



SCIENCE SUMMIT AT THE 81ST UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GLOBAL

AGENDA

09/22/2026

NEW YORK

BRAIN ECONOMY SUMMIT

The Human Advantage Leading the Brain-Positive AI Economy

Partners:



Hosted by:



Knowledge Partner:

McKinsey
Health Institute

Supporting 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, Institute for Global Prosperity;
Chair in Culture, Philosophy and Design, UCL

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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**Victor Dzau**

Duke University, former President of the National Academy of Medicine (2014-2026)

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****Nasruddin 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, the Healthcare business of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Elizabeth Pappadopoulos

Vice President and Head of Medical Affairs, Psychiatry, Bristol Myers Squibb

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

Chair:

Paweł Świeboda

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

Senior Fellow, EPC & CFG

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch**14.00 - 14.05 Building State-of-the-Art Innovation Ecosystem****Kathleen M. Pike**

CEO, One Mind

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14.05 - 14.20

Sing For Your Brain: Music & Mental Health in Action**Tamar Greene**

Broadway's longest-running George Washington in Hamilton

14.20 - 14.35

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

14.35 - 14.50

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

14.50 - 15.35

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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14.30 - 15.30 **Parallel 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

Chair: **Steven J. Carnevale**, Founding Partner of Blue Ash Ventures

15.35- 15.45 **Coffee break**

15.45 - 16.25 **Building Brain Positive Places**

Kate Gordon
CEO, California Forward

Chair: **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** hosted by FINN