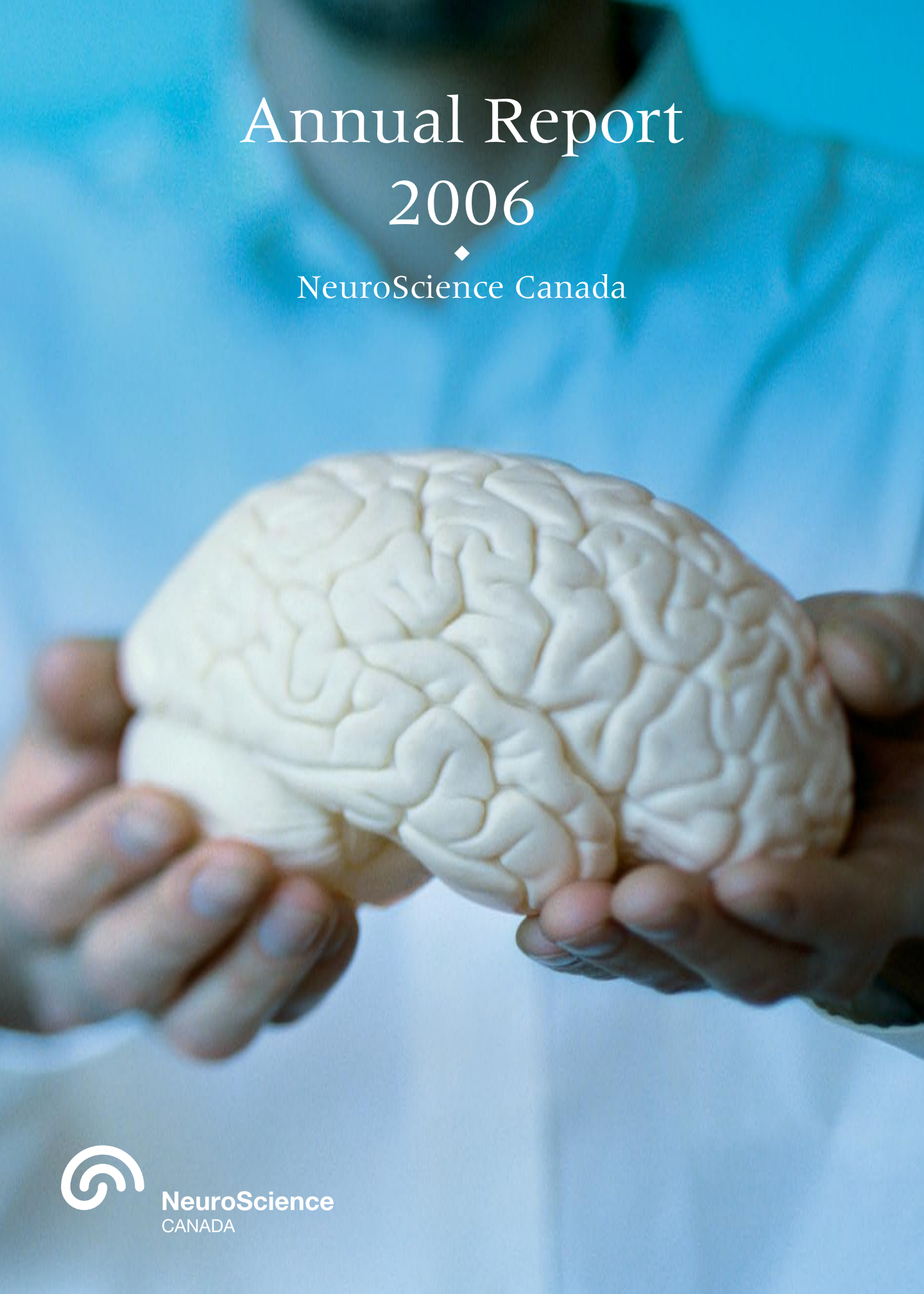
Annual Report 2006

NeuroScience Canada



NeuroScience
CANADA

Annual Report 2006

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NeuroScience Canada

NeuroScience Canada (NSC) is a national non-profit organization that develops and supports collaborative, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional research across the neurosciences. Through partnering with the public, private and voluntary sectors, NeuroScience Canada connects the knowledge and resources available in this area to accelerate neuroscience research and funding and maximize the output of Canada's world-class scientists and researchers. In 2006, NeuroScience Canada received The Conference Board of Canada/Spencer Stuart National Awards in Governance award for the non-profit sector.

*NeuroScience Canada represents the functional integration of the NeuroScience Canada Partnership and NeuroScience Canada Foundation.

NeuroScience
CANADA

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Partnership Registration Number: 86870 6326 RR0001
Foundation Registration Number: 89105 2094 RR0001

Highlights

- Reached our $11.5-million National Brain Repair Fund Campaign goal
- Provided $1.5 million to three Brain Repair Program™ teams, enabling them to fast-track their research and make breakthrough discoveries
- Launched second Brain Repair Program™ competition to select the final two teams of our program objective
- Awarded fifth Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research, in partnership with the Barbara Turnbull Foundation and Canadian Institutes of Health Research–Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA)
- Developed a Strategic Communications Plan to raise awareness about the prevalence and impact of brain and nervous system disorders, and the need to increase neuroscience research funding, with governments and the general public
- Redesigned and redeveloped our website
- Recruited three new Directors: Mark R. Bruneau, Michael J. L. Kirby and Lawrence (Larry) Tanenbaum; Elected Mr. Kirby Chair in May 2007

Mission

NeuroScience Canada aims to be:

- The pre-eminent private source of funds in Canada to support neuroscience research capacity building within multi-disciplinary research programs;
- A leader in neuroscience research strategic planning and a major partner with the public sector and voluntary health organizations in developing and supporting the neuroscience research agenda; and
- An important voice for innovative neuroscience research as a public good.

Message from the Chair and the President


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It is estimated that one in three Canadians will be impacted by a brain or nervous system disorder. Research is the best hope for discovering treatments and cures for these devastating conditions.

Canada is a world leader in neuroscience research: a model for the value we place in partnership and collaboration, and for our ability to stretch limited resources as far as possible to get the most output from every dollar. Such an efficient model means that we join the efforts of many for the collective good, and in so doing, reduce duplication and eliminate silos. Three years ago, NeuroScience Canada launched our signature Brain Repair Program, to fund multidisciplinary, multi-institutional teams of Canadian researchers. We have already seen remarkable results—important discoveries beginning after the first year of funding, and continuing through the second. This is just a glimpse of what is possible.

NeuroScience Canada has recognized that if we want to make the greatest difference in advancing Canadian neuroscience research, we must go beyond funding our own program. We must raise the sights of all Canadians, by showcasing the world-class research in this country and our potential to contribute even more to the global effort to understand the brain and nervous system. We must make Canadians aware of the prevalence of brain and nervous system disorders, and their impact on individuals, families, the healthcare system, the economy and on society overall. We must create a sense of urgency so that these disorders receive the appropriate level of public attention and priority for funding.

Consider the fact that 90 per cent of what we know about the brain and nervous system was discovered in the last 15 years. If we could provide sufficient operating grants to all of our best and most promising researchers, to enable them to fully utilize the investments in infrastructure and salaries that have been made across the country–a complete understanding of this most mysterious organ would be well within reach.

Research is an iterative, long-term process. But it is our hope for improving and extending lives, for curing devastating disorders, and for building a stronger society where every person is able to contribute to their full potential. Research matters to all Canadians, and we all have an interest and a role in ensuring that the pace of discovery in this country is accelerated so that we can achieve breakthroughs as fast as possible.

We thank all members of the NeuroScience Canada team for their hard work and for the energy, passion and enthusiasm that they bring to the organization. We also extend our deep appreciation to all volunteers, donors and partners who contributed to making 2006 such a positive year for NeuroScience Canada. We look forward to your continued support and good wishes, and also to welcoming many more friends in 2007.

Allan R. Taylor
Interim Chair of the Board

Inez Jabalpurwala
President

01
Mr. Allan R. Taylor, Interim Chair of the Board, NeuroScience Canada
02
Ms. Inez Jabalpurwala, President, NeuroScience Canada

Research Programs

Accelerating the pace of discovery

The Brain Repair Program™

In 2003, NeuroScience Canada launched the Brain Repair Program™, with the goal of accelerating collaborative, multidisciplinary, multi-institutional brain repair research. Brain repair is a field of research aimed at exploring the brain's ability to be repaired or to repair itself. This field focuses on mechanisms common across brain and nervous system disorders, such as cell loss, the abnormal functioning of nerve cells, and chemical and molecular imbalances. The program enables world-class Canadian researchers across the country to form highly focused teams, and to more rapidly discover breakthroughs that will ultimately lead to treatments and cures.

Each team of researchers receives $1.5 million over three years, plus an additional maximum of $20,000 per year for networking activities. These are the largest grants in Canada for brain repair research. Such operating funding is vital to our best and most promising scientists, allowing them to fully utilize the investments in infrastructure and salaries that have already been made by governments and private donors.

First Brain Repair Program competition

The Brain Repair Program™ was launched with a $1.5-million challenge gift from an anonymous donor (now deceased). This was followed by a grant of $1.5 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), through its Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), and Institute of Aging; $250,000 from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (our provincial partner); and many gifts from the corporate community and from private donors and foundations. These are acknowledged on Pages 18-19.

The peer review process for the first Brain Repair Program competition was thorough and rigorous, and was done in two stages. The first stage was a review of Letters of Intent by Canadian scientists on our Science Advisory Council. The second stage was a review of Full Applications by our International Review Committee. This committee includes distinguished neuroscientists from around the world, with expertise in areas relevant to brain repair research. The complete review process is described on page 4.

Three teams were funded in the first competition; their research covers the range of neurological and psychiatric disorders, as well as spinal cord injuries and chronic pain. The teams completed the second year of their grants in October 2006, and each had its early results published in prestigious science journals.

Second Brain Repair Program competition

Thanks to the generosity of the T. Robert Beamish family, which made a $1.5-million commitment through the WB Family Foundation, NeuroScience Canada was able to launch the second Brain Repair Program™ competition in 2006. Through this process, two additional teams will be selected for funding in 2007.

In Phase I of the process, we announced an open competition, and received 16 Letters of Intent. These were reviewed by our Science Advisory Council, and five teams were advanced to the Full Application stage. The Full Applications were reviewed by our International Review Committee, which decided to expand the search to a second phase, and invite the top nine Letters of Intent. Seven of these teams resubmitted Letters of Intent, and the committee recommended that all seven advance, as all show great promise.

The Full Applications were evaluated in May 2007, and two new Brain Repair Program™ research teams will be announced in the summer of 2007.

Brain Repair Program™ competition

Review process

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Stage I (3 months)

Call for Applications
Letters of Intent received
Science Advisory Council (SAC) reviews Letters of Intent
SAC selects teams/projects to advance to Full Application stage
NeuroScience Canada's Board of Directors reviews and approves results

Stage II (5 months)

Teams informed of results of Phase I
Teams advancing prepare Full Applications
Full Applications received and forwarded to International Review Committee Each application is assigned a primary and secondary reviewer
Committee provides written reviews in advance of review panel meeting
Committee convenes to discuss and rate each application Scientific Officer records discussion and NeuroScience Canada Director observes process
Results reported to Science Advisory Council, which in turn reviews the process and the results and provides comments and approval
NeuroScience Canada's Board of Directors reviews the Science Advisory Council's review of the process, results, and their comments, and provides approval
Results communicated to teams
Results announced Funding commences

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Dr. David Kaplan, University of Toronto; **Dr. Freda Miller,** University of Toronto; **Dr. Samuel Weiss,** University of Calgary (Missing: **Dr. Wolfram Tetzlaff,** University of British Columbia)

Progress of first Brain Repair Program™ teams

Funding research focused on results

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Novel approaches to Central nervous system white matter repair


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This research team, led by Dr. Freda Miller, is focusing on white matter, or myelin, a substance that acts as a protective sheath and insulation around many individual nerve cells. If the myelin is damaged, nerve cells can no longer transmit information that enables us to move, think, and function. It is now known that one of the major characteristics of multiple sclerosis, for example, is the gradual destruction of this protective insulation. The loss of white matter is also seen in a wide range of other neurological and psychiatric conditions, and prevents nerve cells from properly functioning in schizophrenia and repairing themselves in spinal cord injury.

In the second year of its grant, the team discovered that a population of accessible, adult stem cells from skin called SKPs can generate myelinating nerve cells, and that these can help repair both the damaged nerve and the contused spinal cord. The team has also identified and characterized a novel population of human neural stem cells that can generate a second type of myelin-producing cells. The results were published in the June 14, 2006, issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience*.

"We have discovered that we can use SKPs to efficiently generate and isolate Schwann cells, a type of cell that can regrow myelin. When injected into the injured spinal cord, the Schwann cells made from SKPs not only regrow myelin on the injured nerves, but produce substances that help those nerves survive and repair themselves. This raises the possibility that we could treat people with Schwann cells derived from human skin stem cells, and perhaps even use the patient's own skin to generate Schwann cells for the treatment of a variety of neurological conditions." – *Dr. Freda Miller*

Transforming research on chronic pain in Canada

This research team, led by Dr. Michael Salter, combines the efforts of five leading pain researchers to explore a major emerging hypothesis: that chronic pain due to nerve injury involves interactions between nerve cells and a type of immune system cell called microglia in the spinal cord. Chronic pain was thought until recently to involve only the nerve cells. The lack of effectiveness of commonly-used medications designed to alleviate the symptoms of chronic pain by targeting nerve cells led the Salter team to propose, and to confirm, that the cause of chronic pain originates in the microglia rather than the nerve cells. The findings have led to new efforts to discover novel drugs that prevent the microglia from initiating pain in nerve cells.

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In the second year of its grant, the team discovered the signaling pathways within the activated microglia cells that are used to produce and release the protein that acts on the neurons, which is known as brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF). The team also discovered that the activation of the microglia and subsequent release of BDNF is absent in young animals, which may explain why neuropathic pain is not as common in children as in adults, and which may be a clue for the development of new treatments. The team's work was published in many peer-reviewed journals, including *Brain, Behavior and Immunity*, and *Pain*.

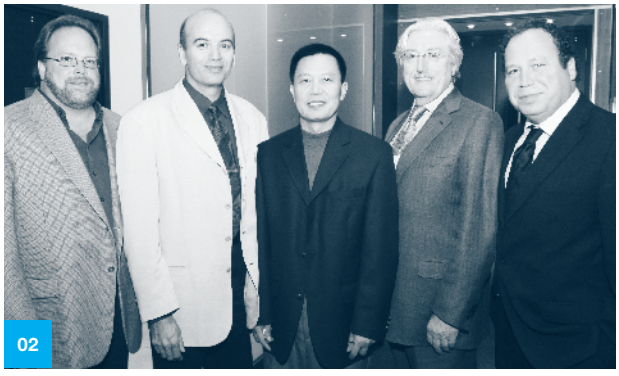
"We knew that microglia had to communicate with nerve cells in the pain-processing network in the spinal cord. However the mechanism for this communication was not known. We discovered that the microglia talk to the nerves cells by releasing Brain-Derived Neurotropic Factor (BDNF)." – *Dr. Michael Salter*

"We established that the microglia cause chloride ions to increase inside the nerve cells and that BDNF is the mystery mediator. Thus, not only did we discover that BDNF is the chemical mediator, but we also determined how BDNF works." – *Dr. Yves De Koninck*

01
Dr. Min Zhuo, University of Toronto; **Dr. Michael Salter,** University of Toronto; **Dr. Yves De Koninck,** Université Laval (Missing: **Dr. Karen Davis,** University of Toronto; **Dr. Jeffrey Mogil,** McGill University)
02
Dr. Stephen S.G. Ferguson, University of Western Ontario; **Dr. Ridha Joober,** McGill University; **Dr. Yu Tian Wang,** University of British Columbia; **Dr. Anthony G. Phillips,** University of British Columbia; **Dr. Alaa El-Husseini,** University of British Columbia

Novel therapeutic strategies to repair abnormalities in psychiatric disorders

This research team, led by Dr. Yu Tian Wang, explores a method for treating psychiatric disorders, whereby drugs can target the specific brain cells and communication pathways in need of repair, and restore the balance of chemical messengers, without any negative side effects. Existing anti-psychotic drugs affect both normal and abnormal regions of the brain, resulting in many negative side-effects including sluggishness, insomnia and anxiety. The Wang team has developed a new class of drugs that precisely targets and repairs the malfunctions associated with psychiatric illnesses. In these illnesses, the manner in which nerve cells communicate in the brain is disrupted, resulting in impairments in perception, thought and behaviour. These impairments are caused by an imbalance between the chemical messengers that stimulate brain cell activity and those that diminish activity.


02

Using sophisticated equipment to view, study and manipulate brain messaging at the cellular level, the team has designed and successfully tested a type of drug that fine-tunes communication between brain cells and restores the balance of chemical messengers regulating the flow of information. The new generation of "smart" drugs targets only the cells where communication balance is impaired, leaving healthy areas of the brain unaffected. The new drugs would be the first significant change in decades to medications used to treat psychiatric disorders.

In the second year of its grant, the team completed preclinical testing of the first generation of interference peptide-based therapeutics for drug addiction, and initiated processes required for Phase 1 clinical testing of this drug in the near future. The team has also developed an animal model of autism and is currently using it to examine the potential of a new interference peptide as a novel therapeutic for that disease. The results are being considered by the journal *Nature Neuroscience*.

"We now know the fundamental mechanisms that controls chemical communication in the brain. This offers a new focus for developing treatment for diseases caused by chemical imbalances in the brain, such as autism." – *Dr. Alaa El-Husseini*

"We now have a model for re-programming communication between brain cells. It's a fundamental finding that promises an entirely new approach to treating addiction and compulsive behaviours." – *Dr. Anthony Phillips*

Further details about our research programs can be found on our website: www.neurosciencecanada.ca

Partnered research programs

Leveraging every donor dollar

Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research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This award, in support of Canadian research on spinal cord injury, is funded by NeuroScience Canada in partnership with the Barbara Turnbull Foundation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)–Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA). The award recipient is judged, from among the CIHR-funded investigators each year, to be conducting the most promising and exciting research in this area. NeuroScience Canada and the Barbara Turnbull Foundation each provide $25,000, for a total award of $50,000.

In 2006, the recipient of the Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research was Pierre Drapeau, PhD, Professor and Chairman of Pathology and Cell Biology; and Canada Research Chair in Neuroscience at Université de Montréal. Dr. Drapeau is the nation's leading zebrafish neurobiologist and is internationally recognized for his contributions to the study of synapse formation and neural network development in the spinal cord.

Dr. Drapeau uses the zebrafish embryo as a model to study spinal cord development. The only Quebec researcher working with the zebrafish, Dr. Drapeau has shown that the activity of nerve cells is important not only for forming the connections between them that underlie spinal cord function, but also for producing new neurons as the spinal cord develops. He is examining how neural activity promotes development and exploring its potential for manipulating spinal cord function.

Dr. Drapeau's research could hold the key to the genetic secret that surrounds spinal cord diseases, as well as other serious diseases of the human nervous system, such as schizophrenia and autism.

Dr. Drapeau was presented with his award at a ceremony held at Université de Montréal on December 1, 2006.

Special recognition of Barbara Turnbull

The 2006 Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research marked five years of partnership between the Barbara Turnbull Foundation and NeuroScience Canada, and with the CIHR-INMHA. In recognition of this valued partnership, and of the inspiration that Barbara Turnbull has provided as the champion of this award, NeuroScience Canada made a special presentation to Ms. Turnbull during the CIHR-INMHA annual meeting dinner on May 22 in Toronto. The President of NeuroScience Canada, Inez Jabalpurwala, spoke about Ms. Turnbull's remarkable courage and strength, and of her profound devotion to improving the lives of the estimated 41,000 people currently living with spinal cord injuries. She said Ms. Turnbull is an inspiration to all Canadians, but her message of hope especially touches those working to advance neuroscience research, reminding us that the goal of research is to benefit patients.


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Dr. Pierre Drapeau, recipient of the 2006 Barbara Turnbull Award for Spinal Cord Research, showing his zebrafish to **Ms. Barbara Turnbull,** President of the Barbara Turnbull Foundation, while **Dr. Vincent Castellucci,** Associate Vice-Dean for Research of the Faculty of Medicine at Université de Montréal, looks on

02
Ms. Inez Jabalpurwala, President of NeuroScience Canada at a ceremony to recognize **Ms. Barbara Turnbull,** President of the Barbara Turnbull Foundation

Alberta Initiative

The Alberta Initiative was developed in partnership with the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research (AHFMR). Its purpose is to retain excellent young neuroscience researchers at three Alberta universities: University of Calgary, University of Alberta and University of Lethbridge.

Through this program, NeuroScience Canada provided $597,650 to fund eight fellowships and 22 studentships. These funds were matched by the AHFMR at a ratio of 7:3. An additional $125,000 was allocated from the Alberta Initiative to support a post-doctoral fellow and senior research assistant in the lab of Dr. Samuel Weiss of the University of Calgary. Dr. Weiss is a member of Dr. Freda Miller's Brain Repair Program team.

A further $75,000 was directed to support a research project led by Dr. James R. Dunn and Dr. Paula Goering: *Feasibility Study for a Two-City Demonstration of Supportive Housing for Individuals with Severe Mental Illness.* Drs. Goering and Dunn are undertaking a pilot study in the Toronto and Calgary on the effects of supportive housing on people with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Of particular interest is the effect of supportive housing on future housing stability, quality of life, functioning, symptoms and healthcare utilization for people with SPMI. This project will evaluate the "Housing First" model, which promotes the position that for many people with SPMI, stable housing is a precondition to participating successfully in psychiatric treatment and dealing with addictions.

In April 2007, Drs. Dunn and Goering reported that they have completed a literature review, successfully established interdisciplinary research teams, enlisted housing and support service agencies, and completed the feasibility assessments in Toronto and Calgary. They have completed three reports for the field which include their study findings, and they have three manuscripts in preparation that will be submitted for publication. There is a high level of interest and commitment to move forward, and the team is seeking additional funding to expand on their research.

Cognitive Impairment in Aging

NeuroScience Canada is a member of the Cognitive Impairment in Aging (CIA) Partnership. The CIA Partnership is a collaboration between government, non-government and industry groups led by the CIHR–Institute of Aging. Its mission is to improve knowledge in the area of cognitive impairment by coordinating increased research efforts that in turn will facilitate the development, application and evaluation of interventions, services and products for older people. As of March 31, 2006, $18.5 million has been committed by CIA partners toward a range of research programs, supporting individuals and teams doing research in this area.

Saskatchewan Schizophrenia Research Program

The Saskatchewan Schizophrenia Research Program is a $1-million, five-year initiative that could lead to earlier diagnosis and improved treatment for people with this serious brain disorder. The program is led by Dr. Xin-Min Li. Funding partners include AstraZeneca Canada, the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Royal University Hospital Foundation, the Schizophrenia Research Foundation Saskatchewan Inc., the Saskatoon chapter of the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan and the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine. NeuroScience Canada provided an additional $30,000 to this program.

Dr. Li's team of researchers has focused on identifying new mechanisms of action of atypical antipsychotic drugs (APDs). He and a colleague have had a paper accepted for 2007 publication in the *International Review of Neurobiology*: "In Vitro and In Vivo Evidence for Neuroprotective Effects of Antipsychotic Drugs: Implications for the Pathophysiology and Treatment of Schizophrenia."

Canada is a leader in neuroscience research and is home to a number of important discoveries in the neurosciences.

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and Neuroscience
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University of Alberta
(Edmonton)

Barbara Turnbull
President
The Barbara Turnbull Foundation
(Toronto)


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(From left to right) Back row: **Mr. J. Anthony Boeckh, Dr. Richard Stein, Mr. Rupert Duchesne, Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, Mr. John M. Stewart, Dr. Anthony G. Phillips.** Middle row: **Mr. Lawrence Tannenbaum, Dr. Albert J. Aguayo, Mr. Allan R. Taylor, Mr. Mark Krembil, Mr. Michael J. L. Kirby, Dr. David Kaplan.** Front row: **Mr. Vincent Castellucci, Ms. Inez Jabalpurwala** (Missing: **Mr. Mark R. Bruneau, Mr. Marcel Côté, Mr. Charles Kaplan, Dr. Brandt C. Louie**)

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Board development and science council news

Linking Canadian leaders in business and science

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NeuroScience Canada Board of Directors

In March 2006, the Hon. Michael H. Wilson stepped down as Board Chair to take on the important role of Canadian Ambassador to the United States. While we were sorry to lose Mr. Wilson's energetic leadership, we joined all Canadians in wishing him every success in the challenges of his new role. Mr. Wilson graciously agreed to remain as Honorary Chair of the NeuroScience Canada Partnership. He left his active role with the organization with our enduring thanks.

Allan R. Taylor, Retired Chairman and CEO of Royal Bank of Canada and a Director of NeuroScience Canada since the organization was founded, immediately stepped forward to take on the role of Interim Chair. Mr. Taylor's deep commitment to the organization's mission made the transition a seamless one, and NeuroScience Canada benefited greatly from his willingness to assume these additional duties.

In 2006 and early 2007, the NeuroScience Canada Board of Directors welcomed three prominent new members: Mark R. Bruneau, Senior Fellow, Monitor Company Group L.P., and Chairman, M'Pact Communications Inc.; the Hon. Michael J. L. Kirby, a member of the Senate of Canada from 1984 to 2006, with a special dedication to healthcare, especially mental health issues; and Lawrence M. (Larry) Tanenbaum, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Kilmer Van Nostrand Co. Ltd., and Chairman of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, Inc. Mr. Kirby was elected Chair in May 2007.

Finally, we were saddened to learn of the death of Honorary Director Warren C. Bull in December 2006. After a distinguished career at Royal Bank of Canada, Mr. Bull became the founding Executive Director of the NeuroScience Network, the predecessor organization to NeuroScience Canada. Mr. Bull remained an active and treasured advocate and counselor for the organization, its Board and its staff. As a final gesture of support, Mr. Bull's family asked that gifts in his memory be directed to NeuroScience Canada, and his many friends, colleagues and admirers responded with just over $5,000 in support. He will be missed by everyone at NeuroScience Canada, and indeed by all who knew him.

Conference Board of Canada/Spencer Stuart 2006 National Award in Governance

Good governance is a priority for NeuroScience Canada, essential to transparency, monitoring and accountability and to building trust with our stakeholders. We were therefore honoured to receive the Conference Board of Canada/Spencer Stuart 2006 not-for-profit National Award in Governance. The National Awards in Governance are jointly sponsored by Spencer Stuart and the Conference Board of Canada.

Science Advisory Council

Under the leadership of David Kaplan PhD, Head, Cancer Research Program, The Hospital for Sick Children; and Canada Research Chair in Cancer and Neuroscience, University of Toronto, NeuroScience Canada's Science Advisory Council continued to provide regular and vital counsel on our science and research programs. The Science Advisory Council participated in reviewing the progress of our funded researchers, and was especially important in assessing Letters of Intent for the second phase of our Brain Repair Program competition.

International Science Advisory Council

In October 2004, the Board of Directors established the International Science Advisory Council (ISAC) with the following mandate: to provide advice to NeuroScience Canada's Board of Directors, to review the progress of NeuroScience Canada-funded programs, to provide suggestions of peers (from outside Canada) to be approached to review applications in Brain Repair Program competitions, and to serve as ambassadors of NeuroScience Canada outside of the country. NeuroScience Canada is very proud of and thankful for the generous time and expertise provided by the ISAC. Its participation enables us to benchmark the programs we fund with global standards of excellence.

01
Mr. Allan R. Taylor, Interim Chair of the Board, receives the Air Canada/Westjet gift from **Mr. Rupert Duchesne,** President and CEO, Aeroplan

Fundraising

Stimulating increased support for Canadian neuroscience research

Fundraising campaign

In 2001, NeuroScience Canada launched the $11.5-million National Brain Repair Fund Campaign, with the purpose of supporting excellent neuroscience research in Canada. In 2006, we raised $1,282,472, bringing our campaign total to $11,472,637; by early 2007, we had reached our goal. We thank all of our supporters for their generosity.

In December 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding for $500,000 was signed between NeuroScience Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research's (CIHR) Institute of Aging; we also received a second $350,000 commitment from the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. Both grants are to be directed to the second Brain Repair Program competition, to contribute to funding a team aligned with each organization's own research focus.

Two corporate gifts brought us within reach of our goal: $25,000 from Air Canada/WestJet and $10,000 from BCE Inc. The Air Canada/WestJet funds will be directed to the autism research being led by Dr. Yu Tian Wang's Brain Repair Program team. The final funds needed to close the campaign were provided by one of our Directors.


01

In 2006, we received grants and awards totaling more than $250,000 for outreach and advocacy activities, from the Max Bell Foundation, the CIHR, and the Society for Neuroscience through the Canadian Association for Neuroscience.

Finally, NeuroScience Canada is committed to keeping non-research-related expenses to the minimum required for operation efficiency and good governance. To ensure that we maintain this standard, we separately make every effort to raise funds for activities that support our research programs but are not directed specifically to those programs. NeuroScience Canada Directors have also made generous gifts to operations. In this way, between 75 and 85 percent of every dollar is disbursed directly to Canadian researchers.

NeuroScience Canada volunteers

We recognize and thank our dedicated volunteers across the country:

Ontario Regional Campaign Team, Toronto
J. Douglas Grant, Former Chairman, Sceptre Investments Counsel Ltd.
Stanley H. Hartt, O.C., Q.C., BCL, Chairman, Citigroup Global Markets Canada Inc.
Brian D. Lawson, CA, Managing Partner and Chief Financial Officer, Brookfield Asset Management Inc.
Bruce M. Rothney, Deputy Chairman, RBC Capital Markets
John M. Stewart, Partner Emeritus (Toronto Office), Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP

Western and Central Canada Campaign Leaders
Alan S. Dunnett, Vice-President and Director, RBC Investments Inc. (Winnipeg)
George F. Gaffney, Former Executive Vice-President and General Manager, Royal Bank of Canada, Metropolitan Toronto (Vancouver)
Paul J. Hill, President, Harvard Developments (Regina)
Robert K. Siddall, Power Financial Corporation (Winnipeg)

Quebec Regional Campaign Team, Montreal
Hon. W. David Angus, Senior Partner (Montreal), Stikeman Elliott LLP
J. Anthony Boeckh, PhD, President, Boeckh Capital Company Limited
Marcel Côté, Founding Partner, SECOR
Lili de Grandpré, Senior Partner, Cenceo Consulting
Rupert Duchesne, President and CEO, Aeroplan

There must be increased investment in operating funding to enable researchers to fully utilize the investments already made by governments in infrastructure and salaries.

1 in 3 Canadians will be affected by a disease, disorder or injury of the brain, spinal cord or nervous system at some point in their lives.

Public awareness activities

Reaching governments and the public

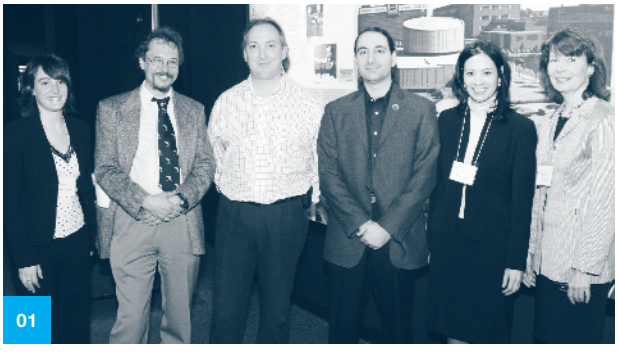
Brain and nervous system disorders are having a devastating impact on patients, families, the economy, the healthcare system and society overall. Many of these disorders lead to long-term disability, resulting in a profound reduction of quality of life. According to World Health Organization data, brain and nervous system disorders cost the Canadian economy an estimated $61 billion annually, and represent 38% of the burden of disease.

While NeuroScience Canada's primary commitment is to support the nation's most promising brain research, we recognize that greater awareness about the prevalence and impact of brain and nervous system disorders is essential to stimulating increased investment in research, by governments and private donors.

As a result, NeuroScience Canada's Board of Directors has committed to a multi-year strategy to form a coalition of neuroscience stakeholder groups, and have a stronger presence with policy-makers, the media and the general public. Our partners on this effort are the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN), the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF), the Canadian Brain and Nerve Health Coalition (CBANHC), and the Barbara Turnbull Foundation.

Brain Awareness Week: Public outreach

Brain Awareness Week is an annual public information campaign created in 1996 by the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives to advance public awareness about the progress and benefits of brain research. In 2007, Brain Awareness Week took place March 12 to 18.



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To mark this week, NeuroScience Canada collaborated with the Montreal Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience and the Montreal Planetarium to host a special presentation by Dr. Luchino Cohen, Program Scientist, Space Life Sciences, at the Canadian Space Agency. Dr. Cohen provided a fascinating glimpse into how the human brain adapts to the weightless conditions of space. Using photos, film clips and re-enactments of space travel, guests from the science and business communities learned about past and present research in space neurobiology and psychology; the influence of microgravity on the central nervous system and the inner ear; neurological adaptations in space; the role of the central nervous system in hand-eye coordination; the psychological aspects of space travel; and the benefits of space research for the Canadian population.

02

For the months of March and April 2007, the City of Montreal hung 40 NeuroScience Canada street banners across the city. The banners featured our logo, website address, and the line "La Recherche Intelligente" ("Intelligent Research" in English). We anticipate repeating this awareness-raising effort for several years.

01
From left to right: **Ms. Dominique Godbout,** Communications Assistant, NeuroScience Canada; **Dr. Trevor Drew,** President of the Montreal Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience; **Mr. Jean-Pierre Arsenault,** Manager, Media Relations and Information Services, Canadian Space Agency; **Dr. Luchino Cohen;** Program Scientist, Space Life Sciences, Canadian Space Agency; **Ms Inez Jabalpurwala,** President, NeuroScience Canada; **Ms Judith Sale,** Executive Assistant, NeuroScience Canada, at a special event celebrating Brain Awareness Week

02
One of 40 banners that were displayed throughout the city of Montreal in March and April 2007

03
Sample page from NeuroScience Canada's new website launched in April 2007

New Website

AMEN Creation, which designed our new logo, worked with us to redesign and redevelop NeuroScience Canada's website. In addition to reinforcing our new branding, our site now serves as a central resource for a range of information related to neuroscience, and is much easier to navigate in both English and French. AMEN has also designed an electronic newsletter, *NeuroEcho,* which can be accessed through the website. We invite you to spend some time exploring the site at www.neurosciencecanada.ca.

Roundtable consultation process

NeuroScience Canada and its coalition partners worked with the Public Policy Forum to hold roundtable sessions in four Canadian cities. The purpose was to bring together key stakeholders in neuroscience, as well as policy-decision-makers and elected officials, and to engage these participants in thoughtful dialogue on how best to create the public policy framework needed to support research into neurological and psychiatric diseases and their impact. Roundtable sessions have taken place in March in Ottawa, and in May in Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto.

The Public Policy Forum will prepare a report of the discussions, highlighting the key messages that emerged, and recommendations about how the coalition would be most effective in disseminating our common messages to governments and the general public. The report will be available in July 2007.

CBANHC/CIHI Impact Study

The Impact Study is a project produced by the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF) and the Canadian Brain and Nerve Health Coalition (CBANHC) in collaboration with the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). NeuroScience Canada is a member of CBANHC. Expected to be released in the summer of 2007, the study will measure the incidence, prevalence, economic and social impact of neurological diseases, disorders and injuries in Canada. The report will also provide important information to key stakeholders and decision-makers in Canada who are responsible for building a long-term national strategy for neurological sciences in the areas of clinical care and research.

All of our public awareness activities were made possible thanks to the generosity of three organizations, especially the Max Bell Foundation of Calgary. The Foundation awarded a grant to NeuroScience Canada of $240,152 over two and a half years, and that grant is the primary external source of support for our coalition-building and awareness-raising activities. In addition, we received a $10,000 award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research that was directed to our website redesign and redevelopment. Finally, we received $19,000 in 2005 and $20,000 in 2006 from the Society for Neuroscience, through the Canadian Association for Neuroscience.

Brain disorders are among the leading causes of death and the leading cause of disability.

Annual General Meeting

Celebrating another successful year

NeuroScience Canada held its second Annual General Meeting, reception and dinner on May 23, 2007, at the Pantages Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. We chose this date to coincide with the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)–Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), and with the first Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN). This was an excellent opportunity to reach out to neuroscience stakeholders, from researchers to disease-specific voluntary health organizations to interested members of the public. The meeting brought together about 100 prominent leaders from the business, science and philanthropic communities.

During the meeting, representatives of NeuroScience Canada's Board and its committees provided highlights of 2006, and a preview of the activities already underway in 2007. Representatives of the first three Brain Repair Program teams presented reports of their progress after two years of funding, and answered questions from the audience.

The first recipient of the **Dr. Hubert van Tol** Travel Fellowship was also announced. The neuroscience community lost a brilliant scientist when Dr. Hubert van Tol died on April 20, 2006. Dr. van Tol was an internationally recognized and respected neuroscientist who received numerous awards and greatly advanced the entire field of molecular neurobiology. To honour him, his family established the Dr. Hubert van Tol Fund at NeuroScience Canada, through which the Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship was created. The fund received more than $30,000 in donations in 2006. The fellowship will allow PhD students and postdoctoral fellows performing research as part of a Brain Repair Program team to attend a major international conference/symposium or training course outside of Canada. The first recipient of this prestigious award is Long-Jun Wu, PhD, who will be attending a conference entitled *Imaging Structure & Function in the Nervous System* in Cold Spring Harbor, USA, between July 24 and August 13. Dr. Monica Seger-van Tol presented Mr. Long-Jun Wu with his award at a special ceremony.

At the dinner that followed our Annual General Meeting, we recognized the **T. Robert Beamish Family (WB Family Foundation),** whose generous gift of $1.5-million enabled us to launch the second Brain Repair Program competition.

The evening ended with a talk by **Dr. Steven E. Hyman,** Provost of Havard University and Professor of Neurobiology at Harvard Medical School and former Director of the National Institute of Mental Health in the United States. Dr. Hyman is a distinguished scholar and prominent speaker and panelist. In his presentation, Dr. Hyman very effectively conveyed that neurology and psychiatry have, for much of the past century, been separated by an artificial barrier created by the divergence of their philosophical approaches and research and treatment methods, but that scientific advances in recent decades have shown that this division is arbitrary and counterproductive. He reinforced NeuroScience Canada's message that an interdisciplinary approach will greatly advance our understanding of brain diseases and behavior.

AstraZeneca Canada and **Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP** graciously provided sponsorship funds to offset some of the costs of this event.

01

01
Dr. Steven E. Hyman, Provost of Harvard University and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School, keynote speaker at the dinner that followed our Annual General Meeting
02
Participants at our Annual General Meeting
03
Dr. Long-Jun Wu receiving the 2007 Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship from **Dr. Monica Seger-van Tol**
04
Dr. Serge Rossignol, Director, Centre for Research in Neurological Sciences, Université de Montréal; **Dr. Richard B. Stein,** Professor Emeritus of Physiology and Neuroscience, Centre for Neuroscience, University of Alberta (both members of our Science Advisory Council) In the background: **Mr. T. Robert Beamish,** Secretary-Treasurer, The WB Family Foundation; **Ms. Heather Beamish,** Director, The WB Family Foundation
05
Dr. Max Cynader, Director, UBC Brain Research Center; **Dr. Larry Benowitz,** Director, Laboratories for Neuroscience Research in Neurosurgery at the Children's Hospital (Boston); Associate Professor of Neurosurgery (Neuroscience) at Harvard Medical School, and member of our International Science Advisory Council
06
Dr. Franco J. Vaccarino, Principal, University of Toronto Scarborough; Vice-President, University of Toronto (member of our Board); **Ms. Inez Jabalpurwala,** President, NeuroScience Canada; In the background: **Dr. Eric Marcotte,** Associate Director, Regenerative Medicine and Nanomedicine, Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction
07
Guests at the dinner that followed our Annual General Meeting
08
From left to right: **Mr. Allan R. Taylor,** Interim Chair of the Board; **Mr. T. Robert Beamish,** Secretary-Treasurer, The WB Family Foundation; **Mrs. Marilyn Beamish; Ms. Heather Beamish,** Director, The WB Family Foundation; **Ms Inez Jabalpurwala,** President, NeuroScience Canada, at a ceremony to recognize the WB Family Foundation


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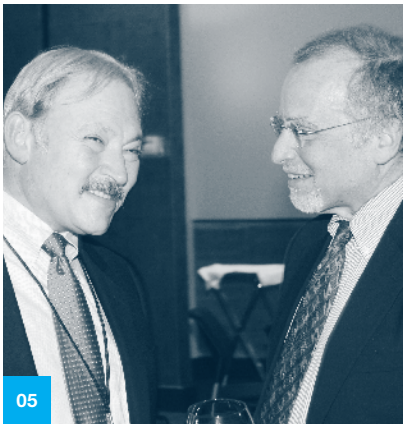
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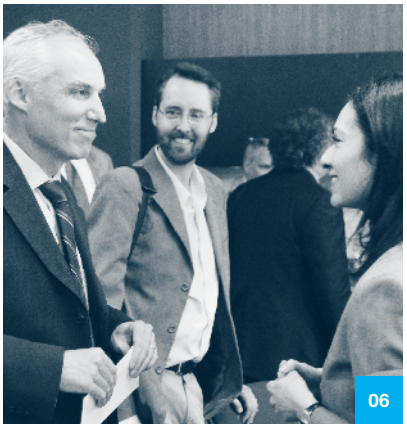
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Thanks to donors, partners and campaign volunteers

NeuroScience Canada extends a heartfelt thank you to the individuals, corporations, private foundations and government agencies that have so generously supported our work. Their commitment to our success has enabled us to develop a world-class neuroscience program, through which we are stimulating breakthrough research.

We thank in particular:

An anonymous donor (now deceased), who enabled us to launch the National Brain Repair Fund Campaign and Alberta Initiative with a $1.5-million challenge gift.

The WB Family Foundation (T. Robert Beamish Family), which enabled us to launch our second Brain Repair Program™ competition with a $1.5-million gift.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research and its Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction, and Institute of Aging, which provided $1.5 million for our first Brain Repair Program competition, and the Institute of Aging, which has partnered with us to provide an additional $500,000 toward our second Brain Repair Program competition.

The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation, our provincial partner, which provided $250,000 for a team selected in our first Brain Repair Program competition, and an additional $350,000 for a team selected in our second Brain Repair Program competition.

We also wish to extend a special thanks to:

The following individuals and private foundations:

$500,000 + (CUMULATIVE GIVING)

Max Bell Foundation

$250,000 - $500,000

The John Dobson Foundation
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation

$100,000 – $249,999

Boeckh Family
David and Dorothy Lam Foundation
The Tong and Geraldine Louie Family Foundation
Ronald N. Mannix
Allan R. and Shirley Taylor
The Barbara Turnbull Foundation
Michael H. Wilson

Our lead corporate funders:

$750,000 + (CUMULATIVE GIVING)

RBC Foundation

$500,000

CIBC

$300,000

Manulife Financial

Scotiabank Group™

$250,000

UBS

$100,000 - $249,999

BMO Financial Group

Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life

Magna International Inc.

Power Corporation of Canada

NeuroScience Canada thanks all other individuals, foundations and corporations that have generously contributed to our National Brain Repair Fund Campaign and our Alberta Initiative. We list below those donors whose cumulative giving is at or above $500.

Achber, Vernon
The Adair Family Foundation
Aeroplan
Aguayo, Albert J.
Alpacan Ventures
AMEN Creation
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.
ATCO Ltd.
Baillie, James C.
Barbara Turnbull Foundation
Barrington Petroleum Ltd.
Bayer Inc.
Beddis, Ian D.
Bell Canada Enterprises
Bhayana Management
Blundell, William
Boardwalk Charitable Trust Fund
The Graham Boeckh Foundation
Bois, Pierre
Borden Ladner Gervais
BP Foundation Inc.
The R.P. Bratty Charitable Foundation
The Brookfield Foundation
The Marjorie and Gerald Bronfman Foundation
Bull, Warren C.**
The Calgary Foundation/David and Leslie Bissett Fund
Canadian Council of Christians and Jews
Canadian Insurance Accountants Association
Canadian Pensions and Benefits Institute, Ontario Regional Council
Canadian Meteorological Centre (Social Committee), Environment Canada
Castellucci, Vincent
Cogeco Inc.
Colangelo, Johanne
Colangelo, Lina
Corbertex Corporation
Côté, Marcel
Crown Life Insurance Company
Culotti, Joseph
Cumming, Tom and Mary
Dion, Durrell & Associates Inc.
Mitzi & Mel Dobrin Family Foundation
Dorrington, Keith J.**
Duchesne, Rupert
Falcon Lumber Ltd.
Fraser, Anne
Gagnier, Jean-Marcel
Govain, Royal A.
Great Lakes GPCR Retreat
Grichting, Patty and Reinhard
Guest, Gowan
Harris, Cathy
Harvie, Donald**
Haskayne, Richard F.
Hotchkiss, Harley N.
Hyndman, Lou D.
Imasco Limited, Imperial Tobacco and Pharmaprix/Shoppers Drug Mart
Jabalpurwala, Inez
Jabalpurwala, Kaizer E.
Jackman Foundation
The Norman and Margaret Jewison Charitable Foundation
Johnston, David
Kaplan, Charles
The Henry and Berenice Kaufmann Foundation
Lawson, Brian D. and Joannah
Lebrun, Manon
William F. Lede Family Foundation
The Alvin and Mona Libin Foundation
Lind, Philip B.
Lippman Leebosh April
London Drugs Foundation
Louie, Brandt C.
Love, G. Donald**
Mackenzie Financial Services Inc.
Mackenzie, Hector
Mackie, James
Manitoba Medical Students Association
McCaig, M. Ann
McLachlin, Ian Van C.
Melcor Developments Ltd.
Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.
Mississauga South Federal Progressive Conservative Association
Munroe-Blum, Heather
Newall, J.E. (Ted)
O/A Budo Theatre
Pannitti, Louise
Peters, Robert G.
Phillips, Anthony G.
RBC Investments
The Real Canadian Superstore
Robb, Christopher J.
Rothney, Bruce M.
Rygiel, Edward K.
SGI
Saskatchewan Wheat Pool
SaskTel TelCare
Savard, Guy
The Seagram Company Ltd.
Frank J. Seger Holdings
Seger, Marianne
St. Joseph's Healthcare Foundation
Stein, Richard B.
Stewart, John M
Stripp, Bitten
The Lawrence and Judith Tanenbaum Family Foundation
Tavender, Carolyn and David
TD Bank Financial Group
Theanon Charitable Foundation
The Toronto Star
Toronto Dominion Centre/The Cadillac Fairview Corporation Limited
Torstar Corporation
TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.
Trimac Corporation
The William and Nancy Turner Foundation,
UBS Bank (Canada)
WestJet
George Weston Limited
Wong, Albert
Wynne-Edwards, Hugh
Younger, Patricia

**deceased

We also extend a special thank you to our donors who made gifts to honour the memory of the following individuals:

Bogorad, Daniel
Brown, Milton Jay
Colangelo, Rocky
Mme Gagné
Magee, Brian R.B.
Maiorano, Vincenzo
Tucker, Greg
Waldron, John Joseph

Two special memorial funds were established in 2006:

A fund was established to honour Warren C. Bull, who passed away suddenly on December 15, 2006. Mr. Bull was highly respected and admired by everyone in the neuroscience community, for his visionary leadership of the former NeuroScience Network and its successor organization, NeuroScience Canada. The funds will be disbursed to support our Brain Repair Program™.

The Dr. Hubert van Tol Fund was established to honour Hubert van Tol, an internationally recognized and respected neuroscientist who passed away suddenly on April 20, 2006. The funds have been used to establish the Dr. Hubert van Tol Travel Fellowship.

NeuroScience Canada extends our heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Mr. Bull and of Dr. van Tol.

NeuroScience Canada wishes to thank the following funders and partners for providing in-kind and other invaluable support:

Allon Therapeutics Inc. (formerly Neuro Discovery Inc.)
AMEN Creation
AstraZeneca Canada
Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP
Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions
Canadian Association for Neuroscience
Society for Neuroscience
Thomas C. MacMillan
McGill University Health Centre Foundation

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have made any errors, please accept our apologies.

2006 Partnership and Foundation financial report at a glance

◆

NeuroScience Canada
Combined Financial Statements

At December 31	2006 $	2005 $
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	125 139	634 194
Temporary investments	2 215 149	2 363 906
Sundry receivables	66 639	42 154
Deposits	74 598	10 770
	2 481 525	3 051 024
Capital assets	2 765	476
Investments in private companies	751	751
	2 485 041	**3 052 251**
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	12 038	11 816
Current portion of program commitments	1 946 636	1 878 579
	1 958 674	1 890 395
Program commitments		
Long term – with funds allocated	—	747 403
	1 958 674	2 637 798
Net assets		
Unrestricted net assets	526 367	414 453
	2 485 041	**3 052 251**

For the year ended December 31	2006 $	2005 $
Revenues		
Restricted contributions	1 466 785	1 450 619
General contributions	34 000	22 459
	1 500 785	1 473 078
Added:		
Deferred amount	679 346	406 646
	2 180 131	1 879 724
Interest and other income	71 972	64 505
	2 252 103	**1 944 229**
Expenditures		
Grants and awards	1 645 810	1 656 190
Operating expenses	494 108	389 531
Amortization	271	—
	2 140 189	2 045 721
Excess of revenues over expenditures (expenditures over revenues) for the year	**(111 914)**	**101 492**

The financial statements of NCP – NeuroScience Canada Partnership and NCF – NeuroScience Canada Foundation are audited by KPMG LLP and are available upon request.

ETHICAL FUNDRAISING

Ethical Fundraising and Financial Accountability Code
NeuroScience Canada has adopted the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy's Ethical Fund Raising and Financial Accountability Code as its policy.