi, who delivered an inspiring keynote address. His insights into strengthening the European health sector were both timely and crucial as we work together to create a more resilient and sustainable healthcare system for all Europeans. EBC is a proud member of the 55 stakeholders in the [EU Health Coalition](#).

Find out More

EBC Members



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

SAVE THE DATE: Registration opens 18 March 2025

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: <https://epns-congress.com/>

Any questions, we would be happy to hear from you: info@epns.info

[Learn More](#)



39th ECNP Congress 2026: Call for Session Proposals

Help us create an exciting scientific programme for the [39th ECNP Congress](#), 10-13 October 2026, in Munich, Germany! We are calling for session proposals in applied and translational neuroscience, welcoming contributions from psychiatry, neurology, psychology, basic neuroscience, and related disciplines. Submit by 4 March!

[Learn More & Submit Session Proposal](#)



Upcoming Meeting of the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health & Neurological Conditions

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is delighted to extend an invitation to the upcoming meeting of the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions, '*Shaping the Future: Policy Responses to Rare Neurological Challenges*.' This meeting takes place on Wednesday, February 19 from 10.00hrs – 12.00hrs CET at the European Parliament, Brussels and will also be available to view online.

The meeting, kindly hosted by MEP Billy Kelleher (Ireland, Renew Europe), aims to improve understanding of the lived experience of those impacted by rare neurological conditions and to highlight policies that must be implemented to drive progress in the development of innovative treatments for these conditions and equitable access to them.

Registration for the in-person event has now closed but you can register to watch the event online [here](#).

[Learn More & Register](#)



EANS2025 Vienna Congress: Abstract Submission is Open

Abstract submission is open for the [EANS2025 Annual Congress](#). The European Association of Neurosurgical Societies - EANS calls neurosurgeons to present their groundbreaking research at the [EANS2025 Annual Congress](#) and become part of a dynamic, global neurosurgical community, advancing knowledge and influencing the future of our field. Abstract submission deadline: **20 February 2025**.

Over 2,000 neurosurgeons from across Europe and beyond will gather in the beautiful city of Vienna. Participants will have the opportunity to share their findings, innovations, and clinical experiences with an international audience of neurosurgery professionals and contribute to the scientific content of the [EANS2025 Annual Congress](#).

[Learn More & Submit Abstract](#)



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](#)

National Brain Councils



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)

18 March 2025 - Brain Awareness Week 2025: Brain Health Plans Summit. Brussels (Belgium)

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

15-16 October 2025 - Brain Innovation Days, Brussels (Belgium)

Events featuring EBC

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

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

7 April 2025 - Joint Workshop EPA-EBC-EAN-FENS: "No Health Without Brain Health & the Brain Health Mission: Raising Awareness & Putting the Brain on the Top of the Policy Agenda", 33rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Madrid (Spain)

5 May 2025 - EAN Advocacy Training for Neurology and Brain Health (Online)

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)

4-8 July 2026 - FENS Forum 2026, Barcelona (Spain)

Events of Interest

22 January - 7 March - WHO EPW 2 Hearings: Shape the Future of Health in Europe, Virtual Webinar

5 February 2025 - From Awareness to Action: Addressing Disease-Related Malnutrition, Brussels (Belgium)

10 March - Women Alcohol and Substance Use Disorder, Virtual Webinar

10-11 March 2025 - European Life After Stroke Forum, Prague (Czech Republic)

19 March 2025 - European Brain Health Summit, Brussels (Belgium)

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)

5 April 2025 - 11th EPA Forum 2025, Madrid (Spain)

16-17 May 2025 - EMSP Annual Conference, Prague (Czech Republic)

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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