



**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
STEELCASE
NEW YORK

Hosted by:



Brain
Capital
Alliance



Knowledge Partner:

**McKinsey
Health Institute**

GLOBAL BRAIN ECONOMY SUMMIT

The Human Advantage: Leading the Brain-Positive AI Economy

**Date:**

September 22, 2026

**Time:**

07:30 - 18:30

**Location:**

New York, Steelcase, 4 Columbus Circle

07.30 - 08.00 Registration and coffee**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

08.00 - 08.30 Opening Keynote**Jarbas Barbosa**

Director, Pan American Health Organization

*Chair:***George Vradenburg**

Founding Chairman, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative

COGNITION IN THE AGE OF AI

08.30 - 08.45 The Making of the Brain-AI Economy**Gary V. Litman**

Senior Vice-President, Global Initiatives, US Chamber of Commerce

**08.45 - 09.05 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

09.05 - 09.50 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

*Chair:***Ryan Howard**

Experience Design and Technology Leader

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09.50 - 10.05 Brain Forward Spaces: The Power of Connection and Community**Tracy Brower**

Vice President of Workplace Insights, Steelcase

10.05 - 10.25 Coffee break

BRAIN HEALTH IN THE AGE OF AI

10.25 - 10.40 The Economic Opportunity of Investing in Brain Capital**Erica Coe**

Global Executive Director, McKinsey Health Institute

10.40 - 11.25 Brain Health Is Health: Health Systems Transformation**Kana Enomoto**

Director, Brain Health, McKinsey Health Institute

John Findley *(invited)*

CEO, American College of Lifestyle Medicine

Tim Lash

President, West Health

Jochen Reiser

President & CEO, UTMB

11.25 - 12.05 Value-Based Healthcare: The Case for Bold Innovation**Susan Armiger**

President and CEO, Catalight

Samuel R. Browd

Professor of Neurological Surgery, University of Washington

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

*Novel Neurosurgery Initiatives in Brain Protection***Gail Rousseau**

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

Chair: Paweł Świeboda

Founder & Director, NeuroCentury; Co-Founder, Brain Capital Alliance;
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12.05 - 12.20 **Neurosurgical AI: Opportunities and Challenges**

Daniel Donoho

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

12.20 - 12.35 **Brain Health and the Affordability Agenda**

Devdutta Sangvai

Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

12.35 - 13.15 **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

13.15 - 14.15 **Lunch**

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

Harris Eyre

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

William Heisel

Executive Director, Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

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AI-INDUCED EXPOSOME AND THE BRAIN

14.30 - 15.15 **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

15.15 - 15.45 **Coffee break**

15.45 - 16.25 **Building Brain Positive Public Spaces & Launch of the Brain Positive Cities Guide**

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

16.25 - 16.45 **Launch of the Neuro Climate Science Report**

Burcin Ikiz

Founder & Chair, International Neuro Climate Working Group

Respondent:

Vildan Soguktas

Founder, Youth for Planetary Health

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IMPACT STRATEGIES

16.45 - 17.15 Transformational Role of Brain Capital in Crisis Countries

Nika Saeedi

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

Dena Trujillo

CEO, Crisis Text Line

George Vradenburg

Founding Chairman, Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative

17.15 - 17.30 Towards the post - 2030 Framework: Brain Economy as an Enabler of Human Flourishing

Dennis Pamlin

RISE Research Institute of Sweden

17.30 - 18.30 Reception

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

