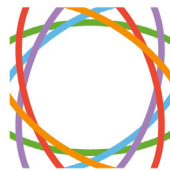


Brainnovations

Newsletter

Issue 12



**ONTARIO
BRAIN
INSTITUTE**

**INSTITUT
ONTARIEN
DU CERVEAU**

A Frame Of Mind

Using A Patient-Centered Approach

By: Tom Mikkelsen, President & Scientific Director

Our health system requires that we ensure our research is relevant to the needs of patients and their families/caregivers, while empowering and supporting patients as partners. Indeed research ought to be the standard-of-care with the goal of continuous improvement. Partnerships in this virtuous cycle of improvement will generate increased knowledge and tools for self-management of health and lead to better quality evidence that reaches the community faster.

The goal of biomedical research is ultimately to have some sort of beneficial impact to the population at large. Numerous studies, though, have demonstrated the long lag time between seminal discoveries and deployment and adoption as part of standard of care for many disorders.



CONTINUE READING...

Announcing Our 2018 ONtrepeneurs

This year, OBI is proud to be investing in **six early-stage ventures** to help accelerate their path to commercialization through access to funding, resources, and mentorship.



Kareem Ayyad

Cerebian is a software and wearable that enables communication for incapacitated individuals.



Elizabeth Audette-Bourdeau

Welbi is using artificial intelligence to reduce social isolation in retirement communities.



Morgan Rosenberg

Supports Health is an evidence-based platform to support the family of people with depression.



Jeff Perron

TruReach is a self-help platform for people with mild-to-moderate depression and anxiety.



Mohammad Ali Amini

Nanology Labs are a safe and smart MRI contrast agents for early detection of brain tumors.



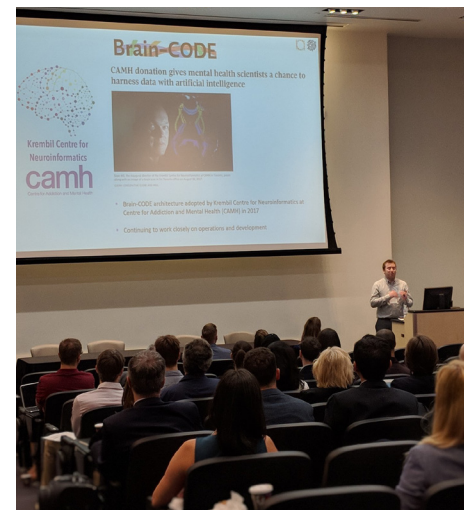
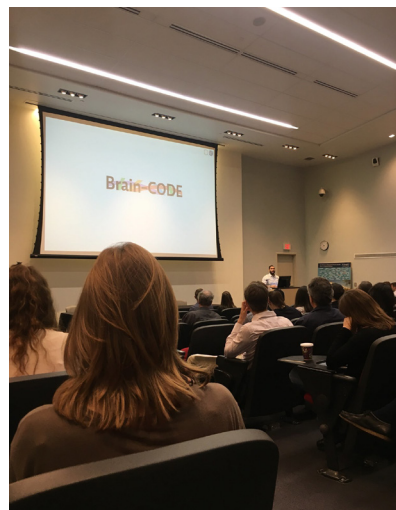
Shea Balish

Curv transforms cameras into diagnostic tools for assessing physical health such as Parkinson's disease.



Brain-CODE At The Machine Learning Symposium

The **Machine Learning Symposium** at McMaster University was a venue for expanding the current understanding of interactions between machine learning and brain health. OBI and the **Indoc Consortium** kicked off the symposium with a presentation on the neuroinformatics platform **Brain-CODE**. The presentation touched on the overall development of Brain-CODE with a keen focus on how it allows for collection of clinical, imaging, and molecular data. It also highlighted the importance of having a platform that can ensure high quality standardized data collection before the start of an analysis, an aspect particularly relevant for machine learning.



OUTPUTS



Adoption of Brain-CODE Framework



Recognition of OBI Model



Pairing Research & Technology Together For Autism

ONtrepreneur alumni Andrea Palmer, Founder and CEO at the [Awake Labs](#), recently announced their [partnership](#) with Dr. Azadeh Kushki at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, to bring new technology to the autism community. The [Anxiety Meter](#) brings technology and clinical care together, to help manage anxiety in autism. Awake Labs is integrating the Anxiety Meter with its platform [Reveal Stories](#), to ensure that care teams have access to the most up-to-date strategies. The pilot aims to empower people with autism and their trusted care teams by supporting them in identifying and addressing anxiety to improve quality of life. [POND](#) (OBI's neurodevelopmental disorders research program) is addressing research priorities from the [community](#) to speed up the development of new and more effective interventions.

OUTPUTS



Improved Diagnostics,
Interventions and
Treatments



Evidence-Informed
Community-Based
Interventions



Partnerships



Patients Help Steer Direction Of Neurodevelopmental Disorder Research

OBI partnered with the James Lind Alliance and POND to increase patient engagement in setting research priorities for neurodevelopmental disorders. After a year of consultation with individuals, families, caregivers and people living with brain disorders, OBI published a [report](#) that identified 10 key priorities which will guide future research and steer millions in funding in Ontario. Data from this project can be found on the Brain-CODE platform [here](#).



OUTPUTS



Access to Information



Patient-Informed




Partnerships

Bringing Together Brain Researchers, Patients & Family Members


On September 27th, OBI hosted its annual Patient Advisory Committee workshop where researchers, advocacy groups, patients and family members from all of our research programs came together to share their successes and challenges in the past year. This workshop allowed OBI to explore the needs of the patient community. It also provided an opportunity to gather feedback on a new program aimed at supporting community-based supports for people living with brain disorders.



OUTPUTS

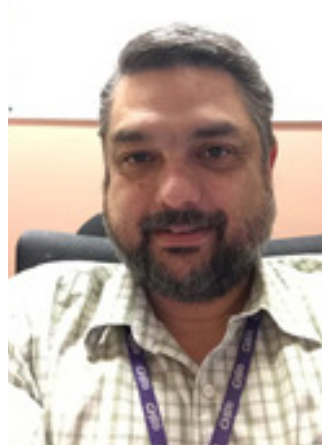


Access to Information



Patient-Informed



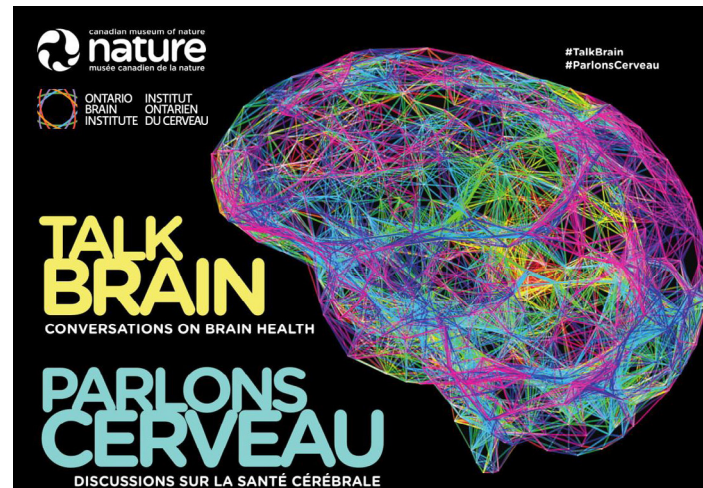


Putting Brain Research In The Spotlight

September marked the end of OBI’s five-month partnership with the Canadian Museum of Nature. In collaboration with the museum, five engaging events were planned, including four free public talks. The astounding number of participants who showed interest in learning about brain science is a testament to the significance of outreach partnerships as discussed in the [Healthy Debate article](#) by Dr. Kirk Nylen (Director of Knowledge Translation and Outreach).

The Talk Brain series in July and August featured (above left to right), Dr. Andrée-Annee Ledoux (Research Associate at Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario) who discussed her research in pediatric concussions; Dr. Pierre Blier (Director

of Mood Disorder Research at The Royal) and Dr. Erick Sell (Director of Angelman Syndrome Clinic at Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario) presented a talk called [Old Drugs, New Uses](#) and Dr. Gillian Einstein spoke about the link between estrogen and the brain.



OUTPUTS



Access to Information



Media Coverage



Partnerships

METRICS

586

Public Talk Attendees

56

People Livestreamed

174K

Exhibition Visitors

+ 25

Partners Engaged

Making Epilepsy Guidelines Accessible

OUTPUTS

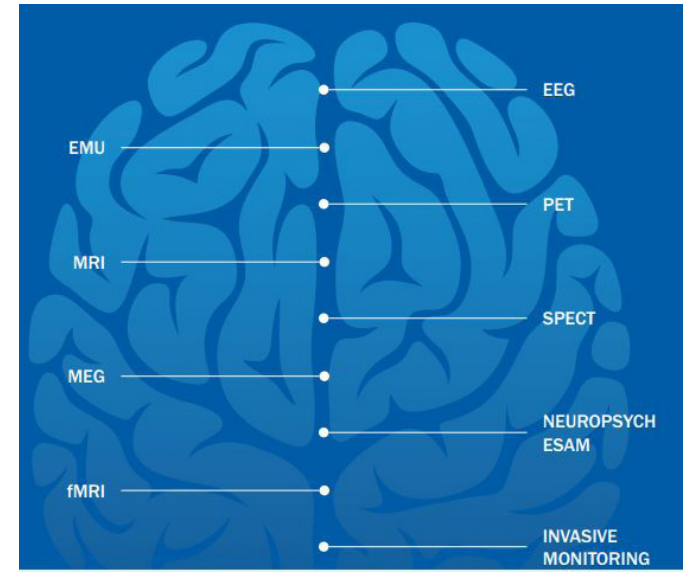


Access to
Information



Guidelines/
Toolkits

EpLink (OBI's epilepsy research program) developed a public version of Ontario's new epilepsy **guidelines** to encourage people with epilepsy and their families to become active partners in decisions about their own care. These evidence-based recommendations aim to improve the quality of care and access to different treatment options. To complement these guidelines, EpLink researcher Dr. Elysa Widjaja and senior neurodiagnostic technologist Rohit Sharma put together an **information booklet** to help parents navigate the different tests that may be required before their child's epilepsy surgery.



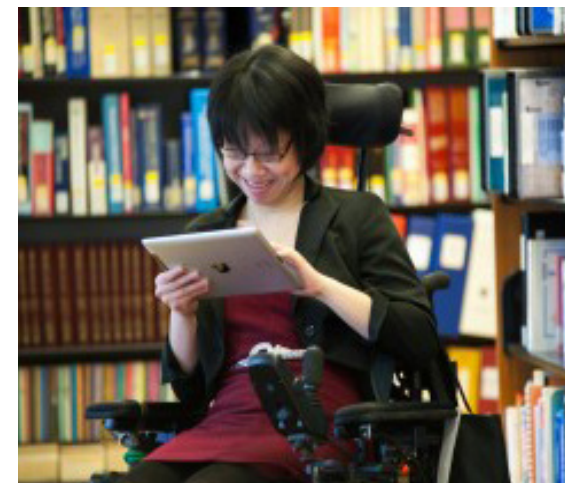
Improving The Transition To Adulthood For Young People With Cerebral Palsy

OUTPUTS



Advancing
Knowledge


Researchers at **CanChild** recently published a **review** on the needs of young people with cerebral palsy (CP) and their families during the transition to adulthood. The findings addressed the burden felt by individuals and their families when information is not available. Young people with CP and their families need information on what adult services are available and how to access those supports.




Keeping Your Brain Healthy

OBI partnered with Ontario Parks (Healthy Parks Healthy People) on their [30x30 Challenge](#) which encouraged everyone to be active outdoors for 30 minutes everyday for 30 days. The month-long social media campaign and [contest](#) was launched at the beginning of August and engaged hundreds of people to keep their brains healthy by being physically active outdoors.

OUTPUTS



Partnerships



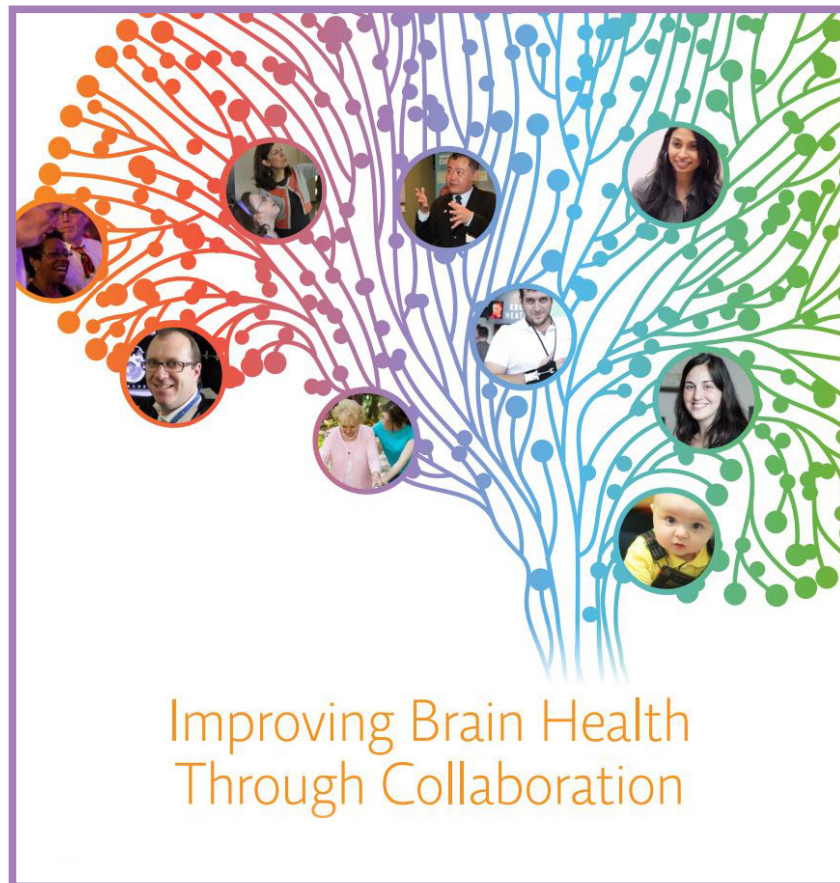
Media Coverage



Another Step Forward For Dravet Research

OBI and EpLink partnered with the [Dravet Walk](#) in Constance Bay on September 29th to raise awareness for Dravet Syndrome and support research for this rare but severe epilepsy in children. The event was a tremendous success and raised \$40K for Dravet research.

Achievements



OBI's annual report (2017/18) was published this summer. It highlights OBI's "Collaboration in Action" stories and the successes that result from OBI's role in supporting proactive, strategic and innovative partnerships. You can view the annual report [here](#).



The CHOICE-D Patient and Family Guide to Depression Treatment project won the [Paula Goering Collaborative Research and Knowledge Translation Award](#) in late July. This award recognizes an innovative researcher-knowledge user collaborative project in mental health and addictions.



OBI's former Vice-President of Research and Informatics, David Bogart received the [Lieutenant Governor's Medal of Distinction in Public Administration](#). This is Ontario's highest honour for public service. Congratulations David!



New Program Announcement

The **GEEK** (Growing Expertise in Evaluation and Knowledge Translation) program will provide funding, evaluation expertise and support to community-based programs for people living with brain disorders. GEEK supports the sustainability, scale or spread of these programs, to improve the quality and quantity of evidence-based care in the community.

Apply Now!

Application Deadline:
November 26, 2018

Register for the Information Webinar:
November 12, 2018

braininstitute.ca/geek

In The Media

- How we brought brain research to life for 160,000 people
- Brain: The Inside Story - Special exhibition at the Canadian Museum of Nature
- How old drugs can lead to new treatments for mental illness
- Minding the Brain Podcast
- 'BRAIN: The World Inside Your Head,' coming to TheMuseum in Kitchener
- Ontario Brain Institute report a 'road map' for next decade of neurodevelopmental disorder research
- Is my fungus going viral? Data privacy in healthcare
- Can Depression Be Diagnosed With A Blood Test?
- Unlocking the mysteries of dementia

- Age-Well, Canada's Technology and Aging Network, Makes Plans for a Bold Future
- The Ontario Brain Institute selects 6 neurotech start-ups for ONtrepreneurs program
- OBI announces winners of start-up awards
- Ottawa startup that aims to better serve seniors with socialization needs, secures \$50,000 grant
- Six neurotech startups receive \$50,000 from Ontario Brain Institute
- Welbi: The ground-breaking software that helps retirement communities
- CTV News - Supports Health Feature
- Ottawa health startup Welbi wins \$50K Ontario Brain Institute Award
- Startup serving seniors secures \$50,000 grant

Upcoming Events

November 15: Toronto ABI Network Conference

December 6: Concussion Symposium for Lawyers, Insurers, Judges and Clinicians

