



## PRESS RELEASE

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### Springer Nature Group and EU-funded environMENTAL project launch and inform about the new “Earth, Brain, Health Commission”

*Large sample sizes, significant technological advancements, and innovative approaches are essential for monitoring environmental factors that harm brain health and for improving mental well-being on a global scale.*

- Six new publications inform in detail about the recently launched [Earth Brain Health Commission](#) in the September and October editions of the prestigious journal “Nature Mental Health”.
- The [Earth, Brain, Health Commission](#) and focuses on technological advances and innovative solutions to mitigate environment-related mental health issues and improve the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and local communities worldwide.
- Launched on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 the [Earth, Brain, Health Commission](#) is sponsored by the Springer Nature Group.

### Goals of the Earth, Brain, Health Commission

As the world grapples with escalating environmental megatrends, such as urbanicity, climate change, pollution and social injustice, challenges to brain health and mental health continue to emerge. The ‘[Earth, Brain, Health Commission](#)’ supported by ‘Nature Mental Health’ was established to promote an interdisciplinary approach, integrating novel technological advancements and innovative solutions to address brain-harming environmental challenges. Its goal is to propose practical strategies aimed at improving the mental health and well-being of individuals and communities worldwide. It consists of currently 25 Commissioners from academia, the private sector, government and philanthropy including experts in global mental health, neurobiology, earth system science, atmospheric sciences, climatology, computer science, sociology and ethics whose expertise ranges from basic research to clinical translation and policy implementation.

### Articles in *Nature Mental Health* about the Earth Brain Health Commission

The October edition of the journal “Nature Mental Health” (published by the Springer Nature Group) will go live on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024 and features an introductory commentary, titled “The Earth, Brain, Health Commission: How to preserve mental health in a changing environment” by the Chair of the Commission and [environMENTAL](#)’s scientific coordinator ([Schumann G. et al. 2024](#)). Five more articles authored by members of the Commission and the [environMENTAL](#) consortium provide critical background information, recent research



advancements, and novel methodological approaches in this very complex and comprehensive field of research: (1) Desrivieres S. et al. (2024). Unravelling the EnvironMENTAL Dimensions of Mental Health and Disease: Insights from Multi-Omics Analyses. (2) Goldblatt R. et al. (2024). "Urban-Satellite" estimates in the ABCD Study: Linking Neuroimaging and Mental Health to Satellite Imagery Measurements of Macro Environmental Factors. (3) Nees F. et al. (2024). Large-scale population data enrichment in mental health research. (4) Neidhart M. et al. (2024). A protocol for data harmonisation in large cohorts. (5) Stahl B.C., et al. (2024). From Ethics to Compliance and Back: Rethinking ethics in interdisciplinary and big data-driven neuroscience projects.

## About the environMENTAL project

**environMENTAL** is a large EU-funded project studying the impact of climate, pollution, urbanicity, regional socioeconomic conditions, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic on brain health, and characterizes its underlying biological mechanisms. The researchers analyse data from more than one million European citizens and patients to uncover brain mechanisms linked to environmental adversity that may lead to symptoms of depression, anxiety, stress or substance abuse. The research project, which receives €10 million funding for 5 years, commenced its work in June 2022. For more information, visit the project website ([environmental-project.org](http://environmental-project.org)) and follow updates of the environMENTAL consortium on their [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [LinkedIn](#) social media accounts.

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### Press Release

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## Institutions contributing to the Earth Brain Health Commission:

