

# **Brainnovations** **Newsletter**



ONTARIO  
BRAIN  
INSTITUTE

INSTITUT  
ONTARIEN  
DU CERVEAU

# A Frame of Mind

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Welcome to the renewed edition of our newsletter, *Brainnovations*! This new layout now visualizes our projects and achievements that move us towards a learning healthcare system.

## **Towards A Learning Healthcare System Through Collaboration**

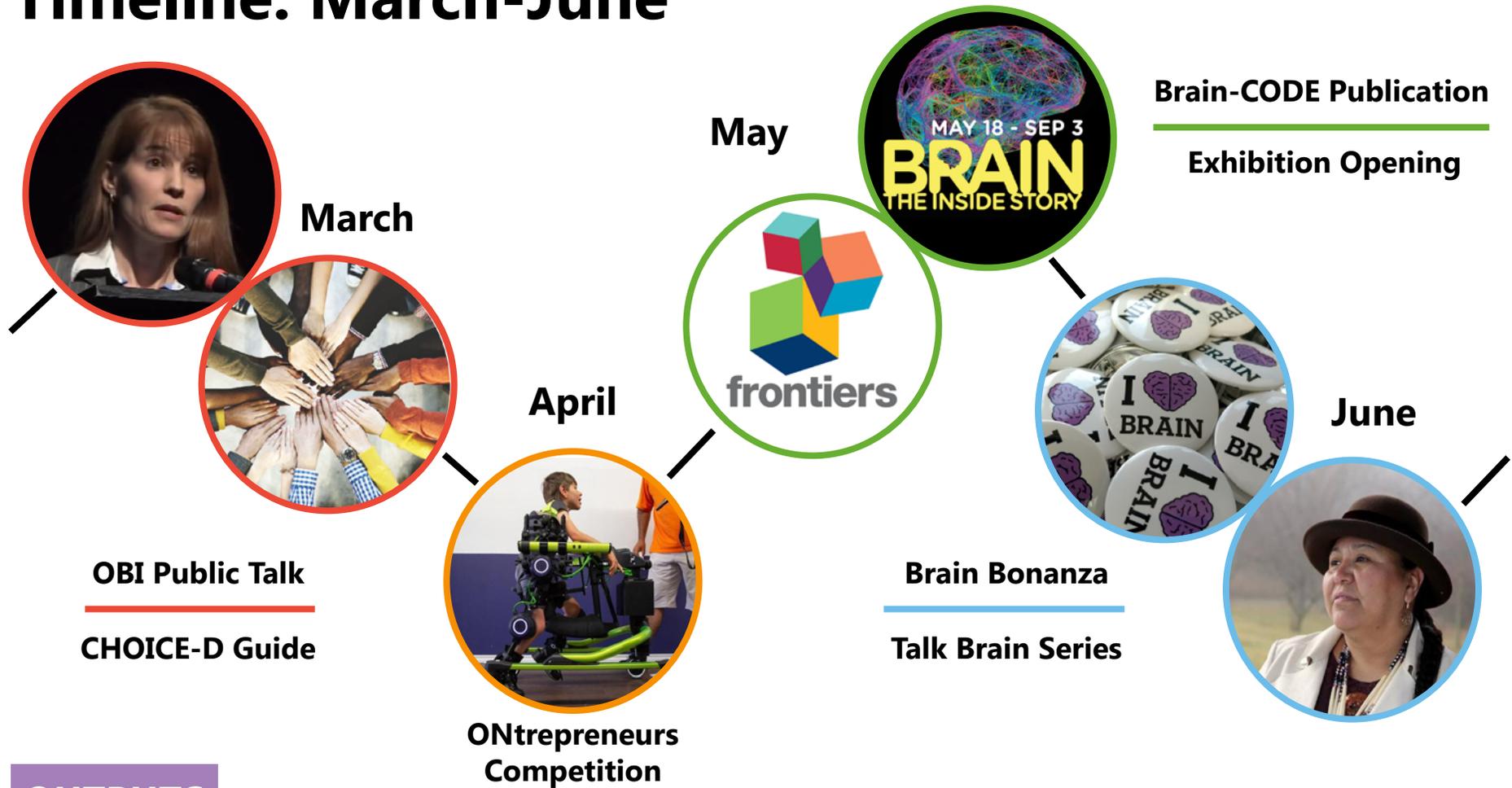
*By: Tom Mikkelsen, President & Scientific Director*

There is no question that the looming grey tsunami of the ageing population in Ontario has significant implications with regards to healthcare services. A key concept which is emerging is the opportunity to foster and maintain brain health across the lifespan where optimal performance and quality is sustained. While much focus has been on the attempts to intervene once brain disease has taken hold, progress has been slow.

**CONTINUE READING....**



# Timeline: March-June



## OUTPUTS



Access to Information



Advancing Knowledge



Partnerships



Adoption of Brain-CODE Governance Framework



Portfolio Company Growth



Guidelines and Toolkits



Patient-Informed Research Activities



Media Coverage



Recognition of Research System and OBI model



Follow-On Investments



## OBI Public Talk: Intimate Partner Violence & Concussion

On International Women's Day (March 8th), OBI hosted a **public talk** called Intimate Partner Violence and Concussion. This event highlighted an important and underappreciated issue: women who face domestic violence are at a high risk of concussion. The audience gained valuable insight on this topic from



diverse speakers (L-R above): Dr. Eve Valera (Harvard Medical School) discussed her research on the topic, Deirdre Reddick advocate and speaker at the WomenatthecentrE shared her personal experience as a survivor, and Ruth Wilcock (Ontario Brain Injury Association) shared the community supports and resources available. The talk was followed by a Q&A moderated by Heather Mallick, Staff Columnist at the Toronto Star and winner of the Landsberg Award (2015) for her work on feminist issues.

### OUTPUTS



Access to  
Information



Media Coverage



Partnerships

### METRICS

**122**  
Attendees

**33**  
People  
Livestreamed

**656**  
TVO Article  
Views

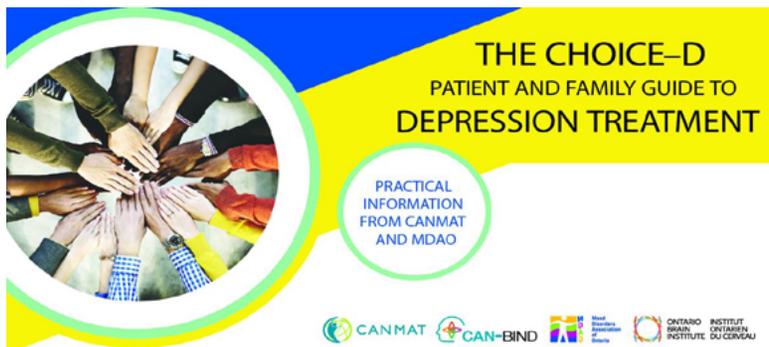
**+20K**  
Social Media  
Reach



# Creating an Accessible and Relevant Resource for Depression

With primary funding from OBI, the CHOICE-D Project brought together the Canadian Biomarker Integration Network in Depression (CAN-BIND), the Canadian Network for Mood and Anxiety Treatment (CANMAT) and

the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario (MDAO) to create a relevant resource for people affected by depression. The CHOICE-D Guide is an educational tool that raises awareness and knowledge about depression treatment options. It was created by people with depression for people with depression. The guide encourages people to take an active role in their care and to engage in shared decision-making with their health-care professionals.



## OUTPUTS



Access to Information



Guidelines/Toolkits



Patient-Informed



Partnerships

## METRICS

**+ 3000**  
Downloads

**350**  
Printed Copies  
Distributed

**+ 15K**  
Social Media  
Reach

# What's ON with our ONtrepreneurs?

April marked the 7th annual ONtrepreneurs competition with over 40 applicants. We can't wait to officially announce the 2018 ONtrepreneurs in October!

Congratulations to the **2017 ONtrepreneurs** who wrapped up their entrepreneurship training program in June. These 11 ONtrepreneurs were part of the largest cohort in the program's six year history. In less than a year, they have delivered some impressive results!

OUTPUTS		
 Portfolio Company Growth	 Follow-On Investments	 Partnerships
METRICS FOR 2017 ONTREPNEURS		
<b>\$3.7M</b> Follow-On Funds Raised	<b>73%</b> Raised Follow-On Funding	
<b>5</b> Intellectual Property Granted/Submitted	<b>17</b> Validation Trials	



Trexo Robotics won the **Hawk's Nest Pitch Competition**, **MIT Enterprise Forum Award** and was a **Canadian Innovation Awards** finalist.



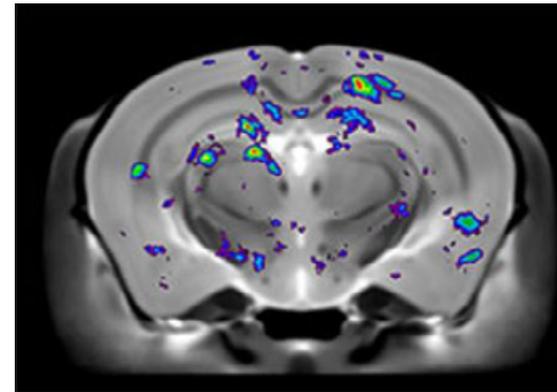
HiNT was a finalist in the **Lion's Lair Pitch competition** and placed third in the **SCI International competition**.



RetiSpec was a finalist in the **Hawk's Nest Pitch Competition**.

# Creating Infrastructure for Open Data in Neuroscience

Brain-CODE is a central database helping more than 240 researchers at over 40 institutions across Ontario to share their data. OBI and Indoc Research recently published a [journal article](#) about Brain-CODE in a special issue of Frontiers in Neuroinformatics. The publication highlights the capabilities of Brain-CODE's infrastructure to support collaborative research and open science initiatives across the neuroscience community. The goal is to build a platform with standardized data from different modalities across mental health and brain disorders to better understand overlapping mechanisms that could be important for treatment and care.



Data Modalities	Disorders					
	Cerebral Palsy	Epilepsy	Neurodevelopmental Disorders	Neurodegeneration	Depression	Other Brain Disorders
Neuroimaging						
Clinical						
Genomics						
Proteomics						
Other						

## OUTPUTS



Adoption of Brain-CODE Framework



Recognition of OBI Model

## METRICS

**+ 2000**  
Article Views

**+ 150**  
Downloads

Top 25% of  
all Research  
Outputs

More Views  
than 53% of  
all Frontier  
Articles

# Brain Exhibits Open in Ottawa



On May 18th, OBI's partnership with the Canadian Museum of Nature (CMN) was in full force with the opening of Brain: The Inside Story and Take Care of Your Brain, an interactive exhibit created by OBI and CMN on self-care to maximize brain health. As a knowledge sponsor, OBI was able to feature work done by the neuroscience community and provide a large public audience access to brain health experts including researchers, companies, and advocacy organizations.



## METRICS

## OUTPUTS

**+2400**  
Event Attendees

**29**  
Partners

**13**  
Media Pieces

**+55K**  
Social Media Reach



Access to Information



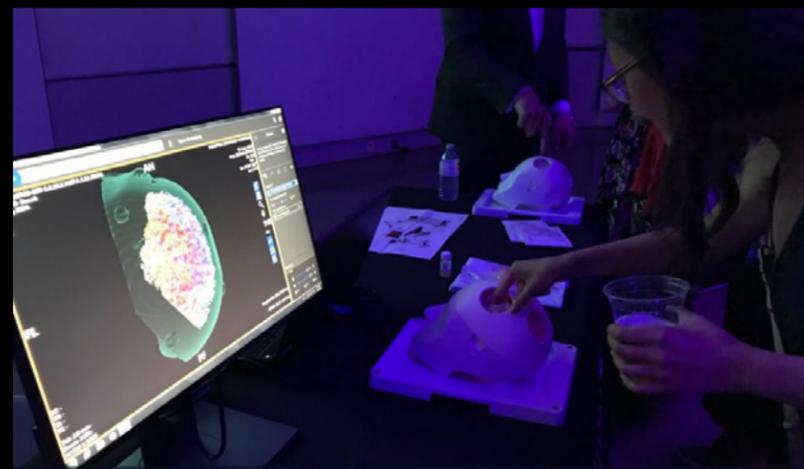
Media Coverage



Partnerships

## Nature Nocturne

OBI's partners set up interactive activities showcasing their neurotechnology at the Nature Nocturne event on May 25th and engaged with hundreds of people who came to the museum for an evening science social.



## Talk Brain Series

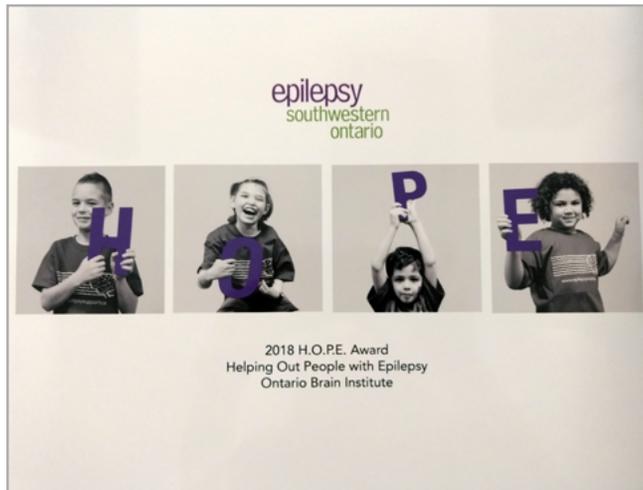
On June 21st, OBI hosted the first lecture of the Talk Brain series on Indigenous Culture and Connection to the Land with guest speaker Carol Hopkins, Executive Director of the Thunderbird Partnership Foundation, a leading authority on Indigenous addictions and mental wellness. This event shed insight on the importance of the land and how it connects to Indigenous culture and impacts mental health.



## Brain Bonanza

OBI brought together brain health non-profit organizations, university neuroscience outreach groups and industry partners for a weekend long program engaging visitors about mental health and brain disorders. Relive the moment [here](#).





**OUTPUTS**

  
**Advancing Knowledge**

  
**Patient-Informed**

# Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario and Toronto H.O.P.E. Award

OBI and [Eplink](#) received the H.O.P.E. (Helping Out People with Epilepsy) award from two epilepsy agencies: Epilepsy Southwestern Ontario and Epilepsy Toronto. The award recognized OBI's leadership in brain health in Canada and advancing epilepsy research. See the official announcement [here](#).

## Putting Brain Science in ParticipACTION

As a ParticipACTION partner, OBI helped shape the brain health information in the [2018 ParticipACTION Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth](#). This is the first time the report card includes an expert statement on physical activity and brain health in children and youth.

**OUTPUTS**

  
**Access to Information**

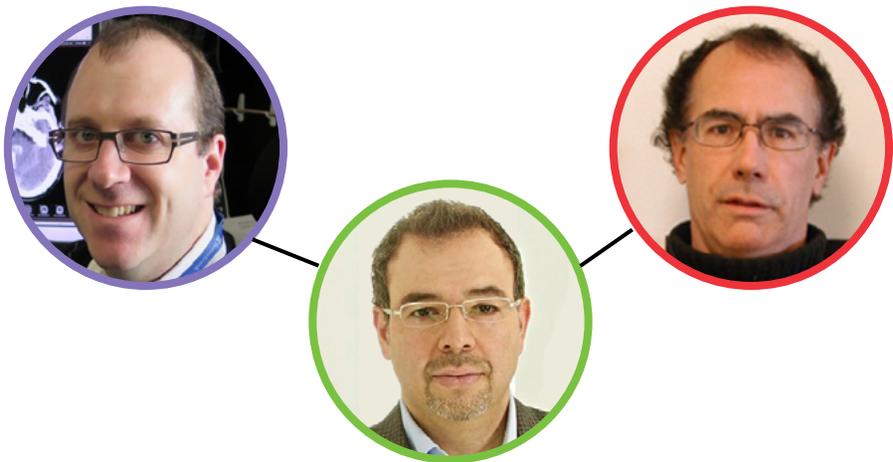
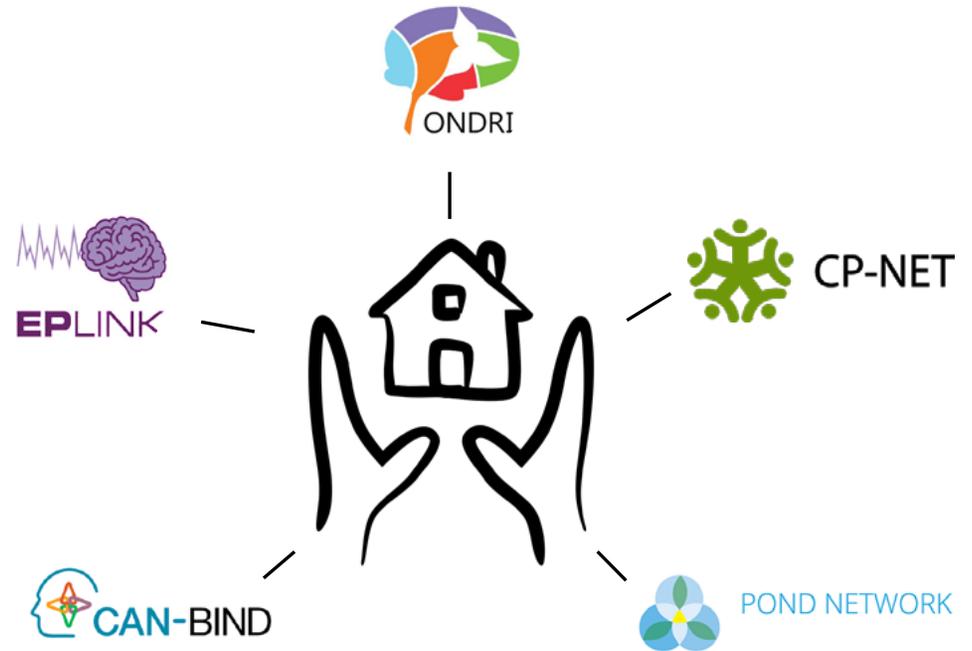
  
**Partnerships**

  
**Guidelines/Toolkits**



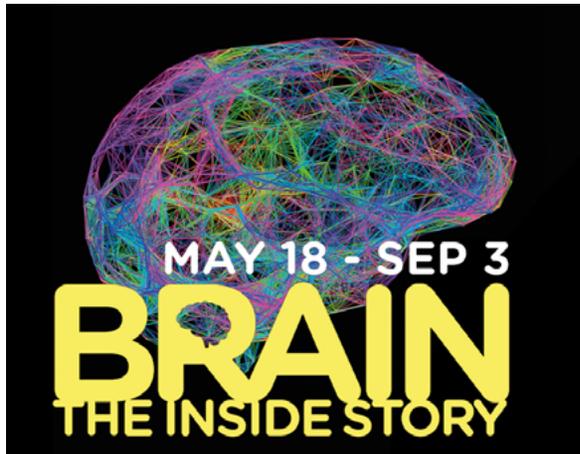
# The Next Chapter

Our successful five-year contract renewal with the provincial government will help us build on the success of our strong collaborations. This means we can move our projects towards engagement of the broader community where care is administered. Currently, we are renewing contracts (43 sites across 20 Ontario institutions) with our **Integrated Discovery Programs (IDPs)** and continuing to support **CONNECT**, a program that aims to be a global leader in concussion research and care.



New ideas and initiatives are already in motion under new leadership in a few of our IDPs including the Ontario Neurodegenerative Disease Research Initiative (L-R: Dr. Rick Swartz, Dr. Mario Masellis and Dr. Doug Munoz). They have started the ONDRI@Home program which will take the best biomarkers of neurodegenerative diseases from clinical research into scalable ones that can be used at home or in the community.

# In The Media



## Articles

- Deep, brainy thoughts on display at the Museum of Nature
- Brain: The Inside Story
- Dans les méandres du cerveau
- Museum of Nature investigates the human brain in major summer exhibition
- Brain: The Inside Story makes time disappear

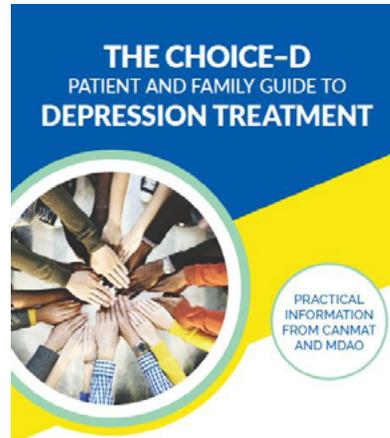
**Radio/Podcast:** Sur le Vif | CBC Ottawa Morning | Minding the Brain

**TV:** Rogers Entre Nous | Le Téléjournal | CBC



Measuring the impact of concussions caused by intimate partner violence

What a connection to the land means for Indigenous mental health



Depression guideline written "by patients for patients" a first for Canada



Five Healthtech Grants Available to Canadian Startups



How AI is helping to predict and prevent suicides