“Our mind is the make up of who we are. Let’s not take that for granted.”

BEN UTECHT
Former NFL World Champion
MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It’s the uncompromising patients trying anything to overcome their diseases. It’s the caregivers who go places others don’t go to find the right comfort and solutions for those they love. It’s the people who have suffered the loss of a loved one to a brain disease and now dream of finding a cure to honor their legacy. It’s the professionals of the neurology and neuroscience community—always researching, refining, and rethinking to better their patients’ lives and find cures.

These are our people. These are the people we are bringing together to defeat brain disease. These are the people whose activism, altruism, and philanthropy enabled the American Brain Foundation to grow and reinvent in 2017.

This past year as we celebrated our 25th anniversary, the American Brain Foundation reached milestones in research grants awarded, fundraising, and innovation. At the same time, we embraced a bold, new approach of inviting patients, caregivers, researchers, and many of the brightest minds to come together. We asked them to support research across all brain diseases, because we know it’s all connected. If we cure one, we will cure many.

We offer heartfelt thanks to our donors for their gifts and to our partners for their commitment and support.

Sincerely,

Kevin Goodno
Board Chair

Jane Ransom
Executive Director
Cure One, Cure Many

The American Brain Foundation brings researchers and donors together to defeat brain disease. We invest in research for all brain diseases, because a cure for one brain disease will mean cures for others. This is how we will reach our vision of a world with cures for brain disease.

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

A Year of Innovation and Growth
The American Brain Foundation increased its investment in the rising generation of brain disease investigators. With an eye toward involving more people in our research mission, we built and tested the world’s first neuroscience crowdfunding platform. And we honored the outstanding scientists and members of the public who are leading the fight to defeat brain disease.

Research for Discovery and Hope: Investing in the Next Generation of Researchers
There is a common denominator in the search for better treatments, prevention, and cures for migraine, epilepsy, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s and more than 400 other diseases and disorders of the brain and nervous system. It is the shortage of researchers.

GROWTH OF TENURED POSITIONS IN ACADEMIC RESEARCH IS FLAT

Funding the innovative projects of early-career investigators is our cornerstone program. In 2017, in collaboration with our distinguished national partners, the Foundation granted almost $1 million to 8 early-career researchers and raised $3.6 million for awards in the current and future years.

American Brain Foundation Clinical Research Training Scholarships were awarded in: Alzheimer’s Disease, Ataxia, Epilepsy, Muscular Dystrophy, Parkinson’s Disease, and Stroke. A Clinician Scientist Development Award was granted in Multiple Sclerosis.

Source: NIH Physician-Scientist Workforce Working Group, June 2014
Because of our generous donors, the American Brain Foundation was able to fund the following research projects:

**PROJECTS IN-PROGRESS**

- **Pavan Bhargava, MBBS, MD**  
  Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  
  MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

- **Jill Napierala, PhD**  
  University of Alabama at Birmingham  
  ATAXIA

- **Michelle Fullard, MD**  
  University of Pennsylvania  
  PARKINSON’S DISEASE

- **Laura Graham, MPH**  
  University of Alabama at Birmingham  
  STROKE

- **Johanna Hamel, MD**  
  University of Rochester  
  MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY

- **Michael Hehir, MD**  
  University of Vermont  
  MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

- **Karen Hirsch, MD**  
  Stanford University  
  STROKE

- **Michael Kornberg, MD, PhD**  
  Johns Hopkins University  
  MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

- **Alice Lam, MD, PhD**  
  Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
  EPILEPSY

- **Baijayanta Maiti, MD, PhD**  
  Washington University  
  PARKINSON’S DISEASE

- **Mia Minen, MD, MPH**  
  New York University Langone Medical Center  
  MIGRAINE

- **Santosh Murthy, MD, MPH**  
  Weill Cornell Medical College  
  INTRACEREBRAL HEMORRHAGE

- **Ellen Penney, MD, PhD**  
  Harvard Medical School  
  X-LINKED DYSTONIA PARKINSONISM

- **Chia-Ling Phuah, MBBChir, MA, BA**  
  Massachusetts General Hospital  
  STROKE

- **Caitlin Rollins, MD**  
  Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School  
  NEURODEVELOPMENTAL IMPAIRMENT/CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE

- **Joseph Sabatino, Jr., MD, PhD**  
  Johns Hopkins Hospital  
  MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

- **Joel Salinas, MD, MBA, MSc**  
  Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School  
  ALZHEIMER’S DEMENTIA

- **Ryan Schubert, MD**  
  University of California, San Francisco  
  MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

- **Paula Voinescu, MD, PhD**  
  Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
  EPILEPSY

**LAUNCHING RESEARCH**

“Neuro-infectious disease is still a growing field within neurology and not one that has much institutionally-backed research funding. Without funding from the American Brain Foundation none of this [my research] would have been possible.”

– Michael R. Wilson, MD, 2011 grant recipient

The American Brain Foundation’s unique partnership with the American Academy of Neurology has enabled us to fund the best and brightest minds through a selection process managed by the Academy’s Science Committee.
Crowdfunding for Cures

The American Brain Foundation built and tested the world’s first neuroscience crowdfunding platform, with the aim of formally launching campaigns in 2018. Crowdfunding advances our mission by bringing researchers and donors together online in campaigns to raise needed research dollars and raise public awareness.

Scientific investigators may qualify their projects for crowdfunding through a two-part online application process. In a vetting process developed by the Foundation’s Research Advisory Committee, projects are approved for posting by review panels of the American Academy of Neurology experts.

Once a research project is posted on our platform, the Foundation works with the researcher to launch a crowdfunding campaign in its support.

Patients, caregivers, and others can sort through the projects on the crowdfunding platform by disease, and then give directly to projects they care about most. One hundred percent of donations go directly to project support.

1. OUR MISSION
Defeat brain disease

2. BRAIN DISEASE
There are hundreds of brain diseases including ALS, Alzheimer’s, Epilepsy, MS, Parkinson’s and more.

3. PROJECT SUBMITTED
Researchers who identify with our mission submit research projects

4. PROJECT REVIEW
Projects are reviewed by our panel of experts

5. PROJECT FUNDED ONLINE
Donors give to projects that directly impact their lives!

6. WORKING ON A CURE
Cure one, cure many

New Scholarships will offer $1.65 Million for Research in Cognitive Aging and Age-related Memory Loss:
We established 10 McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarships in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss with a generous grant from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation.

LEWY BODY DISEASE
CLINICAL RESEARCH TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS
funded by the Mary E. Groff Charitable Trust

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS WITH NEW PARTNERS
1 CSDA in interventional neurology (SVIN)
1 CRTS in headache (International Headache Society)
1 CRTS in neuromuscular disease (Muscle Study Group)
Honoring Leaders in the Fight to Defeat Brain Disease

Public Leadership in Neurology Award

B. Smith and Dan Gasby received the American Brain Foundation’s prestigious Public Leadership in Neurology Award. The award honors an individual or group outside of the medical profession. Honorees are known for advancing public understanding and awareness of neurologic disease, being effective advocates for neuroscience research, and making significant contributions to improve patient care.

B. Smith, a nationally-recognized celebrity chef, restaurateur, supermodel, and lifestyle maven, was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer’s in 2013. Smith and Dan Gasby, her husband and business partner, have crisscrossed the country, making appearances at Alzheimer’s educational and fundraising events. They co-authored the book Before I Forget: Love, Hope, and Acceptance in our Fight Against Alzheimer’s, released by Random House in January 2016.

Dan Gasby recently joined the American Brain Foundation’s Board of Directors to help amplify our voice in making curing brain disease a public cause.

Board Chair Award

Our Board Chair Kevin Goodno presented the Board Chair Award to Francis Kittredge, MD, FAAN, the first President of the American Academy of Neurology Foundation which later became the American Brain Foundation. Dr. Kittredge pioneered the Clinical Research Training Scholarship program which remains the cornerstone of the American Brain Foundation. Eighty-seven percent of award recipients have gone on to receive NIH and other funding—an outcome on target with the Foundation’s research focus.

Association of Indian Neurologists in America Lifetime Achievement Award

Through its fund at the American Brain Foundation, the Association of Indian Neurologists in America presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Kapil Sethi, MD. The award recognizes a leader in neurology by his or her peers. Dr. Sethi was honored for his dedication in advancing the training of North American Neurologists of Indian origin and promoting innovation and research in the field of neurology.
The Rowland Circle
Honors Philanthropic Leadership

In 2017 we launched a new leadership giving circle to honor the memory of Dr. Rowland. Donors who gave $2,500 or more cumulatively during the year were honored with charter membership in the Rowland Circle. The new leadership circle recognizes past AAN president Lewis P. “Bud” Rowland, MD, FAAN, the visionary who established the Foundation.

The charter members are:

Angelo M. Alves, MD, PhD, FAAN
Martha and David C. Anderson, MD, FAAN
Joan W. Appel, PA-C, CCRC and Stanley H. Appel, MD, FAAN
Deganit Armon, PhD and Carmel Armon, MD, FAAN
Ehren and Angela Babb, CAE
Gita and Jitendra K. Baruah, MD
Gabrielle and Christopher Becker
Betsy and Jonathan Blattmachr
Edward S. Cooper, MD
Eugene Sorens and Merit E. Cudkowicz, MD, MSC
Wilma J. Eaton*
James Essey
Richard P. Essey
B. Smith and Dan Gasby
Claudia C. Robertson, MD and J. Clay Goodman, MD, FAAN
Kevin P. and Linda L. Goodno
Raghav Govindarajan, MD
Marsha D. and Robert A. Gross, MD, PhD, FAAN
Ralph F. Jozefowicz, MD, FAAN
Edgar J. Kenton, III, MD, FAAN*

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Kathleen and Jeffrey Rosenfeld, MD, PhD, FAAN
Steve and Shelly Rucks
Charles D. and Catherine M. Rydell, CAE
Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAAN, FAHA
Martin Shenkman, CPA, MBA, PFS, AEP, JD and Patti Klein, MD
Lisa M. Shulman, MD, F, AAN
Joseph I. Sirven, MD, FAAN
A. Gordon Smith, MD, FAAN
Erik K. St. Louis, MD, FAAN
Laurel B. and James C. Stevens, MD, FAAN
Karyn and Benjamin J. Utecht
Susan Schneider Williams
Robyn G. Young, MD

*Deceased

American Academy of Neurology Scientific Awards

Generous donors to the American Brain Foundation underwrote the American Academy of Neurology’s prestigious scientific awards.

POTAMKIN PRIZE FOR RESEARCH IN PICK’S, ALZHEIMER’S AND RELATED DISEASES

Claudia Kawas, MD
Kristine Yaffe, MD

SHEILA ESSEY AWARD: AN AWARD FOR ALS RESEARCH

John Ravits, MD

OTHER AWARDS INCLUDED:

Bruce S. Schoenberg International Award in Neuroepidemiology
Dreifuss-Penry Epilepsy Award
Founders Award
Harold Wolff-John Graham: An Award for Headache/Facial Pain Research
Irwin Schatz Award for Autonomic Disorders
Jon 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
HONORING DICK ESSEY

In a late November ceremony with family, friends and colleagues from The ALS Association, the American Brain Foundation conferred its 2018 Board Chair Award upon Richard P. Essey, the creator of the Sheila Essey Award for Research in ALS and tireless fighter for patients and caregivers.

The Foundation’s 25th Anniversary was highlighted at our 2017 Commitment to Cures Fundraising Dinner, with seven donors committing to honor the occasion by investing $25,000 in the Foundation.

The American Brain Foundation participated in a Brain Health Fair and bike helmet giveaway. The events were organized by the American Academy of Neurology, our founder and research partner.

CROWDFUNDING SUPPORTS RESEARCH ON BRAIN SWELLING

With money raised on our crowdfunding platform, Dr. Charlene Ong of Harvard University will begin testing whether an innovative handheld technology that measures pupil changes can improve the diagnosis and treatment of brain swelling. Her findings could save lives and improve quality of life for those who suffer from sudden and catastrophic brain injuries.
Financial Information

2017 AWARDS

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

PROGRAM EXPENSES

OUR RESEARCH PARTNERS

The ALS Association
Alzheimer’s Association
American Academy of Neurology
American Epilepsy Society
American Heart Association
Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers
Epilepsy Foundation
International Headache Society
The Mary E. Groff Charitable Trust
McKnight Brain Research Foundation
Muscle Study Group
Muscular Dystrophy Association
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America
National Ataxia Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Parkinson’s Foundation
Society of Vascular and Interventional Neurology
Tourette Association of America
The William Randolph Hearst Foundation

Our audited financial statements are available on our website or by request.
Individual Giving

$25,000-49,999
*Rowland Circle Members
Angelo M. Alves, MD, PhD, FAAN
Deganit Armon, PhD and Carmel Armon, MD, FAAN

$10,000-24,999
*Rowland Circle Members
Betsy and Jonathan Blattmachr
James Essey
Richard P. Essey
B. Smith and Dan Gasby
Kevin P. and Linda L. Goodno
Sharon Klein
Debashis Mrdha, MD

$5,000-9,999
*Rowland Circle Members
Copf Family Foundation
Wilma J. Eaton
Edgar J. Kenton, III, MD, FAAN
John and Jane Ransom
Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS, FAAN, FAHA
Karyn and Benjamin J. Utecht

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Claudia C. Robertson, MD and J. Cudkowicz, MD, FAAN
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McKnight Brain Research Foundation

$1,000,000-1,499,999
American Academy of Neurology

$250,000-499,999
Alzheimer’s Association
Muscular Dystrophy Association
The Mary Elizabeth Groff Charitable Trust

$100,000-249,999
Myasthenia Gravis Foundation of America Inc.
Parkinson’s Foundation
Potamkin Family
The ALS Association
William Randolph Hearst Foundation

$50,000-99,999
American Epilepsy Society
Epilepsy Foundation
International Headache Society

University of Miami Health System, Department of Neurology
University of Rochester Medical Center, Department of Neurology

$2,500-4,999
Antipodean Fund, Vanguard Charitable
Beth Israel Deaconess Harvard Medical Center, Department of Neurology
Boston Children’s Hospital, Department of Neurology
Brown Charity Inc
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Epilepsy Foundation of America Inc.

$1,000-2,400
Associated Bank
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Thanks for your support of the American Brain Foundation and our research!

Your support to the Foundation helps an early career researcher unlock the cure to brain disease.