

# Brainnovations



March 2014 – Volume 4



Dr. Donald Stuss  
President and  
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Ontario Brain Institute

86 billion: that is the number of neurons, or cells, estimated to make up the human brain.

Within each cell there is a universe of complexity and activity. But the remarkable abilities of the brain to think, remember, respond, and feel, cannot be explained by just scaling up the individual actions of each cell.

It comes down to the connections. No neuron works in isolation, in fact each cell is thought to make up to 10,000 connections with other cells; the outcome of this interconnectivity, some 100 trillion connections, is the network of the human brain.

Like the brain itself, the Ontario Brain Institute's strength is its ability to create connections.

[Learn More](#)

## OBI Founders

Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg

– *Mount Sinai Hospital*

Sydney and Florence Cooper

– *Baycrest*

Gerald and Geraldine Heffernan

– *University of Toronto*

William and Susanne Holland

– *Holland Bloorview*

Richard M. Ivey

– *Western University*

Robert and Linda Krembil

– *University Health Network*

Arthur and Sonia Labatt

– *The Hospital for Sick Children*

Joseph and Sandra Rotman

– *Ontario Brain Institute*

Lawrence and Judith Tanenbaum

– *Brain Canada*

Eli Lilly Canada Inc.

GE Healthcare Canada

GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

IBM Canada Ltd.

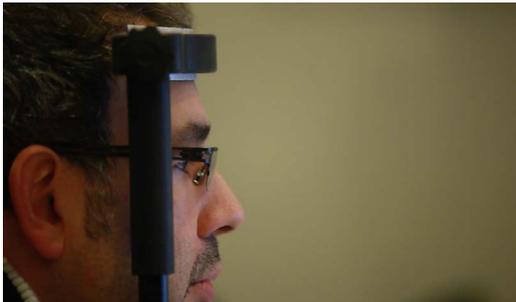
Medtronic of Canada Ltd.

Nestlé Health Science, Canada

Pfizer Canada Ltd.

Valeant Canada LP

## Peering Into Dementia



The eyes are said to be the 'windows into the soul'. Now a novel technique is allowing researchers to take this romantic thought to a new level and use the eye as a 'window into the brain'- to better understand and diagnose brain disorders.

[Learn more](#)

## Helping The Patient Be Heard



A key priority of the OBI is amplifying the patients' voice in research and healthcare. To this end, OBI has helped establish five Patient Advisory Committees, connecting patients, their families and their advocates with people working at the frontier of brain research.

[Learn more](#)

## Events

April 8, 2014

**2014 International Symposium  
on Synaptic Plasticity & Brain  
Disorders**

U of T Collaborative Program in  
Neuroscience, Mt. Sinai Hospital

April 15, 2014

**2014 OBI Entrepreneur Call for  
Applications**

May 3, 2014

**POND Network Parent & Family Day**  
POND Network

June 13-14, 2014

**Dementia & Primary Care  
Symposium**

Alzheimer Society of Ontario



## Practicing What You Preach

By promoting brain awareness across Ontario, OBI is helping people take charge of their own brain health.

Need some inspiration? OBI staffers reveal their own brain-health tips.

[Learn more](#)



## NeuroTech Ontario Reaches Milestones

Start from strength. Ontario neuroscience is recognized for research excellence, which is the foundation required for the development of a neurotechnology cluster. NeuroTech Ontario is the collective commitment of the growing neuroscience industry in the province to create technologies that leverage advances in brain science to improve public health, public understanding, and spur economic growth.

[Learn more](#)



## Giving Great Brains A Professional Boost

The OBI's Graduate Opportunity (GO) Management Fellowship program gives five of the best brains in Ontario a year's worth of invaluable professional development in the province's diverse not-for-profit sector. The five Management Fellows are steeped in the details of how research and innovation is managed across all fields, from knowledge translation to governance. The GO Management program provides aspiring and accomplished academics a bridge to the professional world.

[Learn more](#)



## Four Things You Should Know About Brain-CODE

The wealth of information available in the modern world has given rise to the idea of 'Big Data'. Massive amounts of data hold the potential to provide us with major insights. However, for this to be possible, data must be collected, analysed, and linked in the right way. When harnessed effectively, 'Big Data' may soon be able to give us big insight into what's most relevant to an individual's care.

[Learn more](#)

## In the news

### Canada's Innovators are Agents of Change

CBC Radio, December 26, 2013

### Mysteries of Dementia to be a Focus of Fledgling Brain & Mind Institute

Ottawa Citizen, January 31, 2014

### 5 Things You Need to Know About Epilepsy

Huffington Post, February 20, 2014

### Celebrating the Growth of NeuroTech Ontario

Biotechnology Focus, March 4, 2014

## Milestones

### October 2013

OBI and NeuroDevNet jointly led a workshop aimed at linking brain data across Canada

### November 2013

OBI held an Evaluation Workshop to "develop a framework to assess system-wide impact"; interns and entrepreneurs from the EEI program celebrate early success

### December 2013

Appointment of Mr. John Clarkson as first Sr. Vice President of OBI

### January 2014

OBI visited the Ottawa neuroscience community as part of the province-wide 'Talk and Listen' tour

### February 2014

OBI celebrated early success of the Ontario Neurotechnology cluster; hosted the first annual Patient Advisory Committee day

### March 2014

OBI welcomed 5 new members to the Board of Directors and the renewal of 7 founding members; 'I HEART BRAIN' campaign headlines Brain Awareness Week



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Mobiliser. Découvrir. Produire



Ontario Brain Institute  
Foundation