

European Brain Council

Newsletter - February 2025



EBC Activities



Meet EBC's New Executive Committee for the 2025 - 2026 Mandate!

On 13 of February, EBC elected the new executive committee for the 2025 - 2026 mandate. Congratulations to Suzanne Dickson, Claudio Bassetti, and Peter Falkai for being re-elected as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, respectively. We furthermore welcome Sameer Zuberi as our new Vice-President!

EBC looks forward to the executive committee's and board's leadership in advancing brain health initiatives and advocacy, capitalising on the unprecedented momentum in the field.

[Learn More](#)



Discover the Final Programme for EBC's 'Towards the Establishment of National Brain Plans in Europe and Beyond' Event (Brain Awareness Week 2025)

On March 18, join us in the European Parliament for the event "Towards the establishment of national brain plans in Europe and beyond".

Both in Europe and beyond, leading countries have worked hard to develop and establish brain plans or strategies in partnership with key leaders in the brain space and their governments: Switzerland, Canada, Norway, Finland, Singapore, Cameroon – to name a few.

Many others have concrete short-term goals or works in progress...and momentum is growing quickly. This event is an opportunity to create a platform for showcasing success stories and good practices, knowledge exchange, brainstorming opportunities and facilitating the emergence of additional brain plans.

Have a look at the final programme and register below!

[Discover the Programme & Register](#)



Save the Date: Brain Innovation Days 2025

Mark your calendars! We are thrilled to announce that the 5th edition of the Brain Innovation Days will take place on October 15-16, 2025 at La Tricoterie in Brussels. The Brain Innovation Days brings the brain ecosystem together to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge and accelerate investment in research & innovation.

Stay tuned for the theme of the 2025 edition! We look forward to welcoming you in this new space - a space of innovation, collaboration and future-oriented thinking.

[Learn More](#)



'Towards a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem' Event in Brussels

In the framework of Rare Disease Day, EBC's 'Towards a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem' event brought together various stakeholders in the field of rare brain diseases on February 20, 2025. This event served as a platform for brainstorming on how to optimise care and treatment pathways for rare brain diseases. A key takeaway is the clear need for stronger collaboration among all stakeholders and the importance of presenting a unified and clear message to policymakers. Furthermore, the event expanded on EBC's Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem & Knowledge Hub, which was introduced in 2024.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and took part in this crucial conversation!

[Read the Highlights](#)



Canada's 2025 G7 Call to Action

In 2025, under Canada’s leadership, the G7 has an unprecedented opportunity and responsibility to place brain health and brain skills at the heart of global economic strategy. The economy runs on “brain capital”, the combined power of brain health and cognitive skills. Yet, it remains largely absent from major policy discussions. At a time of workforce disruptions, AI-driven change, and demographic shifts, our economies depend on healthy brains, cognitive skills, and emotional resilience. It’s time to recognize the brain as an economic priority.

The European Brain Council is proud to support this critical call for global action. As we move forward, it’s essential to elevate brain health to the top of the economic agenda.

[Learn More](#)



HEREDITARY Consortium Meeting in Barcelona 5-6 February 2025

EBC was happy to take part in the HEREDITARY plenary meeting in Barcelona on 5-6 February 2025 and to update partners on the latest activities. As the lead of liaison with other projects and initiatives, EBC bridges consortia with similar objectives and empowers partners with advocacy knowledge and skills.

HEREDITARY aims to change the way we approach healthcare by unlocking insights that were previously impossible to obtain.

[Learn More](#)



European Citizens' PsycheliCare Initiative Event in the European Parliament

On February 6, the launch event of the European Citizens' PsychedeliCare Initiative took place at the European Parliament. Co-hosted by MEP Tilly Metz (Greens, Luxembourg) and MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia), this event — moderated by EBC Executive Director Frýdřic Destrebecq — also represented the re-launch of [PAREA's](#) MEP Action Group on Psychedelics in Healthcare.

The morning programme included a thorough presentation on psychedelics from a PhD student, evidence-based research on the ongoing clinical studies in the field, as well as an inspiring patient testimony.

"The evidence shows that this can be a game-changer," stated MEP Metz. MEP Sokol noted that while he attends many events in Parliament, this was one of the busiest he has seen in a while — showcasing the growing importance and interest in this topic. We cannot discuss mental health without talking about research and innovation in brain health.

Find out More About the Initiative



'Health Challenges for Europe: Poland's Role in Shaping the Future of Health Care in the EU' - EBC took part in the 19th Forum of Patients' Organisations

On 10 February, EBC was pleased to join the 19th Forum of Patients' Organizations, hosted by the Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education.

During the international panel discussion "Health Challenges for Europe: Poland's

Role in Shaping the Future of Health Care in the EU", EBC Deputy Executive Director Stephanie Kramer emphasized the urgent need for comprehensive brain health strategies at both national and European levels.

[Learn More](#)



“Brain Health Strategy - In Poland and Around the World”

On 14 February, EBC Vice-President, Prof. Claudio Bassetti, joined the Brain Health Summit in Warsaw organised by Termedia, in partnership with the European Academy of Neurology, the Polish Neurological Society (Polskie Towarzystwo Neurologiczne) and the Polish Society of Pediatric Neurology.

In the session “Brain Health Strategy - In Poland and Around the World,” Prof. Bassetti engaged with leaders from across healthcare, policy, research, and patient organisations to discuss national and European approaches to improving brain health.

With brain disorders representing the leading cause of disability and the second leading cause of death globally, the summit highlighted the urgent need to advance prevention, early intervention, and integrated care models - both in Poland and throughout Europe.

[Learn More](#)



Bio-Neuroscience: 'Neuroscience Funding & European Policy - The EU Biotech Act, Pharma Package and Innovation in CNS Neuroscience'

Bio-Neuroscience, an initiative of Broadreach Global co-organised with Amsterdam UMC, took place on 25-27 February in Amsterdam. The event brought together

leaders, innovators and decision-makers from the leading stakeholders groups in CNS neuroscience drug development.

Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, took part in a panel discussion focused on neuroscience funding and European policy. Moderated by Christian Suojanen, founder and CEO of Broadreach Global, the session explored the ways to accelerate innovation in the field, featuring Alexander Natz, Secretary General of the European Confederation of Pharmaceutical Entrepreneurs, Jacopo Andreose, CEO of Angelini Pharma and Mark Treherne, Chairperson of Monument Therapeutics.

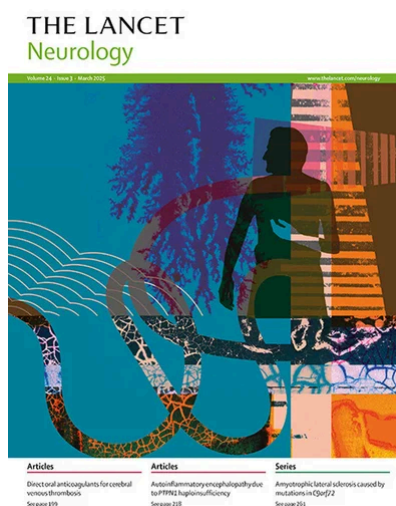
[Have a Look at the Programme](#)



Round Table Discussion: 3 Essential Priorities that Coexist for the Better Treatment of Schizophrenia

Join this upcoming roundtable, organised by Positive Minders, to explore key priorities for enhancing schizophrenia care, including early intervention, multidisciplinary care and recovery-oriented approaches. Experts will discuss challenges and share perspectives on implementing these strategies. This roundtable will take place in French and Vinciane Quoidbach, EBC Research Project Manager, will take part in the discussion. Other speakers include Patrice Boyer, Université Paris Diderot, Boris Chaumette, GHU Paris / Inserm, Anastasia Benzahi, Positive Minders, and Matthieu de Villemorin, Schizo-Oui

[Learn More and Register](#)



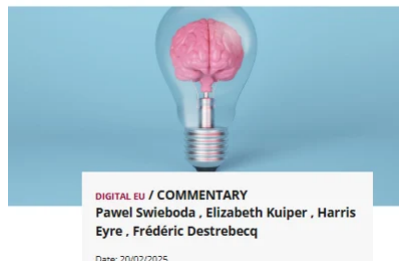
The Lancet Neurology: Call for the Creation of a European Parliament Intergroup on Brain Health

The European Brain Council (EBC) addressed the SANT (Public Health) Subcommittee of the European Parliament on Oct 17, 2024, in Brussels, Belgium. Professor Claudio Bassetti, Vice-President of the EBC, addressed the audience on the burden of brain disorders, the increasing momentum around prioritising brain health and brain capital in Europe, and the need for prioritising brain research in European policy agendas.

Professor Bassetti also called for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to support the creation of a dedicated European Parliament Intergroup on brain health and research, which could play a crucial role in shaping EU policy and legislation. Most MEPs in attendance expressed strong support for prioritising brain health and discussed issues such as the need for increased research funding, addressing health-care workforce shortages, and building a stronger network connecting specialists in neurological disorders across Europe.

[Read the Correspondence](#)

How the brain economy can unlock new approaches to AI



European Policy Center: How the Brain Economy Can Unlock New Approaches to AI

The last two months have seen intense global activity in the AI field, including the launch of Stargate, DeepSeek, the EU InvestAI initiative and the Canada AI Advantage package. Tensions between nations are high. The Paris AI Summit last week exposed major rifts in global AI governance, with the US and UK refusing to sign the final Summit Declaration. An upcoming summit has the potential to foster deeper understanding of the human brain-AI dynamics, leading to renewed close cooperation among G7 nations. This could also provide the impetus for the EU to stand up for its values to shape the future development of AI.

[Read the Commentary](#)



Politico: Turning Aspirations into Action for Rare Disease Patients

Inspired by the rare disease community's passionate drive to advance policies that provide equitable access to care, UCB spearheaded Aspire4Rare: a global initiative supporting the development of rare disease policies.

Vinciane Quoidbach, research project manager for public health and policy at the European Brain Council and one of the experts involved highlights that "Aspire4Rare addresses broad health care challenges with a focus on early diagnosis, which is crucial for timely interventions, reducing health care pressures, and improving patient outcomes. Rare diseases often go undiagnosed and misdiagnosed due to limited awareness among health care professionals. Aspire4Rare can create educational initiatives to raise clinician awareness of early signs of rare diseases.

[Read the Article](#)



Brain Innovation Days 2024: Interviews recorded from the BRAINTEASER Project

Watch the interviews that were recorded during Brain Innovation Days 2024 featuring partners of the BRAINTEASER project. Find out more about how telemedicine projects improve the quality of life for people with brain conditions, how public-private partnerships accelerate the transition from research to innovation in healthcare, how Big Data can be leveraged to improve the management of chronic diseases and how one can further enhance patient journeys in the digital era through academic and industry partnership research.

[Watch the Interviews](#)



The Second Newsletter (February 2025) of the Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth is Out!

The Coordination and Support Action (CSA) BrainHealth is the preparatory phase for the European Partnership for Brain Health. The project started on November 1st, 2023 with a runtime of 24 months. Funded by the European Commission, it builds the umbrella for 21 participants from 11 countries.

With the second issue of the CSA BrainHealth's newsletter, this edition looks back at the past six months, which were marked by significant progress for the project, such as the publication of the draft proposal for the European Partnership for Brain Health and the joint Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, crucial stakeholder engagement through the SRIA Public Consultation, and participation in key events.

[Read the Newsletter](#)



EBC is Hiring! Find Out More About These New Opportunities in Our Team

EBC is looking for applicants for the following two roles:

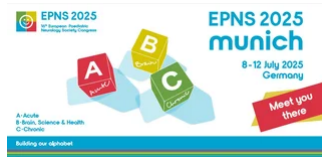
- **Communications & Advocacy Intern:** This internship will place you in the EBC Communications, Advocacy & Policy team, which oversees all external communications and advocacy efforts of the organisation, coupled with policy monitoring and engagement.
- **Project Management Trainee:** EBC is looking for a proactive and result-oriented trainee to join the Brussels office as part of the Research Team. This role will support the implementation of a portfolio of EU-funded and Partner-

funded research projects focused on various aspects around brain health and brain research.

All interested candidates should apply by 16 March 2025.

[Learn More](#)

EBC Members



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

General 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.

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

[Learn More](#)



FENS Forum 2026: Call for Symposia & Technical Workshops

From 4-8 July 2026, Barcelona will host the bi-annual Forum of the Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), Europe's premier neuroscience congress.

The FENS Programme Committee welcomes scientists from around the world to **submit proposals for Symposia and Technical Workshops**, which will form one of the core components of the Forum's scientific programme.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to showcase your research, spark new collaborations, and engage with the international neuroscience community!

Read the guidelines and submit your proposal by **5 May 2025** !

Submit Your Proposal



38th ECNP Congress 2025 — Registration is open!

The [38th ECNP Congress](#) will take place in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 11-14 October 2025, and virtually.

Participate as part of the nearly 7,000 psychiatrists, neuroscientists, neurologists and psychologists from around the world in Europe's largest meeting for applied and translational neuroscience.

Register by **21 May** for in-person participation and **pay less!**

Learn More and Register



Secure Your Place at EPA 2025 in Madrid, From 5-8 April, and Save on Fees Today!

Don't miss your chance to grow professionally at the **33rd European Congress of Psychiatry**, where innovative research meets clinical application. Engage directly with leading experts and gain cutting-edge insights to enhance your daily practice. Take advantage of this exclusive networking opportunity to build valuable connections with top professionals and colleagues in the psychiatric field. The regular registration deadline is 19 March, so register today and save!

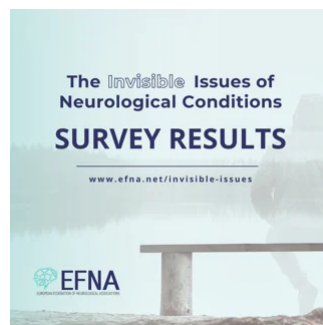
Register Today and Save



IBRO and Wellcome Announce New Funding for the Neuroscience Capacity Accelerator for Mental Health

The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and Wellcome are delighted to announce the extension of the [Neuroscience Capacity Accelerator for Mental Health \(NCAMH\)](#) for a further two editions, with the first due to begin in 2025. The inaugural cycle supported [eleven](#) globally significant and innovative projects aiming to enhance mental health-focused neuroscience research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries. By fostering research capacity, and accelerating the potential for impactful research programs in anxiety, depression and psychosis, NCAMH will continue to counter geographical and other systemic barriers which may impact scientific progress.

[Learn More](#)



Results of EFNA's Survey on the Invisible Issues of Neurological Conditions Published

In 2024, the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) conducted a survey to investigate the invisible issues that affect people with neurological conditions. With 4,687 responses, this survey provides critical insights into the societal, financial, physical and mental challenges associated with having a neurological condition. These challenges extend far beyond health; affecting access to education, employment, and insurance, while perpetuating stigma, discrimination, and isolation. Invisible issues such as sleep disturbances, mental health struggles, and pervasive fatigue further compound the difficulties faced by this population.

By presenting this data, EFNA aims to shed light on the lived experiences of those with neurological conditions, providing the figures and statistics necessary to drive meaningful discussions and action among all stakeholders.

[Read the Report](#)

For your Agenda

EBC Events

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)

21 June 2025 - Funding the Future of Brain Research in Europe: Towards a European Brain Health Partnership, TV Studio Special, 10th Congress of the European Academy of Neurology, Helsinki (Finland)

25-26 September 2025 - Brain Days @UNGA80 Science Summit, New York City (United States)

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

Events featuring EBC

17 March 2025 - Round Table Discussion: 3 Essential Priorities that Coexist for the Better Treatment of Schizophrenia, Online Webinar

26 March 2025 - Neurological Diseases: Essential Tremor Conference 1st Anniversary, Brussels (Belgium)

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

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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