

European Brain Council

Newsletter - November 2024



EBC Activities



That's a Wrap for Brain Innovation Days 2024, 'Navigating the Brain Across a Lifetime'!

What an energising event filled with insightful discussions and ground-breaking ideas! The Brain Innovation Days kicked off with a dynamic first day filled with high-level discussions on critical topics, including the intersection of brain and somatic health, the role of AI in advancing brain health and the significance of patient experience data in EU medicines development. Participants also engaged in inspiring sessions addressing Alzheimer's awareness and education, as well as looking at how patients are reshaping healthcare. Day two continued the momentum with insightful talks on migraines, digital health tools, and neurotechnologies, alongside presentations from innovative start-ups. The event concluded with a celebratory reception, marking another successful year of collaboration and innovation in brain health. Stay tuned for the event highlights and the official aftermovie to be released soon! We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Revisit the Programme!



Policy Opening "Bridging Neuroscience, Policy & Society" in the European Parliament, Kickstarting the Brain

Innovation Days 2024!

For the first time this year, the Brain Innovation Days were introduced by a policy-oriented discussion in the European Parliament. The event, hosted by MEP Zdechovská (EPP, Czech Republic), kicked off conversations on the main theme of this 4th edition, "Navigating the Brain Across a Lifetime," bringing the wider brain community and policymakers together to explore how policy can drive progress in brain health, research and innovation.

Keynote speakers, including EBC President Prof. Suzanne Dickson and Prof. Theo Vos, addressed the economic burden of brain disorders and the need for patient-centred policies. Panelists discussed the industry's role in innovation and sustainable financing, while MEPs emphasised breaking barriers to data sharing and early diagnosis. The day concluded with a call for collaborative approaches to support individuals living with brain disorders across Europe. Thank you to all who participated in this important kick-off for the Brain Innovation Days!

Rewatch the Event!



#EUHPP Second Thematic Network Webinar: Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain

The Second EUHPP Webinar, as part of the EBC-led Thematic Network efforts "Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain", took place on 7 November and put forward concrete policy recommendations based on contributions from the community.

The Thematic Network Joint Statement aims to enhance the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of brain disorders, ultimately fostering a healthier and more innovative Europe – while socialising the concepts of brain health, brain capital, brain wealth and brain economy. This Joint Statement draws on insight from the EU Health Policy Platform First Webinar, the Public Consultation shared with the community and key contributions on the priorities needed to position brain health at the forefront of EU policy health, social and research policy orientations. second EUHPP Webinar, to learn more about concrete policy recommendations to build an overarching EU Coordination Plan for the Brain based on contributions from the community!

Rewatch the Webinar



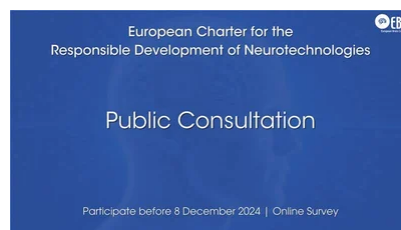
EBC Presents the Joint Statement 'Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain' at the Health and Policy

Platform Annual Meeting in Luxembourg

On November 26, EBC was pleased to present its Joint Statement ["Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain" at the EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting in Luxembourg!](#) Built with the wider brain community and drawing insights from the public consultation and contributions from Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation and DG for Health and Food Safety, the statement aims at laying the ground for an overarching, holistic and ambitious EU Brain Plan.

Discussions with European Commission representatives, other Thematic Networks, and the audience were an opportunity to highlight the need to adequately fund and support brain research, to leverage existing initiatives such as the [Coordination & Support Action BrainHealth](#), and to emphasise the need for collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches.

Learn More About the Thematic Network



Take Part in the Public Consultation: European Charter for the Responsible Development of Neurotechnologies

Neurotechnologies have great potential to foster brain health and have proved effective both in the diagnosis and management of neurological and psychiatric diseases. The growing accessibility and portability of neurotechnologies have expanded their use beyond the medical field and into the general consumer market (work, education, entertainment and marketing), which raise crucial ethical and societal issues – notably in terms of human enhancement, regulation and marketing of direct-to-consumer devices, protection of personal brain data and vulnerability of cognitive patterns for commercial or political manipulation.

Although the Medical Devices Regulation, the General Data Protection Regulation and the more recent European Artificial Intelligence Act already provide consumer, competition and general product safety standards relevant for the development of neurotechnologies in the EU, the EU still lacks specific regulations and directives in this regard. The European Brain Council (EBC) brought together a large representation of actors from the public and private sectors to build on and complement existing mechanisms of governance for the successful development of neurotechnologies in Europe.

The **European Charter for the Responsible Development of Neurotechnologies** invites all stakeholders to contribute to the development of comprehensive guidelines by taking part in the public consultation, accessible until the 22 December 2024.

Take Part in the Public Consultation

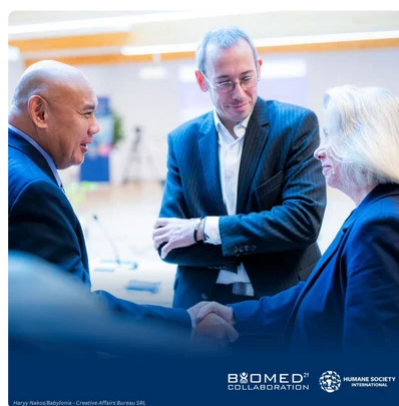


"United Action is Needed to Prioritise Brain Health", Call to Action Shared in The Lancet Neurology Editorial

The Editorial published in The Lancet Neurology emphasises the urgent need to prioritize brain health globally, noting that despite affecting over 3.4 billion people, it remains underrepresented in international policy agendas. Recent initiatives, including the WHO's Intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders, aim to elevate the importance of brain health. However, major forums like the G7 Health Ministers' meeting still lack substantial focus on this critical issue.

The article highlights that EBC, alongside Davos Alzheimer Collaborative, European Academy of Neuroscience and other organizations, have been instrumental in advocating for brain health at various high-level events. These events push for the need for cross-disciplinary collaboration, investment in brain health and highlight the concept of brain capital. The article underscores the necessity of united action to ensure that brain health is prominently featured in upcoming international meetings, such as the UN High-Level Meeting on non-communicable diseases, recognizing its vital role in individual well-being and economic prosperity.

[Read the Editorial](#)



Biomedical Research for the 21st Century Collaboration Workshop on Policy and Funding Strategies Surrounding Innovative Research

The Biomedical Research for the 21st Century (BioMed21) Collaboration organised a workshop in Brussels on 18 November aimed at fostering dialogue on policy and funding strategies to promote innovative human-specific research approaches for health research within the EU. EBC Executive Director, Frýdýřic Destrebecq, took part in this meeting, alongside various other international stakeholders, to pursue an in-depth discussion on

optimal means of supporting innovative human-relevant technologies for bio-medical research. The discussion aimed to address diverse challenges such as assessing the impact of research funding, re-evaluating existing research infrastructure requirements, and aligning with public health objectives.

[Learn More About this Workshop](#)



'Brain Health : From Biomarkers to Innovation' Conference in Brussels

On 14 November, EBC took part in a conference titled 'Brain Health: From Biomarkers to Innovation' focused on Brain Health and Neuroscience that reinforced the importance of these fields among European Commission members. Frýdýric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, presented on the state of the art of the European Research in Brain Health. The event highlighted the strengths of French research institutions, particularly CEA and INSERM, in neuroscience and medical technologies. Discussions centered on securing funding for future brain-related research in neurotechnology as preparations begin for Framework Programme 10. A key outcome was the white paper "Brain Health for the Future," which outlines France's strategic position to guide neuroscience research within the broader European context. This conference marked a significant step towards enhancing collaboration and support for brain health initiatives across Europe.

[Learn More](#)

PR@MS

PROMS Plenary Event 2024
Bologna (Italy), 20th November
14:00-19:00 CET



Patient Reported Outcomes for Multiple Sclerosis (PROMS) Plenary Event

On 20 November, Frýdýric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, gave the keynote speech at the Patient Reported Outcomes for Multiple Sclerosis event on 'Digital Science of PwMS input in the era of personalised medicine'. He reported on ways to best accelerate Patient Experience Data utilization in neurology in a collaborative manner.

The PROMS initiative aims to ensure the informed and quality participation of people with MS in the decision-making processes of research and healthcare regarding their treatments and performances. The initiative focuses on the symptoms and aspects of living with MS that matter most to patients.

[Learn More about the Event](#)



For an EU commitment to tackling rare diseases
EU kötelezettségvállás a ritka betegségek
elleni küzdelem mellett
29.11.2024 | Budapest | #RareDiseases



EBC Participated in the High-Level Conference on Rare Diseases Organised in Budapest by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

In the continuity of the EBC activities on rare brain diseases, EBC introduced in 2024 the concept of a Rare Brain Disease Ecosystem to engage key stakeholders in the field to address unmet needs, identify priorities, and develop projects in Europe. New EBC case studies on rethinking rare brain diseases in Europe will soon be kicked off. On one hand, they will address tangible policy changes to improve the lives of people living with rare diseases across Europe in line with the current call for a new EU Action Plan for rare Diseases. On the other hand, they will examine how care and treatment pathways for rare brain diseases such as Myasthenia Gravis can be optimised from both the patient and clinician perspectives in comparison with current care at country level.

In light of this, EBC participated on November 29 in the high-level conference on Rare Diseases organised in Budapest by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) under the Hungarian EU Presidency. The EESC released an [Opinion](#) drawn up at the request of the Hungarian Presidency “Leaving No One Behind: European Commitment to Tackling Rare Diseases”. This report reiterates the call on the new European Commission to propose a comprehensive European Plan for Rare Diseases to be put in place by 2030 with common indicators. The aim is to reduce the diagnosis of rare disease patients within one year, promote neonatal screening programmes and ensure the integration of the ERNs system at national level while addressing the possibilities offered by the EHDS regulation.

[Explore the Programme](#)



Canadian Science Policy Conference: Brain Health and Research Summit 2024

The Canadian Brain Research Strategy (CBRS) hosted a symposium and workshop titled "Scaling Research for Impact: Local Insights to Global Solutions" at the Canadian Science Policy Conference 2024. This event brought together global experts and Canadian leaders to explore strategies for scaling research to deliver broad health, social, and economic benefits.

The symposium went beyond brain and mental health, addressing a wide range of research areas by incorporating diverse perspectives and innovative approaches. CBRS empowered attendees to uncover actionable insights and concrete strategies for advancing research, collaboration, and implementation in Canada.

Frýdýric Destrebecq, EBC Executive Director, spoke amongst other notable speakers, such as Senator Dr. Stan Kutcher and Dr. Tarun Dua from the World Health Organization. The event featured an expert panel discussion on translating research into societal impact and a workshop focused on practical implementation strategies. This symposium marked a significant step in CBRS's efforts to position brain research as a national priority and foster collaboration across disciplines and sectors for greater impact.

Find out more about the Symposium



The Move for Your Brain Team Joined the Brussels Airport Marathon on November 3!

The #Move4YrBrain team joined the Brussels Airport Marathon to raise awareness about the benefits of physical activity for Brain Health! It was a successful day, full of energy and strength - a great way to wrap up our week!

The goal of the Move for Your Brain campaign is to promote and emphasise the importance of policies and practices addressing brain health from a holistic perspective. Do join [our group](#) on Strava!

Learn More About the Campaign

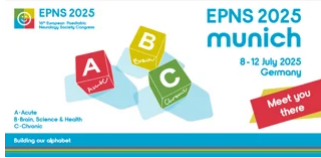


Upcoming Event 'Towards a Strengthened European Cooperation in Brain Health Research' in Budapest!

On 9 and 10 December 2024, the Hungarian Presidency will host a conference focused on the vital topic of brain health research within European society. This event aims to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to maximize the societal impact of brain health research. It seeks to gather feedback on the challenges and best practices of cooperation and discuss potential pathways towards effective and dynamic pan-European research and innovation collaboration. The event will feature various plenary and interactive formats to engage stakeholders, including workshops and side events. The conference will focus 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. Discover the programme and the line-up of high-level speakers!

Learn More

EBC Members



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

Submit your Abstract



Invitation to industry — 38th ECNP Congress 2025

ECNP invites companies and organisations involved in clinical and pre-clinical research into, and diagnosis and treatment of disorders of the brain to contribute to the congress's educational function. Help bridge the gap between science and real-world treatment at #ECNP2025, 11-14 October 2025, in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Apply for [industry sessions](#) and [exhibition space](#) by **15 January 2025**.

Apply



7 MEPs participate in meeting of the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health & Neurological Conditions!

On November 12, 2024, the first post-election meeting of the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions took place, hosted by Co-Chair MEP Romana Jerković (S&D, Croatia) at the European Parliament, Brussels. Entitled ***'Invisible Issues: Bridging the gap between the perception of neurological conditions and their true impact'***, the event's main objective was to discuss the challenges of living with a neurological condition, the impact this has on the

individuals and families affected, the impact on education and employment and to highlight where we need to do better in terms of policy development and implementation.

Read the Meeting Report



Join EFNA's Community Advisory Board!

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is now accepting applications from those interested in joining their 2025 Community Advisory Board (CAB).

The CAB is a group comprised of up to 12 dedicated patient advocates who will receive specialised advocacy training. Together with the core EFNA team, they will have the opportunity to engage with stakeholders such as policymakers, researchers and clinicians, representing the needs and priorities of people with neurological conditions.

Learn More & Apply



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



New podcast episode looks at patient involvement in neuroscience research

In recent years, there has been growing recognition of the crucial role that patient organisations play in driving advancements in medical research and healthcare. In the [latest episode of the Brain Health Matters podcast](#), by the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA), you'll hear why this is especially true in the field of neurology, where patients and their families face complex conditions that require innovative approaches to care. Listen to the episode at www.efna.net/podcast-episode-research/, or search for 'The Brain Health Matters Podcast' on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), or wherever you get your podcasts!

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

For your Agenda

Events featuring EBC

9-10 December 2024 - Towards a Strengthened European Cooperation in Brain Health Research - Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2024, Budapest (Hungary)

10 December 2024 - Young Voices in Health Policy: "The European Union's Budget for Health in the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2028 - 2034.", Brussels (Belgium)

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

7 December 2024 - Plexus Skills 2024, Zagreb (Croatia)

10 December 2024 - Imagine a healthier, more competitive Europe, Brussels (Belgium)

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

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)

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)

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

European Brain Council, Rue d'Egmont 11, Bruxelles, Bruxelles 1000, Belgium

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