



# Lifebrain

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## D6.6 Lifebrain conference in Oxford

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## Executive summary

The conference “Your brain – for life! Closing conference for the Lifebrain Consortium” took place 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford. The conference has been made a hybrid event, so those who registered and could not attend the event physically could still join. Altogether there has been 40 Lifebrain participants and 20 external participants at the venue and 10 more participants joined on zoom. The local host of the event was the University of Oxford.

At the closing conference of the Lifebrain Horizon 2020 consortium, Lifebrain scientists discussed their findings regarding the effect of these factors on cognitive and mental health throughout life, with invited keynote speakers setting the international context.

The conference gathered international speakers from different disciplines including psychology, neurology, neuroimaging, psychiatry, genetics, molecular biology, and medicine.

Researchers and healthcare professionals with an interest in cognitive and mental health, representatives from patient groups and professional societies, patients, and anyone with an interest in brain health were invited to attend. The conference was free of charge.

Despite big publicity the attendance of the conference was lower than expected. We owe this partly to the pandemic situation (people probably still prefer to join online conferences), parallel events hold at the same time in Oxford, but also to the fact that the conference covered three very different scientific areas (Methodology, Lifebrain neuroscience, Ethics and Society), which can be of interest to very different groups of participants.

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## List of acronyms/ abbreviations

Lifebrain	Healthy minds from 0-100 years: Optimising the use of European brain imaging cohorts
LB	Lifebrain
UOXF	University of Oxford
NIPH	Norwegian Institute of Public Health
PI	Principal Investigator
UiO	University of Oslo
WP	Work Package

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1. Deliverable description

Organization and completion of a conference.

### 1.2. Date and venue of the conference

The conference “Your brain – for life! Closing conference for the Lifebrain Consortium” took place on 29th June, 2022 at the Blavatnik School of Government in Oxford with 70 participants. Some participants related to the consortium joined online. The local host of the event was the University of Oxford.

### 1.3. The conference organising committee

A conference organising committee was established in the autumn of 2021 to coordinate the organisation and the implementation of the conference consisting of the leaders of relevant work packages (WP1, WP5, WP6) and the local organising team (UOXF):

- Klaus Ebmeier (UOXF)
- Diana Verley (UOXF)
- Isabelle Budin Ljøsne (WP1 leader, NIPH)
- Christian A. Drevon (WP5 leader, Vitas)
- Rebecca Bruu Carver (NIPH)
- Barbara B. Friedman (UiO), administrative coordinator

The conference preparation was executed mostly via regular video-chat conferences, in which joint strategic decisions were made and duties were equally distributed across all involved sites.

## 2. Implementation of the conference

### 2.1. Themes and speakers of the conference

The complete program including session and talk titles can be found in Table 1.

The participants have received information of the “[Key findings report](#)” of Lifebrain and also received the [abstracts of the talks](#) beforehand.

Most of the presentations have been recorded and been published in the social media channels of Lifebrain (See [Lifebrain youtube channel](#)).

Table 1: Complete conference program

09:00 – 09:15	<b>WELCOME BY THE ORGANISERS</b> <a href="#">Klaus Ebmeier</a> , University of Oxford/Lifebrain <a href="#">Kristine Walhovd</a> , University of Oslo/Lifebrain
<b>Session 1:</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY: Potential for MRI in large-scale brain studies</b> <b>SESSION CHAIR: Klaus Ebmeier (UOXF)</b>
09:15 – 09:35	<b>KEYNOTE: Improving modelling for UKB brain imaging</b> <a href="#">Stephen Smith (University of Oxford)</a>
09:35 – 09:55	<b>Individual variations in brain age: Capturing ongoing brain change or reflecting early-life differences?</b> <a href="#">Didac Vidal Pineiro</a> (University of Oslo/Lifebrain)
09:55 – 10:10	<b>Novel statistical tools in Lifebrain</b> <a href="#">Ylva Köhncke</a> (Max Planck Institute for Human Development/Lifebrain)
10:10 – 10:40	<b>Discussion</b>
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Session 2:</b>	<b>LIFESPAN NEUROSCIENCE 1.</b> <b>SESSION CHAIR: Ulman Lindenberger (MPIB)</b>
11:00 – 11:20	<b>KEYNOTE: Imaging adaptive brain plasticity</b> <a href="#">Heidi Johansen-Berg</a> (University of Oxford/Lifebrain)
11:20 – 11:35	<b>The role of general cognitive ability in brain reserve and maintenance</b> <a href="#">Kristine Walhovd</a> (University of Oslo/Lifebrain)
11:35 – 11:50	<b>In search of factors that modify rates of neurocognitive ageing: The case of educational attainment</b> <a href="#">Lars Nyberg</a> (Umeå University/Lifebrain)
11:50 – 12:05	<b>The role of sleep in brain health and cognitive function</b> <a href="#">Anders Fjell</a> (University of Oslo/Lifebrain)
12:05 – 12:30	<b>Discussion</b>
12:30 – 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 3:</b>	<b>LIFESPAN NEUROSCIENCE 2.</b> <b>SESSION CHAIR: Kristine Walhovd</b>
13:30 – 13:50	<b>KEYNOTE: Characterizing and Promoting Brain Health Across the Lifespan</b> <a href="#">Alvaro Pascual-Leone</a> (Harvard Medical School/Barcelona Brain Health Initiative)
13:50 – 14:10	<b>Lifestyle factors and brain health</b>

	<a href="#">Naiara Demnitz</a> (REGIONH/Lifebrain) and <a href="#">Rik Henson</a> (University of Cambridge/Lifebrain)
14:10 – 14:25	Brain and Depression over the Lifespan: <a href="#">Laura Nawijn (VUmc)</a>
14:25 – 14:50	<b>Discussion</b>
14:50 – 15:10	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>Session 4:</b>	<b>ETHICS AND SOCIETY</b>
	<b>SESSION CHAIR:</b> <a href="#">Isabelle Budin Ljøsne</a>
15:10 – 15:30	<b>KEYNOTE:</b> Ethics of large data community studies <a href="#">Michael Parker</a> (University of Oxford, Ethox Centre)
15:30 – 15:45	How to engage stakeholders in brain research? <a href="#">Isabelle Budin-Ljøsne</a> (Norwegian Institute of Public Health/Lifebrain)
15:45 – 16:30	Discussion
16:30	<b>Adjourn</b>

## 2.2. Participants of the conference

Participants were mostly researchers and healthcare professionals with an interest in cognitive and mental health and were from the University of Oxford.

## 2.3. Publicity of the conference

The programme of the conference was available on the [Lifebrain website](#) and the websites of the co-organisers already from January 2022 and promoted through the social media (Facebook, Twitter), press releases and professional emailing lists.

## 3. Conclusion

The “Your brain – for life!” conference provided an excellent, fruitful, and stimulating environment for researchers and healthcare professionals with an interest in cognitive and mental health, gathering renowned speakers in their field.