Since 1992, the American Brain Foundation has been investing in research to defeat brain diseases and disorders. We are a national foundation for the brain dedicated to the relentless pursuit of early diagnoses, improved treatments, and the discovery of cures for brain diseases and disorders.

We unite donors and researchers to impact the lives of patients and those around them. We invest in research of the whole-brain and all neurologic disorders knowing they are interconnected. This holistic, innovative approach allows us to build bridges between diseases and break new ground in research and application.

Believing in a whole brain approach gives us an edge in understanding and combating brain disease. We understand that when we cure one brain disease, we will cure many.
In the field of scientific investigations, where researchers dedicate years to discover unknown pathways, it is difficult to know the impact on the future. But in the last 50 years, scientific investigations have changed our world from one generation to the next with great leaps in medical applications. Polio is on its way to eradication. Antiretroviral treatments make HIV/AIDS a chronic condition rather than a death sentence. And many cancers, that once had no treatments, are now curable.

The impacts of scientific discoveries are far-reaching. Breakthroughs in one field lead to chains of discoveries in others. Brain diseases are interconnected, and by unlocking funding and building a pipeline of brilliant minds that target whole-brain investigations, we can make what is unthinkable today a cure for tomorrow. The question is, how fast will we get there?

The American Brain Foundation is dedicated to bringing donors and researchers together to find cures for many brain diseases and disorders. In 2018, we collaborated with our primary research partner, the American Academy of Neurology, and 16 national organizations such as the Alzheimer’s Association and the ALS Association to fund $1.8 million in research grants and scholarships. The program supported 22 brain research careers, partnering young researchers with lead investigator mentors. We also launched the world’s first neuroscience crowdfunding platform that connects patients and families directly to the research that will shape their future, raising $128,000 for three projects. And we honored public leaders in the battle against brain disease.

Today we are seeing research breakthroughs in diseases of the brain and nervous system such as the remarkable new treatment for spinal muscular atrophy, which is already being applied in Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

When we cure one, we will cure many.

A special thank you to every one of our supporters and partners who are advancing our mission and making scientific discoveries possible. Together, we will eradicate brain disease and create a new future for the next generation.

Kevin Goodno
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
Executive Director
Funding World-Class Research

The American Brain Foundation promotes and invests in research across the whole spectrum of brain diseases and disorders. We believe that when we cure one of these diseases, we will cure many. In 2018, the American Brain Foundation invested $1.8 million in 22 emerging research leaders with projects in a broad range of brain diseases.

Clinical Research Training Scholarships
Supports two-year investigations by early- to mid-career clinical researchers

McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarship in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss
Brice McConnell, PhD, MD
University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine
Kimberly Albert, PhD
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Susan S. Spencer Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Epilepsy
Hiroki Nariai, MD
UCLA Medical Center

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Muscular Dystrophy
Katharine Nicholson, MD
Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham, Harvard

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in ALS
Peter Creigh, MD
University of Rochester

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Dementia with Lewy Bodies
Bhavana Patel, MD
University of Florida College of Medicine

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Tourette Syndrome
Wissam Georges Deeb, MD
University of Florida College of Medicine

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Neuromuscular Disease
Davut Pehlivan, MD
Baylor College of Medicine, Child Neurology

Lawrence M. Brass, MD Stroke Research Award
Xiaoyan Jiang, PhD
University of Pittsburgh

Clinician-Scientist Development Awards
Supports three-year clinical research investigations working to discover new therapies in specific disease areas

Clinician-Scientist Development Award in Interventional Neurology
Sunil A. Sheth, MD
McGovern Medical School at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Clinician-Scientist Development Award in Multiple Sclerosis
Emily Harrington, MD, PhD
Johns Hopkins University

Scholarship and Award Recipients Receiving Second-Year Funding
Supports 2017 scholarship recipients receiving second-year funding in 2018

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Ataxia
Jill Napierala, PhD
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Parkinson’s Disease
Michelle Fullard, MD
University of Pennsylvania

Lawrence M. Brass, MD Stroke Research Award
Laura Graham, MPH
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Clinical Research Training Scholarship in Muscular Dystrophy
Johanna Hamel, MD
University of Rochester

Clinician-Scientist Development Award in Myasthenia Gravis
Michael Hehir, MD
University of Vermont

Scholarship and Award Recipients Receiving Third-Year Funding
Supports 2016 scholarship recipients receiving third-year funding in 2018

John F. Kurtzke, MD, FAAN Clinician Scientist Development Award in Multiple Sclerosis
Pavan Bhargava, MBBS, MD
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Clinician Scientist Development Award in Multiple Sclerosis
Joseph Sabatino Jr., MD, PhD
Johns Hopkins Hospital
Clinical Research to Stop Autism Before It Starts

Shafali Jeste, MD, FAAN always wanted to be a doctor. With her mother being a child psychiatrist and her father a geriatric psychiatrist, she grew up fascinated by the mind and curious how humans became thinking beings with different personalities.

When Dr. Jeste entered medical school, autism was being diagnosed at higher rates, yet physicians couldn’t tell parents why. She formulated questions about how genetic syndromes such as tuberous sclerosis complex (TSC) had strong links to autism. “We could diagnose babies with TSC before birth with ultrasound,” says Dr. Jeste. “But we knew nothing about their early brain development and the high risks of developing autism.” While at Boston Children’s Hospital during her Chief Residency, Dr. Jeste received an American Brain Foundation Clinical Research Training Fellowship, which specifically targets funding and mentoring to early-career researchers. With her $130,000 grant, Dr. Jeste set out to understand early brain development in babies with TSC and hoped to eventually identify the predictors of autism.

“The award offered me key protected time to learn how to do research, which isn’t always something we learn in clinical training.” At UCLA, Dr. Jeste followed up this initial investigation with a larger multi-site study that identified an early predictor of autism in the first year of life for babies with TSC. These findings lead to the first multimillion-dollar, multisite clinical trial of autism early interventions in TSC. “Now we are getting to treatment,” says Dr. Jeste.

With early backing from the American Brain Foundation, Dr. Jeste was able to solve a brain mystery that will unlock the doors to early interventions and treatments of autism.
The World’s First Neuroscience Crowdfunding Platform

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE SCIENCE THAT IMPACTS THEIR LIVES

Crowdfunding is a thoroughly American tradition. Together, we support sick or injured neighbors, rebuild communities after disasters, and help those in need. From the early days of passing the donation basket, to the vast power of the Internet, Americans have continually shaped their own destinies.

In 2018, the American Brain Foundation captured this power by launching the world’s first neuroscience crowdfunding platform and piloted multichannel campaigns for traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, and stroke projects. Everyday Americans were able to directly contribute funds to research projects that may change the course of their own lives and the lives of those they love.

Crowdfunding makes the work of scientific investigators tangible and meaningful to non-scientists. By digitally opening the doors to laboratories and academia, the public has increased opportunities to have an impact on scientific discoveries.

Thanks to our partnership with the American Academy of Neurology, the research projects appearing on the American Brain Foundation’s crowdfunding platform are vetted by the best and brightest minds. Each researcher is equipped with a toolkit that teaches them how to run a crowdfunding campaign and helps them explain the method and impact of their research.

Scientific investigators are welcome to qualify their crowdfunding projects through a two-part, online application process. To apply, visit AmericanBrainFoundation.org.
Quicken the Pace to Finding Cures

THE GOAL OF CROWDFUNDING

Patti Klein, MD watched multiple sclerosis take more and more of her life away, until finally chronic fatigue put an end to her medical practice. At first, she fought the diagnosis. “But you can’t fight it,” says Dr. Klein. “You have to make it a part of your life.” She now donates and helps fundraise for brain research.

One study with promise is an immunology project by Steffen Jung, PhD at the Weizmann Institute of Science. He and his team are focused on learning how rogue immune cells can be kept from overactivating, ramping up inflammation, and targeting healthy tissues. This innovative approach, which targets the gut, has the potential to cure diseases like multiple sclerosis, Alzheimer’s disease, and inflammatory bowel disease. The implications could impact millions of people worldwide.

Donors gave $80,000 to Dr. Jung’s lab at the Weizmann Institute of Science to implement technology called quantitative realtime PCR (QuantStudio 6 Flex) to study genetic changes in immune cell DNA under conditions of inflammation. Findings from the study may also aid drug development efforts to get to better, more effective treatments.

Dr. Klein is both hopeful and impatient for the results. “There is so much work to be done and breakthroughs that need to occur for there to be a light at the end of the dark tunnel.” Her hope is to help the American Brain Foundation get to cures. “I believe in the scientific understanding that all brain diseases are related. MS is the leading cause of neurologic disability for young people worldwide. Finding a cure is good thing.”
2018 Scientific Awards

Through the generous philanthropy of families and donors, the American Brain Foundation fully funded the American Academy of Neurology’s 2018 scientific awards. These rigorously selected, competitive awards go to the top scientific minds in multiple neurologic subspecialties.

**Potamkin Prize for Research in Pick’s, Alzheimer’s, and Related Diseases**

*Davide A. Bennett, MD, Lead Investigator, Rush Alzheimer’s Disease Center*

$100,000 funded by Alan and Robert Potamkin through the American Brain Foundation in remembrance of their mother, Luba Potamkin

The Potamkin Prize is the American Academy of Neurology’s highest honor in Alzheimer’s research that recognizes premier scientific research in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Dr. Bennett’s team studies a population of elderly individuals in order to dissect symptoms into distinct disease categories. He received the award not only for his multidisciplinary contributions to genetics and the understanding of dementia, but also for his approach to sharing specimens and research data with scientists worldwide.

**Sheila Essey Award: An Award for ALS Research**

*Timothy M. Miller, MD, PhD, Lead Investigator, Washington University School of Medicine*

$50,000 funded by the Essey Family through the American Brain Foundation

The Sheila Essey Award recognizes an individual who has recently made long-term and significant research impacts in the cause of, prevention of, and cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). Dr. Miller received the award for pioneering antisense oligonucleotide (ASO) therapeutics in ALS. Dr. Miller played a key role in testing ASOs targeting SOD1 in ALS transgenic mice, studying the pharmacodynamics of ASOs in non-human primates, and performing the first-in-man trial of ASOs targeting SOD1 in SOD1-mutant patients. The work has been critical in bringing the whole field of ASO therapeutics forward in human neurogenetic diseases. Dr. Miller also works on SOD1 protein kinetics, natural history of C9orf72-related ALS, and the role of micro-RNAs in ALS.
Association of Indian Neurologists in America Lifetime Achievement Award
Vinay Chaudhry, MD, MBA, CPE, FRCP, FAAN, Johns Hopkins University
$1,000 funded by the Association of Indian Neurologists in America Fund of the American Brain Foundation
Dr. Chaudhry is a professor of neurology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and co-director of EMG laboratory. He is internationally recognized as a clinician, teacher, researcher, and a leader in the field of neuromuscular medicine and electrophysiology. His areas of research include Wallerian degeneration in human nerves, multifocal motor neuropathy, toxic neuropathies, and electrophysiological aspects of neuromuscular diseases.

Mridha Spirit of Neurology Humanitarian Award
Aaron L. Berkowitz, MD, PhD, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School
$1,000 funded by Mridha Endowment Fund of the American Brain Foundation
Dr. Berkowitz is the Director of the Global Neurology Program and Instructor at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School. This award recognizes his humanitarian work to develop neurological care and education in rural Haiti.

Additional Scientific Awards
American Academy of Neurology Awards funded by the American Brain Foundation
Bruce S. Schoenberg International Award in Neuroepidemiology
Dreifuss-Penny Epilepsy Award
Founders Award
Harold Wolff-John Graham: An Award for Headache/Facial Pain Research
Irwin Schatz Award for Autonomic Disorders
John Stolk Award in Movement Disorders for Young Investigators
Neuro-oncology Investigator Award
Neuro-oncology Scientific Award
Norman Geschwind Prize in Behavioral Neurology
Michael S. Pessin Stroke Leadership Prize
Mitchell B. Max Award for Neuropathic Pain
Movement Disorders Research Award
Neuroendocrine Research Award
Sleep Science Award
S. Weir Mitchell Award
Wayne A. Hening Sleep Medicine Investigator Award

American Academy of Neurology Residents Fund
Thanks to donations from members of the American Academy of Neurology to our Residents Fund, the American Brain Foundation provided $11,000 to underwrite the expenses of neurology residents to attend the AAN’s 2018 Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California.
Temple Grandin, PhD  2018 Public Leadership in Neurology Award
Honoring an individual or group outside of the medical profession that has been instrumental in advancing public understanding and awareness of neurologic disease, being an effective advocate for neuroscience research, and making significant contributions to improve patient care.

Dr. Grandin received the 2018 award due to her perseverance and determination in the face of her own isolating autism challenges at a time when the condition was still quite unknown. With the enduring support of her mother and an empathic science teacher, Grandin went on to earn Master’s and PhD degrees. Her sensitivity and understanding of animal behavior and her gifted view of the world led her to revolutionize the cattle industry and laid the groundwork for a successful career as an author, lecturer, and pioneering advocate for autism spectrum disorder education.

DeMaurice Smith  2018 Commitment to Cures Award
Recognizing an individual for their philanthropy and advocacy for a neurologic disease or condition.

DeMaurice Smith received the 2018 award for paving the way for the largest research study of former players in NFL history. During his tenure as Executive Director of the NFL Players Association, he has funded treatment interventions and advanced medical research and education in traumatic brain injury (TBI). He helped standardize health care protocols for NFL players and put independent neurologists and neurosurgeons on the sidelines. While accepting the award, Mr. Smith reaffirmed the NFL Players Association’s commitment to reducing concussion and traumatic brain injuries in professional and youth sports.

Richard P. Essey  Board Chair’s Award
Celebrating an individual for their work to elevate and advance the American Brain Foundation’s research mission.

Richard P. Essey received this honor in 2018 for establishing and funding the Sheila Essey Award, the highest award in ALS research from the American Academy of Neurology and the ALS Association. Mr. Essey became a dedicated activist within the ALS Association and joined the American Brain Foundation as the first non-neurologist to sit on its board of directors. His beloved wife Sheila battled ALS for 10 years, succumbing to the disease in 2004.

Commitment to Cures is the American Brain Foundation’s premier annual event where prestigious members of the public are honored for their contributions to finding cures for brain diseases and disorders through advocacy, public awareness, and fundraising.
2018 Events Supporting Brain Health

**Rowland Circle Reception**
The Rowland Circle, named for Lewis P. “Bud” Rowland, MD, FAAN, had its inaugural reception in Los Angeles, California in April. Donors who gave $2,500 or more cumulatively during the year were honored as charter members.

**Raising Friends and Awareness**
In August, American Brain Foundation board member Dan Gasby and his family held a special event at their home in East Hampton, NY to introduce friends and family to our organization and research mission.

**Honoring Past Award Recipients**
In April, Robert and Lexie Potamkin hosted a luncheon in honor of the current and past recipients of the Potamkin Prize for Research in Pick’s, Alzheimer’s, and Related Diseases, and in thanks for their ongoing contributions.

**Brain Health Fair**
The American Brain Foundation participated in the American Academy of Neurology’s annual Brain Health Fair in Los Angeles, CA in April.

**Bike Helmet Giveaway**
The American Brain Foundation helped distribute 1,000 bike helmets to families in Minneapolis at the American Academy of Neurology’s event in June. The Foundation engaged members of the public in a gigantic Jenga game to visualize the interconnections of brain diseases and disorders.
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

DONOR ENGAGEMENT

47
charter members join the Rowland Circle—our new leadership giving circle

$375,000 GIFT
to the Raymond Adams Endowment for Clinical Research Training Scholarships

$250,000 GIFT
to help establish a new award in Lewy Body Dementia diagnostics

RESEARCHERS

28
active research projects

78%
of awardees have gone on to secure NIH funding

$2.5 MILLION RAISED
for next generation research awards

CROWDFUNDING

26
peer-reviewed research projects representing nine specialties appeared on our new crowdfunding platform

$128,343 RAISED
for whole-brain research projects
Financial Information

Grant Expense by Disease:

- **ALS**: 10%
- **Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss**: 19%
- **Multiple Sclerosis**: 11%
- **Epilepsy**: 15%
- **Movement Disorders**: 8%
- **Neuro-Muscular Disease**: 4%
- **Muscular Dystrophy**: 8%
- **Lewy Body Dementia**: 8%
- **Interventional Neurology**: 11%
- **Tourette Syndrome**: 8%
- **Stroke**: 8%

**Functional Expenses:**
- Fundraising: $310,024 (8.2%)
- Programming: $2,953,370 (79%)
- Operations: $483,181 (12.8%)

**Program Expenses:**
- Awards: $207,709
- Grants: $1,789,484
- Public Outreach: $956,177

Our audited financial statements are available on our website or by request.
Ann H. Tilton, MD, FAAN

Dr. Ann Tilton vividly recalls a classmate dying from myasthenia gravis when she was young. “I remember her periods of weakness and not understanding why her doctors could not find a way to treat her. From that point forward, I was always interested in the nervous system. Pediatrics was fun, but I was continuously drawn to patients with neurologic disorders. Finding a cure for brain disease is crucial for individuals young and old, and for our society as a whole.”

Dr. Tilton, Vice Chair of the American Academy of Neurology, told us, “I’m very aware of Bud Rowland’s contributions to neurology. Joining the circle is an opportunity for me to support the legacy of one of the leading contributors to our field and to do so in a way that focuses on our future.”

Rowland Circle

The Rowland Circle is named after Lewis P. “Bud” Rowland in memory of his generous support and his vision for the future. Donors who give $2,500 or more cumulatively in a calendar year to the American Brain Foundation are recognized and honored annually.

Ann H. Tilton, MD, FAAN

Lewis P. “Bud” Rowland, MD, FAAN
Past President instrumental in starting the Foundation

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Rowland Circle Members

Angelo M. Alves, MD, PhD, FAAN
Martha and David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN
Stanley H. Appel, MD, FAAN and Joan W. Appel, PA-C, CCRC
Deganit Armon, PhD and Carmel Armon, MD, FAAN
Ehren and Angela M. Babb, CAE
Gita and Jitendra K. Baruah, MD
Gabrielle and Christopher Becker
Betsy and Jonathan Blattmachr
Ellen and Terrence L. Cascino, MD, FAAN
Bill and Elaine Cella
Shelly Collins Rucks and Steve Rucks
Edward S. Cooper, MD
Josh and Aline Copp
Eugene Sorets and Merit Cudkowicz, MD, MSC
William C. Davison, MD, FAAN
Alicia C. and Darryl C. De Vivo, MD, FAAN
David Eagleman, PhD
James Essey
Richard P. Essey
Charlotte and Stanley Fahn, MD, FAAN
Matthew E. Fink, MD, FAAN
Charles C. Flippin II, MD, FAAN
B. Smith and Dan Gasby
Claudia C. Robertson, MD and J. Clay Goodman, MD, FAAN
Kevin P. and Linda L. Goodno
Raghu Govindarajan, MD, FAAN
Rosalyne and Robert C. Griggs, MD, FAAN
Marsha and Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Deborah Hall, MD, PhD, FAAN
Linda M. Famigli, MD and Jonathan P. Hosey, MD, FAAN
Trish and Karl Jacob
Ralph F. Józefowicz, MD, FAAN
Edgar J. Kenton III, MD, FAAN
Adele and Francis L. Kittredge Jr., MD, FAAN
Barbara S. Koppel, MD, FAAN and Timothy A. Pedley, MD, PhD, FAAN
John C. Mazzotta, MD, PhD, FAAN
Janis Miyasaki, MD, FAAN
Debasish Mridha, MD
Nancy L. Mueller, MD
Joseph O’Shaughnessy
Kelly and Jason Perleweitz
Alan H. Potamkin
Robert and Lexie Potamkin
Laleh and Chris J. Prusinski, DO, FAHA, FAAN
Jane and John Ransom
John G. Schmidt, MD, FAAN, FAHA and Lee B. Rose Schmidt, RN
Adrienne T. and Roger N. Rosenberg, MD, FAAN
Kathleen and Jeffrey Rosenfield, MD, PhD, FAAN
Natalia S. Rost, MD, MPH, FAAN, FAHA
Charles D. and Catherine M. Rydell, CAE
Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN
Susan Schneider Williams, BFA
Martin M. Shenkman, CPA, MBA, PFS, AEP, JD and Patti Klein, MD
Lisa M. Shulman, MD, FAAN
Joan and Joseph I. Sirven, MD, FAAN
A. Gordon Smith, MD, FAAN
Erik K. St. Louis, MD, FAAN
Lawrence Z. Stern, MD, FAAN and Jacqueline A. Stern
Laurel B. and James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN
Ann H. Tilton, MD, FAAN
Karyn and Benjamin J. Utecht
David B. Watson, MD
Sherilyne and A. Douglas Will, MD
Individual Giving

$100,000+
*Rowland Circle Members
Anonymous
The Potamkin Family

$25,000-49,999
*Rowland Circle Members
Edgar J. Kenton, III, MD, FAAN

$10,000-24,999
*Rowland Circle Members
James A. Essey
Richard P. Essey
Trish and Karl Jacob
Sharon L. Klein
Martin M. Shenkman, CPA, MBA,
FAHA, FAAN

$5,000-9,999
*Rowland Circle Members
Nicola and Angelo M. Alves, MD, PhD, FAAN
Johannah and Betsy Blattmachr
Tom Erwin
Kelly and Jason Perlewitz
Hanna and Bret Richheimer
Lauren B. and
Lisa M. Shulman, MD, FAAN

$2,500-4,999
Martha and David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN
Angela and Jeffrey Babb
Gabrielle and Christopher Becker
David Eagleman, PhD
Charlotte and
Sandra F. Olson, MD, FAAN

$1,000-2,499
Anonymous
Claire and Anthony G. Alessi, MD, FAAN
Elaine and James R. Allen, MD
Deganit Armon, PhD and
Carmel Armon, MD, FAAN
Gita and Jitendra K. Banuah, MD
Norine Bell
Cindy Berghethon, MD and
Peter R. Berghethon, MD
Robin L. Brey, MD, FAAN
Brenda and
Louis R. Caplan, MD, FAAN
Teresa and
Gregory D. Cascino, MD, FAAN
Jenne H. Chin, MD, MPH, PhD,
FAAN
William C. Davison, MD, FAAN
Alicia C. and
Darryl C. De Vivo, MD, FAAN
Peter Okin, MD and
Lisa M. DeAngelis, MD, FAAN
Catherine and Dana Elliott
Alberto J. Espay, MD, MSc, FAAN
John Fanburg
Barbara Forster
Scott E. and Deborah I. Friedman, MD, MPH, FAHS
Kris Fridgen
Dan Gasby and B. Smith
Rick F. and
Larry B. Goldstein, MD, FAAN, FAHA
Kevin P. and Linda L. Goodno
Madeleine M. Grigg Damberger, MD
James C. Grotta, MD, FAAN
Susan and Kurt Rodmyre
Rachel and Kyle Roeckeman
Kathleen and
Jeffrey Rosenfeld, MD, PhD, FAAN
Carol Rosenstein and Bruce Gowers
Fredric R. Salit
Lily and Richard Siegel, MD
Eleanor Sloan
A. Gordon Smith, MD, FAAN
DeMaurice Smith
Patricia Whisnant
Pamela O. and
George K. York, III, MD, FAAN

$500-$999
Orly Avitzur, MD, FAAN, MBA
Sarah M. Benish, MD, FAAN
Christopher T. Bever, Jr., MD, MBA, FAAN
Rajesh Bhatnagar, MD
John and
Callego Montazzee, MD, BA, MA
John Montgomery
John C. Morris, MD, FAAN
Sandra F. Olson, MD, FAAN
Christine E. and
Ben Phelpes
Curtis and Amanda Polk

To get to cures, to get
to eradication, doors
must be opened so
the public can have
increased opportunities
to engage in science.
To find cures, more research is needed across the spectrum of brain and nervous system diseases, but the number of physicians choosing research careers is not growing quickly enough.
Brain disease affects one in six people. We’re trying to get to zero.

Legacy Donors

The American Brain Foundation proudly recognizes donors who have included the Foundation in their legacy plans.

Anonymous (2)
Robert H. Ackerman, MD, FAAN*
Elaine and James R. Allen, MD
Patricia Smith Cook, MD, FAAN
Jane A. Daroff, DC, LISW and
Robert B. Daroff, MD, FAAN
Cynthia E. and Jasper R. Daube, MD, FAAN
Edward David, MD, JD
Robert* and Sandra K. Davis
Susan C. Dunlop, MBA, CFRE and John R. Dunlop
Richard P. Essey
Nordel Estronza, MD
Dina Sewell and Michael F. Finkel, MD, FAAN
Mr. Gilles Gallant
Claudia C. Robertson, MD and
J. Clay Goodman, MD, FAAN
Rita Mercille Green, PhD* and
Joseph B. Green, MD, FAAN*
Sheilah and Elliott G. Gross, MD, FAAN
Kathryn Hart, RN
Daniel B. Hier, MD, FAAN, MBA
Janet L. Jankowiak, MD
Cheryl A. Jay, MD*
Debbie and Robert T. Leshner, MD, FAAN
Nicole and Eric Liebler
Bess and Arthur Nicholas*

Sandra and Ronald Olson*
Rimma and Jay H. Rosenberg, MD, FAAN
Esther E. and Lewis P. Rowland, MD, FAAN*
Charles D. and Catherine M. Rydell, CAE
Kapil D. Sethi, MD, FRCP (UK), FAAN
Jane and Bruce Sigsbee, MD, FAAN
Dee E. Silver, MD
Deborah R. Syna, MD
Lynne P. Taylor, MD, FAAN and Bruce Bagamery, PhD
Debra S. and Raymond W. Valpey, MD

* deceased

Organizational Giving

$1,000,000+
American Academy of Neurology

$250,000-499,999
Forbes Media
Men’s Health

$100,000-249,999
The ALS Association
Fast Company
Inc. Magazine
McKnight Brain Research Foundation

$50,000-99,999
Alzheimer’s Association
Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America Inc.

$25,000-49,999
American Epilepsy Society
Epilepsy Foundation
KARE 11
The Mary E. Groff Charitable Trust
Muscle Study Group
National Ataxia Foundation
Parkinson’s Foundation
Tourette Association of America
UCLA Health

$10,000-24,999
Fanatics
MandT Charitable Foundation

Maria Foundation
Panini America
PSAV
Runnin’ for Research, Inc

$5,000-9,999
Ann Romney Center for Neurologic Diseases
Bush Foundation Board of Directors Fund
of the MN Community Foundation
Outerstuff LLC

$2,500-4,999
Fredrikson and Byron, P.A.
Freeman Decorating Ltd

$1,000-2,499
Biogen MA Inc
Coon Rapids United Methodist Church
Evans Insulation Company
Janet B. Watson Fund of the
Women’s Foundation of Minnesota
Jani-Dhuna Foundation
Johnson and Johnson Family of Companies
Just Media, Inc.
Mayo Clinic
Strongbridge Biopharma plc
UCLA Dept of Neurology
University of Miami/Miller School of Medicine
University of Utah Health Sciences
Life After Stroke

Research took “There’s nothing more we can do” to “treatable” in one lifetime

It was an everyday, routine task. Cynthia got up from her work desk to use the restroom when a sharp, flashing headache gripped her. A co-worker noticed Cynthia falling, caught her, and called 911. A Houston-based stroke ambulance called the Mobile Stroke Unit arrived with James Grotta, MD, FAAN, a CAT scan, and other specialty equipment and medicines. Within minutes after stroke onset, Cynthia was treated with CPA and more. One week later, she was back at work—fully functional.

“My daughter tells me the only thing that is different is that I’m feistier than I used to be,” says Cynthia. “The Mobile Stroke Unit took someone they didn’t know and gave them back the rest of their life as a completely whole and functioning individual.”

“When I was in training, neurology was an esoteric specialty with few practical treatments,” says Dr. Grotta. “I focused on stroke as it was the biggest public health problem in neurology, and if treatments could be discovered, it would have a major impact.” He received his education at Dartmouth College and medical training at the Universities of Virginia and Colorado and Massachusetts General Hospital before joining the faculty at University of Texas-Houston where he founded the Stroke Program.

Dr. Grotta devotes his research to discovering, testing, and applying new therapies for acute stroke. He orchestrated a collaborative network between the UT Stroke Team, Memorial Hermann Hospital, Houston Fire Department-Emergency Medical Services, and other regional stroke centers to increase the delivery of appropriate therapy to a large number of acute stroke patients in Houston. He has extended these efforts to rural areas through regional educational programs and, more recently, telemedicine. He now leads the Memorial Hermann Hospital Mobile Stroke Unit Consortium.

Dr. Grotta is a member of the American Brain Foundation’s Board of Directors. “Many people want to use their money for good, and I’ve learned as program director and department chair that there needs to be funds for research and program development beyond existing competitive funding sources like NIH. Non-designated philanthropic funds can provide equipment, infrastructure. Discretionary funds can bring programs to a much higher level of accomplishment.”
Board of Directors

Officers
Kevin P. Goodno  
Chair  
Fredrikson and Byron, P.A.
Susan Schneider Williams, BFA  
Vice Chair  
Fine Art
A. Gordon Smith, MD, FAAN  
Secretary  
Virginia Commonwealth University
Ralph F. Józefowicz, MD, FAAN  
Treasurer  
University of Rochester Medical Center
John C. Mazzottiotta, MD, PhD, FAAN  
Immediate Past Chair  
UCLA Health Sciences
Walter F. Mondale  
Honorary Chair

Directors
David W. Dodick, MD, FACP, FRCP (C), FAAN  
Mayo Clinic
David Eagleman, PhD  
Neuroscientist and Entrepreneur
James A. Essey  
TemPositions Group
Dan Gasby  
Author, Alzheimer’s and Brain Health Advocate
Robert C. Griggs, MD, FAAN  
University of Rochester Medical Center
James C. Grotta, MD, FAAN  
Memorial Hermann – Texas Medical Center
Shafali Jeste, MD, FAAN  
University of California Los Angeles
Sharon L. Klein  
Family Wealth, Eastern Region Wilmington Trust, N.A.
Suzanne Miller  
Empire State Properties
Ronald C. Petersen, PhD, MD, FAAN  
Mayo Clinic
Jeffrey Rosenfeld, MD, PhD, FAAN  
Loma Linda University
Martin Shenkman, CPA, MBA, PFS, AEP, JD  
Shenkman Law
Lisa M. Shulman, MD, FAAN  
University of Maryland
Ben Utecht  
Former NFL World Champion, National Concussion Advocate

Honorary Directors
Rich Clifford
Richard Essey
Leeza Gibbons
Billy McLaughlin

Ex Officio, Voting Directors
Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAHA, FAAN  
University of Miami
Joseph I. Sirven, MD, FAAN  
Mayo Clinic

Ex Officio, Non-Voting Directors
Jane Ransom, Executive Director  
American Brain Foundation
Catherine M. Rydell, CAE, Chief Executive Officer  
American Academy of Neurology

Staff
Natalie Baumgartner  
Executive Coordinator
Lisa Dahlberg  
Major Gifts Officer
Sharla Donohue  
Database Administrator
Suzi Johnson  
Program Officer, Research and Digital Grants
Liam Moore  
Mission Advancement Associate
Andrea Nargan  
Data and Research Associate
Jane Ransom  
Executive Director
Marie Tuhy  
Mission Advancement Director
Mark Tundel  
Marketing and Communications Associate

Pictured: Back row – Jeffrey Rosenfield, MD; Catherine M. Rydell, CAE; Dan Gasby; Ralph L. Sacco, MD, Treasurer; Martin Shenkman CPA  
Front row – Jane Ransom, Executive Director; Kevin P. Goodno, Chair; A. Gordon Smith, MD, Secretary; Ralph F. Józefowicz, MD, Treasurer
AMERICAN BRAIN FOUNDATION

201 Chicago Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55415

Tel: 612.928.6300 | Toll Free: 866.770.7570
info@americanbrainfoundation.org

AmericanBrainFoundation.org