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

March
- OBI Public Talk
- CHOICE-D Guide

April
- ONtrepreneurs Competition

May
- Brain-CODE Publication
- Exhibition Opening
- Brain Bonanza
  - Talk Brain Series

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.

METRICS

122 Attendees
33 People Livestreamed
656 TVO Article Views
+20K Social Media Reach

OUTPUTS

Access to Information
Media Coverage
Partnerships
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.
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!

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.

**OUTPUTS**

**METRICS FOR 2017 ONTREPRENEURS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Portfolio Company Growth</th>
<th>Follow-On Investments</th>
<th>Partnerships</th>
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<tr>
<td>$3.7M Follow-On Funds Raised</td>
<td>73% Raised Follow-On Funding</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Intellectual Property Granted/Submitted</td>
<td>17 Validation Trials</td>
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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.
**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](#).
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.

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.
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