

PROGRAMME

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14TH, 2026

Paris Brain Institute

Celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Paris Brain Institute

As an introduction to the forum, the Paris Brain Institute is also organizing a series of plenary lectures and round tables on January 14 to celebrate its 15 years of existence.

08:30 - 09:00 ● WELCOME COFFEE & REGISTRATION

Light breakfast and informal networking in the lobby

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

Stéphanie Debette - Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute

09:10 - 09:45 ● Keynote

How do Brain Synapses get the Proteins they Need?

Erin Schuman - Frankfurt Max Planck for Brain Research, Germany

Chair: Stéphanie Debette - Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute

09:45 - 10:10 ● Breakthroughs in Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology

Paris Brain Institute speakers: Stéphanie Baulac & Nicolas Renier

Chair: Philip 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

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: Céline Louapre & Mehdi Touat
Chair: Nada Jabado - McGill University, Canada

11:50 - 12:25 ● Keynote

Finding principles of neural function through theory
Adrienne Fairhall - University of Washington, USA
Chair: Alberto Bacci - Paris Brain Institute, France

CELEBRATORY LUNCH

13:30 - 13:55 ● Critical Discoveries in Cognitive Neuroscience

Paris Brain Institute speakers: Liane Schmidt & Paolo Bartolomeo
Chair: Mathias Pessiglione - Paris Brain Institute

13:55 - 14:30 ● Keynote

How Memory Guides Value-based Decision
Daphna Shohamy - Columbia University, USA
Chair: Mathias Pessiglione - Paris Brain Institute

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES THROUGH THE LENS OF EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS

Session in English, presented by early and mid-career researchers and illustrated with cartoons by Frédéric Deligne.

15:00 - 15:05 • Welcome Adresses

Stéphanie Debette - Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute
Edith Gross - International Scientific Affairs Manager, Paris Brain Institute

15:05 - 16:35 • Lightning Talks & Joint Perspectives

Chair: Edith Gross - International Scientific Affairs Manager, Paris Brain Institute

15:05 - 15:20 • Alzheimer's Disease

Susana Boluda - Paris Brain Institute
Alexandre Trotier - Paris Brain Institute
Discussion

15:20 - 15:35 • Parkinson's Disease

Aymeric Lanore - Paris Brain Institute
Nicolas Tempier - Paris Brain Institute
Discussion

15:35 - 15:50 • Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Thomas Nedelec - Paris Brain Institute
Lea El Hajjar - Paris Brain Institute
Discussion

15:50 - 16:05 • Glioma

Oumaima Aboubakr - Paris Brain Institute
Reuben Dorent - Paris Brain Institute
Discussion

16:05 - 16:20 • Multiple Sclerosis

Andrea Lazzarotto - Paris Brain Institute
Tala Karam - Paris Brain Institute
Discussion

16:20 - 16:35 • Mental Health

David Aziz Alaoui - Paris Brain Institute
Marc Benhamou - Paris Brain Institute
Discussion

16:35 - 16:45 • Equity and Inclusivity in Brain Research

Violetta Zujovic - Paris Brain Institute PI & Chair of Alba Network

16:45 - 17:05 • Creating connections

Presented by Cure-ND early and mid-career researchers.
Chair: Olivier Stéphan - Director of International Alliances & Competitive Funding, Paris Brain Institute

Helena Balabin - KU Leuven, Belgium - Neurosciences - Artificial Intelligence

Viola Volpatto - UK DRI, UK - Parkinson's Disease and insulin resistance
Jannis Sprengel - DZNE, Germany - Systemic inflammation in Alzheimer Disease

Bastien Rioux - Paris Brain Institute, France - Brain and vessels

16:45 - 17:05 • VISIT OF THE PITIÉ-SALPÉTRIÈRE CAMPUS

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 2026

UNESCO House

World Brain Health Forum Main Conference

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

7:30 - 08:30 • Welcome and Registration

08:30 - 9:20 • WORDS OF WELCOME AND INAUGURATION

Brief Welcome Addresses

Serge Weinberg - President of the Paris Brain Institute

Jean Todt - Vice-President of the Paris Brain Institute

Olivier Goy - Paris Brain Institute Ambassador

Didier Samuel - Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Inserm

Stéphanie Debette - Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute

Inaugural Lectures on Global, Intersectoral Partnerships

Khaled El-Enany - Director-General of UNESCO

His Excellency Ban Ki-moon - 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus - World Health Organization Director-General
(video)

9:20 - 11:00 • 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 si-loed 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

Claire Wyart - Paris Brain Institute, Deputy scientific director, Paris Brain Institute

Keynote Pitches

Natalia Rost - Harvard Medical School, 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

11:00 - 11:25 • COFFEE BREAK

11:30 - 12:45 • 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 - Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, USA

Jean-Christophe Corvol - Paris Brain Institute Deputy scientific director, France

Keynote Pitches

Katerina Akassoglou - Gladstone Institute of Neurological Diseases, UCSF, USA

Philip De Jager - Columbia University & Paris Brain Institute, USA & France

Philip Scheltens - EQT Dementia, The Netherlands

Matthias Tschöp - Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, LMU Munich, president, Germany

Jeffery Kelly - Scripps Institute, USA

Panel Discussion : Lifting barriers to novel therapies

Priya Singhal - Biogen executive VP and head of development, USA

Shibeshih Belachew - Indivi chief medical officer, Switzerland

Claudia Hirawat - VOZ Executive Chair, USA

12:45 - 14:15 • NETWORKING LUNCH

14:25 - 15:40 • 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, director of the Paris School of AI, 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
- Gregory Moore - Gates Ventures and Alzheimer's Disease Data Initiative, USA
- Peter Van Wijngaarden - Florey Institute director, Melbourne, Australia
- William Saurin - Science Strategy & Corporate Research Technology Senior Director, Dassault Systèmes
- Justine Cassell - Carnegie Mellon University, USA and PRAIRIE, INRIA, France
- Michael I. Jordan - INRIA, France and University of California, Berkeley, USA

Special Lecture - *Should we fear AI? : Challenges & Opportunities*

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

15:35 - 16:00 • COFFEE BREAK

16:00 - 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 Chairs

- 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
- Agustín Ibáñez - 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

- **Bo Wang** - Secretary General, China Brain Health Initiatives Executive Chair, Shanghai Medical Innovation & Development Foundation, China
- **Rajinder K. Dhamija** - Chair National Task Force on Brain Health Govt of India, New Delhi, India
- **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 - Chief Executive Officer of Assistance Publique - Hôpitaux de Paris, France

Antoine Petit - Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of CNRS, France

Alexis Brice - past Executive Director of Paris Brain Institute, France

About Paris Brain Institute

Founded in 2010, Paris Brain Institute is a world-class scientific and medical research center dedicated to advancing our understanding of the brain and developing new treatments for neurological disorders. Its unique model unites patients, clinicians, researchers, and entrepreneurs with a common goal: to transform 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 Institute hosts over 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. 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