

1ST EUROPEAN BRAIN ECONOMY SUMMIT

5.05.2026 BRUSSELS
The Merode, Place Poelaert 6

What will it take to turn Europe
into the world's leading Brain Economy?

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Date:
5 May 2026



Time:
08:00 - 18:30



Location:
The Merode, Pl. Poelaert 6, Brussels

08:00 - 09:00 Coffee & Registration

09:00 - 09:10 Welcome and Introduction

MORNING SESSION CHAIR: Paweł Świeboda

Founder and Director, NeuroCentury; Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance

09:10 - 10:05 **The Brain Dividend:
Unlocking Societal and Economic Value Through Better Brain Health**

Indrit Bègue

University of Geneva, Member of the Board, Swiss Brain Health Plan

John Boyd

Vice-President, Behavioral Health & Wellness, Kaiser Permanente

Shiva Dustdar

Director, European Investment Bank

Kana Enomoto

Director of Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute

William Heisel

Director for Global Services, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

Jan Schadrack

Global Head, Neurology, Medical Affairs, Roche

10:05 - 10:25 **Transforming Brain Health Through Value-Based Care**

Susan Armiger

President and CEO, Catalight

10:25 - 10:40 **Launch of the Brain Capital Index for Europe**

Rym Ayadi

President, Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association

Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance

10:40 - 11:05 Coffee break

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11:05 - 11:55 **The Neuro's Next Leap: From Today's Breakthroughs to Future Discoveries**

Stéphanie Debette

Executive Director, Paris Brain Institute

Wiesje van der Flier

Director, Alzheimer Nederland

Stéphanie Lacour

Vice-President, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne

11:55 - 12:15 **Brain Positive Cities: Building Houston's Brain Economy Lighthouse**

Jochen Reiser

President, The University of Texas Medical Branch, CEO UTMB Health System

12:15 - 13:05 **Brains and Benefits: Towards Innovation Moonshots in the Brain Economy**

Niklas Blomberg

Executive Director, Innovative Health Initiative

Dana Burduja

Head of Life Sciences and Health Division, European Investment Bank

Pascal Joncour

Partner, Convergence Partners

Marco Mohwinckel

President, Tech Tour Mental & Brain Health Program

Chiara Varazzani,

OECD Lead Behavioural Scientist, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

13:05 - 13:15 **Piano for The Brain - Intro**

Rafał Kulczycki

Pianist, Composer

13:15 - 14:15 **Lunch**

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AFTERNOON SESSION CHAIRS:

Paweł Świeboda

Founder and Director, NeuroCentury; Co-Founder Brain Capital Alliance

Maria Tunberg

Vice-President, Research and Business Development,
RISE Research Institute of Sweden

Fred Destrebecq

Executive Director, European Brain Council

14:15 - 15:00 **Women's Brain Health: The Frontier We Must Advance**

Elizabeth Kuiper

Associate Director, European Policy Centre

Antonella Santucciono-Chadha

CEO, Women's Brain Foundation

Dimitrios Georgiopoulos

Head of Mid-Europe Healthcare, Merck

15:00 - 15:45 **Nesting the Brain in the Built Environment**

Marco Lucisano

Senior Vice-President, Built Environment,
RISE Research Institute of Sweden

Maria Tunberg

Vice-President, Research and Business Development,
RISE Research Institute of Sweden

Ben Hamley

Global Head of Research & Development, JLL

Essi Viding

Professor of Developmental Psychopathology and Pro Vice Provost for the Mental Health and Wellbeing Grand Challenge at UCL

15:45 - 16:00 **Coffee break**

16.00 - 17:00 **Parallel Sessions**

THE CONSERVATORY

Protecting the Brain in the Age of AI

Jaime de Mora

Co-Founder, The Brain Future Foundation;
CTO for Startups & Digital Natives,
Microsoft EMEA

THE SALON

Piano for the Brain

Rafał Kulczycki

Pianist, Composer

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16.00 - 17:00 Parallel Sessions

THE CONSERVATORY

Youth Brain Capital at the Height of Neuroplasticity

Catarina Mastellaro

Head of Strategic Engagement,
WHO Foundation

Elisha London

Founder and CEO, Prospira Global

Annika Sten Pärson

Founding Partner and Executive Chair
of the Inner Foundation

Pier Luigi Sacco

University of Chieti-Pescara,
metaLAB @ Harvard

THE SALON

The Brain Advantage: Towards a Brain-Positive Organization

Jacqueline Brassey

Director Healthy Workforces and Director of
Research Science at the McKinsey Health
Institute

Linda Jarnham

Founder and Managing Director, flow2thrive

Lawrence E. Jones

Managing Partner, NOTORA Ventures

Krystal Sexton

Founder and CEO, Cognitive Capital Group

François Veron

General Partner, Newfund

THE CONSERVATORY

17:00 - 17:15 Europe and the Future of the Brain Economy

Fred Destrebecq

Executive Director, European Brain Council

Harris Eyre

Executive Director, Brain Capital Alliance; Senior Fellow, Rice University & UTMB

Joakim Ramsberg

Head of Science and Society, Swedish Brain Foundation

Paweł Świeboda

Founder and Director, NeuroCentury; Co-Founder Brain Capital Alliance

17:15 - 18:30 Networking reception

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:



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