

Vol 14 No.2 Summer 2013

Discover!

news from the Brain Research Foundation

60 Years Igniting Innovation



Don't miss our sixty 60th Anniversary Banners that will be installed in Chicago's downtown this fall! These beautifully designed banners are sure to catch your eye while heightening awareness of the BRF in the Chicagoland area.

We've also adapted our logo to promote this milestone event. Our theme, "60 Years Igniting Innovation," is featured on both the banners and our 60th Anniversary logo.

In 1953, neurologist Dr. Frederic Gibbs organized a group of doctors to form the Brain Research Foundation (BRF). His vision was to support a "brain institute" for the unified research, treatment and training of experts in disorders of the brain. This would become the first foundation of its kind in the world, funding the best and brightest scientists to foster leading-edge research to study the brain. Although his focus was epilepsy, Dr. Gibbs recognized that discoveries about how the brain and nervous system function would eventually lead to understanding the many diseases that result when they are compromised.

The William E. Fay, Jr. and Clinton E. Frank families became an integral part of Dr. Gibbs' vision when they sought his help for their daughters who suffered from seizures. Their passion for the BRF, combined with their business acumen and community outreach, paved the way for the Foundation to support revolutionary ideas and serve as a catalyst for future discoveries.

Sixty years later, the Foundation continues the mission that was set forth in 1953—to focus on brain research that is disease neutral and dedicated to moving science closer to finding answers that will one day lead to preventions and cures.

As we celebrate our 60th Anniversary this year, we want to take a moment to thank all of our friends, donors, scientists, Trustees and supporters who have shown their commitment to neuroscience and faith in the Brain Research Foundation over these past six decades. Your support is not only responsible for our success and longevity, but more importantly, it has helped us move closer to the prevention and treatment of neurological diseases. We hope that in our lifetime we will be able to add the word "cures."



**Brain Research
Foundation 1953-2013**

60 YEARS IGNITING INNOVATION

In this issue:	
Dear Friends	page 2
Foundation Forward	page 3
BRF Lab Notes	page 4
Associate Board News	page 6
Prairie State Cycling Series	page 7
2013 Discovery Dinner	page 8

Dear Friends,

Board of Trustees of the Brain Research Foundation

William E. Fay, Jr., *Chairman Emeritus*
Nathan Hansen, *President*
Norman R. Bobins, *Vice President*
David H. Fishburn, *Treasurer*
Richard M. Kohn, *Secretary*
Terre A. Constantine, Ph.D.,
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Bennett L. Leventhal, M.D.
John D. Mabie
Robert C. Malenka, M.D., Ph.D.
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Suzanne M. K. Moskow
Peter B. Pond
Thomas A. Reynolds III
Mary H. Smart
Katherine A. Thompson



I am very pleased to tell you that this year the Brain Research Foundation celebrates 60 years of supporting innovative neuroscience research.

I am so proud to be leading a foundation that, for six decades, has successfully executed its mission to advance discoveries that will lead to novel treatments and the prevention of all neurological diseases. Our signature program, the BRF Seed Grant Program, invests in promising research that will help us understand the brain. It is risk capital for untested ideas and it is these revolutionary ideas that will eventually produce astounding breakthroughs.

This year the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was cut 5%—this amounts to \$1.55 billion that will not be available to fund critical scientific research.

Since 1981, we have funded \$10.2 million in Seed Grants. Our grantees have used this funding to answer questions and generate new data to secure additional outside grant funding of over \$200 million. This is an incredible 1:20 return on investment! But an ROI isn't our only goal; we are looking for answers. As we support these projects more and more answers will come.

Dr. Hande Ozdinler from Northwestern University is an example of one of the amazing scientists we have been so pleased to fund over the years. Dr. Ozdinler's recent discovery, which was funded in part by a BRF Seed Grant, identified for the first time a gene that's present in both motor neurons in the brain and spinal cord that may explain why these neurons break down in ALS. This research offers hope for those who are suffering from this devastating disease.

More now than ever, private funding of neuroscience is extremely vital to jumpstart pilot research projects that will advance our understanding of brain function. While the federal government is the largest funder of scientific research, its budget is still far less than needed. This year is no exception. In fact, due to the Sequestration, the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was cut 5% or \$1.55 billion. This means that medical breakthroughs will likely be delayed. Not only will hundreds of grants not be funded, budgets of grants that are currently funded will be decreased.

Your support does make a difference. It accelerates the funding of neuroscience research to hasten the cure of neurological disorders. The BRF will continue our mission until the most complex organ of the body—the brain—is understood.

I hope this newsletter inspires you to continue to donate to a cause that affects us all, and that you are as proud as I am of the work we have done together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terre A. Constantine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Terre A. Constantine, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Foundation Forward

Donor Appreciation Event

Almost 50 donors and friends of the BRF gathered at The Casino in Chicago for our first Donor Appreciation event on Tuesday, June 11th. Hosted by Trustee Kathryn Johnson, the event celebrated the many wonderful supporters who make the Brain Research Foundation such a vibrant and successful organization. The BRF's 60-year legacy would not be possible without the commitment of our dedicated friends and champions. Two past BRF Seed Grant recipients spoke briefly about how the funding they received from the Foundation has dramatically shaped their future research and advancements in neuroscience.

If you were not able to attend this reception, we hope to see you at a BRF event in the near future. For more information on how to be a part of to this and future events, please contact our Development Director at sdipasquale@theBRF.org.



Trustees Richard Kohn and Susan Moran with Joan Kohn.



Mary Galvin with Sarah and Jim Taich and Trustee Mary Smart

California Fundraiser

In perfect alignment with the Foundation funding research nationwide, we were thrilled to receive a phone call from a new supporter in California asking us to be the beneficiary of a fundraiser that she was hosting. Over 50 guests attended a reception at the home of Lauren Meltzer outside of San Francisco. The evening raised over \$3,000. We are thrilled that we have new friends from across the nation supporting us here in Chicago, and thank Lauren and her co-host, Katherine Heidel, for their excellent efforts and wonderful philanthropy. There are many ways to contribute to the BRF, and together we can make a real difference in the research and study of the various neurological diseases that impact all of our lives in some way.

Did You Know?

Instead of making one or two gifts a year, you can now sign up for automatic deductions! Visit the BRF website and fill out the online giving form or call Development Director Sandra DiPasquale at 312.759.5157. We deeply appreciate those donors who sign up for automatic deductions, as it shows us that they are truly committed to our mission and faithful supporters of the work we do.

With your help, the Brain Research Foundation continues to grow, bringing us closer to unravelling the mysteries of the brain. We thank you for your support and encourage you to help us spread the word about the important work we're doing.

Ways of Giving

There are several ways in which donors can participate in the work of the Brain Research Foundation.

Direct Gifts Contributions are accepted in the form of cash, check, credit card, and stock.

Matching Gifts If you work for one of the growing number of companies that has a Matching Gift Program, the amount of your gift could be multiplied. Please check with your Human Resources Office to see if your company offers this benefit.

Planned Giving Long-term estate and financial planning can enable you to make a substantial contribution to the Brain Research Foundation. Examples of planned gifts include: bequests, life insurance policies, charitable remainder trusts, charitable lead trusts, and charitable gift annuities.

Memorial and Honorary Gifts

You can make a donation in memory of someone or give a gift in honor of a special person.

For more information call the BRF at 312.759.5150 or visit us at www.theBRF.org.

2013 Seed Grant Recipients

Brian Y. Chow, Ph.D.

*Department of Bioengineering,
University of Pennsylvania*

Non-invasive optogenetic engineering of cortical dynamics
Areas of research: Autism, epilepsy, schizophrenia

Stephanie C. Dulawa, Ph.D.

*Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neuroscience,
The University of Chicago*

Functional characterization of genes associated with obsessive compulsive disorder using mouse models
Area of research: Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD)

Xin Jin, Ph.D.

*Department of Molecular Neurobiology Laboratory,
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies*

Optogenetic dissection of the striatal subcircuits during action sequence learning
Areas of research: Huntington's disease, OCD, Parkinson's disease

Pascal S. Kaeser, M.D.

*Department of Neurobiology,
Harvard University*

Activity-induced adaptations in the molecular machines that control neurotransmitter release
Areas of research: Autism, schizophrenia

Aimee W. Kao, M.D., Ph.D.

*Department of Neurology,
University of California, San Francisco*

Progranulin deficiency and neuronal-microglial interactions in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disease
Area of research: Alzheimer's disease

Matthew J. Kennedy, Ph.D.

*Department of Pharmacology,
University of Colorado*

Controlling synaptic function with light
Areas of research: Alzheimer's disease, autism, schizophrenia

Yingxi Lin, Ph.D.

*Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

A systems biology approach to identify transcription regulatory networks in healthy and diseased neurons
Area of research: Autism

Qin Liu, Ph.D.

*Department of Anesthesiology,
Washington University in St. Louis*

The molecular and neural basis of itch sensation
Area of research: Itch perception

Axel Nimmerjahn, Ph.D.

*Department of Biophotonics,
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies*

The role of astrocyte-neuron communication in normal brain function and mental disorder
Area of research: Schizophrenia

Debra L. Silver, Ph.D.

*Department of Molecular Genetics and Microbiology,
Duke University*

Distal mRNA localization and translation in neural stem cells during mammalian cortical development
Areas of research: Autism, intellectual disability
Associate Board Seed Grant

Yongli Zhang, Ph.D.

*Department of Cell Biology,
Yale University*

Structures, stabilities, and formation kinetics of amyloid beta precursors and oligomers
Area of research: Alzheimer's disease

Zhaolan (Joe) Zhou, Ph.D.

*Department of Genetics,
University of Pennsylvania*

Epigenetic control of experience-dependent neural plasticity
Areas of research: Neural Plasticity, neurodevelopment

Scientific Review Committee

Sangram S. Sisodia, Ph.D.

SRC Chair
*Department of Neurobiology,
The University of Chicago*

Ted Abel, Ph.D.

*Department of Biology,
University of Pennsylvania*

Scott T. Brady, Ph.D.

*Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology,
University of Illinois at Chicago*

Judy L. Cameron, Ph.D.

*Department of Psychiatry,
University of Pittsburgh*

John F. Disterhoft, Ph.D.

*Department of Physiology,
Northwestern University*

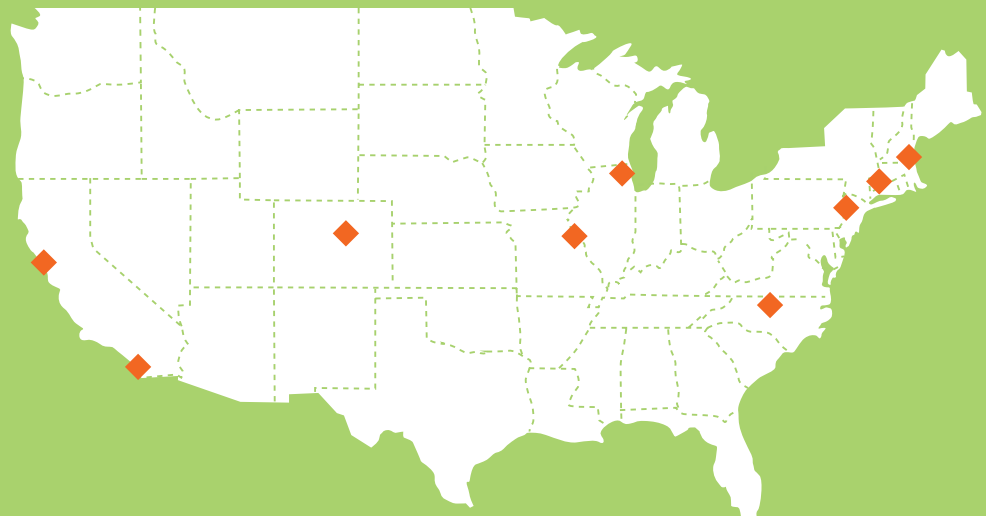
Daniel A. Peterson, Ph.D.

*Department of Neuroscience,
Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science*

John L.R. Rubenstein, M.D., Ph.D.

*Department of Psychiatry,
University of California, San Francisco*

This year, the BRF is excited to have expanded our Seed Grant Program nationwide. We received extraordinary proposals and our 12 Seed Grant winners span the country from coast to coast. With your help, we hope to fund even more groundbreaking projects in the upcoming years.



BRF Associate Board News

BRF Associate Board Executive Committee

Jennifer E. Falconer, *Chair*
Julie A. Schultz, *Vice Chair*
Graham V. Bayly, *Treasurer*
Michele M. Haynes, *Secretary*

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Katherine Booth
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Ryan A. Cordier
Liza Dorsey
Stacy J. Flanigan
L. Tracy Foote
Adam C. Gilgis
A. Victoria Johnson
Nekesa Josey
Michael C. Kasdin
Amy Kaskie
Kelli M. Kluga
Colby McVey
Whitney L. Morgan
Eric S. Newmark
John S. Nicholson
Yezi Peng
Tina M. Plechaty
William B. Rao
Paul S. Rashid
Andrew Swigart
Elizabeth A. Wolcott

Associate Board at Large

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Lua M. Clark
Peter G. Glick
Jennifer E. Hobbs, Ph.D.
Matthew H. Johnson
Patrick M. Peterman
Arielle Saporta
Brian Vereb

The dynamic and diverse Associate Board of the Brain Research Foundation is a group of young professionals committed to making a positive difference in the lives of children with brain disorders. In order to help fund cutting-edge neuroscience research and educational programs, the Board hosts several educational and fundraising events that build awareness about the importance of supporting research for diseases of the brain in children.

Healthy Children, Healthy Brains

On Wednesday, May 1st the Associate Board hosted a lecture by BRF Trustee Dr. Bennett Leventhal at the Robert Healy Elementary School in Chicago. The informative discussion focused on children and adolescent brain disorders including ADHD, aggressive behavior, autism, anxiety, bullying, depression and eating disorders. Dr. Bennett Leventhal is the Deputy Director at the Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research.

The lecture was free and open to the public, and highlights the many wonderful education initiatives that the Associate Board undertakes to fulfill their mission: to raise awareness about neuroscience research focused on children. For more information on these and other free and educational events, please contact the BRF office at info@theBRF.org or call 312.759.5150.



Associate Board Members Julie Schultz (AB Vice Chair), Jennifer Falconer (AB Chair) and Amy Kaskie with Bennett L. Leventhal, MD.

6th Annual White Sox Event

On Tuesday, May 21st the Associate Board set a record by selling 750 tickets to the White Sox vs. Red Sox game. Sections 158 and 159 in U.S. Cellular Field were filled with BRF board members, donors and friends, all committed to a White Sox win and supporting neuroscience research. The White Sox beat the Red Sox 3-1, just as the rain started to fall.

Once again Jennifer Falconer, Associate Board Chair led the sales streak by selling an amazing 124 tickets! To everyone who came out to support the BRF Associate Board and the Foundation, we send our sincerest thanks.

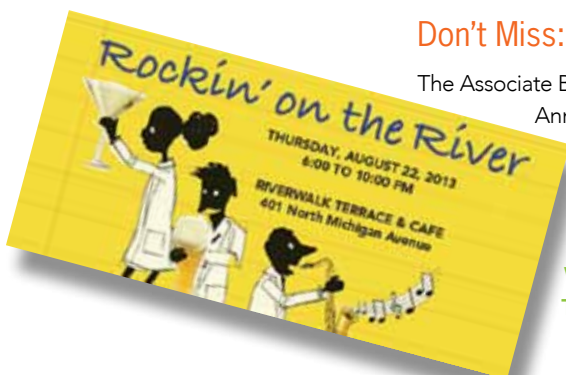


Don't Miss: The 4th Annual Rockin' on the River

The Associate Board invites you to their annual fundraiser, Rockin' on the River, celebrating the BRF's 60th Anniversary. Join us for a night of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dancing to the fantastic One Night Band. All this plus amazing raffle prizes and silent auction items await you on a lovely summer evening at a beautiful location right on the Chicago River.

- When** Thursday, August 22nd
Where Riverwalk Terrace and Café
Tickets To purchase your \$75 ticket, please visit the website www.theBRF.org. All tickets must be purchased in advance.

Questions? Please call the BRF office at 312.759.5150 or find us on Facebook and post your questions or comments. All proceeds will benefit the Brain Research Foundation.



Prairie State Cycling Series/ Intelligentsia Cup

Sustaining a simple exercise regimen from young adulthood through our latter years is perhaps the most powerful tool we have to fend off cognitive decline, like Alzheimer's disease, that debilitate an aging population. Biking is just one enjoyable way to accomplish this.

The BRF is partnering with PSCS to help build awareness of the positive effects of exercise and will also offer guidance about fitting helmets properly and the critical importance of helmet safety. We look forward to seeing you at the races!

The Brain Research Foundation (BRF) and Prairie State Cycling Series are partnering in the 2013 cycling series in the Chicago area to promote key educational initiatives around brain health. The series will be in eight locations throughout the area over two weeks in July and is expected to draw substantial crowds of spectators and participants.

Our support of the cycling series aligns with our educational initiative relating to delaying cognitive decline. "Sustaining an exercise regimen from young adulthood through our latter years is perhaps the most simple and powerful tool we have to fend off cognitive decline, like Alzheimer's, that debilitate an aging population," states Terre A. Constantine, Ph.D., Executive Director of BRF, "Biking is an activity that people of all ages can do so it is a natural fit for BRF to participate in the series. We were very pleased to learn how passionate Prairie State Cycling Series leadership is about promoting these issues."

In addition to our exercise education efforts BRF will promote proper helmet use among series attendees through demonstrations by BRF staff, offer proper helmet fitting, and provide information about the important research that BRF funds.

"These competitive men and women racing around the course in their helmets are terrific role models," continued Constantine. "And yes, for those of us recreational riders, falls do happen while 'just going to the corner or up the street' in our neighborhoods, but concussions can be prevented and head injuries minimized. With the help of Prairie State Cycling Series we will reinforce that message during the series."

"We are proud to partner with the BRF to promote a healthy lifestyle and keep our kids safe and concussion-free," states Marco Colbert, Executive Director of Prairie State Cycling Series. "Coaches teach helmet safety to football and baseball players every season, yet our children are riding their bikes, often unprotected, on concrete! Together we can help change that and bring those messages to our bike race fans."

Stop by and visit the BRF tent in Chicago, Crystal Lake, Beverly, Elmhurst, Lake Bluff and St. Charles. For more information about the cycling series, visit <http://www.prairiestatecyclingseries.com>.

Visit the BRF tent at these races:

Chicago

Saturday July 13
10:50 am - 6:30 pm
GPS location: 1850 W. Fulton St.
Chicago

Crystal Lake

Sunday July 14
9:00 am - 4:30 pm
GPS location: Raue Center,
26 N. Williams
Crystal Lake

Beverly

Thursday July 18
4:40 pm - 6:30 pm
GPS location: 107th & Longwood Dr.
Chicago

Elmhurst

Friday July 19
10:50 am - 6:30 pm
GPS location: Wilder Mansion,
211 South Prospect Ave.
Elmhurst

Lake Bluff

Saturday July 20
10:50 am - 6:30 pm
GPS location: 113 E. Scranton Ave.
Lake Bluff

St. Charles

Sunday July 21
8:50 am - 5:00 pm
GPS location: Sammy's Bike Shop,
602 S. 1st Street
St. Charles



111 West Washington Street
Suite 1710
Chicago, Illinois 60602

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Brain Research Foundation, please
call 312.759.5150 or visit our
website at www.theBRF.org

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brainresearchfoundation](http://www.facebook.com/brainresearchfoundation)

<https://twitter.com/TheBRF>



II.5.13 60th Anniversary Discovery Dinner

Please save the date of Tuesday, November 5th so that you can join us at the Ritz-Carlton Chicago for our annual Discovery Dinner. We look forward to celebrating six decades of our Foundation with our valued friends and supporters whose commitment to neuroscience research has sustained us over these many years. Co-chaired by Suzanne M. Kopp-Moskow & Michael Moskow and Alicia & Peter Pond, the evening promises to be a lovely commemoration of 60 years of extraordinary advancements in neuroscience. We are thrilled to have founding board member, William E. Fay, Jr. as our Honorary Co-Chair. Tickets start at \$500 and tables start at \$5,000. If you are interested in tickets or sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sandra DiPasquale at 312.759.5157 or sdipasquale@theBRF.org.