

Join us in welcoming the newest members of the American Brain Coalition - the [Michael J. Fox Foundation](#) and the [University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute](#)!

Michael J. Fox Foundation

The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through an aggressively funded research agenda and to ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson's today.

Our Core Values

We are 100% patient-focused.

Our team works tirelessly every day with one urgent goal in mind: Accelerating breakthroughs patients can feel in their everyday lives. We strive to make progress in the following key areas by evaluating risk, opportunities, and challenges through a patient-focused lens:

- Speed treatments that can slow, stop or reverse the progression of Parkinson's disease
- Speed better treatments for the currently unaddressed or under-addressed symptoms of Parkinson's disease
- Speed treatments to address or avoid the debilitating side effects of current Parkinson's disease drugs

We are obsessed with efficiency.

We operate with a focused sense of optimistic urgency to find a cure for Parkinson's and to ensure the development of improved therapies for people living with Parkinson's today. We won't stop until a cure is found. We're on it.

We won't stop until a cure is found.

We take pride in all our accomplishments so far. But ultimately we have only one definition of success: Scientific solutions that produce tangible improvements in patients' lives.

We are risk-takers and problem-solvers.

From inception, MJFF has invested in high-risk, high-reward research targets; an approach that in 10 short years has transformed the broader approach in the PD research field.

Our model is different.

It is accepted practice among private disease research funders that the most important decisions – how to allocate donor-raised dollars – are made by external scientific advisors and boards. We bucked this model from day one in favor of building an in-house team of formally trained PhDs and business-trained project managers.

University of Pittsburgh Brain Institute

The Brain Institute's mission is to unlock the mysteries of normal and abnormal brain function and then translate discoveries into new approaches for overcoming brain disorders. The formula is simple: Basic science research enables discoveries that lead to treatments and cures. It is all about the science.

The Brain Institute provides a unifying structure and collaborative framework for the many diverse research units that make up the neuroscience community at Pitt. The workings of the nervous system and its disorders cannot be understood using a single level of analysis, experimental technique or scientific discipline. Instead, brain research requires multiple levels of analysis from molecular and cellular approaches to whole systems and behavioral analysis. Insights come from multiple scientific disciplines ranging from basic neuroscience to bioengineering, computer science and robotics. Furthermore, major advances in the treatment of neurological disorders are often the result of significant collaborations between basic scientists and clinicians. Pitt has all the elements in place to meet the challenges of performing high-impact brain research.



IN THE NEWS

- The [Society for Neuroscience](#) president Holly Cline wrote an [op-ed](#) about investment in brain research, and why it is essential for the US to keep the momentum going.
- Attached is the recent 'Reliable and Effective Growth for Regenerative Health Options that Improve Wellness' ([REGROW](#)) Letter. We urge you to sign on and distribute it.
- It is with deep sadness that the American Society of Clinical Psychopharmacology (ASCP) announces the death of Dr. Paul Wender. Dr. Wender was a founding member of the ASCP and known as the "Dean of ADHD" by his colleagues.
- The Parkinson's Disease Foundation recently [announced](#) \$500,000 in grant funding and has urged scientists to address key unmet needs in the patient community.
- Read about [Dr. Dylan Gee](#) - an assistant professor at Yale University who is bridging the gap between basic neuroscience and clinical interventions to treat children and adolescents with persistent anxiety and stress-related disorders.
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) is interested in gathering information from researchers conducting or interested in conducting research on marijuana and marijuana products. Find more about this project [here](#).
- Read the recent [One Mind Update](#) about recent meetings on traumatic brain injury and a personal story about depression.
- In partnership with [StoryCorps](#), the NIH has started a national oral history project to capture and preserve the stories of those connected with the extensive and diverse NIH community. You can read stories [here](#).
- In a NIH-funded study, researchers have [mapped](#) 180 distinct areas in our brain's outer mantle, or cortex - more than twice the number previously known. Another study has [identified](#) brain circuits that help people cope with stress.
- In a [recent study](#), an NIH-funded team of researchers has begun to bring a map of the human brain into much sharper focus.
- In the most recent [Center for Brain Health](#) update, read about [benefits of physical and mental exercises](#), the [effect of long-term marijuana](#) on the brain's reward circuit, and how [training](#) can help those with mild cognitive impairment.
- A [recent study](#) showed that treatment with immune-regulating gut bacteria may boost immune system against stress.
- Read about the [innovative approaches](#) to make organs and other large volumes of tissue transparent when viewed with standard light microscopy, and how they can improve treatment.

FOR AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION MEMBERS

- [Register](#) for a webinar sponsored by the [International Bipolar Foundation](#) entitled 'How Does it Feel to Live With Bipolar? Lonely!' to be held on August 10, 2016.
- [Register](#) for a webinar entitled 'Update on Cancer Drug Nilotinib for Parkinson's Disease' sponsored by the [Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research](#) to be held on August 2, 2016.
- [Register](#) for the fifth annual BIO Patient and Health Advocacy Summit to be held in November 2016 in Washington, DC.
- The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) is announcing an interactive, in-person workshop entitled 'Partnering with Patients on CDRH's Research Agenda for Assistive and/or Neurostimulation Devices'. You can find more details [here](#).
- The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) has announced various awards for their [Annual meeting](#) to be held in December 2016 in Florida. Click [here](#) for more details.
- Get involved in the unparalleled explorations that the [Center for Brain Health](#) has undertaken by participating in [#MyBrainHealthMatters](#), the [BrainHealth Research Study](#) and by [signing up](#) for their newsletter.
- Check out the [Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for the 2017 Anxiety and Depression Conference to be held in April 2017 in San Francisco. Contact [Mary Duckett](#) at 240-485-1031 if you have questions.
- Advance [registration](#) and [housing](#) are open for the Society for Neuroscience's (SfN) annual meeting - a great venue for enriching your scientific knowledge and professional development in the field.
- [Register](#) for the 2016 Fall Psychopharmacology meeting to be held in October 2016 in New York.
- Register for two upcoming webinars on [autism](#) and [ADHD](#) sponsored by the [Brain and Behavior Research Foundation](#).
- Register for the [4th World Parkinson Congress](#) to be held in Portland, Oregon in September 2016.