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Cindy McCain Joins the Board of the American Brain Foundation

(MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 23) – Today, the American Brain Foundation (ABF) announced that Cindy McCain has joined its board of directors. McCain has dedicated her life to improving the safety, health, and well-being of women, children, and families in the United States and around the world.

“We’re delighted to welcome Cindy to the board,” said David W. Dodick, MD, incoming ABF board chair and Professor of Neurology at Mayo Clinic’s College of Medicine (Scottsdale, Ariz.) and Director of the Headache Program and Sport Neurology and Concussion Program at Mayo. “Her leadership will help us advance our mission to bring researchers and donors together to cure brain diseases and disorders.”

As board chair of the McCain Institute for International Leadership and its Human Trafficking Advisory Council, McCain’s state, national, and international leadership to end labor and sex trafficking has resulted in increased awareness, public advocacy, policy change, prevention, funding for service providers, and safe housing and trauma-informed services for survivors.

McCain’s advocacy to ensure health and well-being for all includes combatting diseases of the brain. The work is deeply personal. In August 2018, McCain’s husband, the late U.S. Senator John McCain, died of a glioblastoma, an aggressive form of malignant brain tumor. On July 17, 2019, the McCain family honored him on the nation’s first Glioblastoma Awareness Day, which aims to raise awareness, increase funding for research, and find a cure.

Years before her husband was diagnosed with the disease in 2017, McCain publicly shared her battle with debilitating migraines, advocacy for migraine sufferers, and calls for increased funding for research.

“I wasn’t accurately diagnosed with migraines until I was 40,” said McCain in an interview with [Brain & Life](#)[®] magazine. “Prior to that, I saw many doctors who seemed condescending and wrote me off as a ‘neurotic senator’s wife’ . . . If I — as a prominent person — was being brushed off by doctors, what about the mother of four in a small rural community whose migraines are never taken seriously?”

McCain is one of five new, incoming ABF board members: James Erwin, Executive Vice President, Chicago Title Commercial (Houston); Jacqueline French, MD, FAAN, NYU Langone School of Medicine; Frances Jensen, MD, FAAN, University of Pennsylvania; and Sean Sansiveri, Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs, NFL Players Association.

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About the American Brain Foundation:

The American Brain Foundation brings researchers and donors together to cure brain diseases and disorders. To learn more, visit [our website](#) or find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).