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.
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 $406.4 million 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.
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.
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.

### Outputs

- **Partnerships**
- **Community-Based Interventions**
- **Improved Access to Treatment**
- **Funded 9 Community-Led Organizations**

### Metrics

- 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 Essay Centre of The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre.

- 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.

- 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.
Meet OBI’s Latest ONtrepreneurs

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

Launched in 2012, the ONtrepreneurs 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 ONtrepreneurs 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 ONtrepreneurs, and delivered 20 products to market. And by leveraging OBI’s network of partners and collaborators, OBI ONtrepreneurs were able to secure $106M in follow-on investments which is nearly 35x the return on investment made by OBI.

Learn more about OBI ONtrepreneurs and portfolio companies here.

**OUTPUTS**
- New or Improved Diagnostics, Interventions, and Treatments
- $3M in Funding
- 61 ONtrepreneurs
- Delivered 20 Products to Market

**METRICS**
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.
Register Now – OBI Public Talks

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.

**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
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.