



Amazing Brain

Science Talks

Amazing Brain Science Talks

Request for Applications (RFA)

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Scope

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. This program 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. This is a unique opportunity to deliver a 10-15 minute TED-style talk to a public audience in Ottawa. Content of the talk is open to the applicant's discretion but must be:

- On a topic related to their own brain-health-based research;
- Consistent with what is described in the submitted Application Form and Video Submission;
- Of general interest to a public audience.

Please consult videos of previous years' speakers at this event for a clear understanding of the event and expectations: <https://amazingbrain.ca/#recordings>

Event Details

The *Amazing Brain Science Talks* will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2026 in Ottawa (venue to be confirmed). There will be a mandatory event rehearsal onsite on Friday, November 13, 2026 (time to be announced at a later date). All participants are required to attend both the main event and the rehearsal. Talks will be a maximum of 15 minutes in duration and may be given in English or French (translation services will be provided for the audience). Visual aids (such as slides) are permitted but not required.

Please note: The event will be recorded (audio and video) and made publicly available online.

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 funding opportunities, which will promote the expression of diverse perspectives, approaches, and experiences, including those of underrepresented groups.

Eligibility

- Applicants must currently be, or have been in the past, funded by Brain Canada (including as a non-principal team member) and/or currently affiliated with the Brain-Heart Interconnectome, the uOttawa Brain and Mind Research Institute, or The Royal.
- Applicants must be conducting research at, and affiliated with, an eligible Canadian academic institution and must be considered independent researchers at their institution, both at the time of application submission and at the time of the main event. Postdoctoral fellows, research associates, and other trainees are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must submit an Application Form and Video Submission.
- Applicants must be able to attend the rehearsal and main event in person in Ottawa.

Expenses

Reasonable travel and accommodation expenses for selected speakers will be covered, in line with guidelines that will be provided. Travel and accommodation bookings will be made by the organizers in discussion with the presenters.

Eligible Costs

- Transportation (Economy class or equivalent) to and from Ottawa
- Hotel accommodations for up to three nights
- Transportation to and from the event venue
- Meals

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 expertise based on their research focus. The content of the talk, while remaining within the specific expertise of the applicant, is not restricted to the applicant's own research and can draw upon significant findings in the field with the emphasis being on what is of most interest to a public audience. The focus should be on findings, outcomes, and big picture impact and not the granularity of the research process. The talk should make obvious what is **unique** and **exciting** about the findings, 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.*

Timeline

Launch of Request for Applications	June 26, 2026
Deadline for Application Submission	17:00 ET, July 31, 2026
Notification of Decision	August 2026
Rehearsal and Main Event	November 13 & 14, 2026

How to Apply

Applicants must submit both an Application Form and Video Submission via email to programs@braincanada.ca with the Subject Line "Amazing Brain Submission". **It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure their submission adheres to the requirements and is received by the deadline outlined above.** Brain Canada will acknowledge receipt of the applications via email within two business days. *If you do not receive an acknowledgement of receipt, please re-send an initial submission email without large attachments and we will work together on file sharing.*

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), Department(s)

- b. Declaration of Eligibility
- 2. Presentation Details**
- a. Proposed Talk Title
 - b. General area(s) of research
 - c. Proposed Talk Summary: A brief summary of the proposed talk content, in language appropriate for a lay/public audience (maximum 300 words). The summary should address the Criteria for Assessment, as above.
- 3. Signature of Applicant**

Video Submission

Applicants must submit a short (maximum 3 minutes) video ‘teaser’ of their presentation. It should be an abbreviated version of what is planned for the full presentation, touching on all the key points. Note that this does *not* have to be a formal polished video; successful applicants after this stage who are selected to be speakers will receive coaching and presentation tips to produce a more polished full talk for the in-person event.

Review Process

Application Forms and Video Submissions will be reviewed for eligibility and relevance according to the Criteria for Assessment, as well as to ensure a diversity of topics and engaging agenda for the day, which will be of interest to the public audience for the event. Reviewers will be both scientific and non-scientific members of Brain Canada, BHI, uOBMRI, and The Royal, as well as select external stakeholders (which may include community members and/or members of the Board of the partner organizations). Brain Canada, BHI, uOBMRI, and The Royal will take into account conflicts of interest, expertise, and demographic considerations to ensure a balanced panel.

Selected speakers will have the most engaging and novel content—the kind you would feel compelled to share with friends or family.

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/>