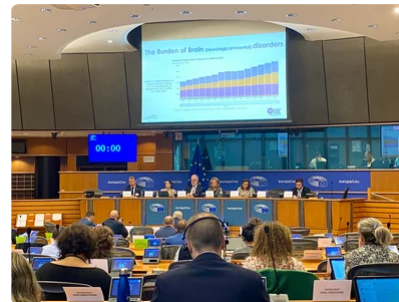


European Brain Council

Newsletter - October 2024



EBC Activities



EBC Invited to Address the European Parliament Public Health Committee

17th of October, European Parliament – The European Brain Council's (EBC) Vice-President, Prof. Claudio Bassetti, addressed the European Parliament Subcommittees on Public Health (SANT) meeting in Brussels on neurological health, presenting not only on the burden of neurological disorders but the increasing momentum around prioritising brain health and brain capital in Europe and beyond.

As Europe faces unprecedented challenges around brain health, EBC and its community have been rallying behind a call for increased attention to brain health, calling on Members of the European Parliament for urgent action to tackle the burden of brain disorders, neurological and mental alike, in the current mandate.

Calling for an Intergroup on Brain Health: [Over 110 organisations and several MEPs have voiced support](#) for stronger policy leadership and called for a dedicated EU Brain Health Plan and the establishment of a European Parliament Intergroup on Brain Health in the current mandate.

Read our Press Release & Watch the Meeting



The Brain Innovation Days are Around the Corner!

This is your last change to register and come join us to our two jam-packed days full of [exciting Brain Talks, inspiring panel discussions and countless networking opportunities!](#)

The 4th edition of the Brain Innovation Days will take place on **13-14 November 2024** in Brussels under the overarching theme [Navigating the Brain Across a Lifetime](#). The programme will include a wide array of session types, including plenary sessions, inspiring Brain Talks, Poster and Innovation Showcase, networking activities, the Brain Innovation Days Pitch Competition, breakout sessions, panels and other exciting formats! We believe enhanced multi-stakeholder engagement in the brain ecosystem is needed to foster dialogue, exchange knowledge, accelerate investment in research and innovation, facilitate business development and showcase on-going work.

This event, and the community built around it, is the platform to boost interaction, connect the dots with key people and showcase ongoing innovation and progress being made in the space, particularly in Europe.

Register now!

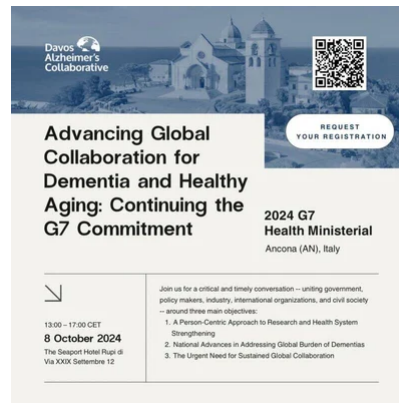


#EUHPP Live Webinar: 2024 Thematic Networks - 2nd Webinar: Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain

The EBC-led Thematic Network “Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain” is moving forward towards its final Joint Statement, with the ultimate goals to enhance the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care of brain disorders, ultimately fostering a healthier and more innovative Europe – while socializing the concepts of brain health, brain capital, brain wealth and brain economy.

This Joint Statement draws 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. We encourage you to join us on **November 7 at 14:00** for the 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!

[Learn More and Register](#)



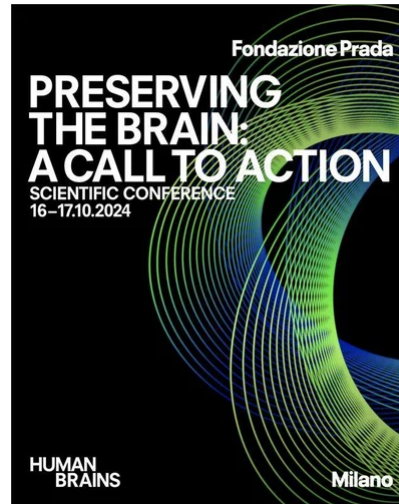
Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative Sounds Alarm on the Urgency of a Global Response to Alzheimer's, Calling on G7 Leaders to Move Swiftly

8th October, Ancona - The Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative (DAC), with the European Brain Council, the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease, the Associazione Italiana Malattia di Alzheimer and Fondazione Prada, issued an urgent call-to-action for G7 leaders to address the escalating global challenge of Alzheimer's and dementia by taking bold measures to ensure broad and equitable access to life-extending therapies and other current innovations.

DAC and all partners in the side event urged G7 governments to take the following actions to ensure that the benefits of scientific progress reach all patients:

1. Expand Global and Cross-Sector Collaboration
2. Invest in Healthcare System Preparedness
3. Build the Capabilities for Early Detection and Accurate Diagnosis
4. Accelerate the Development and Delivery of Alzheimer's Interventions
5. Foster Research, Access, and Equity Worldwide

[Read our Press Release](#)



Preserving the Brain: A Call to Action

The European Brain Council took part in the 'Preserving the Brain' scientific conference organised by Fondazione Prada on 16th and 17th of October in Milan, Italy. This event's focus was on the importance of prevention and early treatment of widespread and still incurable diseases, such as Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, and Multiple Sclerosis.

Fřídřic Destrebecq, EBC's Executive Director, contributed to a roundtable discussion on priorities and future actions to be implemented in order to prevent neurodegenerative diseases.

[Learn More](#)

EBC at XI Lausanne: Where Leaders Converge to End Alzheimer's Disease

The 2024 Lausanne Workshop was the eleventh annual Alzheimer's convening aimed at stopping Alzheimer's. Over the past decade, it has become a key platform for global stakeholders to identify challenges, set solutions, measure progress, and ensure accountability.

Organized by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and supported by the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease (CEOi), Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) and World Economic Forum (WEF), the workshop began in 2014 following the UK G8 Dementia Summit's call to stop Alzheimer's by 2025, reinforced by the 2015 WHO Ministerial Conference.

EBC's Deputy Executive Director Stephanie Kramer participated in a panel titled "Preventative Power: Promoting Brain Health to Address the Alzheimer's Crisis".

[Learn More](#)



EBC at the 2024 Congress of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies

The European Brain Council had the chance to attend the [European Associations of Neurosurgical Societies 2024](#) Congress which was held from 13-17 October 2024 in Sofia (Bulgaria). This year, the theme was “Innovation, Education, Leadership”, reflecting the current need to thoroughly discuss the future of neurosurgery in connection with technological advances that can improve neurosurgical education, training and treatment, aiming to create the next leaders of neurosurgery in Europe and all over the globe. EBC took part in a session titled “Building Brain Health in Europe”. **Prof. Suzanne Dickson**, EBC President, presented the advocacy work in the brain space undertaken at the European level and explored the importance of the work currently being done. **Dr Ricardo Chavarriaga** explored the ethics of neuroprosthetics and looked into the development of government mechanisms for the use of technology (such as artificial intelligence and big data) to safeguard rights on mental privacy. Lastly, EBC was present at the Congress with a booth in the exhibition area, where we shared more information about ongoing projects, latest activities, and upcoming events! We are looking forward to next years’ EANS congress, taking place from October 5 to 9 in Vienna!

Look Back at the Congress



The Second Phase of the Rethinking Schizophrenia Project Aims to Optimise the Schizophrenia Care Pathway

Schizophrenia has long been associated with the haunting echoes of voices, shaping public perceptions and treatment approaches alike. However, the essence of this condition extends far beyond the auditory hallucinations. It is a complex interplay of cognitive, emotional, and social dimensions that demands a holistic re-evaluation.

The European Brain Council's "Rethinking Schizophrenia: Beyond the Voices" is the first part of a research-driven project "[Rethinking Schizophrenia](#)", offering tangible policy and care pathway changes to improve the lives of people living with schizophrenia across Europe. It challenges the status quo and refreshes the European policy debate on people living with schizophrenia, recognises the essential role of social support and encourages multi-stakeholder-driven policy.

In the second part of the project, EBC together with the European Psychiatric Association, the Board of Experts and Patients Associations representatives will share how mental health services are addressing the needs of young individuals with first episode psychosis. Despite some positive developments, there are still many deficiencies along the schizophrenia care pathway in Europe. The results will be released in the Spring of 2025.

[Read our News Announcement](#)



In light of World Mental Health Day, EBC Took Part in the Erasmus + "Sharing4employment" Webinar

On 11 October 2024, Vinciane Quoidbach, EBC's Research Project Manager, presented the second phase of the Rethinking Schizophrenia project led by EBC in collaboration with the European Psychiatric Association. Schizophrenia is a complex mental health condition identified as one of the 15 leading causes of disability globally. While an estimated 24 million people live with schizophrenia, approximately 7–8 individuals out of 1000 will be diagnosed in their lifetime. In Europe, schizophrenia affects 0.3–1.5% of the population. Despite the low prevalence, schizophrenia has a huge societal burden: often diagnosed between late adolescence and early adulthood, with later onset in women, it impacts every aspect of life, including relationships, education, and employment.

There is a need to improve prevention and care of young individuals with first episode psychosis (the onset of schizophrenia) to safely and effectively transition between various types of care tailored according to individual needs. The Rethinking Schizophrenia project is addressing these issues while looking at optimizing the care pathways to recovery.

[Learn More](#)



EBC at the World Orphan Drug Congress Europe in Barcelona!

Vinciane Quoidbach, EBC Research Project Manager, discussed the Aspire4Rare EU Action Plan in a panel discussion on rare diseases. This participation accompanies EBC's co-authorship to the Aspire4Rare Global Report. This action plan will be a significant milestone for people living with rare disorders, however, while the community continues to advocate for this vital progression there remains urgent work to be done.

Aspire4Rare proposes a Rare focussed health system framework with associated measurement approaches and good practice examples which can serve as a practical tool right now to support action on national policies such as rare disease strategies.

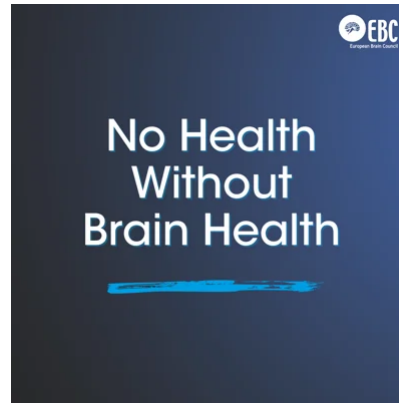
[Read the Report](#)



EBC is Thrilled to Announce Season 4 of the Brain Talks Podcast Series!

As part of our highly anticipated Brain Innovation Days, EBC is thrilled to announce the launch of Season 4 of the Brain Talks podcast series! Episodes thus far discuss the impact and purpose of the Brain Innovation Days, the potential of Artificial Intelligence in Brain Health and the opportunities and challenges of the new Health Technology Assessment (HTA) regulation. Be sure to listen to these impactful and inspiring conversations!

[Listen now on all Platforms](#)



Update on the No Health Without Brain Health Campaign

We are pleased to inform you that the proposal for an Intergroup on Brain Health and Research has drawn significant attention within the European Parliament. At the moment, more than 20 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) have formally supported the establishment of this Intergroup, and 4 MEPs from different political groups (EPP, S&D, Renew and ECR) have agreed to co-chair it. The Parliament hereby enters a crucial phase of internal discussions on which Intergroup proposals will be selected.

[Learn More](#)



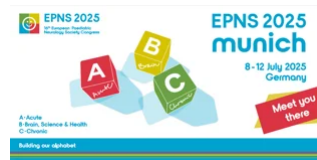
Exploring the Mysteries of the Brain with Steven Laureys at TheMerode in Brussels

28th of October - Frđđřric Destrebecq, EBC's Executive Director, was in discussion with renowned neuroscientist and author at an event at TheMerode in Brussels. The captivating conversation touched upon topics such as the link between consciousness and

being human, as well as the influence of mindfulness on mental well-being and the physical brain. Steven Laureys uses neuroimaging to study neuroplasticity and recovery from brain disease and trauma but also in sleep, dreaming, anesthesia, hypnosis, trance and psychedelics. Additionally, his work focuses on understanding the power of the mind as studied in Buddhist monks, astronauts, entrepreneurs, and top athletes. EBC was delighted to have been invited to this exceptional discourse, continuously striving to promote dialogue between scientists and society.

[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](#)



Making Precision Psychiatry a Reality - ECNP Roadmap Meeting

Applications to participate in the ECNP Roadmap Meeting on Precision Psychiatry are now open! Join us in Frankfurt, Germany, on 20-21 January 2025 for this one-and-a-half-day event on how to implement precision diagnostics and treatment strategies in psychiatry. Virtual registration is also available. Apply by **15 November 2024** for in-person attendance.

[How to join](#)

[Learn More](#)



FENS Regional Meeting: Call for Symposia is Now Open!

The **FENS Regional Meeting Organising Committee** is pleased to announce that the call for symposia for the **FRM 2025** in Oslo, Norway, from **16-19 June**, is now open! This is a great opportunity to showcase your recent findings, receive peer feedback, and connect with the neuroscience community. Submit your symposia proposal by **20 November** here.

The five Nordic Neuroscience Societies jointly organise the **FRM 2025**: the [Norwegian Neuroscience Society](#), the [Swedish Society for Neuroscience](#), the [Danish Society for Neuroscience](#), the [Brain Research Society of Finland](#), and the **Icelandic Neuroscience Society**.

[Register Now](#)



Early Bird Registration for EPA 2025 Congress is Now Open!

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) is excited to announce that Early Bird registration for the EPA 2025 Congress is now open! Taking place from 5-8 April 2025 in Madrid, Spain, this Congress will bring together experts, researchers, and clinicians to discuss cutting-edge developments in psychiatry. By registering early, participants can secure their spot at a reduced rate and be part of one of the largest gatherings in European psychiatry.

[Register Now](#)



EFNA at the WHO Forum: Shaping the Future of Neurology and Mental Health

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) recently attended the WHO Forum in Geneva, where they engaged in extensive discussions with key stakeholders in the field of neurology.

In advance of the Forum, on Tuesday, October 8, Tadeusz Hawrot, EFNA's Senior Policy Advisor, represented EFNA at a meeting of WHO-affiliated non-state actors. This gathering held a significant promise for deepening civil society's role in the neurology landscape, creating new avenues for advocacy and collaboration.

On October 9, EFNA's representatives, together with Coriene Catsman-Berrevoets (Vice Chair, OneNeurology), participated in the WHO Mental Health Forum representing OneNeurology. This year's Forum was especially momentous, marking the first in-person assembly in Geneva in five years—since WHO began conceptualising the framework for 'brain health.'

On World Mental Health Day, October 10, Tadeusz Hawrot joined a panel representing OneNeurology. Discussions centered on implementing the global action plan on neurology, a key step in integrating neurological priorities into WHO's broader health strategies.

[Learn More](#)



IBRO is Hiring a Community Engagement Coordinator

Passionate about making an impact in neuroscience? The International Brain Research Organization is hiring a Community Engagement Coordinator to strengthen our connections within the global neuroscience community. This role involves coordinating events and exhibitions, managing social media campaigns, and fostering relationships with IBRO's member organizations. Ideal candidates have nonprofit experience, social media skills (including Canva), and fluency in English. Based in Brussels, this full-time, permanent position starts from January 2025 and offers a competitive salary, benefits, and opportunities for international travel. Join IBRO to help advance neuroscience on a global scale!

Apply Now!

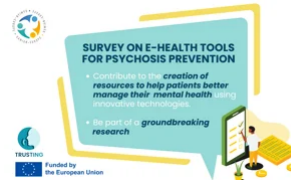


Enhancing Understanding and Reducing the Stigma of Major Mental Health Conditions

For World Mental Health Day 10th October, GAMIAN-Europe launched an impactful [video animation](#) and a detailed [report](#) in an effort in tackling a critical issue: stigma

surrounding major mental health conditions. This initiative aims to improve public understanding and reduce negative stereotypes, stigma, and discrimination towards those with lived mental health experiences.

[Learn More](#)



Survey on E-Health Tools for Psychosis Prevention

GAMIAN-Europe launched the patient survey as part of the [TRUSTING](#) EU-funded project. This initiative aims to create a speech-based tool to predict early signs of psychosis relapse. Insights from patients are vital to shaping a user-friendly solution that meets real needs. Take the [Patient Survey](#), with the deadline on November 17th.

[Learn More](#)

For your Agenda

EBC Events

7 November 2024 - Second Webinar: Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain, Virtual Webinar

13-14 November 2024 - Brain Innovation Days: Navigating the Brain Across a Lifetime, Brussels (Belgium)

Events featuring EBC

26 November 2024 - EU Health Policy Platform Annual Conference, Luxembourg (Luxembourg) and Online.

2 December 2024 - EU4Health Conference 2024: Integration and Impact Initiative, Brussels (Belgium)

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

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 November 2024 - Schizophrenia Policy Event 'Let's Start', Virtual Webinar

12 November 2024 - Brainstorming the Future of Brain Health, Brussels (Belgium)

14 November 2024 - CEA Conference Brain Health: From Biomarkers to Innovation, Brussels (Belgium)

14-17 November 2024 - 24th World Congress of Psychiatry, Mexico City (Mexico)

19-20 November 2024 - POLITICO Health Care Summit, Brussels (Belgium)

2-3 December 2024 - Encephalitis Conference, London (United Kingdom) and Online

5 December 2024 - Swiss Brain Health Plan 2nd Stakeholder Meeting, Bern (Switzerland)

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

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

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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