Finding answers about brain disease
The Need is Urgent

• More than 50 million Americans suffer have a neurologic disorder – that’s one in six of us

• AD, Parkinson’s Disease, Huntington’s, Traumatic Brain Injury, Serious Mental Illness…and the list goes on.

• It’s going to get worse

• Shortages will slow progress – breakthroughs are desperately needed – there is no substitute
The Science of Supporting Science

• Support the NeuroBioBank of the NIH in its efforts to supply neurologic investigators with high-quality, well-characterized donated human brain tissue.

• Focus is on raising awareness of the critical need for donated brain tissue and on simplifying the process to donate upon death.

• We function as a conduit to the brain banks within the NBB.
The Science of Supporting Science

The most precious resource urgently needed for neuroscience is yours to give.
FAQ

Why should I donate my brain to neurological research?

Who may donate?

What is a brain bank?

Do I need to have a brain disorder to become a donor?

No. To ensure research is thorough, it is extremely important that scientists have access to donated brain tissue from people who did not have brain diseases. This is known as control tissue and it is crucial that scientists compare it directly with tissue from a person with a neurological diagnosis to determine differences.

Do I have to pre-register to be a donor?

What is the process to register to donate my brain?

What needs to happen when I die so that my brain donation takes place?
Start the Process
Thank you.

Thank you for taking the first step toward donating your brain for scientific research. Here are the next steps:

1. Be on the lookout for a phone call or email (whichever you indicated you’d prefer) from one of the brain banks in the NIH NeuroBank. You will be contacted within ten business days and provided additional information.
2. Complete the consent, release and authorization forms provided and return as directed.
3. Keep copies of the information in a safe place along with any other end-of-life documents and make sure your next of kin and/or executor knows your wishes.
4. Talk to your family and friends about this decision you’ve made and consider asking them to look into it.
5. If you’d like, let them know publicly, by posting to Facebook or Twitter using the buttons below.
6. Help get the word out by making a financial contribution to the Brain Donor Project.
How does it work upon death?

- Family member notifies the brain bank.
- Body is transported to local facility where brain is removed.
- Brain is shipped to brain bank.
- Body released to family for funeral or cremation.
We learned the hard way
Who’s Signing Up?

• More than 7500 sign-ups
• About a third are controls
• Ages from 4 mos to 104 yrs
• All 50 states
• More than 140 categories of neuro disorders
MORE BRAINS MAKE RESEARCH POSSIBLE

PHOTOGRAPH BY REBECCA NALE

Brains are in short supply. Neuroscientists need brain tissue of all types to study the diseases that affect more than 15 percent of people in the world. Enter Tish Havel. In 2015, after Hevel’s father died from Lewy body dementia, her family wanted to offer his brain for research—but knew that it would take much more than an organ donor card. The experience inspired Hevel to create the Brain Donor Project “to raise awareness of the critical need” and make enrolling easier for would-be donors. Nearly two years in, more than 2,000 people have signed up. —LORI CUTHBERT

MAPPING DIVERSITY ACROSS AMERICA

ANNE LAMOTT ON THE POWER OF HOPE

REVISITING THE LESSONS OF JAPANESE INTERNMENT

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

“Who’s going to fight for the isolated ones, if not us?”

TAHAKY TURRENTI

AND FOREST GUARDIAN

LAST TRIBES

OF THE EARTH

10.2018
Questions?