NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE of IRELAND

TOWARDS AN EU NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH STRATEGY:

LEARNING AND INSIGHTS FROM THE IRISH EXPERIENCE

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FOREWORD

Foreword by Billy Kelleher MEP, Member of the European Parliament's Committee on Public Health (SANT) and the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions.

Europe has an opportunity to make neurological health a more prominent and coherent priority within its public health, research and innovation agendas. For too long, the scale and diversity of neurological conditions have not been matched by a sufficiently coordinated response. A stronger European approach can help connect the work of national health systems, research communities, patient organisations and policymakers, creating momentum for practical and lasting progress.

The work now underway in the European Parliament represents an important opportunity to advance this agenda. The European Parliament's Committee on Public Health (SANT) has begun examining the case for a more strategic approach to neurological health. This process provides a platform to consider how European cooperation can support prevention, earlier diagnosis, improved access to care, research collaboration and the development and uptake of new treatments and technologies. It also offers an opportunity to ensure that the experiences and priorities of people living with neurological conditions are reflected in future policy. A European neurological health strategy could provide a framework for cooperation, helping countries, including Ireland, share evidence and good practice, identify common priorities, strengthen research networks and support innovation, while recognising different national healthcare systems and needs. It could also help give neurological health greater visibility across relevant European policy areas, including public health, research, digital transformation and life sciences.

Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union comes at a significant moment in these discussions. Ireland can contribute valuable experience from its national policy development, its active neurological patient advocacy community and its growing neuroscience and life sciences sectors. Just as importantly, the Irish experience demonstrates the value of connecting these communities and bringing their perspectives into dialogue with European partners.

This report, Towards a Neurological Health Strategy for Europe: Learning and Insights from the Irish Experience, represents a vital piece of work to capture that contribution. It highlights the opportunities for collective action and the importance of building partnerships that extend beyond national borders. As a member of the MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions I pay tribute to the coalition of Irish and European organisations, led by the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, that came together in this partnership.

The report is based on reflections across Ireland's neurological community from a National Stakeholder Dialogue that I was delighted to host in Europe House Dublin, on July 22nd at the beginning of Ireland's 2026 Presidency of the Council of the European Union. As an Irish Member of the European Parliament and a member of the Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions I look forward to sharing the recommendations to help ensure that Ireland's experience informs the development of a more coordinated European approach to neurological health.

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By working together, European institutions, Member States and the neurological community can help lay the foundations for a more ambitious and coordinated approach to neurological health, one that supports scientific progress, strengthens healthcare systems and improves the lives of people living with neurological conditions and their families.

Billy Kelleher MEP

Member of the European Parliament
Member of the Committee on Public Health (SANT)
Member of the Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions



Message from Nina Carberry MEP, Member of the European Parliament's Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions and Co-Chair of the European Alzheimer's Alliance (EAA).

Momentum is building for a stronger European approach to brain health and neurological conditions. We have heard the evidence and listened to the lived experience of patients and their families. Now we need to seize this moment.

The Joint Declaration on Advancing Neurological Health is an important step towards ensuring that neurological health receives the attention and priority it deserves. As Ireland's Presidency draws to a close, we must carry this momentum forward and turn it into coordinated action across Europe.

I hope this report helps inform the work ahead and keeps the experiences of people living with neurological conditions at its heart. By continuing to work together, we can build on the progress made and move towards better outcomes for people and families across Europe.

INTRODUCTION

Neurological conditions are among the leading causes of disability and premature death across Europe. In Ireland alone, approximately 860,000 people are living with a neurological condition, equivalent to one in six people. The prevalence and impact of neurological conditions are expected to increase in the coming years as Europe's population ages.

Europe is entering a pivotal period for neurological health policy. In February 2026, the European Parliament's Committee on Public Health (SANT) held a dedicated hearing on neurological health. Following this, the Committee initiated an own-initiative report on neurological health, marking an important step towards a more structured European approach to neurological health policy.

Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union therefore comes at a particularly important moment for neurological health at EU level. The Presidency coincides with the SANT Committee's own-initiative process and provides an opportunity for Ireland to contribute to, and help connect, national and European perspectives on the future of neurological health. Ireland is particularly well positioned to lead and facilitate this discussion. As this report demonstrates, Ireland has a vibrant and increasingly influential patient advocacy community, operating both nationally and through strong engagement with European organisations and networks. Ireland has also developed important health policy frameworks for neurological care, while its neuroscience research community continues to grow and develop. At the same time, Ireland is home to a strong life sciences sector, with significant expertise and investment in research, therapeutics, medical technologies and digital innovation that is contributing to advances in neurological health. Taken together, these assets provide a strong foundation from which Ireland can support and contribute to the European dialogue.

An EU Neurological Health Strategy represents a significant opportunity for coordinated European action. The EU has already shown that it can lead a coordinated response to major non-communicable diseases. The Safe Hearts and Beating Cancer Plans strengthened EU-wide cooperation, accelerated prevention and early detection, and promoted investment in research and improved care for better health outcomes. By showing its support for an EU neurological health strategy, Ireland has the opportunity to help advance a policy agenda which mobilises healthcare, research and innovation towards one of Europe's most pressing public health challenges.

The report is based on reflections across Ireland's neurological community, culminating in a national stakeholder dialogue as a recognised Associate Event of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It provides recommendations for a future neurological health strategy based on insights from the Irish experience, highlighting the opportunity for Ireland to show leadership by investing in healthcare and strengthening its advancing neuroscience and innovation sectors to address the growing challenge of neurological conditions.

The discussions and recommendations within this report are particularly relevant within the context of the health priorities for Ireland's EU Presidency. The importance

INTRODUCTION

of prevention, equity, digital health and innovation-supporting frameworks for medicines, biotechnology and research are frequently reiterated throughout and highlight that neurological conditions are increasingly central to the EU's health, research and innovation agendas. Neurological health presents an important opportunity to mobilise Europe's knowledge economy, bringing together research, innovation and healthcare systems to address a growing health challenge.

We are pleased to share the learnings from this report at a time when the EU is taking tangible steps towards a more collective strategic approach to neurological healthcare and research and look forward to working together here in Ireland and with European partners towards a better future for all EU citizens with neurological conditions.

NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE of IRELAND

future neuro

EBC European Brain Council

ean european academy of neurology

EFNA

GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE

"As Chair of the SANT Committee on Public Health in the European Parliament, I very much look forward to receiving the report and recommendations emerging from today's discussions, which I am sure will enrich the work we are starting in SANT on the European Parliament's position on the future European neurological health strategy. I am confident that your deliberations will make an important contribution to shaping future European action in this field."

***Adam Jarubas*, Chair of SANT Committee on Public Health**

Message to the National Dialogue Event World Brain Day Dublin 2026

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KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
Priorities for Healthcare

Drawn from the Panel 1 discussion and the Neurological Alliance of Ireland's consultation across patient organisation, lived experience and clinical neurosciences representatives.

1. Establish neurological health as a priority for health systems across EU member states

With a growing proportion of European citizens developing neurological conditions, neurological health must become a more clearly recognised priority within European and national health policy. The EU and Member States should develop, strengthen and implement comprehensive neurological health strategies that address prevention, early diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, long-term care and support. Here in Ireland, the development of dedicated policy must be matched by a commitment to implementation of existing strategies and models of care within neurology, neurorehabilitation, stroke, dementia, epilepsy and paediatric services.

2. Put people with lived experience at the centre of the design, delivery and evaluation of neurological healthcare

Healthcare systems must be designed and developed with the meaningful and sustained participation of people living with neurological conditions, their families and carers. This should extend beyond consultation to genuine partnership in policy development, service design, implementation and evaluation. In Ireland existing models of good practice in co-design and inclusion should be adopted as universal practice for the design and delivery of healthcare services for people with neurological conditions and their families.

3. Develop integrated, person-centred neurological care across health and social care systems

An integrated whole of health system approach is required to ensure that people with neurological conditions can access co-ordinated care at every stage and age. A particular challenge is to ensure that key transitions from paediatric to adult to older age care and between hospital and community are effectively managed with appropriate services to respond to ongoing needs. The role of neurological patient organisations in Ireland in developing and delivering long term integrated care supports for key life stage transitions and vital linkages across services must be supported and strengthened in line with the Partnership Principles agreed by the Health Services Executive.

4. Invest strategically in the neurological care workforce and infrastructure

Healthcare systems across Europe are facing a growing burden and complexity of care to meet the needs of people with neurological conditions. Ireland has significant challenges to overcome in addressing capacity issues and regional disparities in access to neurological care and requires a commitment to sustained investment in personnel, service infrastructure, health information systems and emerging treatments and technologies.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
Priorities for Research and Innovation

5. Establish equity of access to neurological healthcare as a central principle

A future neurological health strategy for Europe must be inclusive of all neurological conditions and adopt a life course approach, recognising the diverse and evolving needs of individuals. In Ireland, action is needed to ensure equitable access to timely, appropriate and integrated neurological care at every stage, regardless of age, condition or geographical location.

6. Ensure Availability and Accessibility of Treatments

Ensure equitable, timely and affordable access to approved neurological treatments across the EU. Strengthen collaboration between EU Member States to address inequalities in treatment availability, accelerate access to innovative therapies, reduce delays in reimbursement and approval processes, and ensure people living with neurological conditions are meaningfully involved in decisions.

Drawn from the Panel 2 discussion and FutureNeuro's consultation of Ireland's neuroscience and neurology research community (see Appendix).

1. Accelerate implementation of the National Genomics Strategy

Ireland should accelerate implementation of its National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine to optimise patient outcomes through precision medicine, attract clinical trials and leverage the Irish research community to drive discovery and innovation. The National Genetics and Genomics Office (NGGO) should be empowered to progress delivery, connecting genomics with healthcare and research, and the national genomic database should be connected with European initiatives such as the European Rare Diseases Research Alliance (ERDERA). Ireland should learn from models such as Genomics England and Our Future Health.

2. Deliver a research-enabled digital health system

Research should be built into the design of the National Electronic Health Record, so that data generated through routine care can support a dynamic learning healthcare system. A national Trusted Research Environment would allow researchers to securely link clinical, imaging, genomic and outcomes data. Interoperability, registries and readiness for the European Health Data Space (EHDS) should be priorities, with governance for secondary use that is robust, trusted and research friendly. Research regulation, ethics approval and GDPR interpretation should allow safe, trustworthy research to proceed quickly.

3. Embed research and clinical trials within routine care

Research and care should be valued equally, with research part of routine care and all healthcare team members empowered, protected and enabled to take part. This needs protected research time, trial-ready services, structured clinician-scientist pathways and capacity to deliver trials within HSE settings. Joined-up, efficient research governance and streamlined study start-up will make Ireland an attractive location for global clinical trials and increase patient access to innovation. Ireland should also

initiate a roadmap for clinician-scientist careers within Europe's broader health workforce strategy.

4. Invest strategically in brain health research

Brain health research should stay a visible priority in FP10 (Pillar 2: Competitiveness and Society) and the European Partnership for Brain Health, backed by national co-investment, cross-departmental funding models and predictable multi-year funding. Investment should focus particularly on the prevention of neurodegenerative conditions and on addressing accelerated brain ageing due to modifiable risk factors.

As part of Ireland's forthcoming National Life Sciences Strategy, which aims to secure sustained investment in high-value capacity building in relevant disciplines, it will be important to expand doctoral and postdoctoral training opportunities, particularly in interdisciplinary areas such as artificial intelligence, genomics and digital health. This will be critical to maintaining Ireland's and Europe's competitiveness in emerging fields. International mobility programmes should also be strengthened to promote knowledge exchange, collaboration and retention of talent within the European research ecosystem.

5. Put patients at the centre of research, not at the end

Meaningful public and patient involvement (PPI) should be embedded at every stage of the research pathway. Keeping people with lived experience at the centre makes research more innovative, more equitable, more trusted and more impactful for patients and families. PPI education should be included in undergraduate curricula so that future researchers are equipped to involve patients from the outset.

TOWARDS A COORDINATED EU APPROACH TO NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH: *Timeline and Milestones*

Healthcare Strategy Milestones in Neurological Health

When	*Milestone*	*Level*
2016	National Models of Care for Neurology and Epilepsy Services published.	Ireland
2019	National Neuro-Rehabilitation Strategy Implementation Framework 2019–2021 published. Ireland sets out a national implementation framework for specialist neuro-rehabilitation servicesed.	Ireland
2021	EU Healthier Together initiative formally incorporates neurological disorders. The European Commission's major EU non-communicable disease initiative creates a dedicated strand for mental health and neurological disorders	EU
May 2022	EU adopts WHO Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Epilepsy and other Neurological Disorders 2022-2031	EU
Feb 2026	European Parliament SANT Committee on Public Health Hearing "Policy Challenges and Opportunities to Manage Neurological Diseases"	EU
July 2026	Launch of a Joint Declaration for Neurological Health at an Associate Event for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union	Ireland/EU
Autumn 2026	European Parliament begins work on an own-initiative report on a Neurological Health Strategy.	EU

Research and Innovation Milestones in Neurological Health

When	*Milestone*	*Level*
Dec 2022–2023	National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland launched; National Genetics and Genomics Office (NGGO) created within the HSE in 2023 to lead delivery.	Ireland
Jan 2024	Ireland begins participating in the European Rare Diseases Research Alliance (ERDERA).	Ireland/EU
Jan 2025	Genome of Ireland announced (a dataset of at least 1,200 people), alongside participation in Genome of Europe.	Ireland/EU
Mar 2025	European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation enters into force.	EU
Feb 2026	Government approves HSE procurement of the National Electronic Health Record, Ireland's largest ever digital health investment.	Ireland
2026	European Partnership for Brain Health launched, with more than 60 partners from over 30 countries.	EU
Jul-Dec 2026	Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU, during a critical phase for the Biotech Act, the EHDS and FP10 negotiations.	Ireland/EU
Jan 2028	FP10 (2028–2034) due to begin. The Commission has proposed a €175 billion budget.	EU
2029-2031	EHDS rules on secondary use of health data for research begin to apply (2029), with remaining categories, including genomic data, following in 2031.	EU

NATIONAL DIALOGUE EVENT

Neurology at the Forefront of Innovation in Knowledge Based Healthcare Across Europe

Europe House Dublin, World Brain Day 22nd July 2026

A national dialogue on neurological health brought Irish and European political representatives together with patient organisations, lived experience advocates and healthcare and research leads as part of the programme of Associate Event for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



***Fergus O'Béara*, Head of Office, European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland**



Member of the European Parliament, *Billy Kelleher:* Meeting Host

MEP Billy Kelleher opened the event in Europe House Dublin. He outlined the growing momentum around neurological health at EU level, with the EU Parliament SANT committee preparing to develop an own initiative report on neurological heath. Pointing to the success of previous EU health strategies, including the cardiovascular strategy and the beat cancer strategy, he called for a similar momentum in the area of neurology, leveraging the entire EU capacity to improve the lives of people living with health conditions that have a neurological impact.

"There are approximately 860,000 people in Ireland living with a neurological condition and, on a European level, the costs associated with neurological conditions is an estimated €300 billion per year. This should spur policymakers to make every effort to develop a strategy that will bring about early diagnosis, earlier interventions and greater community supports for people with neurological conditions as well as advancing research and clinical trials."


ÉIRE2026.EU
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NEUROLOGICAL ALLIANCE
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EFNA
GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH INSTITUTE
HRB
An Bord Taighde Sláinte
Health Research Board
NEUROLOGY AT THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATION IN KNOWLEDGE BASED HEALTHCARE AND RESEARCH ACROSS EUROPE
World Brain Day, July 22nd
Robert Schuman Room, Europe House Dublin
1pm to 5pm (By Invitation Only)
Scan Here For Full Event Details
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***Magdalen Rogers*, CEO of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland**

Ms Rogers spoke to highlight that that Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union coincides with the SANT committee report and therefore at a crucial point to support growing momentum towards an EU neurological health strategy.

"Today's gathering reflects the growing recognition that neurological health is at the forefront of knowledge-based healthcare, research and innovation across Europe. It provides an important opportunity to bring together policymakers, researchers, clinicians, patient organisations and all those committed to advancing neurological health, as we work towards a stronger European response to the challenges posed by neurological conditions. Today's event marks the beginning of a wider programme of collaboration on neurological health that will continue throughout Ireland's Presidency. Together with our partners, we look forward to creating opportunities to connect, share knowledge, build consensus and strengthen European cooperation on neurological health. Ireland has a proud tradition of bringing people together to find common ground and develop practical solutions to shared challenges, and we hope today's discussion will set the tone for the months ahead".



Minister for Health, *Jennifer Carroll MacNeill*

Minister MacNeill provided the opening address and outlined that neurological conditions impact each and every family across the country with almost one in six people in Ireland affected by a neurological condition. She stressed that neurological conditions are now along the leading causes of ill health and disability worldwide and that, as Europe's population ages, the prevalence and impact of these conditions throughout Ireland and Europe is set to increase significantly. She acknowledged the imperative for the EU to have a collective strategy on neurological conditions, outlining that it is the only way to ensure equity and to harness the benefit of shared knowledge and expertise across Europe in order to address the growing impact for individuals and for wider health systems and societies.

The Minister also spoke about the neurological health within the context of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, with a focus on progressing key legislation and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable, secure and equitable access to treatments while strengthening healthcare research in relation to clinical trials and innovation, a vital issue in the development of new treatments for neurological conditions.

"It is so important that we get to a point where we have an EU strategic framework for neurological conditions."



Minister of State with Responsibility for Older People and Housing, *Kieran O'Donnell*

Minister O Donnell spoke about dementia within the context of a growing neurological health challenge facing Ireland and Europe. He outlined that Ireland continues to play a key role in advancing policy development and implementation and outlined the example of Dementia where we have introduced a national dementia registry with its critical importance in informing healthcare and advancing research. He voiced his support for the development of a broader European neurological framework across neurological conditions and said he looked forward to working with national and European colleagues to make it a reality.

"The question now is what further synergies can be created at European level to the benefit of patients. If we cooperate and work together across Europe, I think there are enormous benefits,"



Chair of the meeting *Dr Grainne Gorman*, Chief Executive of the Health Research Board

Dr O Gorman outlined that she was particularly pleased to be invited to Chair this event, highlighting that she is a Consultant Neurologist by background and worked for many years at the forefront of neurological healthcare delivery and leadership. Her opening remarks highlighted that although neurological conditions are one of the leading causes of disability and premature death in the EU, neurological health has not received the same attention as cardiovascular disease and cancer.

"There is growing recognition that neurological health must become a stronger European priority, supported by coordinated action across health care, research, and innovation. Investing in neurological care, workforce development, digital infrastructure, and research is not just a cost. It is an investment that delivers long-term benefit for individuals, healthcare systems, and society as a whole. Let us ensure that today's discoveries become tomorrow's care. Let us be ambitious. Let us act together and let us ensure that Europe becomes a place where every person living with a neurological condition can benefit from the very best research, innovation, and health care it has to offer,"

PANEL 1: PRIORITIES FOR HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

The first panel discussion focused on priorities for healthcare systems in addressing the needs of people living with neurological conditions.

- ***Professor Elena Moro,*** President of the European Academy of Neurology (EAN);
- ***Dr Sean O'Dowd,*** Consultant Neurologist and Ireland's EAN delegate;
- ***Dr Orla Galvin,*** Executive Director of the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA);
- ***Eamon McPartlin,*** Chair of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland
- ***Professor Dominic Trepel,*** Associate Professor of Health Economics, Trinity College Dublin and a faculty member of the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI);
- ***Dr Eugene Wallace,*** Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine and National Clinical Lead for Rehabilitation.

The rising number of people across the EU developing neurological conditions creates an urgent requirement on healthcare systems across Europe to respond to this challenge. Healthcare systems must be designed to provide early and integrated responses across all neurological conditions, but equity of access and person-centred care must be the guiding principles for healthcare design and delivery.



Session Moderator
Richelle Flanagan
Registered Dietician, Lived Experience Advocate and Co-Founder My Moves Matter

Priorities for Healthcare Systems in Addressing the Needs of People with Neurological Conditions



Professor Elena Moro
President European Academy of Neurology (EAN)



Eamon McPartlin
Chair of Neurological Alliance of Ireland and Patient Advocate



Dr Sean O'Dowd
Consultant Neurologist & EAN Delegate Ireland



Professor Dominic Trepel
Associate Professor of Health Economics Trinity College Dublin and Faculty Member of the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)



Dr Orla Galvin
Executive Director
European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)



Dr Eugene Wallace
Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine St James Hospital, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Tallaght University Hospital

Session Moderator Richelle Flanagan:
Registered Dietician, Patient Advocate and Co-Founder of My Moves Matter

"Any future EU neurological strategy must be developed with patients, not for patients. Patient involvement from the very beginning is the only way to develop a truly patient-centred framework".



PANEL 1:
Key Insights from this Session

The panel explored the challenges for health systems in responding to the needs of people with neurological conditions and the opportunities for designing healthcare services that deliver equitable, person centred and evidence-based care.

The Challenge

Ireland faces a growing challenge in ensuring that its health system can respond effectively, equitably and sustainably to the needs of people living with neurological conditions. The rising prevalence of neurological conditions and advances in diagnosis and treatment are increasing demand for services, while neurological care is developing from a particularly low base and requires sustained investment to meet growing needs.

A further challenge is ensuring that healthcare delivery for people with neurological conditions is genuinely person-centred. People with neurological conditions must be supported to navigate complex services, participate actively in decisions about their care and access appropriate information and support throughout their lives. Shared care records, digital infrastructure and improved data collection can strengthen coordination, but data alone cannot capture the full experience of living with a neurological condition. Meaningful involvement of people with lived experience in the design, implementation and evaluation of services is essential.

The Opportunity

A European Neurological Health Strategy offers an important opportunity to translate these shared challenges into coordinated action. By combining European cooperation with national leadership and meaningful lived-experience participation, Ireland and its European partners have an opportunity to build healthcare systems that are more equitable, integrated and sustainable, delivering better outcomes for people living with neurological conditions now and into the future. Effective investment is needed to address workforce shortages in neurological care across the EU, particularly in Ireland where such shortages are at critical levels, and improve service infrastructure, health information systems and access to emerging treatments and technologies. Economic evidence will also be critical in demonstrating that investment in prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and neurorehabilitation can improve outcomes while supporting the long-term efficiency and sustainability of health services. A future neurological health strategy should be inclusive across all neurological conditions and adopt a life course approach to neurological health.



***Eamon McPartlin*, Chair of the Neurological Alliance of Ireland, Patient Advocate and Founder of FND Ireland**

Eamon emphasised that neurological healthcare must fundamentally be designed and delivered with the person at the centre. Care should be delivered as close to the patient as possible and in the community where appropriate. Timely access to healthcare information, the roll-out of shared care records and digital tools are a critical part of this integration. He called for a

multidisciplinary approach, where treatment is tailored to the individual and the person is actively involved in their own care. He also stressed the importance of a single point of contact to help people navigate neurological services and improve continuity of care.

"So how do we achieve person-centred care? We achieve it, I believe, by having those with lived experience of neurological conditions involved in the design and implementation of our healthcare services. By involvement, I mean that we are involved in all stages. Too often, I've experienced, we have had limited input. Thankfully I can see this changing and when the design of the first ever pathway for one of my conditions commenced this year in Ireland, I had a seat at the very first meeting. But we need to ensure that that always happens. Remember that behind each statistic is a person just like me. We are more than just a number."



Dr Orla Galvin, Executive Director of the European Federation of Neurological Associations

Dr Galvin agreed that the patient voice must be central to neurological healthcare and research. For example, while the European Health Data Space Act will transform the collection and analysis of data on neurological conditions by facilitating data-sharing across borders, data must be viewed in conjunction with the lived experience. Europe has an opportunity to future-proof neurology services by creating a neurology strategy, but that strategy must be informed by those directly impacted.

"When it comes to finding solutions, there are no individuals who are more adaptable, more innovative than people who live with neurological conditions, and it is for that that very reason that people with lived experience, like Eamon, and groups, like the Neurological Alliance of Ireland and the European Federation of Neurological Associations should have a seat at the table and bring that testimony to validate and show what is good, but also highlight where there is room for improvement."



Dr Sean O'Dowd, Consultant Neurologist and Ireland Delegate: European Academy of Neurology

Dr O Dowd highlighted that with the increasing prevalence of neurological conditions and the emergence of new therapies, the demand on neurology services is set to increase. Addressing workforce deficits and providing for a sustainable workforce must be a priority. He stressed that increased staffing is critically required, highlighting the commitments to address this within the current Programme for Government in Ireland. He called for innovation and research to be incorporated into normal clinical workflows and clinical training, with dedicated time provided to clinicians to pursue research and innovation. Delivering fit-for-purpose neurology care will also require investment in IT infrastructure with data increasingly essential for meeting current and future needs.

"An EU neurological health strategy could be a really valuable opportunity to benchmark best practice across nation states, to determine what equity really looks like. A neurological strategy would be a huge step in bringing that equity to our patients."



***Professor Elena Moro,* President of the European Academy of Neurology**

Professor Moro outlined that the European Academy of Neurology Brussels Declaration commits the medical community to seven core priorities over the coming decade in order to tackle rising neurological care needs: including promoting brain health for all, supporting equal treatment, fostering prevention and care, strengthening the neurology workforce, boosting interventional neurology, advancing research and innovation and integrating new technologies and AI.

"Future planning of services must be sustainable, equitable, inclusive, efficient and multidisciplinary and deliver concrete actions in the short, medium and long term".



***Dr Eugene Wallace,* Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine and National Clinical Lead for Rehabilitation Medicine**

Dr Wallace highlighted the lack of capacity in neurorehabilitation services, especially in Ireland where we are coming from a very low base.

He explained that the combination of demographic changes and advances in care will create huge demand in relation to neurological conditions, and Ireland will be facing into this challenge with a workforce that is already understaffed and a lack of existing capacity.

"We need to plan for this going forward or the acute hospitals will struggle if they are the only place providing the care that is needed for patients. We have actionable economic data showing that without investment in rehabilitation and long-term services in the community acute hospitals don't function properly and our health system continues to be inefficient".



***Professor Dominic Trepel,* Associate Professor of Health Economics, Trinity College Dublin and a faculty member of the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)**

Professor Trepel addressed the value of examining models of service provision from a health economics perspective.

He highlighted the importance of making the economic case, not just for the cost of neurological conditions , but the return on investment from interventions focused on prevention, early diagnosis and treatment and neurorehabilitation.

"Its about finding optimal care for people with neurological conditions, incorporating an economic perspective into research to tell us if the service model is sustainable and can be maintained long term".



***Dr Colm Henry,* Chief Clinical Officer of the Health Services Executive**

Dr Henry advised that a future European neurology strategy must consider an end-to-end model of care, which includes health promotion, prevention, access to treatment, and care in the community. He recommended creating networks of care to ensure that patients in areas with limited or no access to specialist neurology services are linked to a specialist unit.

"By doing this, we can improve access to diagnostics and treatment, improve outcomes, reduce mortality, and reduce admissions to long-term care."

PANEL 2: PRIORITIES FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The second panel discussion focused on priorities for strengthening research and innovation in neurological health. The panel comprised:

- ***Nuala Ryan,*** Chair of the Board of the Nicolaides-Baraitser syndrome (NCBRS) Worldwide Foundation and a member of the FutureNeuro Governance Committee;
- ***Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri,*** Professor of Human Genetics and Deputy Director of the FutureNeuro Research Centre;
- ***Professor Susa Benseler,*** Consultant Paediatrician, Chief Academic Officer and Head of Paediatric Health Affairs at Children's Health Ireland (CHI);
- ***John Nugent,*** Department Manager, Medical Technologies and Healthcare Services, Industrial Development Agency of Ireland (IDA);
- ***Professor Iracema Leroi,*** Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry and Director of the Global Brain Institute, Trinity College Dublin;
- ***Frederic Destrebecq,*** Executive Director of the European Brain Council (EBC);

Research and innovation are essential components of a progressive, resilient healthcare system. Europe stands at amajor inflection point in relation to health research and innovation. A number of current and emerging EU policy initiatives will have significant implications, including the Biotech Act, the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Regulation, the Pharmaceutical Package, and the European Health Data Space (EHDS). These initiatives will shape the future of neurology research, innovation and patient care.



Session Moderator *Dr Avril Kennan,* CEO of Health Research Charities Ireland



"These developments not only offer an opportunity to improve care but also place a huge onus on us to improve lives through research and innovation".

PANEL 2:
Key Insights from this Session

The panel explored where Ireland is strong, where it could improve and what policymakers should do (see Key Recommendations).

Where is Ireland strong?

- The Irish academic and clinical research ecosystem is very well positioned both to support the implementation of these initiatives and to realise their benefits, ultimately improving brain health for Irish and EU citizens. Its strengths include large-scale, internationally recognised research centres; a well-informed, research-engaged patient population; an educated workforce, with talent returning to Ireland; investment in genomic infrastructure; a new digitally enabled pediatric hospital; a research-active clinical network; and strong links with European research networks.
- Ireland does public and patient involvement particularly well, and it builds the public trust on which innovation depends.
- A population of 5.5 million makes national studies feasible, and as an English-speaking country Ireland can bridge European science with the US and UK.
- Industry is ready for a lasting partnership, and nationally funded trials infrastructure gives Ireland a common offer to global pharma.

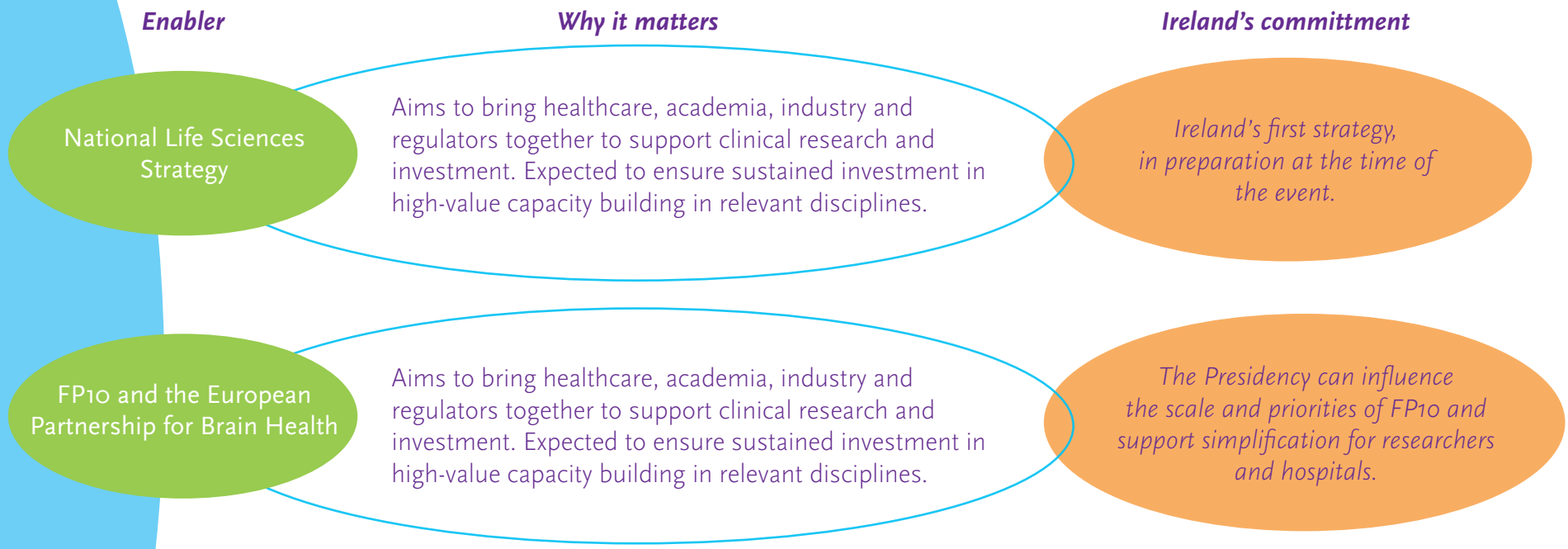
Where could it improve?

- The National Electronic Health Record (EHR), Genome of Ireland and the Genomic Data Infrastructure can position Ireland to benefit from the EHDS and Genome of Europe, if research is built in and governance allows data to be used safely and quickly.
- Embedding research in routine care brings advances to the bedside faster, but Ireland needs protected research time, workforce capacity and faster study start-up to attract clinical trials.
- Brain research pays back. Evidence from the European Brain Council's Value of Treatment project shows early intervention lowers long-term medical and societal costs, so funding is an investment, not a cost.

Key Enablers for Neurological Research

Several insights rest on commitments already in place or under way:

Enabler	*Why it matters*	*Ireland's committment*
EHDS and the National Electronic Health Record	Secure, interoperable health data across Europe, bringing together clinical records, imaging, genomics, biomarkers and patient-reported outcomes at scale. A research-enabled component is strongly encouraged in the design of the National Electronic Health Record.	*The record will help Ireland meet its EHDS, EU Data Act and NIS2 obligations.*
Genomics	Supports faster diagnosis and potential treatment, especially for rare genetic neurological conditions.	*The NGGO leads the national strategy. Genome of Ireland, the Genomic Data Infrastructure and participation in Genome of Europe and ERDERA are laying the foundations.*
National research investment in people and infrastructure	Secure, interoperable health data across Europe, bringing together clinical records, imaging, genomics, biomarkers and patient-reported outcomes at scale. A research-enabled component is strongly encouraged in the design of the National Electronic Health Record.	*€25M to FutureNeuro (2017–2029) and €4.5M to Precision-ALS. RINN Centres: €460M of Government investment alongside an expected €500M from industry.*


Enabler
Why it matters
Ireland's committment
National Life Sciences Strategy
Aims to bring healthcare, academia, industry and regulators together to support clinical research and investment. Expected to ensure sustained investment in high-value capacity building in relevant disciplines.
Ireland's first strategy, in preparation at the time of the event.
FP10 and the European Partnership for Brain Health
Aims to bring healthcare, academia, industry and regulators together to support clinical research and investment. Expected to ensure sustained investment in high-value capacity building in relevant disciplines.
The Presidency can influence the scale and priorities of FP10 and support simplification for researchers and hospitals.



***Nuala Ryan, Chair of the Board,* NCBRS Worldwide Foundation; member of the FutureNeuro Governance Committee**

Ms Nuala Ryan said that public and patient involvement (PPI) will be critical to improving lives through research and innovation. She highlighted Ireland's strength in PPI, citing the 2022 Deliberative Dialogue on Genomics in Neurological Health, which produced recommendations for the National Strategy for Accelerating Genetic and Genomic Medicine in Ireland. Looking ahead, she said the impact for patients and families should be tangible: Genome of Ireland will, in time, support earlier, more accurate diagnosis, disease registries could widen access to clinical trials, and precision and gene therapies will be vital.

"In research, patients have to be at the centre and not at the end. Innovation in health care is so important but it's nothing without the public trust and it's nothing unless we concentrate on the areas that are important for patients."



***Professor Gianpiero Cavalleri,* Professor of Human Genetics, RCSI; Deputy Director, FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre**

Professor Cavalleri pointed to Ireland's research funding model and connectedness as key strengths. Research Ireland's centre model, he explained, encourages researchers in academic institutes to work with industry and with colleagues across Europe. Ireland's size also offers unique opportunities: with a population of just 5.5 million, national studies of specific conditions are feasible, as the Irish ALS/MND Register, the longest-running continuous population-based register of its kind in the world, shows. And, as an English-speaking country, Ireland is uniquely placed to act as a conduit between Europe, the US and the UK.

"This allows us to collaborate readily with two global powerhouses of research - the US and the UK. Irish scientists can very quickly work easily with those two broad communities and act as a bridge for European science to work collaboratively with those two powerhouses," he said.

"Realising this potential depends on health research regulations, ethics approvals and the interpretation of GDPR allowing research that is safe and trustworthy but also fast-paced."

He called for the National Genetics and Genomics Office (NGGO) to be enabled to implement its strategy, and for the national genomic database to be connected to European initiatives.



***Professor Susa Benseler,* Chief Academic Officer and Head of Paediatric Health Affairs, Children's Health Ireland**

Professor Benseler called for research and innovation to be firmly embedded in routine clinical care. Her vision is a culture in which "Research is Care and Care is Research": the two valued equally, research built into the digital care framework, and every member of the healthcare team empowered, protected and enabled to take part.

Ireland is well placed to lead here. Investment in a fully digital National Children's Hospital and the commitment to a national electronic health record offer a unique opportunity to use real-life data to improve outcomes for children and families. Research teams can build the data-capture backbone that informs the EHDS and the European Partnership for Brain Health.

"The work we have to do for patients and with patients is critically important. We need to co-design the path forward, and I think we can. It's about breaking down traditional barriers. We all talk about partnerships, but we have to create pathways to truly overcome barriers and be real-life, everyday partners."



***John Nugent,* Department Manager, Medical Technologies and Healthcare Services, IDA Ireland**

John Nugent of IDA Ireland highlighted that industry is ready to collaborate, setting this in the context of Ireland's standing as a global life sciences hub, home to 14 of the top 15 global medical technology companies and 9 of the top 10 pharmaceutical companies. Home-grown companies such as Inflazome, Aerska, Aerogen and Luma Vision, and international talent returning to Ireland, add to this strength.

He pointed to Research Ireland's RINN network as an example of effective collaboration between industry and academia, and said inter-sector collaboration will be addressed in Ireland's first life sciences strategy.

"Industry is ready to play its part because it needs that collaboration. It needs meaningful and ongoing - almost perpetual - collaboration. We need to drive ongoing meaningful collaboration between all the stakeholders."



***Professor Iracema Leroi,* Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry and Site Director, Global Brain Health Institute, Trinity College Dublin**

Nationally funded HRB clinical trials infrastructure, exemplified by Dementia Trials Ireland, allows Ireland to present a single, joined-up national offer to global pharma, and its clinical research facilities can run Phase 1 to 3 trials, with English-language delivery and strong quality control. But Ireland has to do more to maximise these opportunities, she said, calling for further investment to build a critical mass of research sites, with dedicated protected time for clinicians to take part in trials. Bureaucracy and delays in clinical trial start-up must be addressed, and her priority is to bridge clinical research and industry to deliver trials.

"We need to streamline the process to ensure that we can deliver trials on time. From the point when the sponsor first contacts us to the first patient visit has got to be much more efficient. Otherwise, we will not attract clinical trials."



***Frédéric Destrebecq*, Executive Director, European Brain Council (EBC)**

Frédéric Destrebecq stressed that funding for neurological research should be seen as an investment rather than a cost. It is for this reason that the EBC launched the Value of Treatment project, which evaluates the health and economic impacts of optimising care pathways for mental and neurological disorders. Its evidence shows that early intervention lowers the long-term societal and medical costs of brain disease. To foster greater collaboration in neurology research, the EBC also runs Brain Innovation Days, an annual international event bringing together researchers, clinicians, industry, investors, patient organisations and policymakers.

"Not being able to treat brain disorders would actually be far worse for our society and our economies."

CLOSING REFLECTIONS



***Deputy Colm Burke,* Chair of the Oireachtas Cross-Party Group on Neurological Health**

Deputy Burke outlined that collaboration across Member States is key to improving neurological care for EU citizens. He highlighted the example of the EU Cross Border Healthcare Directive, in which he was closely involved, as an example of how the EU can achieve tangible measures to improve health outcomes. He also identified the opportunity for Ireland, and Europe, to lead the way in the development of new treatments and technologies for neurological health.

"As a result of research funding cuts in the US, many sponsors are now looking to Canada and Europe for research and development, making this an ideal time for the EU to take action."



In a video message to attendees at the conference ***MEP Adam Jarabus,* Chair of the SANT Committee on Public Health,** commended the organisers of the event for their collective leadership and advocacy in working to ensure that neurological conditions receive the attention they deserve within European health policy and research agendas.

"Neurological disorders represent one of the greatest health, social and economic challenges facing Europe today. As our populations age and as demand for equitable access to diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and research grows, it is essential that we work together to develop a truly strategic European approach. Innovation in neuroscience, digital health, precision medicine and integrated care offers enormous opportunities to improve outcomes and quality of life for millions of citizens living with neurological conditions. But innovation must always be matched by collaboration, investment and strong political commitment."



***Professor Orla Hardiman,* Professor of Neurology, Trinity College Dublin**

Professor Hardiman, presented a reflection on the day's experiences, highlighting the opportunity to position Ireland as a hub for neurological research, urging the streamlining of ethics processes, an increase in clinician researcher roles and structures to embed research in clinical care.

"As a country with academic and investment links to the US, the UK and Europe, Ireland can act as a conduit for partnership and cooperation around research. It is common for Irish healthcare professionals and researchers to pursue postgraduate training abroad. This affords Irish scientists a global perspective on clinical practice, research and innovation."

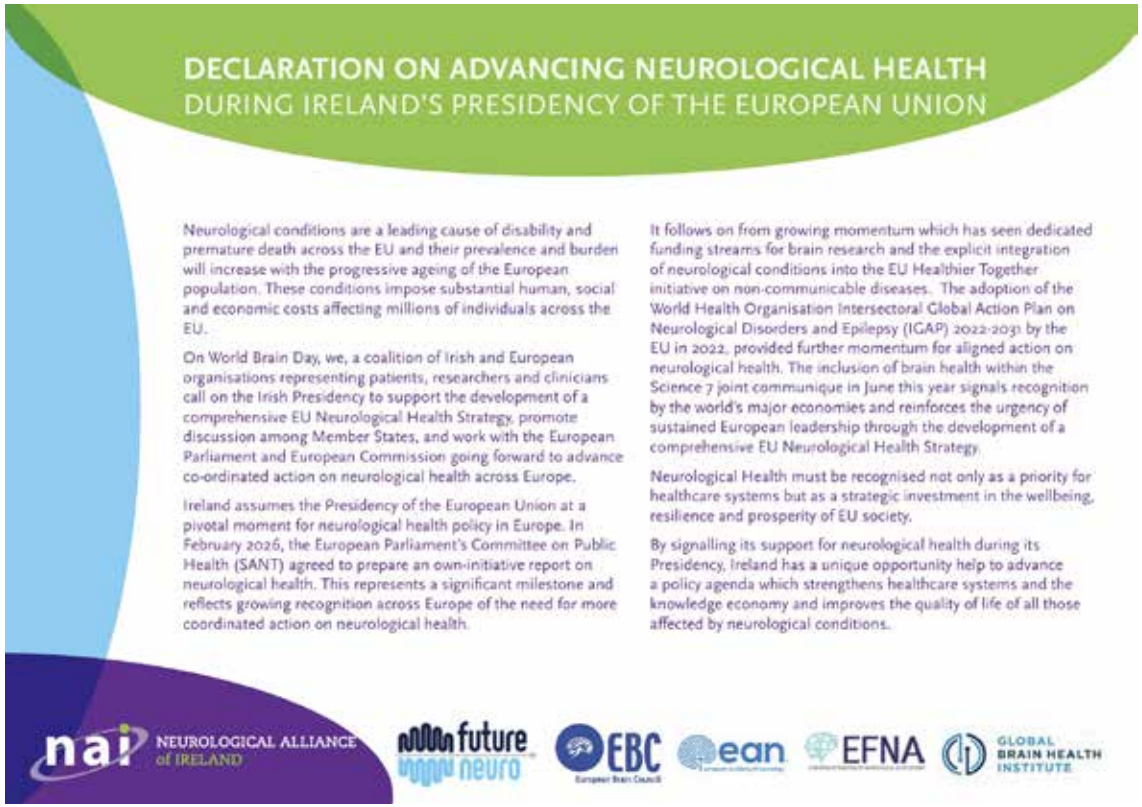
LAUNCH OF JOINT DECLARATION ON ADVANCING NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH



SCAN TO SIGN UP TO THE DECLARATION

MEP Nina Carbery joined with the event partners in launching a Joint Declaration on Advancing Neurological Health calling on Ireland to champion the development of a comprehensive EU Neurological Health Strategy, promote discussion among Member States, and work with the European Parliament and European Commission to advance coordinated action on neurological health across Europe.

"Momentum is building for a stronger European approach to brain health and neurological conditions. We have heard the evidence. We have heard the experiences of patients and families. And we've heard about the scientific breakthroughs and opportunities ahead. Now we need to seize this moment."



DECLARATION ON ADVANCING NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH
DURING IRELAND'S PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Neurological conditions are a leading cause of disability and premature death across the EU and their prevalence and burden will increase with the progressive ageing of the European population. These conditions impose substantial human, social and economic costs affecting millions of individuals across the EU.

On World Brain Day, we, a coalition of Irish and European organisations representing patients, researchers and clinicians call on the Irish Presidency to support the development of a comprehensive EU Neurological Health Strategy, promote discussion among Member States, and work with the European Parliament and European Commission going forward to advance co-ordinated action on neurological health across Europe.

Ireland assumes the Presidency of the European Union at a pivotal moment for neurological health policy in Europe. In February 2026, the European Parliament's Committee on Public Health (SANT) agreed to prepare an own-initiative report on neurological health. This represents a significant milestone and reflects growing recognition across Europe of the need for more coordinated action on neurological health.

It follows on from growing momentum which has seen dedicated funding streams for brain research and the explicit integration of neurological conditions into the EU Healthier Together initiative on non-communicable diseases. The adoption of the World Health Organisation Intersectoral Global Action Plan on Neurological Disorders and Epilepsy (IGAP) 2022-2031 by the EU in 2022, provided further momentum for aligned action on neurological health. The inclusion of brain health within the Science 7 joint communique in June this year signals recognition by the world's major economies and reinforces the urgency of sustained European leadership through the development of a comprehensive EU Neurological Health Strategy.

Neurological Health must be recognised not only as a priority for healthcare systems but as a strategic investment in the wellbeing, resilience and prosperity of EU society.

By signalling its support for neurological health during its Presidency, Ireland has a unique opportunity help to advance a policy agenda which strengthens healthcare systems and the knowledge economy and improves the quality of life of all those affected by neurological conditions.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-organisers and event partners wish to extend our acknowledgment to everyone who contributed to this event.

Our warm thanks to Billy Kelleher, MEP who hosted the event in Europe House, providing a suitably fitting setting for discussions on a future EU neurological strategy.

We wish to sincerely thank our distinguished lineup of speakers including Minister for Health Jennifer Carroll MacNeilll, Minister of State for Older People and Housing Kieran O Donnell, Chief Clinical Officer of the Health Services Executive Dr Colm Henry, Nina Carberry MEP and Chair of the Oireachtas Cross Party Group on Neurological Conditions Deputy Colm Burke. Our warm thanks to our expert Moderators and Panelists who gave so generously of their time and knowledge both on the day and in preparation for the event and to Dr Grainne Gorman, CEO of the Health Research Board for her role in chairing the event and providing key insights from both research and clinical perspectives.

We acknowledge the role of the Department of Health in supporting the inclusion of the event in the programme of associate events for Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The event and event report were supported by Abbvie. The views expressed in this report are those of the speakers and not of the sponsors. This report was compiled with the assistance of Dawn O'Shea, Health Journalist.

ABOUT THE ORGANISERS

Neurological Alliance of Ireland

The Neurological Alliance of Ireland brings together nearly 40 non-profit organisations to advocate on behalf of and through partnership with the over 860,000 people throughout Ireland living with a neurological condition. Neurological conditions affect the brain and spinal cord and now represent the leading cause of disability worldwide. Founded in 2003, the NAI advocates for the development of quality services for people living with neurological conditions. Our focus and initiatives are rooted in the experiences of our members and the individuals and families with whom they work. We provide a united and expert voice on neurological care through advocacy, policy development and awareness raising. More information can be found at **www.nai.ie**

FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre for Translational Brain Science

FutureNeuro is Ireland's leading interdisciplinary research centre dedicated to improving the diagnosis, treatment, and care of people living with neurological, psychiatric, and neurodevelopmental conditions, including epilepsy, Motor Neuron Disease, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, and psychosis. Established in 2017 with €8M in core funding, the Centre has grown into a €44M programme supported by strong industry partnerships and competitive international funding. In 2023, FutureNeuro entered Phase 2 with €18M in renewed investment and an ambitious growth plan. With brain conditions affecting one in three people and over 800,000 individuals in Ireland, FutureNeuro addresses a major societal and economic challenge. Its research focuses on advancing diagnostics, personalised genomics-based therapies, next-generation treatments, and digital health. Bringing together patients, clinicians, industry partners with multi-disciplinary researchers from across eight universities, FutureNeuro delivers a collaborative, patient-centred programme spanning discovery to clinical impact. More information can be found at **www.futureneurocentre.ie**

ABOUT THE EVENT PARTNERS

The European Brain Council

The European Brain Council (EBC) is a network of key players in the "Brain Area", with a membership encompassing scientific societies, patient organisations, professional societies and industry partners.

A non-profit organisation based in Brussels, its main mission is to promote brain research with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of the millions of Europeans living with brain conditions, mental and neurological alike.

With the aim of speaking with one voice, EBC stands as the platform to foster cooperation between its member organisations and other stakeholders, consistently promoting dialogue between scientists, industry and society. As showcased by its growing portfolio of projects, research and policy papers, as well as events, EBC emphasises the importance of continued interaction with the European Institutions to build strong European health policies, raising awareness and improving knowledge of the brain and the repercussions of neurological and mental health conditions on society as a whole."

The European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA)

Founded in 2001, the European Federation of Neurological Associations (EFNA) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that brings together 21 pan-European neurology patient groups and two national Neurological Alliances.

EFNA's slogan 'Empowering Patient Neurology Groups' encapsulates its goals as an association. EFNA strives to build capacity among its members – enabling them to be the most effective advocates possible in their own disease-specific areas.

EFNA holds Non-State Actor status with WHO Europe, is a partner in the European Partnership for Brain Health, is a member of the EU Commission's Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Stakeholder Network, and is represented on the Patients and Consumers Working Party (PCWP) at the European Medicines Agency (EMA).

The MEP Interest Group on Brain Health and Neurological Conditions, coordinated by EFNA, provides a platform to advocate for patient-centred policies for neurology at the European Parliament.EFNA is also a co-founder of the OneNeurology Partnership, and provides secretariat to that group. Learn more at **www.efna.net**

European Academy of Neurology

European Academy of Neurology (EAN) is a non-profit, independent organisation representing more than 45,000 members, as well as 48 European national societies. As a leading medical society, EAN promotes excellence in the practice of general neurology across Europe, contributing to improved patient care and outcomes.

EAN is committed to advancing neurological research and ensuring that Europe remains at the forefront of scientific innovation in neurology. Through its activities, the Academy works to strengthen collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional development across the field.

Its officers and leadership are internationally recognised experts in neurology who volunteer their time to support the organisation and serve the needs of researchers, clinicians, and patients.



The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)

The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) is a leader in the global community dedicated to protecting the world's populations from threats to brain health. Established in 2015 through the philanthropy of Chuck Feeney, GBHI is co-hosted by Trinity College Dublin and the University of California, San Francisco. GBHI works to reduce the scale and impact of dementia in three ways: by training and connecting the next generation of leaders in brain health through the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health programme; by collaborating to expand prevention and intervention strategies; and by sharing knowledge and engaging in advocacy. Through this work, GBHI brings together a powerful mix of disciplines, professions, and perspectives to develop new, science-based solutions.

It works globally and locally, including in underserved communities, with a strong emphasis on improving outcomes and promoting dignity for all. At Trinity, this has evolved into a broader emphasis on brain health across the life course, reflecting an approach that integrates social, environmental, and biological determinants and is grounded in a strong commitment to equity. Find out more at **www.gbhi.org**

APPENDIX: *Identifying Priorities from the Irish Experience*

The themes for the national dialogue event were developed through a collaborative process that brought together the perspectives of people with lived experience of neurological conditions, patient organisations, clinical specialists and research institutions. A survey across the Neurological Alliance of Ireland (NAI) network of patient organisations, alongside findings from NAI's 2025 #MyNeuroSurvey project, helped identify key issues and priorities from the lived experience and patient advocacy perspectives. Engagement with the European Federation of Neurological Associations and individual Irish lived experience advocates working at European level further informed the process, highlighting shared healthcare challenges and priorities across EU Member States. Clinical perspectives were incorporated through a joint Neurological Alliance of Ireland & European Academy of Neurology survey in co-operation with the Irish Institute of Clinical Neurosciences.

In the lead-up to the event, FutureNeuro coordinated a consultation across Ireland's neuroscience and neurology research community, feeding into its submission to the Department of Foreign Affairs' public consultation on the Presidency's priorities (12 December 2025). Contributors were the Academic Unit of Neurology and School of Psychology (Trinity College Dublin); the Galway Neuroscience Centre, Centre for Pain Research and Neuroimaging and Cognitive Genomics Research Centre (University of Galway); the ADAPT and CÚRAM Research Ireland Centres; the Department of Physiology (RCSI); the Department of Psychiatry (UCC); the Ageing Research Centre (University of Limerick); and the Human Health Institute (Maynooth University).

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