



Fondation
Brain Canada
Foundation

2023–24
Annual Report

**HOW DO WE
NAVIGATE
THE INFINITE
COMPLEXITY OF
THE BRAIN?
BY BEING
INFINITELY
DETERMINED.**

Our Vision

Bold science for brain health

Our Mission

Accelerating, amplifying, and funding brain research across Canada

INFINITE PATHWAYS, ONE PATH FORWARD.

In this year's report, we explore our commitment to understanding the brain's intricate workings. Its many pathways mirror our efforts—complex, interconnected, and vital. Through innovative research programs and strategic partnerships, our team has made significant progress this year in unlocking the mysteries of the brain and improving health outcomes for people living with neurological conditions. With \$392 million disbursed to research for this period, we remain dedicated to our mission of accelerating, amplifying, and funding big, bold, brain science.

For over 25 years, Brain Canada has been a champion in understanding the brain, in health and illness. The timeline below illustrates how we got here.

1998

Brain Canada is born, but under a different name: the NeuroScience Canada Partnership and Foundation

2001

Brain Repair program gets launched

2006

The Case for Canada's Increased Investment in Brain Research reveals the total economic burden of brain disorders

2008

Organization rallies health charities to speak to the government about brain strategy with one voice

CONTENTS

Endless Impacts	04
Perpetual Pride	06
Our Tireless Navigators	08
Infinitely Connecting	10
Propelling Boundless Flight	12
Above and Beyond	18
Elevating Philanthropy	19
Our Financials in Macro	20
Enduring Partners Emboldening Discovery	22

2010

Organization approaches the Government of Canada to form a partnership that supports brain research

2011

We start using the name Brain Canada Foundation and establish the Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF), a partnership with the Government of Canada to match \$100M

2016–2021

The Government of Canada invests an additional \$100M in CBRF

2024

Budget 2024 renews CBRF with a commitment of \$80M

ENDLESS IMPACTS

A Year of Resounding Milestones

April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

\$39.2M

invested in research

2,438

people accessing
Brain Canada-funded
clinical trials

(as reported in the ClinicalTrials.gov database)

383

students, trainees,
and highly qualified
personnel engaged

16

active clinical trials supported by
Brain Canada and its partners

(as reported in the ClinicalTrials.gov database)

25

competitions
launched

66,602

citations* of Brain
Canada-funded
publications

*cumulative since 2011

183

researchers
supported

382

peer-reviewed publications
resulting from Brain
Canada funding

34

Indigenous and
Black scholars
empowered
through targeted
partnered
programs

86

clinicians and researchers
who took part in Brain
Canada-led peer
review panels

110

grants
awarded

10

new programs
launched

22

peer review
panels

54

institutions
supported

PERPETUAL PRIDE

Our Leaders Voice Everlasting Appreciation

A Powerful Investment in Momentum

I am delighted to present this year's annual report, celebrating the transformative impact of the Government of Canada's investment in brain research through the Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF). At Brain Canada, we remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing neuroscience and neurotechnology, aiming to unravel the complexities of the human brain as well as improve lives across the country—and around the world.

This year, we invested \$39.2 million in research, supported 183 researchers, and launched 25 competitions. The scale of our engagement is truly remarkable: be sure to review our Endless Impacts section on pages 4-5 for the full assessment of our achievements.

This year marks a pivotal moment as we reflect on the profound outcomes made possible by your unwavering support. With the new envelope of \$80 million awarded by the Government of Canada in Budget 2024, which we will match for a total investment of \$160 million in research, Brain Canada will continue to catalyze groundbreaking research initiatives and foster collaboration among top researchers, clinicians, and institutions. From understanding neurological disorders to developing innovative treatments, our investments are driving discoveries that will reshape health care and enhance quality of life for all.

The value of our collective efforts cannot be overstated. By prioritizing brain research, we are not only unlocking new insights into brain function and dysfunction—we are empowering communities with knowledge and hope. Through our signature programs and strategic funding, we have enabled pioneering projects that push the boundaries of scientific inquiry and translate findings into tangible solutions.

Together, we are laying the pathway for a future where brain health is prioritized and supported across all sectors of society.

Warm regards,

Naomi Azrieli, OC, DPhil
Brain Canada Chair



“Our investments are driving discoveries that will reshape health care and enhance quality of life for all.”

“Evidence clearly shows that being more inclusive in research enhances excellence, innovation, and creativity.”

Connecting The Dots, Connecting Each Other

As President and CEO of Brain Canada, I know that our impact on the brain health of people in Canada is due in large part to the strength of our partnerships. By working together, we can overcome challenges, foster innovation, and provide exceptional value to Canadians.

As the national convener of the brain research community, we make the case for the brain as a single system with commonalities across neurological disorders, mental illnesses, and brain and spinal cord injuries. In doing so, we bring together more than 100 partners—from health charities to research institutions, to private and corporate donors. Looking at the brain as one system encourages collaboration, knowledge sharing, and supports diverse multidisciplinary teams all working together to advance research and magnify the potential for impact.

Evidence clearly shows that being more inclusive in research enhances excellence, innovation, and creativity. As Canada’s only research funder focused specifically on the brain, we are seizing this opportunity and committing to advancing the field of sex and gender brain science.

Through our new Action Plan, we are actively embedding both sex and gender as well as equity, diversity, and inclusion considerations into everything that we do: how we operate, how we fund, who we fund, and what we fund.

With renewed funding from the federal government in Budget 2024, we will catalyze the formation of new partnerships, drive more collaborative innovations, and accelerate breakthroughs in brain research.

Sincerely,

Viviane Poupon, PhD

Brain Canada President & CEO



OUR TIRELESS NAVIGATORS

People Behind Our Organization, Ahead of the Curve

Board of Directors

Our Board volunteers its time and expertise to provide strategic advice and oversight to Brain Canada. The Board is committed to ensuring the Foundation's success as a leading brain research convenor and to supporting its engagement with the brain research community, stakeholders, and the broader public.

Patron

The Right Honourable David Johnston
C.C., C.M.M., C.O.M., C.D.
Former Governor General of Canada

Chair

Naomi Azrieli, OC, DPhil
Member, Audit, Finance, Investment & Risk Management Committee;
Member, Governance, Nominating & Ethics Committee;
Member, Research Committee;
Member, Sustainability Committee;
Chair & CEO, The Azrieli Foundation (Toronto)

Vice-Chair

Lawrence M. Tanenbaum, OC
Chairman & CEO, Kilmer Van Nostrand Co. Ltd.;
Chairman, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd. (Toronto)

Directors

Shernaz Bamji, PhD
Member, Research Committee;
Associate Director, Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health;
Professor, Department of Cellular & Physiological Sciences;
Vice-President elect of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience
Life Sciences Institute, University of British Columbia (Vancouver)

Wayne E. Bossert

Chair, Audit, Finance, Investment & Risk Management Committee;
Member, Sustainability Committee;
Deputy Chairman & Global Head of Ultra High Net Worth Clients & Canadian Private Banking, RBC Wealth Management (Toronto)

Anne-Marie Boucher, L.L.B., M.Fisc.

Member of Governance, Nominating & Ethics Committee;
Co-Founder & Member of Investment Committee, BCF Ventures (Montreal)

France Chrétien-Desmarais, C.M.

Chair, Sustainability Committee;
Founding member & Executive President of Precinomics Health Solutions Canada Inc. (Montreal)

Graham Collingridge, PhD, CBE, FRS

Member, Research Committee;
Krembil Family Chair in Alzheimer's Research, University of Toronto;
Director, Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases;
Senior Investigator, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute,
Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto)

Peter P. Dhillon, OBC

Member, Sustainability Committee;
CEO, Richberry Group of Companies;
Chairman, Board of Directors, Ocean Spray Cranberries Ltd. (Vancouver)

Jane Enright

Member, Sustainability Committee;
Canadian Author & Wellness Expert;
CEO, My Super Awesome Life Inc. (British Columbia)

Mark Krembil

Chair, Governance, Nominating & Ethics Committee;
Member, Audit, Finance, Investment & Risk Management Committee;
President & CEO, Krembil Foundation (Toronto)

Ravi Menon, PhD, FCAHS, FRSC

Member, Research Committee;
Professor of Medical Biophysics, Medical Imaging & Psychiatry;
Scientist, Robarts Research Institute;
Principal Investigator, The Brain & Mind Institute; Co-Scientific Director, BrainsCAN, Western University (London, Ontario)

David S. Park, PhD, FRSC

Chair, Research Committee;
Member, Sustainability Committee;
Director, Hotchkiss Brain Institute;
Lead, University of Calgary Brain & Mental Health Research Strategy;
Professor, Departments of Clinical Neurosciences & Cell Biology & Anatomy, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary (Calgary)

Joel Reitman, C.M.

Founder & President, Jilly Capital Corp.;
Co-Founder, The Cyril & Dorothy, Joel & Jill Reitman Centre for Alzheimer's Support & Training, Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto)

Valerie Taylor, MD, PhD, FRCP

Member, Research Committee;
Professor & Head of the Department of Psychiatry, University of Calgary;
Head of Mental Health, Calgary Zone (Calgary)

Franco J. Vaccarino, PhD, FCAHS

Member, Research Committee;
Former President & Vice-Chancellor, Professor of Psychology & Neuroscience, University of Guelph (Guelph)

Committees

Our committees are comprised of dedicated individuals who serve in various capacities to advance the mission of the organization. These committees address questions of research, governance, sustainability, and finance. Their collective efforts and commitment are instrumental to Brain Canada's ability to foster collaboration, drive innovation, and make a meaningful impact in the field of brain research.

Research Committee

David S. Park (Chair)
Naomi Azrieli
Shernaz Bamji
Graham Collingridge
Edward A. Fon
Sheena Josselyn
Lawrence Korngut
Milka Lukovich
Ravi Menon
Viviane Poupon
Valerie Taylor
Franco J. Vaccarino

Sustainability Committee

France Chretien-Desmarais (Chair)
Naomi Azrieli
Monica Berger
Wayne E. Bossert
Peter P. Dhillon
Darren Edward
Jane Enright
Andrea Frossard
Paula Murphy-Ives
Kate Pal
David S. Park
Viviane Poupon

Governance, Nominating & Ethics Committee

Mark Krembil (Chair)
Naomi Azrieli
Anne-Marie Boucher
Viviane Poupon

Audit, Finance, Investment & Risk Management Committee (AFIRM)

Wayne E. Bossert (Chair)
Naomi Azrieli
Mario Chartrand
Mark Krembil
Viviane Poupon

Staff

Our Team is dedicated to cultivating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive environment where every team member has the support to thrive professionally, contributing to the advancement of brain health across Canada. Our commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) is evident in our practices, from recruitment to performance evaluation.

Sabina Antonescu, MSc
Program Operational Lead

Melissa Arauz
Senior Digital Communications & Stewardship Officer

Monica Berger
National Director of Philanthropy

Barbara Celinska
Director of Development, Toronto Region

Mario Chartrand, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Gloria Friedrich
Accountant

Brielle Goulart
Communications & Marketing Officer

Karen Indig
Administrative Assistant to the Director of Philanthropy

Angelina Marchetta
Office Manager-Executive Assistant

Nadia Martin, PhD
Data Analyst, Evaluation & Special Projects

Alison Palmer, MSc
Evaluation & Special Projects Lead

Anne-Marie Papineau
Director, Legal Affairs & Governance

Anneliese Poetz, PhD
Senior Program Manager, Knowledge Mobilization (for social innovation)

Viviane Poupon, PhD
President & CEO

Melissa Russo, MSc
Senior Program Manager

Fiona Sanderson, PhD
Program Manager

Julia Segal, PhD
Program Manager

Kate Shingler
Director, Marketing & Communications

Jean-Martin C. Strati, MBA, CPA
Director, Finance & Operations

Sejal Thakrar
Administrative Assistant, Programs

Rebecca Williams-Collin, Donations Processing & Donor Relations Coordinator

INFINITELY CONNECTING

Knowledge Exchanged, Knowledge Expanded



Montreal / May 28, 2023

Future Leaders Knowledge Exchange 2023 Event at Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN)

The Brain Canada Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research Knowledge Exchange at CAN on Sunday, May 28, 2023 was a tremendous success! We extend our gratitude to our speakers: Dr. Vijay Ramaswamy, Dr. Aislin Mushquash, Dr. Maxime Rousseaux, Dr. Jonathan Epp, Dr. Chantelle Sephton, Dr. Mark Cembrowski, Dr. Christian Ethier, Dr. Annie Ciernia, and Dr. Caroline Menard.

A special thanks to the Azrieli Foundation for its anchor gift to the program and to Dr. Mira Puri, Manager of Science Initiatives at the Azrieli Foundation for her presentation.

1. From left to right: Azrieli Foundation Communications Coordinator Dara Poizner, Brain Canada Board Director Dr. Ravi Menon, Azrieli Foundation Manager of Science Initiatives Dr. Mira Puri, Brain Canada President & CEO Dr. Viviane Poupon, Brain Canada Board Director Dr. Graham Collingridge, Brain Canada Board Director Dr. Shernaz Bamji **2.** 2021 Barry and Laurie Green Family Charitable Trust Future Leader in Canadian Brain Research, Dr. Aislin Mushquash **3.** 2020 Azrieli Future Leader in Canadian Brain Research Dr. Chantelle Sephton **4.** 2019 Azrieli Future Leader in Canadian Brain Research Dr. Mark Cembrowski **5.** Brain Canada Program Manager Dr. Fiona Sanderson

Toronto / October 4, 2023

Bell Let's Talk – Brain Canada Mental Health Knowledge Exchange

With the generous support of our partner, Bell Let's Talk, Brain Canada hosted a knowledge exchange event in Toronto on October 4, 2023. This event brought together the accomplished recipients of the Bell Let's Talk – Brain Canada Mental Health Research Program.

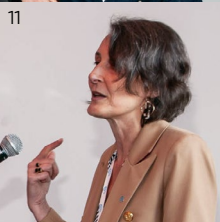
6. Bell Let's Talk – Brain Canada Mental Health Research Program grant recipient Dr. Tarek Rajji from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
7. Bell Let's Talk Senior Manager, Community Investment Karol De Asis
8. From left to right: Bell Let's Talk – Brain Canada Mental Health Research Program grant recipient Dr. Catherine Lebel and team member Dr. Leslie Roos

Toronto / October 4, 2023

2023 Annual General Meeting: Making the Invisible Visible

The 2023 Annual General Meeting offered thought-provoking discussion and exciting updates in the realm of brain research and brain injury. Our fireside chat featured Brain Canada Board Director, Jane Enright, a best-selling author and brain injury survivor, Peter Kyriakides, also a brain injury survivor, Dr. Keith Yeates from the University of Calgary, and Dr. Anne Wheeler from SickKids. The discussion was moderated by Elysia Bryan-Baynes.

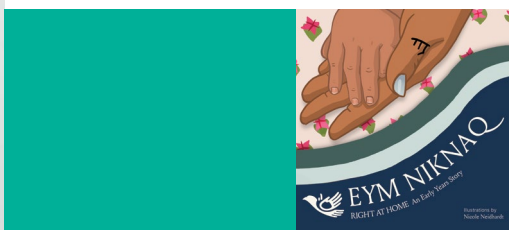
9. Board Director, Canadian Author, Wellness Expert, and Brain Injury Survivor Jane Enright 10. From left to right: Brain Injury Survivor Bob Murphy, Canadian Author, Wellness Expert, and Brain Injury Survivor Jane Enright, Brain Injury Survivor Stéphane Rouleau, Brain Injury Survivor Siobhan Lacey-Chow, Brain Injury Survivor Jay Randhawa, Brain Canada Senior Program Manager, Knowledge Mobilization (for social innovation) Dr. Anneliese Poetz, Brain Injury Survivor Peter Kyriakides, Founder and President of Brain Changes Initiative and Brain Injury Survivor Dr. Matthew Galati 11. Brain Canada President & CEO Dr. Viviane Poupon



Dementia Talks! Canada Webinar Events

Brain Canada and its partner the Alzheimer Society of Canada hosted monthly knowledge exchange webinars throughout the year that brought together researchers, people with lived experience, and community members to discuss important issues in dementia.

12. The Dementia Talks! Canada session held March 20, 2024: A discussion on women, brain health, and dementia was moderated by Melissa Russo, Senior Program Manager at Brain Canada



Right at Home: An Early Years Story Knowledge Translation

Brain Canada is proud to have funded the translation of a children's book into several Indigenous languages—including Mi'kmaw'simk and Inuktitut—for the Early Years program through its partnership with the Martin Family Initiative. This effort underscores our commitment to early childhood development and Indigenous brain health.

"Many of our partners are eager to have additional resources to use with young children as part of their tremendous efforts to reclaim language in their communities."

Alix Gordon-Moran
Director of The Early Years at the Martin Family Initiative

PROPELLING BOUNDLESS FLIGHT

Our Family of Grants

Unparalleled Support, Unlimited Potential

At Brain Canada, we believe that delving into the complexities of the brain requires collaboration, creativity, and dedication. We envision a future where scientists from various fields come together to push the boundaries of innovation. A future where individuals nationwide can benefit from breakthroughs in conditions like Alzheimer’s, anxiety, and brain injury.

Under the leadership and its Research Committee and guided by convening stakeholders to address pivotal brain health challenges in the health care landscape.

Types of Grants

Through flagship initiatives like Team, Platform Support, Capacity-Building, and Knowledge Mobilization Grants, we bridge gaps in research capacity identified by stakeholders and strategically propel progress in brain health, prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Our grants are awarded through open, fair, and transparent processes based on scientific merit, as determined by independent peer review panels.

Platform Support Grants

Help develop and/or enhance capabilities and accessibility of resources essential for research

Capacity-Building Grants

Invest directly in trainees and early-career researchers

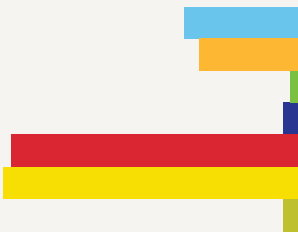
Team Grants

Bring together scientists from across Canada to advance collaborative research

Knowledge Mobilization Grants

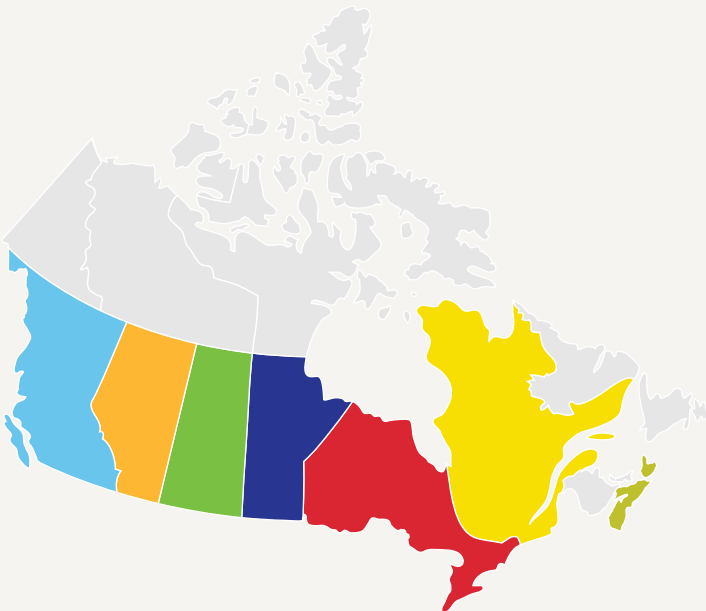
Supports synthesis, distribution, implementation and/or commercialization of research results

BC 15
AB 13
SK 01
MB 02
ON 38
QC 39
NS 02



New Grants Awarded in 2023-24

Grant Types		\$ Total Awarded
Capacity-Building Grants	86	(\$6,775,184)
Team Grants	24	(\$11,729,873)
Total	110	(\$18,505,057)



Funding Bold Research

110 grants awarded

10 new programs launched

25 competitions launched

22 peer review panels

86 clinicians and researchers who took part in Brain Canada-led peer review panels

Grant Heroes

This year, Brain Canada awarded 110 grants to cutting-edge projects poised to significantly advance our understanding of the brain. We remain steadfast in our commitment to support groundbreaking research that impacts a wide range of brain diseases, disorders, and conditions.

Capacity-Building Grants

2022 Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research/\$100,000

Bénédicte Amilhon CHU Sainte-Justine/
Université de Montréal, QC
Marco Bonizzato Polytechnique Montréal, QC
Michel-Pierre Coll Université Laval, QC
Mahsa Dadar Douglas Hospital Research Centre/
McGill University, QC
Yifei (Jeff) Dong University of Saskatchewan, SK
Guillaume Dumas CHU Sainte-Justine/
Université de Montréal, QC
Henry Dunn University of Manitoba, MB
Paul Dutchak Université Laval, QC
Giulia Fadda University of Ottawa, ON
Aravind Ganesh, University of Calgary, AB
Brett Hilton University of British Columbia, BC
Wei-Hsiang Huang The Research Institute of the
McGill University Health Centre, QC
Maria Ioannou University of Alberta, AB
Jesse Jackson University of Alberta, AB
Brian Kalish The Hospital for Sick Children, ON
Kohitij Kar York University, ON
Milad Lankarany University Health Network, ON
Flavie Lavoie-Cardinal Université Laval, QC
Lara Leijser University of Calgary, AB
Corina Nagy, Douglas Hospital Research Centre/
McGill University, QC
Sean Nestor University of Toronto, ON
Matthew Perich Université de Montréal, QC
Adria Quigley Dalhousie University, NS
Tijana (Tina) Simic University of Toronto, ON
Eszter Szekely Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General
Hospital, QC
Jiannis Taxis The Hospital for Sick Children, ON
Maria Vera Ugalde McGill University, QC
Naomi Visanji University of Toronto, ON

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$12,000

Haley Vecchiarelli University of Victoria, BC
Karina Thiesen University of British Columbia, BC
Emilie Legault Université de Montréal, QC
Nooshin Bahador University Health Network, ON
Annika Benson Dalhousie University, NS
Noor Al Dahhan The Hospital for Sick Children, ON

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$10,000

Xin Wang University Health Network, ON
Bianca Bondi York University, ON

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$7,500

Ana Novacic Institut de recherches cliniques
de Montréal, QC
Jaskaran Singh Institut national de la recherche
scientifique, QC

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$4,902

Catherine Hume University of Calgary, AB

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$4,410

Anne-Sophie Sack University of British Columbia, BC

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$4,112

Christopher Morrone Centre for Addiction &
Mental Health, ON

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$3,896

Michael Fiorini McGill University, QC

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$3,089

Jesse Lacasse Centre for Addiction & Mental
Health, ON

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$2,879

Jimmy Li Université de Montréal, QC

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$2,521

Ahmad Samara University of British Columbia, BC

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$2,371

Aedan Rourke McMaster University, ON

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$1,850

Yi Ren University of Calgary, AB

2023 Rising Stars Trainee Awards/\$1,000

Elizabeth Gregory University of British Columbia, BC
Laurence Dion-Albert Université Laval (CERVO
Brain Research Center), QC

ALS Canada – Brain Canada Career Transition Award 2023/\$250,000

Sahara Khademullah Centre intégré universitaire
de santé et de services sociaux (CIUSSS) de la
Capitale-Nationale (Centre de recherche CERVO),
QC

ALS Canada – Brain Canada Clinical Research Fellowship 2023/\$200,000

Andrea Parks Sunnybrook Health Sciences
Centre, ON

ALS Canada – Brain Canada Trainee Program 2023/\$77,916

Isabelle Lajoie Douglas Hospital Research
Centre, QC

ALS Canada – Brain Canada Trainee Program 2023/\$75,000

Liane Phung Sunnybrook Research Institute, ON
Amrita Verma University of British Columbia, BC

ALS Canada – Brain Canada Trainee Program 2023/\$50,000

Anna Huynh Sunnybrook Research Institute, ON

ALS Canada – Brain Canada Trainee Program 2023/\$25,000

Art Marzok, McMaster University, ON

Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP) 2022/23 – New Investigator Operating Grant/\$200,000

Maiya R. Geddes McGill University, QC
Natalie Zeytuni McGill University, QC

Continued on page 14

**Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP)
2022/23 - Proof of Concept Grant/\$100,000**
Michael Adachi Simon Fraser University, BC
Leigh Anne Swayne University of Victoria, BC
Alexandre Campeau-Lecours Université Laval, QC
Justin Hicks Western University, ON
Lillian Mei Kuen Hung University of
British Columbia, BC
Keith Murai Research Institute of the McGill
University Health Centre, QC
Nahum Sonenberg McGill University, QC
Peter Stys University of Calgary, AB
Sriram Subramaniam University of British
Columbia, BC
Tamara Sussman McGill University, QC
Reggie Taylor University of Ottawa Institute of
Mental Health Research (IMHR), ON
Donald Weaver University Health Network, ON

**Alzheimer's Association International Research
Grant Program June 2023 - AARG/\$270,484**
Majid Mohajerani Douglas Hospital Research
Centre, QC

**Alzheimer's Association International Research
Grant Program June 2023 - AARG/\$246,704**
Jennifer Rabin Sunnybrook Research Institute, ON

**Alzheimer's Association International Research
Grant Program June 2022 - AARF/\$210,800**
Coralie-Anne Mosser Douglas Hospital Research
Centre, QC

**Alzheimer's Association International Research
Grant Program January 2023 - AARG/\$185,042**
Julie Robillard University of British Columbia, BC

**Brain Changes Initiative Award for Traumatic Brain
Injury - Special Purpose Grants/\$50,000**
Jonathan Smirl University of Calgary, AB

**Turnbull-Tator Award in Spinal Cord Injury &
Concussion Research 2022/\$50,000**
Marco Bonizzato Polytechnique Montréal, QC

Team Grants

**2022 Stroke Clinical Research Catalyst
Grants/\$100,000**
Sean Dukelow University of Calgary, AB
Ethan MacDonald University of Calgary, AB
Nishita Singh University of Manitoba, MB
Luciano Sposato Western University, ON

**Addressing Mental Health in Paediatric Rheumatic
Diseases Team Grants/\$240,000**
Roberta Berard London Health Science Centre, ON
Mark Ferro University of Waterloo, ON

**Advancing Research on Care and Outcome
Measurement 2.0 (ARCOM-2)/\$329,436**
Mark Rapoport Sunnybrook Research Institute, ON

**Advancing Research on Care and Outcome
Measurement 2.0 (ARCOM-2)/\$299,729**
Neil Thomas Bruyère Research Institute/Institut de
recherche Élisabeth-Bruyère, ON

**Advancing Research on Care and Outcome
Measurement 2.0 (ARCOM-2)/\$269,742**
Julie Robillard University of British Columbia, BC

**ALS Canada - Brain Canada Discovery
Grants 2023/\$125,000**

Mahsa Dadar McGill University, QC
Jean-Pierre Julien Université Laval, QC
Alex Parker Université de Montréal, QC
Dale Martin University of Waterloo, ON
Chantelle Sephton Université Laval, QC
Valerie Sim University of Alberta, AB

**ALS Canada - Brain Canada Discovery
Grants 2023/\$300,000**
Richard Robitaille Université de Montréal, QC
Christine Vande Velde Université de Montréal, QC

**Call for Collaborative Research Projects on
the Brain/\$2,000,016**
Elie Haddad CHU Sainte-Justine, QC

**Call for Collaborative Research Projects on
the Brain/\$1,543,000**
Jocelyn Faubert Université de Montréal, QC

Quantum Leap/\$1,424,950
Thomas Durcan McGill University, QC

**EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease
Research (JPND) - Understanding the Mechanisms
for Non-Pharmacological Interventions/\$333,000**
Meaghan O'Reilly University of Toronto, ON

Developing Solutions

16 active clinical trials
supported by Brain Canada
and its partners*

**2,438 people accessing Brain
Canada-funded clinical trials**
(as reported in the ClinicalTrials.gov database)

“Brain disorders and diseases are complex, and we must all play a role in encouraging researchers to look at them with an equity lens. Research approaches that consistently account for differences drive innovation and reduce health inequities for previously overlooked groups.”

Dr. Viviane Poupon
President & CEO, Brain Canada

New Directions, New Horizons

Widening the Scope of Representation

Personnel Awards for Black Scholars

In March 2023, Heart & Stroke, Brain Canada, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (CIHR-ICRH) launched the Personnel Awards for Black Scholars. The objective of the competition is to increase the number of highly qualified Black trainees (i.e., Master's and Doctoral students) across Canada committed to working in the fields of heart and brain research.

By investing in Black researchers, we hope to enhance representation in the Canadian research community. The program was launched for a second time in March 2024.

Capacity-Building Grants

Personnel Awards for Black Scholars/\$60,000
Anthonia Aina University of Toronto, ON

Personnel Awards for Black Scholars/\$50,000
Samira Omar University of Toronto, ON
Rachael Rowe University of Toronto, ON

Personnel Awards for Black Scholars/\$32,500
Patrick Hewan York University, ON

Personnel Awards for Black Scholars/\$30,000
Amirah-Iman Hicks McGill University, QC

Personnel Awards for Black Scholars/\$10,000
CeAnn Marks York University, ON

Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars

Launched in spring 2023, the Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars aims to increase the number of highly qualified trainees working in heart and/or brain research from Indigenous (First Nations, Inuit, and Métis) communities whose traditional and ancestral territories are in Canada.

We strive to boost Indigenous representation in the health research ecosystem and promote a culturally informed and diverse research community that benefits all peoples in Canada.

Capacity-Building Grants

Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars/\$77,500
Erin Gurr Western University, ON

Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars/\$68,750
Ethan Hagen University of Alberta, AB

Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars/\$48,958
Justin Turner University of British Columbia, BC

Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars/\$42,500
Kimberly Fairman University of Victoria, BC

Basics of Better Mental Health

Brain Canada, Krembil Foundation, and Women's Brain Health Initiative (WBHI), with the support of The Erika Legacy Foundation and Power Corporation of Canada have invested a total of \$3.3 million to support three recipients and their research teams through the Basics of Better Mental Health Program.

The Basics of Better Mental Health Program funds basic research that will provide insight into the causes and onset of mental health conditions, explore the neuropathological changes and information-processing deficits that may eventually lead to new directions for treatments and interventions, and explore the role of sex and gender in mental health.

The inclusion of sex-specific biological considerations is instrumental in understanding the biological roots of mental health conditions.

Team Grants

Basics of Better Mental Health/\$1,100,000
Stephanie Borgland University of Calgary, AB
Liisa Galea Centre for Addiction & Mental Health, ON
Susan George University of Toronto, ON

Enhancing Capacity

183 researchers supported

383 students, trainees and highly qualified personnel engaged

34 Indigenous & Black scholars supported through targeted partnered programs

“This funding will drive discovery within our laboratories to understand molecular biomarkers of postpartum depression—one of the times of greatest risk for first-time depression. I applaud Brain Canada and their donors and partners for prioritizing discoveries in women’s mental health.”

Dr. Liisa Galea

Recipient of a Basics of Better Mental Health Team Grant



Competitions Launched 2023-24

2023 Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research
 2023 Heart & Stroke, Brain Canada, CIHR-ICRH Personnel Awards for Indigenous Scholars
 2024 Heart & Stroke, Brain Canada Personnel Awards for Black Scholars
 Addressing Mental Health in Paediatric Rheumatic Diseases Team Grants
 ALS Canada-Brain Canada Career Transition Award 2023
 ALS Canada-Brain Canada Clinical Research Fellowship 2024
 ALS Canada-Brain Canada Discovery Grant Program 2023
 ALS Canada-Brain Canada Trainee Program 2024
 Alzheimer's Association Advancing Research on Care & Outcome Measurement 3.0 (ARCOM-3)
 Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant Program (IRGP) June 2023
 Alzheimer's Association International Research Grant Program (IRGP) January 2024
 Alzheimer Society of Canada – Brain Canada Knowledge Translation & Exchange Accelerator Grants
 Alzheimer Society Research Program – New Investigator Operating Grants
 Alzheimer Society Research Program – Proof of Concept Grants
 Basics of Better Mental Health Program
 Brain Canada Rising Stars Trainee Awards 2023
 Brain Canada Rising Stars Trainee Awards 2024
 Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants
 CQDM – Brain Canada Call for Collaborative Research Projects on the Brain
 CQDM Quantum Leap
 Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research – Momentum Grants
 Heart & Stroke, Brain Canada, CIHR-ICRH, CIHR-IG Congenital Heart Disease Team Grants
 Innovation Grants for Research Impact in Traumatic Brain Injury
 The Amazing Brain Science Talks
 Turnbull-Tator Award in Spinal Cord Injury & Concussion Research

Advancing Equity and Inclusion

We are proud to announce the ongoing implementation of a sex and gender-based analysis plus (SGBA+) and EDI Action Plan, as well as the establishment of a cross-departmental SGBA+ and EDI committee. Through our Action Plan, Brain Canada is strategically enhancing its operations and funding initiatives to promote improved brain health for all.

Our Progress

34 Indigenous and Black scholars supported with partners through targeted programs

Committed to the 50:30 challenge which aims to increase the representation and inclusion of diverse groups within workplaces and Boards of Directors

25% of Brain Canada staff training hours focused on SGBA+ and EDI topics*

65% of grants awarded consider SGBA+ inspired research questions and/or implications for diverse groups

Revised the mandate of the Governance Committee to include Brain Canada's commitments to SGBA+, EDI and sex and gender brain science

* Reported for the period January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

ABOVE AND BEYOND

Remarkable Fundraising Furthering Us All

Programs That Resonate

From graduate students to early-career researchers and beyond, Brain Canada is committed to building research capacity in order to improve health outcomes for people living with brain conditions.

Programs like the Rising Stars Trainee Awards, Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research, and Momentum Grants are strategically designed to attract, retain, and diversify world-class talent in Canadian brain research.

Anchored by a lead gift from the Azrieli Foundation, the Future Leaders program is also made possible thanks to the support of numerous visionary major donors who believe that solving the brain's mysteries will significantly impact the quality of life for people in Canada.



Inspiration in Motion

After suffering a brain injury that set back his education and love for freestyle skiing, University of Victoria graduate Oscar Blyth remained resilient and hopeful. He underwent several treatments, yet his progress was not always linear; Oscar was often left to battle extreme discomfort as he rebuilt his life.

Despite these challenges, Oscar's positive attitude and determination carried him through his journey toward recovery. He eventually took up running and decided to participate in a marathon, which raised more than \$3,500 in support of Brain Canada.

Power of Philanthropy

Future Leaders Impact Snapshot

199 students, trainees & HQP* engaged

98 collaborations

243 individuals participating in research

51 peer-reviewed publications

200 oral & poster presentations

27 awards & recognitions

11 consultations with decision-makers, patients & other researchers

5 patents

*HQP – Highly Qualified Personnel

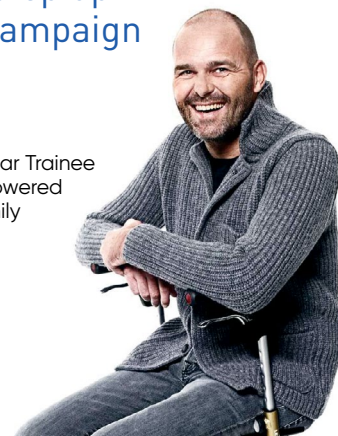
One Rising Star Lifts Many

In 2020, Olivier Goy—an entrepreneur, activist, and photography lover from France, was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS): a rare neuro-degenerative disease. As a father of two, he confronted the diagnosis head-on and began publicly sharing his fight against ALS, which affects approximately 3,000 Canadians.

“It is our privilege to provide a foundational gift to honour our dear friend, to show him that his passion, positivity, drive and determination—as well as his selfless, unwavering commitment to raise awareness about ALS to help others with this disease—have inspired us to step up and join him in his campaign to help others.”

Allan Kliger & Aviva Rajskey

Donors to the Olivier Goy Rising Star Trainee Award in ALS Research, lovingly powered by Allan Kliger, Aviva Rajskey & Family



ELEVATING PHILANTHROPY

Lead Donors Leading the Future

Our Ongoing Gratitude

We extend our deepest gratitude to our lead donors whose transformative contributions are driving research breakthroughs. Each collaboration sets a powerful example and plays an important role in shaping the future of brain health, in Canada and beyond.

See our full list of donors at braincanada.ca

Lead Donors (cumulative giving 2011 – March 31, 2024)

The Arrell Family Foundation
 The Azrieli Foundation
 Bell Canada / Bell Let's Talk
 The Chagnon Family
 CIBC
 The Erika Legacy Foundation
 The Estate of Donna Canary
 The Estate of John Borrowman
 The Galati Family / Brain Changes Initiative
 The Krembil Foundation
 Power Corporation of Canada
 Rossy Foundation
 Royal Bank of Canada / RBC Foundation
 Alvin Segal Family Foundation
 Larry & Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation
 W. Garfield Weston Foundation
 Women's Brain Health Initiative / Stand Ahead Challenge

“As Brain Canada lead donors, we’re not just supporting brain research, we are investing in trailblazing innovators, unafraid to ask bold questions and delve into the infinite complexities of the brain.”

Laura Arrell,
 on behalf of The Arrell Family Foundation

“Supporting Brain Canada means championing the frontiers of brain research. By engaging in international collaborations, Brain Canada harnesses the collective expertise of the world’s best researchers and promotes knowledge sharing through open science. I am proud to help pave the way for innovative and accessible solutions in brain health.”

Larry Tanenbaum, O.C.

The Larry and Judy Tanenbaum Family Foundation is a visionary supporter of The Brain Canada & Weizmann Institute of Science Team Grants, a pilot partnership led by Brain Canada and Weizmann Canada to leverage strengths and foster international collaboration between researchers in Canada and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel.

“The Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation provides research opportunities for the exploration of unique and emerging ideas. By supporting Brain Canada’s Future Leaders in Canadian Brain Research program, we allow young scientists to explore potential breakthroughs in understanding and ultimately treating devastating brain disorders. By participating in this high-risk/high-reward program, the Foundation is investing in the future of Canadian science.”

The Lotte & John Hecht Memorial Foundation

OUR FINANCIALS IN MACRO

The Measurable Numbers Driving Immeasurable Achievements

Audited Financial Statements Prepared by Ernst & Young

Brain Canada Foundation

Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Assets		
Current		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,123,758	18,950,609
Cash – Restricted	89,722	200,000
Short-term Investment	5,000,000	—
Accrued Interest Receivable	18,465	9,554
Other Receivables	60,621	73,535
Contribution Receivable from the Government	1,849,666	4,270,592
Prepays and Deposits	54,883	72,311
Total Current Assets	10,197,115	13,576,601
Tangible Capital Assets	96,748	104,734
	10,293,863	13,681,335
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	116,998	138,220
Salaries and Benefits Payable	362,083	310,079
Current Portion of Deferred Contributions	5,682,007	7,420,350
Total Current Liabilities	6,161,088	7,868,649
Deferred Contributions	2,398,513	3,721,668
Total Liabilities	8,559,601	11,590,317
Net Assets		
Unrestricted Net Assets	1,637,514	1,986,284
Invested in Capital Assets	96,748	104,734
	1,734,262	2,091,018
	10,293,863	13,681,335

The financial statements of Brain Canada are audited by Ernst & Young and are available on our website, www.braincanada.ca.

Brain Canada Foundation
Statement of Operations
 Period ending March 31

	2024 \$	2023 \$
	[12 months]	[*3 months]
Revenues		
Restricted Contributions	31,884,151	12,203,158
Unrestricted Contributions from Donors	212,253	28,445
Interest Income	685,232	153,479
	32,781,636	12,385,082
Expenditures		
Grants and Awards**	28,630,714	11,994,482
Operating Expenses	4,492,274	1,098,215
Amortization of Tangible Capital Assets	15,404	4,017
	33,138,392	13,096,714
Deficiency of revenues over expenditures	(356,756)	(711,632)



Grants & Awards Disbursement

62%	Platform Support Grants	\$24,774,482
22%	Team Grants	\$8,693,191
16%	Capacity-Building Grants	\$6,211,280
	Total	\$39,181,953

*Exceptionally, the comparative figures of 3 months is caused by a change in the fiscal year as at March 31, 2023.

**In addition to the \$28,630,714 in Grants & Awards disbursed by Brain Canada, we included an amount of \$10,551,239 paid directly by donors and partners to institutions as part of Brain Canada's commitments. This is indicated in note 9 of the audited financial statements available on our website, www.braincanada.ca.



Financial Ratios

93%	Research Programs
4%	Fundraising
3%	Administration

ENDURING PARTNERS EMBOOLDENING DISCOVERY

Our Steadfast Collaborators

As the single major funder in Canada dedicated solely to brain research, Brain Canada works with over 100 organizations, strengthening partnerships and driving innovation. Through these valuable collaborations, we collectively pursue a deeper understanding of the brain. Our key supporters include donors, health charities, provincial agencies and corporations, among others. To date the Government of Canada has committed a total of \$280 million for Brain Canada through the Canada Brain Research Fund (CBRF). Brain Canada, the sole recipient of CBRF, works in partnership to match the government's investment and provide competitively awarded funding for research across Canada.

Lead Donors



Health Charities & Institution Foundations



Provincial Agencies



Corporations



Research Networks



Other Organizations



Institutions





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braincanada.ca

This report covers a 12-month period from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. We hope you find it engaging and insightful. Your feedback is invaluable to us—let us know what resonated with you and what you'd like to see more of in the future. Please share your thoughts with us! Phone: +1 (514) 989-2989 / Email: info@braincanada.ca

This Annual Report is also available in French.
An online version can be viewed and downloaded at braincanada.ca



Production of this Annual Report has been made possible with the financial support of Health Canada through the Canada Brain Research Fund. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Minister of Health or the Government of Canada.

Brain Canada is a national registered charity that enables and supports excellent, innovative, paradigm-changing brain research in Canada.

Registration number: 89105 2094 RR0001.