Paris Brain Institute
ICM
15 YEARS

WORLD BRAIN HEALTH FORUM 2026

JANUARY 14-15, 2026 - PARIS

Two days to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Paris Brain Institute and to encourage international mobilization for brain health.

CELEBRATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

Wednesday, January 14th, 2026

Paris Brain Institute

08:30–09:00 | Welcome Coffee & Registration
Light breakfast and informal networking in the lobby

09:00–3:00 | Achievements in neuroscience at the Paris Brain Institute & beyond over the past 15 years

Session in English, presented by the Paris Brain Institute steering committee members and international key opinion leaders

09:00-09:10 | Greetings:
Stephanie Debette - Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute

09:10-09:45 | Keynote:
Erin Schuman - Frankfurt Max Planck for Brain Research (Germany)
Chair. Stephanie Debette

09:45–10:10 | Breakthroughs in Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology
Paris Brain Institute speakers: **Stephanie Baulac** & **Bassem Hassan**
Chair. Phil de Jager - Columbia University and Paris Brain Institute (USA, France)

10:10–10:35 | Transformative Research in Integrative Neurophysiology
Paris Brain Institute speakers: Claire Wyart & Nelson Rebola
Chair. Jaime De Juan Sanz – Paris Brain Institute (France)

10:35–11:00 | Break

11:00–11:25 | AI for Neuroscience and Neuroscience for AI
Paris Brain Institute speakers: Jacobo Sitt & Olivier Colliot
Chair: Adrienne Fairhall - University of Washington, Seattle (USA)

11:25–11:50 | From Lab to Life: Key Advances in Clinical and Translational Neuroscience
Paris Brain Institute speakers: Celine Louapre & Mehdi Touat
Chair: Nada Jabado - McGill (Canada)

11:50-12:25 | Keynote: Adrienne Fairhall - University of Washington (USA)
Chair. Alberto Bacci

12:25-13:30 | Celebratory Lunch

13:30-13:55 | Exploring the Frontiers of Cognitive Neuroscience
Paris Brain Institute speakers: **Liane Schmidt** & **Lionel Naccache**
Chair. Mathias Pessiglione

13:55-14:30 | Keynote: Daphna Shohamy Columbia-University (USA)
Chair. Mathias Pessiglione

14:30-15:00 | Break

15:00-17:00 | Perspectives in neuroscience for the next 15 years
Session in English, presented by early and mid-career researchers.

15:05-16:30 | Lightning Talks & Joint Perspectives

15:05-15:20 | Alzheimer's Disease
Susana Boluda (Clinical) & **Alexandre Trotier** (Biological/Computational)

15:20-15:35 | Parkinson's Disease
Aymeric Lanore (Clinical) & **Nicolas Tempier** (Biological/Computational)

15:35-15:50 | Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Thomas Nedelec (Clinical) & **Lea El Hajjar** (Biological/Computational)

15:50-16:05 | Glioma
Oumaima Aboubakr (Clinical) & **Reuben Dorent** (Biological/Computational)

16:05-16:20 | Multiple Sclerosis
Andrea Lazzarotto (Clinical) & **Guillaume Dorcet** (Biological/Computational)

16:30-17:00 | Equity and Inclusivity in Brain Research – Film and Round table

WORLD
BRAIN
HEALTH
FORUM 2026
MAIN CONFERENCE

Thursday, January 15th, 2026

UNESCO House

Brain health: one of the major challenges of the 21st century

Brain health is one of the major challenges of the 21st century. Brain diseases, encompassing neurological and mental disorders, affect one in three people and represent the leading cause of disability and second leading cause of death. Beyond that, brain health refers to the state of brain functioning across cognitive, sensory, social-emotional, behavioral, and motor domains. As the brain shapes how we think, act, work, and contribute to society, brain health is not only a medical priority but also a key factor in economic growth and democratic vitality.

Despite some progress, therapies available to prevent and treat brain diseases remain largely insufficient and the success rate of clinical trials, especially in the field of neurodegenerative diseases, has been notoriously low. However, the convergence of recent breakthroughs in neuroscience, in molecular, imaging, and digital technologies, in artificial intelligence and data science opens up **unprecedented perspectives and opportunities.**

The imperative of coordinated global action

To **turn this momentum into a lever for transforming brain health worldwide**, it is essential to bring together, on a global scale, the strengths of academic research, industry and investors, and the international public sector.

Together with the Cure-ND European Alliance, and in partnership with the International Alliance on Brain Health, the Paris Brain Institute is launching the **World Brain Health Forum.**

About the event

This forum aims to foster **multi-stakeholder, multilateral partnerships** to translate neuroscience discoveries into **new therapies, preventive strategies, and evidence-based policies** that advance brain health worldwide.

A special highlight of the event will be an **inaugural address by Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**, offering a unique perspective on global, intersectoral collaboration in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, followed by an **opening speech by WHO Director General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus**. The World Brain Health Forum will convene leaders from academia, international organizations, industry, and the public sector to explore the evolving landscape of brain health, identify challenges and opportunities, and unlock innovation for new therapies and preventive solutions. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring that these innovations are **globally generalizable.**

This multi-stakeholder forum offers a unique opportunity to **build impactful partnerships, shape the future of brain health, and drive concrete action toward life-changing therapies**. This meeting will also mark an important milestone in strengthening political engagement around brain health. Strategic directions will be prepared by the Forum's experts the following day during a roundtable to be held on 16 January at the Institut de France – French Academy of Sciences.

PROGRAMME

All keynotes pitches and panel discussion, roundtables, and talks throughout the day will be held in English.

07:45-8:45
Welcome and Registration

08:45-09:40
Words of Welcome and Inauguration

BRIEF WELCOME ADDRESSES

Serge Weinberg - President, Paris Brain Institute
Olivier Goy - Paris Brain Institute Ambassador
Didier Samuel - Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Inserm
Stéphanie Debette - Paris Brain Institute Executive Director

INAUGURAL LECTURES ON GLOBAL, INTERSECTORAL PARTNERSHIPS:

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon - 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations
Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus - Director-General of the World Health Organization

9:45–11:25

Session 1: Towards a Holistic Approach to Brain Health

Focus: Redefining brain disease boundaries using biological and molecular hallmarks to accelerate development of accurate biomarkers, therapies, and prevention
Aging populations worldwide contribute to a massive rise in common age-related neurological diseases while, simultaneously, mental health conditions are surging among the younger working-age population, at a scale that weakens our societies. There is an urgent need for coordinated global action addressing both neurological and mental disorders. These share mechanisms and profound consequences on brain function and may trigger or exacerbate each other. Redefining brain disease entities by biological, molecular hallmarks rather than siloed clinical entities could considerably facilitate the development of accurate biomarkers and efficient therapies. Moreover, a significant proportion of brain diseases is linked to shared, modifiable risk factors and accessible to prevention, calling for strategic action.

SESSION CHAIRS

Mathieu Vandenbulcke - Leuven Brain Institute (KU Leuven), director, Belgium
Marie Vidailhet - Paris Brain Institute, French Neurological Society, president, France

KEYNOTE PITCHES

Natalia Rost - Harvard University, American Academy of Neurology president, USA
Claudio Bassetti – Swiss Brain Health Plan and European Brain Council, Switzerland
Eric Nestler - Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Dean, USA
Christopher Chen - Memory Aging & Cognition Centre director, National University Singapore
Joachim Schultze - German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases director, Germany
Marion Leboyer - Institut Fondamental, Paris, France
Jonathan Rosand - Harvard Medical School & Massachusetts General Hospital, McCance Center for Brain Health director, USA

Panel Discussion: Advancing action in brain health

MODERATOR:
Lisa Burke

Kana Enomoto - McKinsey Health Institute, Director for Brain Health, USA
Elena Moro - Grenoble University & European Academy of Neurology president, France
Hee-Joon Bae - Seoul National University & Korean Stroke Society, South Korea
Mathieu Vandenbulcke - Leuven Brain Institute (KU Leuven), director, Belgium

11:25–11:45
Coffee Break

11:45–13:00
Session 2: Accelerating Therapies & Prevention

Focus: Leveraging neuroscience, AI, and public-private collaborations to develop transformative therapies
Advances in fundamental neuroscience, imaging, neurophysiology, combined with high throughput molecular approaches and AI, are unveiling brain function and disease mechanisms at unprecedented depth and scale. In addition, it is now well established that whole body and life-course influences play a major role in age-related brain disease. These include vascular, immune, and metabolic determinants of brain health, with underlying genetic, behavioral and environmental risk factors. At the same time, technological innovations and programmable therapies offer transformative potential for brain health, including for currently intractable brain disorders, heralding the beginning of a new era. Unlocking these opportunities requires breaking down silos and fostering public-private, interdisciplinary collaboration.

SESSION CHAIRS AND PANEL MODERATORS
Fanny Elahi - Mount Sinai Hospital, Friedman Brain Institute, USA
Jean-Christophe Corvol - Paris Brain Institute, deputy scientific director, France

KEYNOTE PITCHES
Katerina Akassoglou - Gladstone Institute of Neurological Diseases, UCSF, USA
Phil De Jager - Columbia University & Paris Brain Institute, USA & France
Philip Scheltens - EQT Dementia, The Netherlands
Matthias Tschöp - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, LMU Munich, president, Germany
Jeffrey Kelly - Scripps Institute, USA

Panel Discussion: Lifting barriers to novel therapies

Pryia Singhal - Biogen, executive VP and head of development, USA
Shibeshih Belachew - Indivi, chief medical officer, Switzerland
Claudia Hirawat - VOZ Patient Advocacy, executive chair, USA

13:00-13:45
Networking Lunch

13:45-14:10
Official speeches

14:10-15:30

Session 3: AI & Data Science for Brain Health

Focus: Harnessing AI and digital innovation to advance brain health.
AI and data science are poised to transform brain health by reshaping how we understand, diagnose, prevent and treat brain diseases. In recent years this has been accelerated by the convergence of mathematical and computational advances, generation of unprecedented volumes of data, and exponential growth in computing power.

AI's capabilities to assist in content generation, prediction and complex reasoning have the potential to transform the way scientific discoveries are made, new treatments are discovered, and health care is provided, in particular for conditions as complex as brain disorders.

Realizing the full potential of AI for brain health on a global scale also requires ensuring accessibility and representativeness, and mitigating potential harms, through responsible, inclusive, and social AI approaches. Finally, AI's contribution to socio-economic progress is relying heavily on brain capital, underscoring the need to reduce cognitive disparities through education and lifelong skill development.

SESSION CHAIRS

Isabelle Ryl - PRAIRIE, director, PSL University, vice-president, France
Olivier Colliot - Paris Brain Institute, deputy scientific director, and director of the Paris Brain Institute center for AI and data science, France

KEYNOTE PITCHES

Joëlle Barral - Google DeepMind, director for fundamental research, France
Peter Van Wijngaarden - Florey Institute director, Melbourne, Australia
Michael I. Jordan - INRIA, France and University of California, Berkeley, USA
Justine Cassell - Carnegie Mellon University, USA and PRAIRIE, INRIA, France
Gregory Moore - Gates Ventures and Alzheimer's Disease Data Initiative, USA

SPECIAL LECTURE

Philippe Aghion - College de France and INSEAD, Nobel Prize of Economy

15:30–15:50

Coffee Break

15:50-17:20

Session 4: Precision Brain Health Across the Lifespan

Focus: Brain health across the lifespan, integrating genomic and multiomic technologies for prevention and therapy.
The aging of populations worldwide contributes to a massive rise in age-related brain diseases. Simultaneously, mental health conditions are surging among younger people, impacting working-age populations, and predisposing to later onset neurological disorders, calling for a lifelong approach to brain health. In parallel, breakthroughs in genomic medicine and multiomic technologies, as well as increasingly elaborate methods to are opening new horizons for precision medicine and prevention applied to brain disorders, across the lifespan.

SESSION CHAIRS

Fumihiko Matsuda - Kyoto University center for genomic medicine director, Japan
Mark Lathrop - Victor Phillip Dahdaleh Institute of Genomic Medicine director, Canada

KEYNOTE PITCHES

Paul Matthews - Rosalind Franklin Institute director, UK
Myriam Fornage - University of Texas, Houston, USA
Guy Rouleau - The Neuro (Montreal Neurological Institute & Hospital) director, Canada
Stéphanie Debette - Paris Brain Institute Executive director, France
Nada Jabado - McGill, L'Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Laureate, Canada
Anne-Louise Ponsonby - Florey Institute, Australia
Sandrine Humbert - Paris Brain Institute, France

17:25-18:50

Session 5: Global, Multilateral, Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to Brain Health

Focus: Building international partnerships to accelerate equitable brain health innovations.
Most brain disease research remains isolated within national or regional efforts and has largely focused on individuals of European ancestry. By 2050, over two-thirds of people affected by brain disorders will be in the Global South. International, cross-continental partnerships can accelerate progress by pooling data, resources, and expertise. Such collaborations are crucial to enhance innovation through scientific complementarity and population diversity and ensure equitable advances in brain health.

SESSION CHAIR

Brian Lau - Paris Brain Institute, deputy scientific director, France
Maëlenn Guerchet - National Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD), Cotonou, Benin, and Limoges, France

KEYNOTE PITCHES

Sudha Seshadri - Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's & Neurodegenerative Diseases, founding director UT Health San Antonio, USA
Agustin Ibanez - Latin American Brain Health Institute (BrainLat) director, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile
Rufus Akinyemi - University of Ibadan, Deputy Director of the Centre for Genomics and Precision Medicine, Nigeria
Yoichiro Kamatani - Tokyo University, Laboratory of complex trait genomics, director, Japan
Siddharthan Chandran - UK Dementia Research Institute, director, Edinburgh, UK

Panel Discussion: Levers for Equitable Brain Health

MODERATOR:

Lisa Burke

Emanuele Buratti - UN-affiliated International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), scientific director, Trieste, Italy
Alexander Tsiskaridze - Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University, Georgia
Igor Sibon - Vascular Brain Health Institute, University of Bordeaux, France

18:50

Summary and Closing Remarks

Nicolas Revel - Assistance Publique – Hôpitaux de Paris, Director General, France
Antoine Petit - CNRS, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, France
Alexis Brice - Paris Brain Institute, past Executive director, France

This program is provided on a provisional basis and may be updated.

WBHF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Stéphanie Debette (Paris Brain Institute, France); Cure-ND with **Joachim Schultze** (DZNE, Germany), **Siddharthan Chandran** (UK-DRI, UK), **Mathieu Vandenbulcke** (Leuven, Belgium); International Alliance for Brain Health with **Claudio Bassetti** (University of Bern, Switzerland); **Natalia Rost** (Harvard University, USA); **Agustin Ibanez** (BrainLat, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Chile); **Christopher Chen** (National University Singapore, Singapore); **Rufus Akinyemi** (University of Ibadan, Nigeria); **Peter Van Wijngaarden** (Florey Institute, Australia).

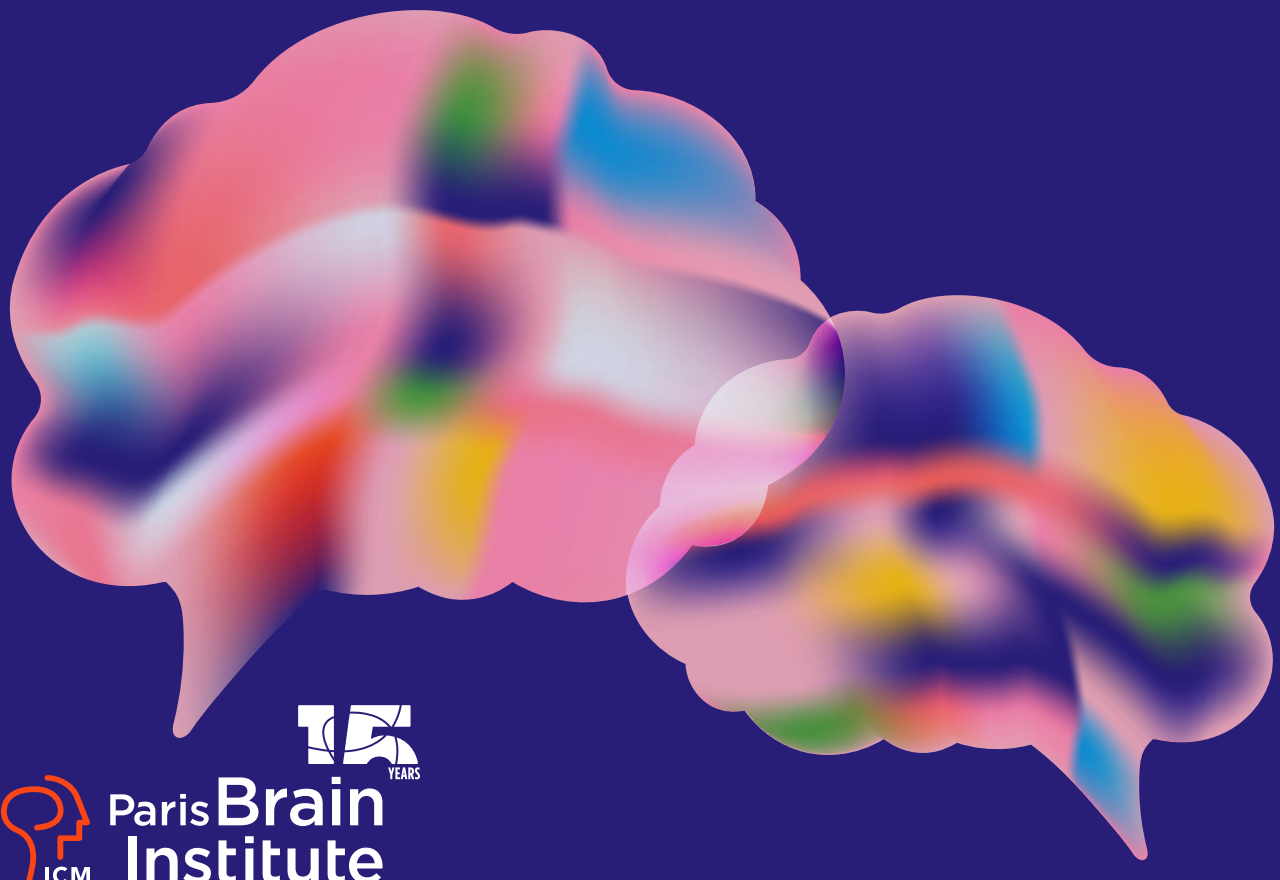
ABOUT THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

Founded in 2010, the Paris Brain Institute is a scientific and medical research center dedicated to advancing our understanding of the brain and developing new treatments for neurological disorders. Its unique model brings together patients, clinicians, researchers, and entrepreneurs with a common goal: to turn fundamental discoveries into therapeutic solutions through an interdisciplinary and translational approach. Situated at the heart of the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital in Paris – the largest neurology center in Europe – the Paris Brain Institute hosts nearly 1.000 international experts across 29 research teams, supported by 12 state-of-the-art core facilities, a clinical investigation center, a training academy and an innovation center including a start-up studio and a living lab. The Paris Brain Institute operates as a joint research unit (CNRS, Inserm, and Sorbonne University) and a private foundation of recognized public utility, the ICM Foundation, in partnership with Assistance Publique–Hôpitaux de Paris. parisbraininstitute.org

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

WEDNESDAY, 14 JANUARY 2026 – PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE
83 boulevard de l'Hôpital / 52 boulevard du Chevaleret 75013 Paris

THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY 2026 – UNESCO HOUSE
125 avenue de Suffren 75007 Paris



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