

European Brain Council

Newsletter - September 2024



EBC Activities



UNGA79 Side Event, “Neuroscience and Society: A Life Course Approach to Brain Health”

19-20 September 2024, New York City: As part of the Global Brain Coalition, the European Brain Council (EBC), Brain Capital Alliance, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute and UNICEF hosted the ['Neuroscience and Society: A Life Course Approach to Brain Health' event](#) within the Science Summit of the 79th United Nations General Assembly. This year was bigger than ever for us, tackling not only the neuroscience and burden of disease, but also showcasing the impact brain health has on various aspects of life: in policy, in businesses & workplaces, in society, in the design of our environments, in courtrooms, in the context of education, and so many more. This event has been another important milestone in our joint quest to put brain health at the top of global health policy agendas!

[Learn More](#)



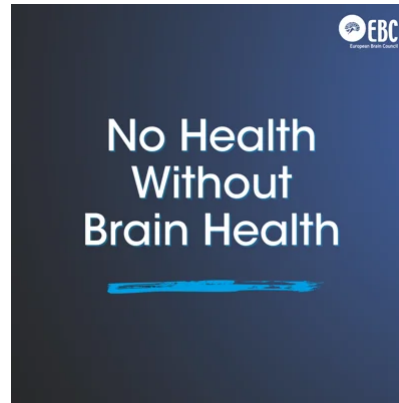
Press Release - Global Campaign Strengthens Worldwide Effort to Combat Brain Disorders

The [Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative](#), EBC, the [Brain Capital Alliance](#), [UsAgainstAlzheimer's](#) and the [Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute](#) announced the launch of a worldwide campaign to elevate brain health to the top of global health and economic agendas on the occasion of the [high-level side event at the Science Summit of the 79th United Nations General Assembly](#). Joined by notable international organizations such as UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Brain Research Africa Foundation and more, the campaign is working to place brain health – neurological and mental – at the top of global policy agendas.

The Global Brain Campaign will focus on several key priorities, including:

- Building brain resilience and ending brain disorders across the globe.
- Driving economic prosperity through investments in brain health and brain capital.
- Addressing systemic inequities, social, economic, and environmental factors that impact brain health.

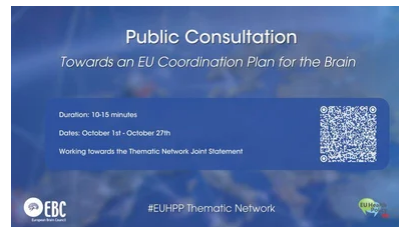
[Learn More](#)



Over 100 Organisations Call on Policymakers to Place the Brain Higher on the European Policy Agenda

EBC, its member organisations, national brain councils and 100 supporting partners are rallying support for the increased prioritisation of brain health on EU health and research agendas. As part of the [No Health Without Brain Health campaign](#), they urge all stakeholders, policymakers, and the wider public to endorse critical policy initiatives that will significantly enhance brain health, research and care across Europe.

Learn More & Support



Launch of Public Consultation: Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain

The European Brain Council has been selected to lead the DG Sante Thematic Network, titled "Towards an EU Coordination Plan for the Brain," under the EU Health Policy

Platform (EUHPP). On September 5, EBC held the first webinar to serve as a platform for discussing ideas, sharing insights, and fostering collaboration among participants before the final drafting of the Joint Statement. EBC now launched a public consultation as part of this Thematic Network. This consultation aims to gather insights and feedback from a wide range of stakeholders, including researchers, clinicians, healthcare professionals, patients, carers, and decision makers. The input collected will help shape the Joint Statement outlining the need for a coordinated approach to brain health, brain research and innovation, and brain capital at the European level. We invite all members of the wider brain community to participate in this important consultation and make their voices heard. Together, we can place brain health, brain research and innovation, and brain capital higher on the European policy agenda and work towards a coordinated approach that will benefit the millions of Europeans living with a brain disorder, but also their families, carers, and society as a whole.

[Learn More](#)

Santé cérébrale : un défi mondial à l'ère du vieillissement



Frédéric Destrebecq
Executive Director of EBC

Les troubles cérébraux sont la principale cause d'invalidité dans le monde, devant le cancer et les maladies cardiovasculaires. En Europe, le coût total de la santé pour les troubles cérébraux est estimé à 800 milliards d'euros par an en 2020 et à 1 000 milliards d'euros en 2030.

Les troubles cérébraux, qui incluent neurologiques et mentaux, regroupent plus de 600 pathologies, certaines très communes comme les maladies d'Alzheimer et de Parkinson, la dépression, l'épilepsie, les accidents vasculaires cérébraux (AVC) ou les hémorragies d'origine traumatique. Ils sont la première cause de handicap et de perte d'autonomie, et sont responsables de la moitié des décès en Europe.

En Europe, le coût total de la santé pour les troubles cérébraux est estimé à 800 milliards d'euros par an en 2020 et à 1 000 milliards d'euros en 2030.

Le vieillissement de la population est un défi majeur de notre société. Avec le vieillissement de la population, cette offre ne sera que légèrement en deçà de la demande, ce qui est insupportable pour nos systèmes de soins et nos finances publiques. En Europe et dans le reste du monde, les troubles cérébraux sont la principale cause d'invalidité.

Recherche, prévention et soins : un investissement vital

Malgré les avancées scientifiques récentes, la compréhension de ces troubles est encore limitée. Des stratégies ambitieuses et coordonnées sont nécessaires pour améliorer la prévention, le diagnostic et le traitement de ces troubles. Cela implique une coopération internationale et coordonnée, ainsi qu'un investissement massif dans la recherche et l'innovation, mais aussi dans des mesures de prévention efficaces. L'amélioration de la prise en charge des patients ainsi que de leur scolarisation, constituent également des défis majeurs.

1. [L'impact de la pandémie de COVID-19 sur la santé mentale et les troubles mentaux](#)
2. [Le vieillissement de la population en Europe](#)
3. [Le vieillissement de la population en Europe](#)

Brain Health: A Global Challenge in an Era of Ageing - Article in La Libre Belgique Featuring Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC's Executive Director.

Frédéric Destrebecq, EBC's Executive Director, spoke to La Libre Belgique about neurological and mental disorders' burden on the healthcare system and society. In 2021 alone, brain disorders accounted for the loss of more than 520 million disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs). DALYs are a measure that represent a disease or disorder's burden on a population: 1 DALY represents the loss of the equivalent of 1 year of full health. Without ambitious and coordinated political action, this number will only go up.

[Read the Full Article \(in French\)](#)



EBC Launches "Rethinking Alzheimer's Disease Pathway: From Diagnosis to Care" Perspective Paper

EBC, in collaboration with the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), is very pleased to launch the "Rethinking Alzheimer's Disease Pathway: From Diagnosis to Care" Perspective Paper on the occasion of the World Alzheimer's Month. The aim of this report is not merely to document the status quo, but to challenge it—to rethink how we approach Alzheimer's treatment, care and management. By offering a comprehensive review of current practices, identifying challenges, gaps and barriers, and proposing policy recommendations, this report seeks to reshape the Alzheimer's disease healthcare pathway in ways that enhance outcomes and quality of life for all involved, and reduce the impact on society.

Learn more and Access the Report



Discover the Brain Innovation Days Programme and Register!

Designed to provide participants with comprehensive insights in their field, the Brain Innovation Days includes a series of panel discussions, expert talks, and networking opportunities, all aimed at fostering professional growth and innovation. Attendees will have the chance to learn from key experts and collaborate with peers on various projects.

Make sure to reserve your ticket for Brain Innovation Days and register now!

Check out the Brain Innovation Days opportunities - there are many ways to get involved in the BIDs. Discover more by looking at our [collaboration and sponsorship opportunities page!](#)

Discover the Programme & Register for Brain Innovation Days



Replay: EMEA Webinar "Brain Health is Essential for Smooth Economic Transitions – Toward Socio-Economic Sustainability, Productivity, and Wellbeing"

The Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association (EMEA), the Brain Capital Alliance and the Neuro-Policy Program of Rice University's Baker Institute for Public Policy presented a pivotal webinar on September 3rd that delved into the critical role of brain health in facilitating major global economic transformations. EBC was pleased to take part in the discussion on how brain health is vital to socio-economic sustainability, productivity, and wellbeing.

[Access the Replay](#)



International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) Conference on 12-13 September

On September 12th and 13th, the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) hosted their first-ever IBE-Europe Chapter Convention in Rome. EBC was very happy to virtually contribute to this discussion on creating a strategic roadmap addressing policy, advocacy and innovation priorities in regard to epilepsy at the European level.

[Learn More](#)



BRAINTEASER Project 8th Plenary Meeting

EBC was happy to be part of the 8th [BRAINTEASER Project](#) Plenary Meeting which took place in Turin on 19-20 September. As a partner of the project and lead of liaison with related projects and initiatives, EBC contributes to unlock the translation of BRAINTEASER research into brain innovation for the benefit of people living with Multiple Sclerosis and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

[Find out more about the project](#)



EBC at the 37th Congress of the European College of Neuropsychopharmacology

The European College of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP) is an independent scientific association dedicated to the science and treatment of disorders of the brain. The annual ECNP Congress is Europe's premier scientific meeting for disease-oriented brain research, bringing together psychiatrists, neuroscientists, neurologists and psychologists from around the world to discuss the latest developments in the science and treatment of brain disorders.

EBC was pleased to organise a session titled 'Toward the BrainHealth Partnership' at the 37th Congress of the ECNP. After opening words from EBC President Suzanne Dickson, our Chief Research & Innovation Officer Kristien Aarts highlighted the need for brain health, research and innovation to become a European and global priority.

During the congress, EBC presented their poster on the project 'Rethinking Schizophrenia: Beyond the Voices', outlining tangible policy changes to improve the lives of people living with schizophrenia across Europe.

[Learn More](#)



EBC Joins the European Health Forum in Gastein

From 24 – 27 September, the hybrid European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG), guided by the theme “Shifting sands of health”, explored solutions for the complex interplay of democracy, demographics, and digitalisation in Europe’s evolving health landscape. The EHFG 2024 was co-organised by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe, and with support from the European Union.

EBC took part in a session organised by the European Academy of Neurology (EAN), titled “Promoting Brain Health for Everyone: Towards a Sustainable and Healthy Future” by discussing the No Health without Brain Health campaign.

[Replay the session here](#)



Update on AGORA Project

AGORA is an ERA-NET NEURON-funded project aiming to improve effectiveness of therapy of chronic neuropathic pain. As a partner of the project, EBC was happy to be part of the AGORA Delphi Survey Meeting on 26-27 September in Milan leveraging different expertise to identify new strategies for future clinical trials in chronic pain.

[Learn More About the Project](#)

ADDING URGENCY TO ACTION
LAUSANNE XI
1 - 3 October 2024

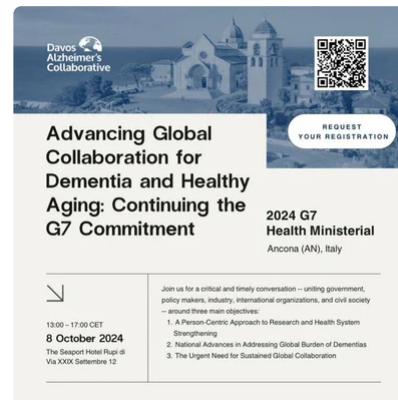
EBC at XI Lausanne: Where Leaders Converge to End Alzheimer's Disease

The 2024 Lausanne Workshop is 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 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



Side Event at the 2024 G7 Health Ministerial Meeting: Advancing Global Collaboration for Dementia and Healthy Aging

EBC is pleased to collaborate with the Davos Alzheimer’s Collaborative (DAC) who will be hosting an event titled **“Advancing Global Collaboration for Dementia and Healthy Aging”** on October 8, 2024, in Ancona, Italy. This event will take place on the sidelines of the 2024 G7 Health Ministerial meeting. It aims to address the pressing global health challenge of dementias, including Alzheimer’s disease, which significantly impact health systems, societies, and individuals. DAC will highlight the urgent need for action and

showcase progress in policy, scientific innovations, and improved care pathways. However, please note that requesting registration does not guarantee admission to the event.

[Learn More & Register](#)



EBC at the 2024 European Association of Neurosurgical Societies Congress

The Annual Congress of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) will take place on 13-17 October 2024, at the National Palace of Culture in Sofia (Bulgaria).

The congress theme will be “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. The programme will include several sessions dedicated to technological advances and innovative prospects and projects, always maintaining its high quality in presenting new original neurosurgical research.

EBC will be present at the Congress with a booth in the exhibition area and will participate in a session on ["Building Brain Health in Europe"](#), set to take place on 13 October from 09:00-12:00.

[Learn More](#)



Join EBC at the Brussels Airport Marathon!

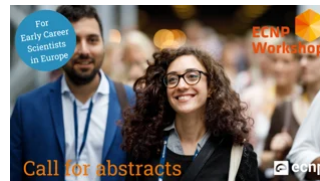
The goal of the Move for Your Brain campaign is to promote and emphasise the importance of policies and practices addressing brain health from a holistic perspective.

Watch the recently released [video](#) where Hassan Fadli, a Move for Your Brain campaign ambassador and a triathlete leading the 5 Ironmans Beat Alzheimer's initiative, together with Thomas Roos, a retired professional triathlete and a scientist, share their insights on the benefits of regular physical exercise for the brain.

As part of the campaign, Move for Your Brain team will take part in the [Brussels Airport Marathon](#) run on November 3, a sport event dedicated to handisport, runners and walkers. You can join our team and register to run (or walk!) a marathon, half-marathon or 7 km.

[Learn More & Register](#)

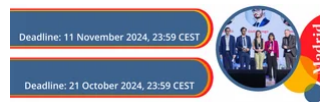
EBC Members



ECNP Workshop on Applied Neuroscience — Call for abstracts

Calling all [Early Career Scientists in Europe](#)! Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to take your research career in applied neuroscience to the next level at the ECNP Workshop in Nice, France, on 20-23 March 2025. Registration and accommodation are free! Apply by 24 October 2024.

Apply



GET READY FOR EPA 2025!

The European Psychiatric Association (EPA) invites mental health professionals from around the world to join the EPA 2025 Congress, set to take place in Madrid, Spain from 5-8 April 2025. The Congress will feature groundbreaking research and innovative sessions aimed at advancing mental health care across Europe. With registration opening on 7 October 2024, participants can take advantage of early bird rates and secure their spot. Stay tuned for more details and don't miss this opportunity to be part of the leading event in European psychiatry.

Learn More



Explore the benefits of IBRO's new program,
Neuroscience Training Grants

Launched this year, the [IBRO Neuroscience Training Grants](#) program aims to provide equitable access to high-quality neuroscience education and practical training opportunities by supporting PhD students and early-career postdoctoral fellows with funds to attend neuroscience training courses. Applicants from all over the world are welcome to apply by 15 November 2024.

[Learn More](#)



Suicide Prevention Project

This year for World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, **GAMIAN-Europe**, in partnership with **AGE Platform Europe**, highlighted the urgent issue of suicidality among older people. The campaign calls for **better mental health services and policies**, and **increased funding** to address key risk factors like loneliness and socioeconomic challenges. Drawing on new research, GAMIAN-Europe urges policymakers across Europe to take action to reduce suicide risk and improve the well-being of older adults.

[Learn More](#)



Migraine Is More Complex Than You Think!

On European Migraine Day of Action, September 12th, **GAMIAN-Europe**, in collaboration with the **European Migraine and Headache Alliance**, launched a campaign to raise awareness of the connection between **migraines and mental health**, particularly focusing on the link with **depression and anxiety**. The campaign highlights patient experiences, the **economic and social costs** of this comorbidity and the need for more holistic, integrated treatment approaches.

Watch the video featuring an expert by experience **Alessandra Sorrentino** on our social media: [YouTube](#), [X](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Learn More



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

Invisible Issues: Bridging the gap between the perception of neurological conditions and their true impact

Date: Tuesday, November 12

Time: 15.00hrs – 17.00hrs CET

Location: European Parliament, Brussels – Room SPINELLI 3H1 (*in-person only*)

Hosted by: MEP Romana Jerković, Co-Chair of the MEP Interest Group

Join us as we come together to shine a light on the often unseen and immensely impactful challenges faced by individuals living with neurological conditions and their dedicated caregivers. From the weight of stigma and discrimination to the significant socio-economic burdens, this meeting is dedicated to understanding and addressing these issues. Please mark your calendars and save the date for this impactful gathering. Your presence and input are highly valued as we work to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by neurological conditions within the EU and beyond.

[Register](#)

For your Agenda

EBC Events

3 November 2024 - EBC Takes Part in Brussels Airport Marathon, Brussels (Belgium)

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

Events featuring EBC

8 October 2024 - Side Event at the 2024 G7 Health Ministerial Meeting: Advancing Global Collaboration for Dementia and Healthy Aging, Ancona (Italy)

13 October 2024 - Building Brain Health in Europe, 33rd EANS Congress 2024, Sofia (Bulgaria)

13-17 October 2024 - Congress of the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS), Sofia (Bulgaria)

3 November 2024 - Brussels Airport Marathon Run - #Move4YrBrain, Brussels (Belgium)

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)

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), Seville (Spain)

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

16-18 October 2024 - NIPS Non Pharmacological Intervention Society Summit, Paris (France)

17-18 October 2024 - European Paediatric Neurology Society Research Meeting, Ljubljana (Slovenia)

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

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)

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

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

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