

Brainnovations

Issue 22



ONTARIO
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DU CERVEAU

A Frame of Mind

A Decade Older, A Decade Wiser

By: Tom Mikkelsen, President & Scientific Director

Ten years ago, the Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) was established with a goal of improving brain health for the 1 in 3 Ontarians directly impacted by brain disorders. As we look back, we're certain that our formula for collaborative discovery and innovation works and that we are on course to advance brain health. But along the way we've learned a lot by testing assumptions, collecting feedback from our stakeholders, and gathering data that will help us chart the course for the next phase. While there are many insights we could share, a few stand out which will help us focus our activities through this funding cycle and the next. And they all revolve around how we work with people, which is when you think about it makes sense for an organization that is focused on building relationships and supporting collaborations.

CONTINUE READING...



We're 10 Years Old!

In 2010, OBI was established in response to a pressing concern – the immense societal and individual cost of brain disorders.

Driven by a vision for doing science with impact, the late Dr. Donald Stuss, OBI's Founding President and Scientific Director, and the late Mr. Joseph Rotman, OBI's Founding Board Chair, pioneered a collaborative approach to brain research that would harness Ontario's world-class talent in research, clinical care, and commercial development.

With collaboration as its mantra, OBI has leveraged funding provided by the government of Ontario into \$406.4million to date. OBI's brain health community includes six Integrated Discovery Programs spanning a breadth of brain disorders, over 192 researchers, 81 portfolio companies, and 29 community groups. Though the network has grown in number, the work remains true to its foundational principles.

Ten years into its vision of doing science with impact, OBI is well on its way to improving the lives of 1 in 3 Ontarians living with a brain disorder.

To learn about some of our successes, check out OBI's [Digital Flipbook to learn more](#).

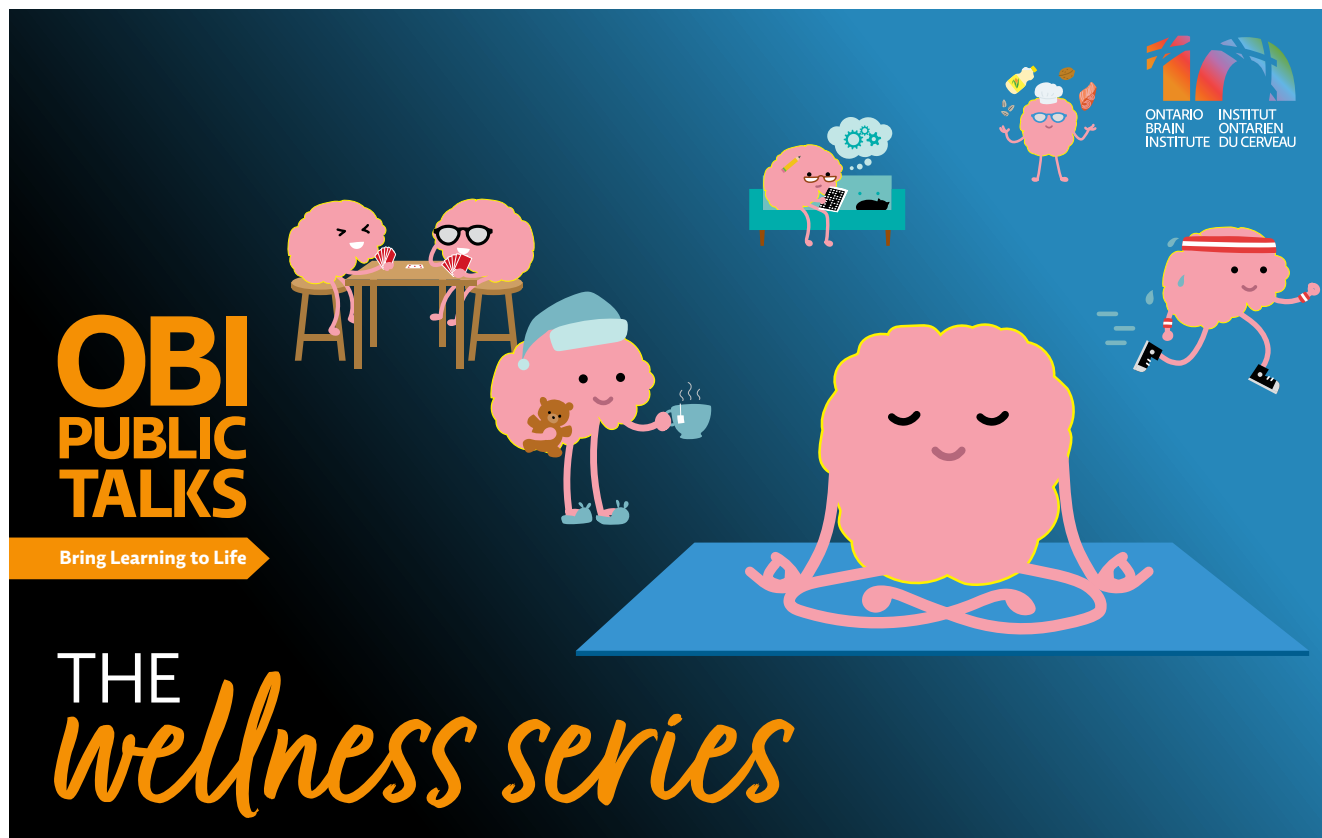


OBI Public Talks – The Wellness Series

We believe in bringing the latest on science and innovation directly from the experts back to the community, in an effort to improve brain health for all Canadians.

This year, as the pandemic continues with its impact on our daily life, we think it's best to focus our attention on self-care to support brain health in our community.

Sign up for the next set of [OBI Public Talks – The Wellness Series here](#).



OUTPUTS



**Advanced
Knowledge**



**Public Access
to Research
and Information**

Three Outstanding Community-Led Organizations Winners of 2021 GEEK Program

Three community-led organizations received \$343,000 in funding and support through [OBI's GEEK program](#) this year. GEEK supports programs across Ontario that aim to improve the lives of people living with brain disorders by bringing care closer to home.

Since its inception in 2019, the OBI-GEEK program has supported nine community-led organizations. With allocated funding of \$1.1 million over five years, the goal of OBI-GEEK is to help community-led organizations spread or scale their programs and build evaluation capacity to help secure long-term, sustainable funding.



VISTA CENTRE
CENTRE DE SERVICES VISTA
1000 McNICOLL AVENUE

2021 OBI-GEEK WINNER
The Acquired Brain Injury Transition Program (Ottawa)


The program supports the safe transition of ABI clients back to the community through a counseling partnership with The Robin Easey Centre of The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.



Family Navigation Project
at Sunnybrook

2021 OBI-GEEK WINNER
Family Navigation Project (Greater Toronto Area)

The project provides free-of-charge support to youth ages 13-26 with mental health and addictions concerns and their families. Through the program experts help youth navigate and access the most appropriate services and resources.



epilepsy ontario

2021 OBI-GEEK WINNER
Epilepsy-Specific Mental Health Program (Ontario-wide)

The program in Ontario delivers remote-based mental health services to people living with epilepsy in areas where there is no local mental health programming or Community Epilepsy Agency.

OUTPUTS



Partnerships



Community-Based Interventions



Improved Access to Treatment

METRICS

Funded 9 Community-Led Organizations

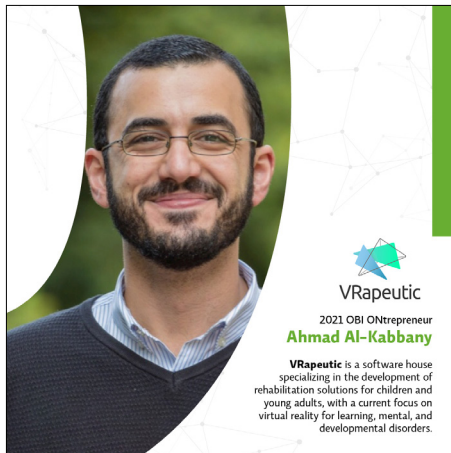
Meet OBI's Latest ONtrepeneurs


In its tenth year, OBI announced [a new class of ONtrepeneurs](#) in partnership with the [Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation \(CABHI\)](#) at the [CABHI Summit](#).

Launched in 2012, the ONtrepeneurs Program is Canada's single largest award for early-stage neurotech entrepreneurs, providing an investment of \$50,000, 12 months of training opportunities, one-on-one mentorship and support in order to help kick-start and grow promising neurotech ventures.

Through the [OBI ONtrepeneurs Program](#), innovative ideas are taken from the lab and brought to life to help people with brain disorders live better lives. In the last 10 years of its existence, OBI has provided over \$3M in funding, supported a total of 61 ONtrepeneurs, and delivered 20 products to market. And by leveraging OBI's network of partners and collaborators, OBI ONtrepeneurs were able to secure \$106M in follow-on investments which is nearly 35x the return on investment made by OBI.

Learn more about [OBI ONtrepeneurs and portfolio companies here](#).



OUTPUTS		METRICS	
	New or Improved Diagnostics, Interventions, and Treatments	\$3M in Funding	61 ONTrepreneurs
			Delivered 20 Products to Market

OBI's Brain-CODE Releases Data to Accelerate Discovery in Brain Health

OBI released the first of several clinical data sets to promote open science and accelerate research in brain health through [Brain-CODE, OBI's neuroinformatics platform](#). Four more releases are to follow this year.

The first sets of clinical data were collected for research studies led by OBI's neurodevelopmental disorders (like autism) program [POND](#) and the Post-Concussive Problems In Pediatrics (5P) study that involved researchers from OBI's concussion research program [CONNECT](#). This set includes clinical data from over 5,500 participants. Later this year four more datasets, including depression and neurodegenerative diseases (like Alzheimer's disease), will follow.

Currently, Brain-CODE has data from more than 20,000 participants across its six research programs: [epilepsy](#), [cerebral palsy](#), [neurodegenerative diseases](#), [neurodevelopmental disorders](#), [depression](#) and [concussion](#). Brain-CODE's existing open data sets have been downloaded over 100 times during this past year by international researchers from China, USA, Germany, Mexico and Australia.

Learn more about [Brain-CODE](#) and [access data here](#).



Data Release

The POND Network aims to understand the unique and common biology across neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism, ADHD and OCD. This program has created a clinical trials network – a first in Canada – to speed up the development of new and more effective medications and psychosocial interventions.

Data available from this POND cohort was collected from over 2500+ children and youth. This data includes in-depth clinical phenotyping data such as demographic, medical history data, behavioural and cognitive assessments.

2500+ Children and Youth

Behavioural Assessments, Cognitive Assessments, Demographics, Medical History Data

Brain-CODE **POND NETWORK**



Data Release

Data was collected from the 5P study – a prospective, multicenter cohort study across nine academic Canadian pediatric emergency departments. The 5P study recruited the largest prospective epidemiological cohort of children with a concussion in Canadian history.

3000+ Participant Data, Up to 12 Weeks of Post-Concussion Data

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS

- Post-Concussion Symptom Inventory
- Pediatric Quality of Life Inventory

Brain-CODE **CONNECT**

METRICS

2
New Clinical
Data

4
More
to Follow

Register Now – OBI Public Talks



OBI
PUBLIC
TALKS

Bring Learning to Life

THE
wellness series

From personalized music therapy to cognitive behavioural therapy, learn about the array of neurotechnology accessible from the comfort of your own home.

ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF THE BRAIN
INSTITUT ONTARIEN DU CERVEAU

Moderator: Cara Altimus – Senior Director, Center for Strategic Philanthropy at Milken Institute

Date: August 26, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM EST

Awards

- [Sidney Kennedy recognized with President's Impact Award](#)
- [An Inspiring, Magical Night to Honour and Celebrate Dr. Sandra Black](#)
- [New Chair in Autism Sets Roadmap for Enhanced Collaboration and Clinical Care](#)
- [W. Mac Burnham Achievement Award](#)

In Other News

- [CABHI and OBI Partner to Accelerate Ontario Innovations that Solve Global Challenges in Neurotech, Aging, and Brain Health](#)
- [Roche Canada Artificial Intelligence Centre of Excellence opens digital competition to tackle ALS](#)
- [Ontario Brain Institute: The science of better sleep](#)
- [McMaster-incubated company using brainwaves to test cannabis impairment](#)
- [Ontario Brain Institute Increases Investment in Diamond Therapeutics to Accelerate Innovation in Mental Health](#)
- [CANBIND Podcast – Nothing About Us Without Us- Community Involvement in Research](#)
- [Most Ontario children are faring worse during COVID-19, but some are doing better, SickKids study says](#)
- [Waterloo researchers lead remote wearable technology program](#)



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The Ontario Brain Institute is a not-for-profit organization that accelerates discovery and innovation, benefiting both patients and the economy. Our collaborative 'team science' approach promotes brain research, commercialization and care by connecting researchers, clinicians, industry, patients, and their advocates to improve the lives of those living with brain disorders. Welcome to Brain Central. Visit www.braininstitute.ca for more information. Follow us on Twitter (@OntarioBrain). Funding provided, in part, by the Government of Ontario.