SCIENCE SUMMIT AT THE 81ST
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GLOBAL BRAIN ECONOMY SUMMIT

The Human Advantage

Leading the Brain-Positive AI Economy

AGENDA

09/22/2026
NEW YORK

Partners:

Steelcase, Catalight, Bristol Myers Squibb, Google, Biogen, UTMB, The Pedersen Foundation, westhealth

Hosted by:

Neuro Century, Global Brain Economy Initiative, Brain Capital Alliance, EMAE Euro-Mediterranean Economists Association, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, The BrainHouse

Knowledge Partner:

McKinsey Health Institute

Supporting Partners:

One Mind, FINN Partners

GLOBAL BRAIN ECONOMY SUMMIT

The Human Advantage: Leading the Brain-Positive AI Economy

Date: September 22, 2026

Time: 07:40 -18:00

Location: New York, Steelcase, 4 Columbus Circle

07.15 - 07.40 **Registration and Coffee**

07.40 - 07.45 **Welcome**

Harris Eyre
Executive Director, Global Brain Economy Initiative;
Senior Fellow, Rice University and UTMB

Ron Martere
Vice-President, Steelcase

Paweł Świeboda
Founder & Director, NeuroCentury; Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance;
Senior Fellow, EPC & CFG

07.45 - 08.05 **Morning Inspirational Talk: Building Global Brain Awareness**

Goldie Hawn
Founder, MindUP - The Goldie Hawn Foundation

08.05 - 08.25 **Opening Keynote**
The Rising Burden of Neurological Disorders in the Americas:
Why Brain Health Must Be a Public Policy Priority

Jarbas Barbosa
Director, Pan American Health Organization

Chair: **George Vradenburg**
Founding Chairman, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative

COGNITION IN THE AGE OF AI

08.25 - 08.40 **The Making of the Brain-AI Economy**

Gary V. Litman
Senior Vice-President, Global Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce

08.40 - 09.00 **Cognitive Taxation and Livelihood Precarity:**
An Agenda for the G20 Brain Economy

Dame Henrietta L. Moore
Founder and Director, UCL Institute for Global Prosperity; Chair of Culture, Philosophy and Design, UCL

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09.00 - 09.45 **Human at the Core: Building Healthy Teams in the Era of AI**

Harris Eyre
Executive Director, Global Brain Economy Initiative; Senior Fellow, Rice University and UTMB

Megan Henshall
Head of Partnership Strategy & Engagement, Google; Google Experience Institute

Andrew Kim
Design Research Director, North America, Workspace Futures, Steelcase

Upali Nanda
Global Sector Director, Innovation Partner and Executive Vice-President, HKS

Krystal Sexton
Founder and CEO, Cognitive Capital Group

Natalie Richardson
Director, HabLab, Slalom

Chair: **Ryan Howard**
Experience Design and Technology Leader

09.45 - 10.00 **Brain Forward Spaces: The Power of Connection and Community**

Tracy Brower
Vice President of Workplace Insights, Steelcase

10.00 - 10.20 **Coffee break**

BRAIN HEALTH IN THE AGE OF AI

10.20 - 10.30 **The Economic Opportunity of Investing in Brain Capital**

Erica Coe
Global Executive Director, McKinsey Health Institute

10.30 - 11.20 **Brain Health Is Health: Health Systems Transformation**

John Findley
CEO, American College of Lifestyle Medicine

Ann Greiner
President and CEO, Primary Care Collaborative

Tim Lash
President, West Health

Jochen Reiser
President & CEO, UTMB

Chair: **Kana Enomoto**
Director, Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute

11.20 - 11.35 **The Brain Economy Begins Before Birth: From Informed Parenting to Brain Capital Across Life Course**

JNarsuddin Rupani
Founder and Chairman, Rupani Foundation

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11.35- 12.15 Value-Based Healthcare: The Case for Bold Innovation

Susan Armiger
President and CEO, Catalight

Samuel R. Browd
Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington

Dimitrios Georgiopoulos
Senior Vice President, healthcare business of Merck KGaA

Kathleen M. Pike
CEO, One Mind

Manisha Parulekar
Co-Director, Center for Memory Loss and Brain Health, Hackensack Meridian Health

Talia Varley
Managing Director, Global Corporate Advisory, Cleveland Clinic (Canada);
Board Member, Baycrest Global Solutions

Chair: **Paweł Świeboda**
Founder & Director, NeuroCentury; Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance;
Senior Fellow, EPC & CFG

12.15 - 13.00 Pivoting Upstream: Making Prevention and Early Detection the Norm

Mitchell Elkind
Chief Science Officer, Brain Health and Stroke, American Heart Association

Liping Liu
Director, Department of Neurology, Beijing Tiantan Hospital; China National Clinical Research Center for Neurological Diseases

Natalia S. Rost
President, American Academy of Neurology

Allison Sekuler
President & Chief Scientist, Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation

Paola Zaratin
Scientific Research Director, Italian MS Society

Spotlight on Precision Nutrition
Sarah Hoit
Co-Founder, Vitality IP; Co-Founder & Chairman - Social Impact Partners

13.00 - 13.15 Sing For Your Brain: Music & Mental Health in Action

Tamar Greene
Broadway's longest-running George Washington in Hamilton

13.15 - 14.15 Lunch

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14.15 - 14.30 **Brains Are Infrastructure: Inside the Nature Medicine Commission on Brain Health for Economic Resilience**

Rym Ayadi
Founder and President, Euro – Mediterranean Economists Association; Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance

Simon Fischer-Baum
Co-Director, Brain and Society Initiative, Rice Brain Institute

William Heisel
Executive Director, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

14.30 - 14.45 **Neurosurgical AI: Opportunities and Challenges. Novel Neurosurgery Initiatives in Brain Protection**

Daniel Donoho
Assistant Professor, Children's National Hospital and George Washington University, Founder – Surgical Data Science Collective

Novel Neurosurgery Initiatives in Brain Protection

Gail Rosseau
George Washington University; Chair, Board of Director, The G4 Alliance; President-Elect, International Society for Global Neurosurgery

AI-INDUCED EXPOSOME AND THE BRAIN

14.45 - 15.30 **Neurospatial Design: A Science-Based Approach to How the Built Environment Can Contribute to the Brain Economy**

Cory Brugger
Global Sector Director for Hub, HKS

Ishita Das
Director, Science Philanthropy Accelerator for Research and Collaboration, Milken Institute

Sergei Gepshtein
University of California, President of the Academy of Neuroscience for Architecture

Susan Magsamen
Executive Director, International Arts and Mind Lab, Johns Hopkins University

Abigail Scott Paul
Global Head of the Humanize Campaign, Heatherwick Studio

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

Chair: **Upali Nanda**
Global Sector Director, Innovation Partner and Executive Vice-President, HKS

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14.45 - 15.30 **Breakout Session**

Human Energy: The Hidden Infrastructure of the Brain Economy

How Schools Can Strengthen the Biological Foundations of Learning, Mental Health, and Human Potential

Christopher Williams, Founder and CEO, Innovative Strategies Group

Martin Picard, Columbia University Irving Medical Center

15.30 - 15.45 **Coffee break**

15.45 - 16.25 **Building Brain Positive Places**

Kate Gordon
CEO, California Forward

David Gow
President and CEO, The Centre for Houston's Future

Helia Taheri
Research and Insights Lead, Arcadis

Ted Terry
DeKalb County Commissioner for Super District 6, Georgia; former Mayor of Clarkston, GA

Pierluigi Sacco
University of Chieti-Pescara, metaLAB @ Harvard

A documentary - Rewire: A Brain Health and Human Flourishing Story

Introduced by: **Krista Taylor,** Global Innovation Lead, Accenture

Brad Rossacci, Creative Director, Accenture

IMPACT STRATEGIES

16.25 - 17.00 **Brain Economy Beyond 2030: Resilience, Recovery and Human Flourishing**

Burcin Ikiz
Founder & Chair, International Neuro Climate Working Group

Vildan Soguktas
Founder, Youth for Planetary Health

Nika Saeedi
Global Lead, MHPSS and Brain Economy, Crisis Bureau, UNDP

Dennis Pamlin
RISE Research Institute of Sweden

Chair: **Margaret Meagher**
Chief Impact Officer, Crisis Text Line

17.00 - 18.00 **Reception**

Global Brain Economy Summit 2026 is part of the UN Science Summit

SCIENCE SUMMIT