



Amazing Brain Science Talks Request for Poster Presenters

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Background

The *Amazing Brain Science Talks* aims to engage and share information with the public on key findings from research and lived/living experience in brain health. The event encourages researchers to don their scientific communication hats and share findings with the public from the exciting, innovative, and important brain and brain-heart research being conducted across Canada. The event will feature researchers delivering TED-style talks to a public audience onstage, followed by a reception during which the public will be invited to view and engage with posters made and presented by trainees.

The goal of the poster presentations is to:

- Provide the public with accessible, evidence-based and empowering information about brain and/or brain-heart health through plain-language posters; and
- Encourage trainees to develop their science communication skills.

Please note that posters presented at the reception will not be traditional scientific posters. The posters will need to follow a predefined template and use language and visuals that are accessible and interesting to the general public.

Event Details and Time Commitments

The *Amazing Brain Science Talks* will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2026 in Ottawa at the Canada Science and Technology Museum (1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa, ON K1G 5A3).

There will be a mandatory virtual science communication workshop during the week of October 19th (one hour duration; options to be provided at a later date).

All applicants must agree to attend the main event and a virtual science communication workshop as a condition of being considered as a poster presenter.

Poster Details

Successful applicants will learn how to create **posters aimed at the general public using plain language** and eye-catching visuals to effectively communicate a topic in brain health research to a public audience. The information on the posters will be presented in a way that will be interesting and engaging for the public. Successful applicants will work from a template to create their posters, which will be provided during the science communication workshops.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Evidence clearly shows that increasing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in research environments enhances excellence, innovation and creativity. We are committed to excellence through equity and encourage applicants of diverse backgrounds to apply to our opportunities, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented groups.

Eligibility

- This opportunity is open to trainees including undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and clinical fellows.

- Applicants must be part of a research group that is currently, or has previously been, involved in a Brain Canada-funded grant and/or currently affiliated with the Brain-Heart Interconnectome, the uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute, or The Royal.
- Applicants must be currently conducting research in the field of neuroscience or brain and/or brain-heart health
- Applicants must be able to attend one virtual science communication workshop, and the main event in person in Ottawa.

Expenses

The cost of printing your poster will be covered. Please note that any additional expenses associated with participation, such as travel or accommodation, would be the responsibility of the participant.

Timeline

Launch of Request for Poster Presenters	September 21, 2026
Deadline for Application Submission	23:59 ET, October 9, 2026
Notification of Decision	October 16, 2026
Science Communication Workshop (Virtual)	Week of October 19, 2026
Deadline for Poster Submission	November 6, 2026
Main Event	November 14, 2026

How to Apply

Applicants must complete and submit the Application Form via email to programs@braincanada.ca with the subject line “Amazing Brain Poster Submission” by **October 9, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET**. Brain Canada will acknowledge receipt of the applications via email within two business days. *If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt, please reach out again.*

Application Form

The Application Form can be downloaded [here](#). Please save and submit your Application Form as a PDF document.

1. Applicant Information

- a. Name, Institutional Affiliation(s), Name of supervisor

2. Presentation Details

- a. General area(s) of research
- b. Research Topic Summary: A lay summary (250 words max) of your research topic, addressing the following questions (as applicable):
 - i. What question(s) are you trying to answer?
 - ii. What general techniques are you using, keeping it broad and accessible (for example: cells in a dish, animal models, neuroimaging, etc), and why?
 - iii. What are your findings so far? What do you hope to achieve by the end of your project?
 - iv. Why is this research important? Who does it apply to? What is the impact in the short and long term?

3. **Signature of Applicant**
4. **Signature of the Supervisor**

Additional note of guidance: The ultimate goal of the event is to communicate what is **unique** and **exciting** about the research, what makes this information **interesting**, why the public should be paying attention, **how these findings affect real people**, and what kind of **lasting impact** they may have on the lives of people in Canada and beyond. *Tell us why we should care, and how you can empower us with your learnings.* Successful applicants will receive guidance on how to build their posters to achieve this goal.

Criteria for Assessment

The spirit of this event is to engage and inform the public on the amazing power of the brain and provide useful insights on how to safeguard their brain and/or mental health based on the latest evidence. The presentation (and application) should be in plain (non-scientific) language and on a topic related to the applicant's research area.

Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria:

Accessibility (50%)	Extent to which the proposed research topic is explained in clear, digestible language, understandable for the general public
Relevance (50%)	Extent to which the proposed research topic would be of interest to the general public

Review Process

Application Forms will be reviewed internally for eligibility and relevance according to the Criteria for Assessment, as well as to ensure a diversity of topics for the event. Reviewers will be representatives from Brain Canada, the Brain-Heart Interconnectome, the uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute, and The Royal. The top-ranked 20 applicants will be invited to be poster presenters at the reception at the Amazing Brain Science Talks event. Successful applicants will be asked for their availability to attend a virtual science communication workshop during the week of October 19th.

Confidentiality and Ownership

Brain Canada, BHI, uOBMRI, and The Royal will keep all materials submitted for this opportunity confidential and only share them with reviewers and observers who have signed confidentiality and non-disclosure agreements.

Contact Information

For more information, or if you have any questions regarding the application process, please contact Brain Canada at programs@braincanada.ca.

About the organizing partners

Brain Canada Foundation

Brain Canada Foundation (Brain Canada) is a national registered charity that enables and supports excellent, innovative, paradigm-changing brain research in Canada. For more than 25 years, Brain Canada has made the case for the brain as a single, complex system with commonalities across the range of neurological disorders, mental illnesses and addictions, and brain and spinal cord injuries. Looking at the brain as one system has underscored the need for increased collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and to ensure that Canada has a robust pipeline of talent to remain at the forefront in the field of brain research. Brain Canada's vision is to understand the brain in health and illness, to improve lives and achieve societal impact. For more information about Brain Canada, please visit www.braincanada.ca

Brain-Heart Interconnectome

The Brain-Heart Interconnectome (BHI) is a groundbreaking interdisciplinary research program dedicated to advancing the prevention, detection, treatment, and care of brain-heart disorders. Motivated by the recognition that the brain and heart are deeply interconnected yet have historically been studied separately, BHI aims to accelerate discovery and improve health outcomes through a transdisciplinary approach that drives collaboration across disciplines and sectors. By integrating Indigenous ways of knowing and doing, equity, diversity and inclusion practices, and patient and community perspectives, BHI is working to improve brain-heart health for all. The Brain-Heart Interconnectome is made possible through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). To learn more, please visit www.uottawa.ca/research-innovation/bhi

uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute

The uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute (uOBMRI) is the largest institute at the University of Ottawa, and with over 250 members, one of the largest in the country, creating a dynamic hub for internationally recognized research and training. The uOBMRI leverages its extensive network by coordinating interdisciplinary research and training efforts across multiple university faculties, six affiliated hospital research institutes, Carleton University, and internationally recognized research networks and centres. The uOBMRI leads neurodiscovery through innovative research that transforms prevention and care for the health of individuals and society. To learn more, please visit <https://www.uottawa.ca/research-innovation/brain>

The Royal

The Royal is one of Canada's foremost mental illness and addiction treatment, research, and education hospitals, dedicated to supporting individuals aged 16 and older who are living with complex mental illness and addiction. Since opening in 1910, The Royal has grown into a trusted resource for people across eastern and northern Ontario, western Quebec, and Nunavut.

With campuses in Ottawa and Brockville, and clinical teams working directly in homes and communities, The Royal delivers compassionate, evidence-informed care grounded in cutting-edge research, including through its partnership with the University of Ottawa and other academic and community partners. Its integrated model brings together care, research, education, and strategic partnerships to help build a future of recovery.

At The Royal, we separate the person from the illness, helping more people reclaim their lives.

To learn more, please visit <https://www.theroyal.ca/>