

AMERICAN
BRAIN
COALITION

Annual Report

January – December 2024

Contents

Who we are

American Brain Coalition (ABC) background, our vision and mission, and our members.

(pages 3-11)

Our Team

Board of Directors, Corporate Advisory Council, Committees, Staff.

(pages 12-20)

Review of 2024

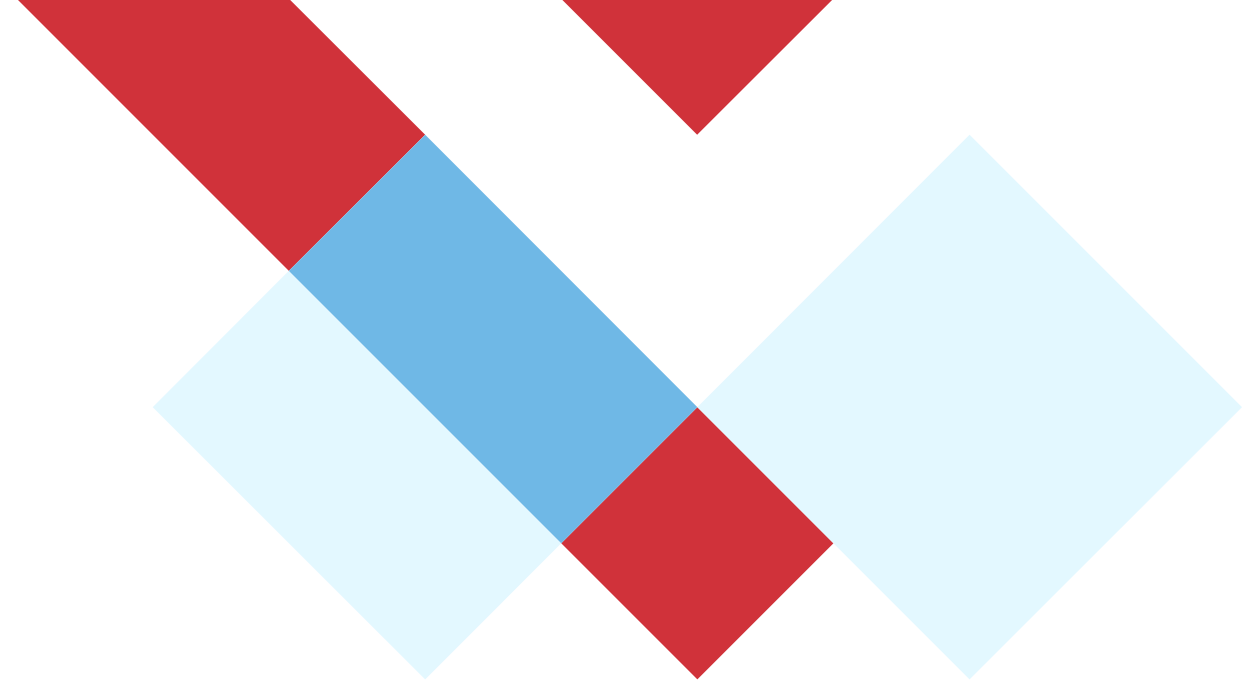
How the ABC's unified voice was used in 2024 to advocate and educate for those impacted by disabling brain diseases and conditions.

(pages 21-42)

Closing

Thank you.

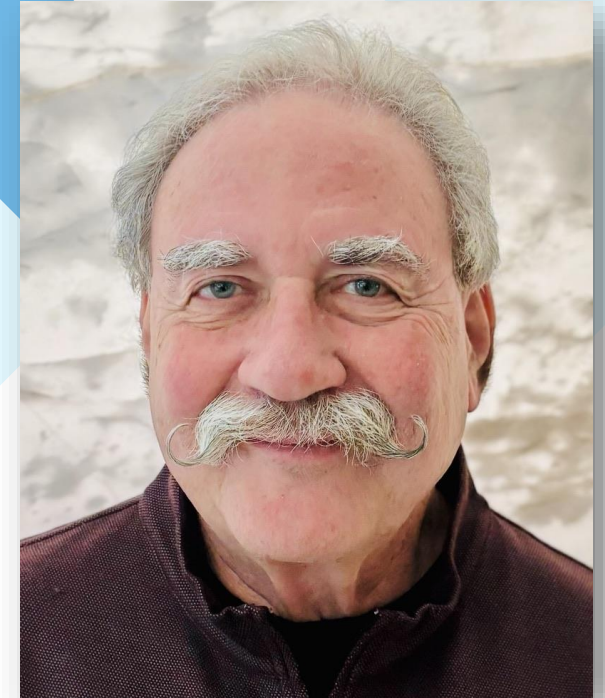
(page 43)



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"2024 marked the 20th anniversary of the American Brain Coalition—a milestone that also brought loss with the passing of our founding Chair, Francis I. Kittredge, Jr., MD. Dr. Kittredge was a visionary leader dedicated to uniting disease-specific patient advocacy organizations, physicians, researchers, and professional groups committed to the prevention, study, treatment, and cure of brain disorders. He championed the importance of fostering dialogue between patients and the professionals who serve them, leaving a legacy of collaboration and progress. As we look ahead to the next 20 years, we remain steadfast in our commitment to fulfilling his dream and advancing the mission of the ABC."



Mark Rasenick, PhD
ABC Board Chair

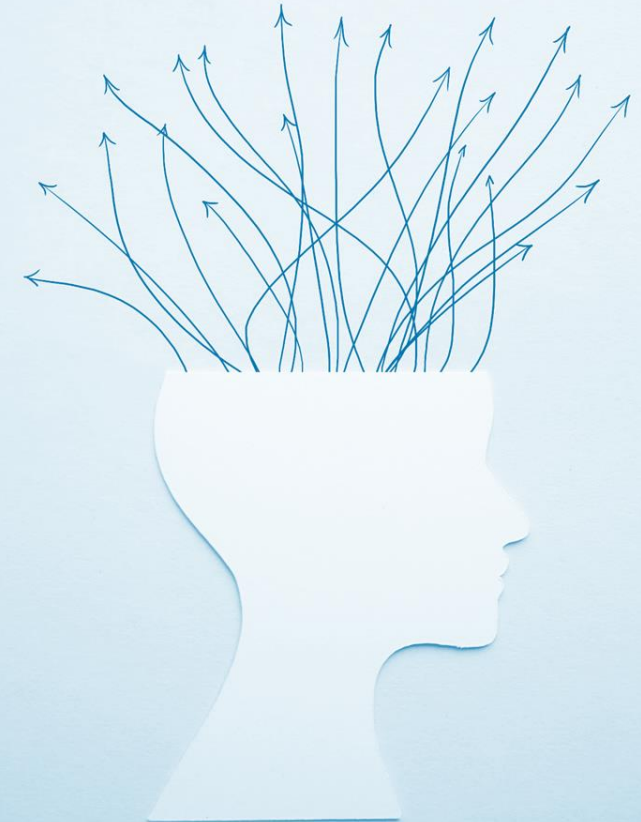
VISION

To improve the lives of *all* people impacted by brain diseases and conditions.

MISSION

We seek to advance understanding of brain functions to reduce the burden and stigma of brain diseases and conditions in order to improve the lives of impacted people by:

1. Convening organizations that provide brain research and treatment to create a sustainable platform for advocacy, innovation, and solutions.
2. Leading collaboration through member recruitment, engagement, and outreach, to develop expertise, strategies, processes, and policies.
3. Engaging the public, its representatives, and other stakeholders to enhance awareness, provide public advocacy, defeat stigma, and advance research opportunities.





Nonprofit Members



Nonprofit Academic Members



CENTER *for*
BRAINHEALTH®
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS



CENTER FOR LAW
BRAIN & BEHAVIOR
MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL



OHSU

BRAIN
Institute



HUNTSMAN
MENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai



McLean
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE

salk® Institute for
Biological Studies



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
STARK NEUROSCIENCES RESEARCH INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS CHICAGO



University of Nebraska
Medical Center™
BREAKTHROUGHS FOR LIFE.®



University of Pittsburgh
BRAIN INSTITUTE



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

Corporate Members

abbvie

Alkermes

 **ALTO**
NEUROSCIENCE

 **Biogen**

 **Boehringer
Ingelheim**

 **Bristol Myers
Squibb**

 **delix**

 **Eisai**

janssen
PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES
OF Johnson & Johnson

kernel

 **KARUNA**
THERAPEUTICS

Lilly

Lundbeck 

 **Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma**

 **NEUROCRINE**
BIOSCIENCES

 **NOVARTIS**

 **Otsuka**

PRA**IS**

 **Sage**
Therapeutics

 **SYNAPS Dx**
BIOMARKER TECHNOLOGY

 **Takeda**

teva

Observers

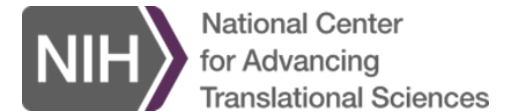
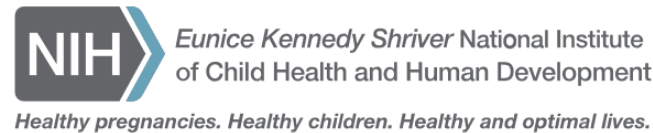
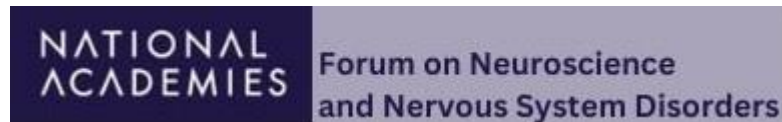


Agency for Healthcare
Research and Quality

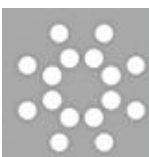
The BRAIN Initiative®



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services



Friends of the ABC



FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

A broad-based coalition of aging, disease, research, and patient groups supporting the mission of the National Institute on Aging (NIA).



*The Friends of the
National Institute on Drug Abuse*

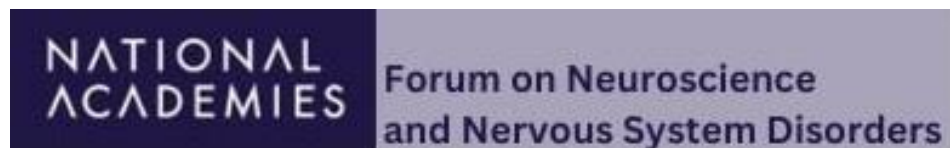
Friends of the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

FRIENDS OF VA MEDICAL CARE AND HEALTH RESEARCH **FOVA**



FRIENDS OF
AHRQ

Partners





AMERICAN
BRAIN
COALITION

Our Team

With heartfelt gratitude, ABC thanks our outgoing Board members for their dedication, leadership, and invaluable contributions.



Jason Kopinski, MS, CAE
Deputy Executive Director,
Chief Operating Officer
American Academy of Neurology



Madhukar Trivedi, MD
Founding Director of Center for Depression Research
and Clinical Care Betty Jo Hay Distinguished Chair
of Mental Health
UT Southwestern Medical Center



Marina Wolf, PhD
Professor, Behavioral Neuroscience
Oregon Health & Science University

Fall 2024 Board Members



Mark Rasenick, PhD
Chair
Distinguished Professor of Physiology & Biophysics
and Psychiatry
University of Illinois, Chicago



Diana Felner
Vice Chair
Senior Director, Caregiver & Mental Health Policy
Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregivers



Matthew Rizzo, MD
Past Chair
Frances and Edgar Reynolds Professor & Chair
Department of Neurological Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical Center



Patrick McCartney
Treasurer
Executive Director
International Essential Tremor Foundation



Bobby Heagerty
Secretary
Emeritus Director, Community Affairs
& Education
Oregon Health & Science University



Erika Augustine, MD, MS
Associate Chief Science Officer
Kennedy Krieger Institute



Amanda Becker
Senior Director
Practice and Advocacy
American Academy of Neurology



Christine Buckley
Executive Director
Brain Aneurysm Foundation



Josie Cooper
Executive Director
Alliance for Patient Access



Damien Fair, PA-C, PhD
Professor, Department of Pediatrics
University of Minnesota School of Medicine



Jennifer French
Executive Director
Neurotech Network



Andrea Gropman M.D., FAAP, FAMCG., FANA
Mark Tamer Endowed Chair in Pediatric Neurology
Member, Center for Experimental
Neurotherapeutics
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital



Theanne N. Griffith, PhD
Assistant Professor, Department of
Physiology & Membrane Biology
University of California, Davis



Barbara Jobst, MD, dr. med, FAAN, FAES
Chair and Professor of Neurology
Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine



Charlie Nemeroff, MD, PhD
Matthew P. Nemeroff Endowed Chair,
Mulva Clinic for the Neurosciences
Director, Institute for Early Life Adversity Research
Co-Director, Center for Psychedelic Research
& Therapy
Dell Medical School – University Texas at Austin



Jon Nelson
Lived Experience Expert in Mental Health



Michele Oshman
Senior Vice President, External Affairs
Head, Patient Advocacy Center of Excellence
Biotechnology Innovation Organization



Mary Phillips, MD
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Clinical
and Translational Science, and Bioengineering
Pittsburgh Foundation - Emmerling Endowed
Chair in Psychotic Disorders
University of Pittsburgh



Leslie S. Ritter, MA
ABC Advocacy Chair
Vice President, Healthcare Access
National Multiple Sclerosis Society



M. Elizabeth (Betsy) Ross, MD, PhD, FANA
President
American Neurological Association



Mar Sanchez, PhD
Division Chief & Core Scientist,
Developmental & Cognitive Neuroscience
Emory National Primate Research Center



Leah Schust-Myers
Executive Director
FamilieSCN2A Foundation



Stephen Strakowski, MD
Joyce & Iver Small Professor of Psychiatry
Vice Chair, Research, Department of
Psychiatry, Indiana University School of
Medicine, Indianapolis
Associate Vice President, Regional Mental
Health, University of Texas Dell Medical
School, Austin



Sarah Tellock
Director, Congressional Affairs
Alzheimer's Association
Director, Alliance Development
Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)



Laura Weidner
Chief Advocacy and Government
Relations Officer
Epilepsy Foundation



Hannah Wesolowski
Chief Advocacy Officer
National Alliance on Mental Illness

Emeritus Board Advisors

Over the years, the following individuals have been true assets and friends to the American Brain Coalition (ABC). Their leadership has been instrumental in the ABC's growth, advancing links between our advocacy, professional, corporate, and academic partners and communities. The ABC Board will consult from time-to-time for the wisdom of our Emeritus Board Advisors on ABC strategic issues.

Francis Kittredge, Jr. MD *(deceased)*
ABC Founding Chair
2004-2008

Joseph Coyle, MD
Chair 2008-2011

Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom, MD
Board Member 2019-2021

Robin Elliott
Chair 2011-2015

Janet Hieshetter
Chair 2015-2019

Cathy Rydell
ABC Founding Board Member
2004-2015

Louise Vetter
Treasurer 2014-2019

Corporate Advisory Council

Corporate members within the ABC are comprised of leading companies who recognize the importance of partnering with those committed to helping people with brain diseases and disorders. Corporate members include pharmaceutical, biotech, and medical device companies that are developing or marketing therapeutic or diagnostic products.

ABC corporate members may designate one individual to represent them on the ABC's Corporate Advisory Council (CAC). The Council provides unique opportunities for companies to engage with experts in the brain disease community, not only with patient advocacy organizations, but also with top scientific, clinical and policy experts and leaders in the worldwide central nervous system space.

**Deena Andreola**

Director, Therapeutic Policy & Advocacy, US Public Affairs
Takeda Pharmaceuticals America

Nancy Bayerlein

Director, Patient Engagement and Support
Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America

Todd Bledsoe

Executive Director,
Patient Engagement & Advocacy
Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.

Benjamin Collins

Senior Manager,
Strategic Alliances and Advocacy
Biogen, Inc.

Caroline Fisher-O'Neill

Director of Alliance Development,
Government Affairs and Public Policy
Otsuka America Pharmaceutical

Alexandra (Allie) Freitas

Senior Associate Director
Patient Advocacy and Professional Relations
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Julie Garner

Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy
Sage Therapeutics

Shannon Gilbert

Associate Manager, Marketing
Advocacy Lead
Teva Pharmaceuticals

Celine Goldberg, MD, PhD

VP Global Medical Affairs, Neuroscience
J&J Innovative Medicine
Johnson&Johnson

Natalie Green

Vice President of Business Development
Kernel

Alison Handler, PharmD, RPh

Director, US Patient Advocacy, Neuroscience
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation

Marybeth Howlett

Senior Director
Eli Lilly & Company

Lisa Hughes

Patient Advocacy Lead
Bristol Myers Squibb

Pavnit Kukreja, PharmD

Senior Scientific Director, Neuroscience
US Medical Affairs
AbbVie Inc.

Kate Madigan

Executive Director
Government Affairs and Strategy
Eisai, Inc.

Jordann Merkert

Associate Director
Communications and Patient Advocacy
Alto Neuroscience

Retsina Meyer, PhD

Head of Corporate Strategy
Delix Therapeutics

Peter Norman

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations
Alkermes

Brian Spar

Chief of Staff
Praxis Precision Medicines

Heather Strawn

Vice President, Government Affairs
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC

Norelle Wildburger, PhD

Senior Director of Medical Scientific Affairs
SYNAPS Dx Biomarker Technology

Advocacy Committee

The American Brain Coalition (ABC) Advocacy Committee recommends and reviews the ABC's legislative priorities to the Board. The Advocacy Committee communicates the legislative priorities to ABC members, as well as to policymakers and their staff. The Advocacy Committee monitors and reports back to the membership any congressional and agency activities and policy relevant to the ABC.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Leslie S. Ritter, MA
Vice President,
Healthcare Access
National MS Society

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Laura Weidner, Esq.
Vice President, Government
Relations and Advocacy
Epilepsy Foundation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Juliane Baron
Executive Director
Federation of Associations
in Behavioral & Brain Sciences
(FABBS)

Katherine Bloom
Advocacy Associate
Society for Neuroscience

Nicole M. Boschi, PhD
Director, Regulatory Affairs
National MS Society

Meghan Buzby, MBA
Director of Advocacy and
Volunteer Engagement
The Association for Frontotemporal
Degeneration

Phil Cronin
Legislative Consultant
Cure Alzheimer's Fund

Michelle Dirst
Assistant Executive Director
American Academy of Addiction
Psychiatry

Bobby Heagerty
ABC Secretary
Emeritus Director, Community
Affairs & Education
Oregon Health & Sciences University
Brain Institute

Adina Lasser
Public Policy Manager
Alliance for Aging Research

Patrick McCartney
ABC Treasurer
Executive Director
International Essential Tremor
Foundation

Kelly McCone, MPA
Senior Congressional Affairs
Manager
American Academy of Neurology

James Ramsey
Advisory Board Member
Center for BrainHealth

Julie Soares
Co-Chair, Co-Treasurer,
Founding Member
Cure Brain Disease

Stuart Spielman
Senior Policy Adviser and Counsel
Autism Speaks

Denver Supinger
Director of Advocacy and Government
Relations
Brain Injury Association of America

Sarah Tellock
Associate Director, Federal Affairs &
Alliance Development Manager
Alzheimer's Association

Wendy-Jo Toyama
Chief Executive Officer
American Epilepsy Society

Jose I Suarez, MD, FNCS, FANA, FAAN
Past President Neurocritical Care
Society, Founding & Past Chair
Neurocritical Care Research Network

Julienne Verdi
Executive Director
Alliance for Headache Disorders
Advocacy

Brett Waters
Founder & Executive Director
Reason for Hope

Sallie Weart
Associate Director, Government
Relations
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for
Parkinson's Research

Olivia Woodrich
Policy Coordinator
Tourette Association of America

Finance Committee

The American Brain Coalition (ABC) Finance Committee assists the Board of Directors in its fiscal management responsibilities, overseeing annual budgeting and financial practices, reviewing financial best practices, and making recommendations in accordance with ABC's mission and objectives.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Patrick McCartney
ABC Treasurer
Executive Director
International Essential Tremor Foundation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Rasenick, PhD
ABC Board Chair
Distinguished Professor of
Physiology & Biophysics and Psychiatry
University of Illinois, Chicago

Diana Felner
ABC Board Vice Chair
Vice President, Public Policy
Tourette Association of America

Matthew Rizzo, MD
ABC Past Chair
Frances and Edgar Reynolds
Professor & Chair
Department of Neurological Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Stephen Strakowski, MD
Joyce and Iver Small Professor of Psychiatry
Vice Chair, Research, Department of Psychiatry
Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis
Associate Vice President, Regional Mental Health
University of Texas Dell Medical School, Austin

Programming, Engagement & Outreach Committee

The American Brain Coalition (ABC) Programming, Engagement & Outreach (PEO) Committee is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring educational programs, and membership and community engagement and outreach efforts offered by the Coalition. The Committee will also evaluate and recommend to the ABC Board of Directors any partnerships or collaborations that will contribute to the program goals of the ABC.

INTERIM COMMITTEE CHAIR

Jennifer French
Executive Director
Neurotech Network

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Allen, M.Ed.
CEO, Co-Chair, Co-Treasurer
Founding Member
Cure Brain Disease

Chinmayi Balusu
Founder and CEO
Simply Neuroscience

Bill Griesar, PhD
Neuroscience Coordinator
NW Noggin

Susan Gurley
Executive Director
Anxiety & Depression Association of America

Christine Harhaj
Director, Advocacy and Strategic Alliances
PhRMA

Bobby Heagerty
ABC Secretary
Emeritus Director, Community Affairs & Education
Oregon Health & Science University

Cheyenne Lewis
Junior Specialist
Department of Physiology & Membrane Biology
University of California, Davis

Susan Raymond, PhD
Director, Foundation and Nonprofit Relations
Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium (MTEC)

Staff



Katie Sale

Executive Director

ksale@americanbraincoalition.org



Sheila Stern

Director of Engagement & Administration

sstern@americanbraincoalition.org



Serena Crawford

Communications Assistant

scrawford@americanbraincoalition.org



Kierra Irby

Coordinator, TAP & Special Projects

kirby@americanbraincoalition.org



AMERICAN
BRAIN
COALITION

Review of 2024

2024-2029 Strategic Plan

To better align with our new Vision and Mission, ABC's Board adopted a strategic plan which outlines aspirational goals, initial strategies, and metrics and tactics for reaching these goals. ABC's Aspirational Goals – what we strive to be -include:

1. Be highly relevant to our members (Convening).
2. Increase diversity to look like the US (Convening).
3. Increase public visibility and influence to help substantially increase funding of neuroscience research (Leading).
4. Influence the regulatory process to speed translation of neuroscience research into life changing therapies (Leading).
5. Be highly engaged within our members and with like-minded organizations (Engaging).

[View ABC's 2024-2029 Strategic Plan in its entirety.](#)

2024 Public Policy Priorities

ABC has developed a set of public policy priorities to guide our federal advocacy work. Carrying out this work brings the ABC closer to fulfilling its mission to advance understanding of brain functions to reduce the burden and stigma of brain diseases and conditions in order to improve the lives of impacted people.

This includes individuals with lived experience, their caregivers, those who treat patients, and researchers and scientists studying the brain. Research shows that when we adopt healthier brain habits, cognitive function can often be enhanced or extended. ABC is committed to bringing science-backed brain health approaches to the public, while also encouraging research and dialogue on the responsible use of advances to brain science.

ABC recognizes the burden of illness, injury, disability, and mortality among disproportionately impacted populations. In all we do, the ABC is working toward the elimination of health disparities, whether resulting from race/ethnicity, economic status, advanced age, geographic isolation, or stigma against brain diseases and conditions.

The ABC has several public policy priorities guiding its advocacy efforts. Explore each area further by clicking the links below.

Access to Care



Federal Support for Brain Research



Innovative Approaches for Developing New Treatments and Therapeutics



Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders



Ethical Use of Animals in Research



Appropriations

The following report highlights ABC's efforts in FY 2024 to promote federal funding for brain research and drive key policy changes. The report details ABC's legislative actions such as comment letters, engagement opportunities, and collaborations with the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC). These efforts underscore ABC's continued support for critical programs, such as the Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. Additionally, the report addresses the FY 2025 appropriations process, highlighting the critical need for sustained and robust investment in biomedical research to support both scientific discovery and the development of new or improved treatments. Through these efforts, ABC reaffirms its commitment to advocating for policies that advance understanding of the functions of the brain, and to reduce the burden of brain diseases and conditions.

[View Full Report Here](#)

Congressman Blumenauer steps down as Co-chair of the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus

ABC is forever grateful to Congressman Blumenauer for co-founding the Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) in 2010. Since its creation, the CNC has hosted over 45 briefings and information sessions on neuroscience research and findings; collaborated with patient advocacy, physician, and research organizations to build awareness; and led Dear Colleague letters, appropriations requests, and Congressional Record statements and more in support of neuroscience.

We wish Congressman Blumenauer much success in his future endeavors.



Luncheon honoring Congressman Blumenauer (from left to right) Dr. Mark Rasenick, ABC Chair, Representative Blumenauer (Ret.) and Katie Sale, ABC Executive Director

Congressional Neuroscience Caucus

[Representative Mike Thompson \(D-CA\)](#) will join [Representative Morgan Luttrell \(R-TX\)](#) as Co-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) for the 119th Congress. Rep. Thompson succeeds Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), who co-founded the CNC in 2010 alongside Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). View press release [here](#).

The bipartisan CNC promotes a better understanding of how the brain develops, functions, and ages. The caucus seeks to raise awareness about the millions of Americans afflicted with brain diseases and conditions and helps develop and promote legislation that advances neuroscience research.



Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA)
Co-Chair, Congressional Neuroscience Caucus



Representative Morgan Luttrell (R-TX)
Co-Chair, Congressional Neuroscience Caucus

2024 Congressional Neuroscience Caucus

LEADERSHIP



[Earl Blumenauer \(D-OR\)](#)
US Representative
Co-Chair



[Morgan Luttrell \(R-TX\)](#)
US Representative
Co-Chair

MEMBERS



[Ben Cline](#)
US Representative
(R-VA)



[Eleanor Holmes Norton](#)
US Representative
(D-DC)



[Zoe Lofgren](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[Scott Perry](#)
US Representative
(R-PA)



[Jan Schakowsky](#)
US Representative
(D-IL)



[Gerry Connolly](#)
US Representative
(D-VA)



[Sheila Jackson Lee](#)
US Representative
(D-TX)



[Stephen Lynch](#)
US Representative
(D-MA)



[Scott Peters](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[Mike Thompson \(D-CA\)](#)
US Representative
Co-Chair



[Brian Fitzpatrick](#)
US Representative
(R-PA)



[Hank Johnson](#)
US Representative
(D-GA)



[Seth Magaziner](#)
US Representative
(D-RI)



[Chellie Pingree](#)
US Representative
(D-ME)



[Adam Smith](#)
US Representative
(D-WA)



[Bill Foster](#)
US Representative
(D-IL)



[Derek Kilmer](#)
US Representative
(D-WA)



[Kevin Mullin](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[Bill Posey](#)
US Representative
(R-FL)



[Eric Swalwell](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[John Garamendi](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[Barbara Lee](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[Chris Pappas](#)
US Representative
(D-NH)



[Jamie Raskin](#)
US Representative
(D-MD)



[Susan Wild](#)
US Representative
(D-PA)



[Raul Grijalva](#)
US Representative
(D-AZ)



[Ted Lieu](#)
US Representative
(D-CA)



[Bill Pascrell](#)
US Representative
(D-NJ)

2024 Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) Briefings

February 14, 2024

New Year's Resolutions are Healthy for your Brain

[\(View Summary\)](#)

Congressional briefing co-hosted with the American Academy of Neurology (AAN), American College of Neuropsychology (ACNP), Center for BrainHealth, and the Society for Neuroscience (SfN) focusing on the intersection of brain health and New Year's resolutions.

April 17, 2024

10 Years of BRAIN Initiative Funding – Building on a Decade of Innovation

[\(View Summary\)](#) [\(View Recording\)](#)

Congressional briefing co-hosted with the American College of Neuropsychology (ACNP), the Dana Foundation, the Simons Foundation, the Society for Neuroscience (SfN), and The Kavli Foundation commemorating ten years of groundbreaking advancements in neuroscience.

May 2, 2024

The Evolution of Mental health Research: Better Science, More Effective Treatments, and Broader Impacts

[\(View Summary\)](#)

Congressional briefing hosted by The Friends of NIMH, in cooperation with U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar (MN) and the CNC to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the National Institute of Mental Health.

July 29, 2024

Traumatic Brain Injury: Current Trends & Future Directions

[\(View Summary\)](#) [\(View Recording\)](#)

Congressional briefing co-hosted with the Brain Injury Alliance of America to discuss the impact of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).

Innovation Initiative (ABCI2)

In 2017, the ABC established an [Innovation Initiative \(ABCI2\)](#), a collaborative program to stimulate private investment in brain-related research, remove regulatory and financial barriers to research, and strengthen the entire R&D system for expedited translation of neuroscience research into life-changing therapies and cures. This ABC advocacy effort is comprised of key stakeholders within the brain community, including patient advocacy groups, professional societies, and industry, collaborating to advance policy positions, legislation, and regulations that will strengthen incentives to invest in neuroscience research – positively impacting brain disorders. This program has provided several resources to the ABC membership, including a guide to navigating [Public-Private Partnerships](#).

ABC continues to recognize the unmet need for the development of products to treat brain diseases and conditions. Innovation is critical to improve the lives of people with these conditions. Federal agencies, like the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), must develop policies that keep pace with emerging brain science and work to advance discoveries, ensuring that individuals with brain diseases and conditions have access to new, safe, and effective treatments and therapeutics.

FDA Neurology Drug Program

ABC plays a leading role in advocating for the [Neurology Drug Program](#), demonstrating its commitment to advancing neurological and psychiatric research, treatment, and care within the United States. ABC leverages its collective voice and expertise to champion this initiative to support individuals living with brain diseases and conditions. Through strategic collaborations with policymakers, healthcare professionals, researchers, and patient advocacy groups, ABC advocates for increased funding for the Neurology Drug Program to accelerate the development and approval of new therapeutics for individuals with brain diseases and disorders.

In April, ABC led a brain community effort and [sign-on letter](#) to the House and Senate to provide \$5 million for the Neurology Drug Program (NDP). In November, ABC circulated a [follow-up letter](#) requesting Congress to include \$5 million for NDP proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

In September, Dr. Rasenick sent a [written thank you](#) to the Senate Appropriations Committee & Ag-FDA Subcommittee for NDP Funding Support.

Virtual Forum with FDA Highlighting the Neurology Drug Program (NDP) [VIEW RECORDING](#)

On October 23, 2024, the ABC hosted a virtual forum with the FDA highlighting the NDP. *Mark Rasenick, PhD* - ABC Chair, Distinguished Professor of Physiology & Biophysics and Psychiatry, University of Illinois, Chicago provided opening remarks, followed by an introduction provided by *Laura Weidner* - ABC Advocacy Committee Vice Chair, Chief Advocacy & Government Relations Officer, Epilepsy Foundation. Speakers included: *Teresa Buracchio, MD*, Director, Office of Neuroscience, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food & Drug Administration; *Michelle Campbell, PhD*, Associate Director, Stakeholder, Engagement & Clinical Outcomes, Office of Neuroscience, Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, Food & Drug Administration; *David McMullen, MD*, Director Office of Neurological and Physical, Medicine Devices, Food & Drug Administration; *Celia Witten, MD, PhD*, Deputy Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research, Food & Drug Administration. The event was moderated by *Ian Kremer, JD*, Executive Director, LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease).

Total Product Life Cycle Advisory Pilot (TAP) Program

The FDA Total Product Life Cycle (TPLC) Advisory Program (TAP) Pilot is meant to help spur more rapid development and widespread patient access to safe, effective, high-quality medical devices of public health importance. The TAP Pilot is intended to foster early interactions FDA facilitates between device manufacturer participants and non-FDA stakeholders. FDA intends for TAP to help ensure the sustained success of the Breakthrough Devices Program for innovative devices. Through generous grant support from the Dana Foundation, ABC has partnered with the FDA in identifying interested stakeholders in the Neurological and Physical Medicine space. ABC facilitates engagement between brain communities and other stakeholders within the FDA TAP Pilot. As a liaison and convenor, ABC ensures a more meaningful range of stakeholders, and the lived experiences of patients and their families, are included in the important conversations and decision-making processes of TAP.

A number of stakeholders have become collaborating partners in the TAP Program by providing organizational profiles to educate FDA on their area(s) of potential interest, engagement ability/limitations, communication platforms, membership base, and other areas, to facilitate potential outreach on relevant Breakthrough Devices.



BRAIN Initiative

On April 2, 2013, President Obama announced a bold new research initiative, the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative. The BRAIN Initiative® ultimately aims to help researchers find new ways to treat, cure, and prevent many diseases of the brain. The BRAIN Initiative is a collaborative effort among many government agencies and private sector partners.

ABC Advocates for the BRAIN Initiative

Our advocacy includes community-wide sign on letters sent to the appropriate House and Senate members in charge of appropriations; providing written testimony; working with our Congressional Neuroscience Caucus champions in commenting on this important initiative; and conducting meetings with appropriators.

The below photos highlight a Congressional Neuroscience Caucus Briefing held on Capitol Hill in April of 2024, entitled 10 years of BRAIN Initiative Funding – Building on a Decade of Innovation.



[View the summary of the briefing.](#)



From left to right: Drs. Ted Abel, Chris Rozell, Nanthia Suthana, Helen Mayberg, John Ngai, Jon & Barbara Nelson, and Dr. Mark Rasenick

BRAIN Initiative Alliance

ABC is a proud member of the BRAIN Initiative Alliance. Comprised of federal and non-federal members and affiliates, the BRAIN Initiative Alliance mission is to coordinate and facilitate communications from its members related to the BRAIN Initiative. Visit the [BRAIN Alliance site](#) for more information on how each Alliance member is contributing to this coordinated effort.



Explore the [ABC's BRAIN Initiative website page](#) for additional information and resources!

SIGN-ON OPPORTUNITIES

AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION SIGN-ON LETTERS:

April 2, 2024 - FY25 Neurology Drug Program Funding

The American Brain Coalition circulated a letter encouraging the House and Senate to provide \$5 million for the Neurology Drug Program, which will help advance discoveries in all areas of brain health including neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative, psychiatric, brain injuries, and more.

June 5, 2024 - FY25 BRAIN Initiative® Funding

The American Brain Coalition circulated a letter requesting the Committee to provide at least \$740 million in funding for the BRAIN Initiative® in FY 2025.

November 12, 2024 - NDP FY25 Funding Follow-Up to Spring Letter

The American Brain Coalition circulated a follow-up letter requesting that Congress include the \$5 million for NDP proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

November 21, 2024 - Joint Letter for BRAIN Initiative and All of Us Research Funding

The American Brain Coalition, partnered with Friends of All of Us Research program, circulated a letter encouraging Congress to support the funding level proposed by the Senate Appropriations Committee for both of these important programs.

SIGN-ON LETTERS AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION SUPPORTED:

January 7, 2024 - NDD Letter for FY24

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the Coalition for Health Funding expressing concerns over potential cuts to FY24 funding for non-defense discretionary appropriations.

February 19, 2024 - Friends of AHRQ FY 25 Appropriations Letter

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the Friends of AHRQ requesting \$500 million in FY25 appropriations for AHRQ.

February 23, 2024 - Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act (Letter to Senate) (Letter to House)

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by Physicians for American Healthcare Access (PAHA) in support of the [Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act](#) (H.R. 6205/S. 3211).

March 1, 2024 - Ad Hoc Group FY25 Recommendation for NIH

The American Brain Coalition has endorsed the Ad Hoc Group of Medical Research's FY25 recommendation for NIH ([view full statement HERE](#)).

April 10, 2024 - FOVA Recommendations for FY 2025

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by FOVA supporting their FY 2025 recommendation of \$1.05 billion for VA research.

May 6, 2024 - FY25 Funding for LHHS

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the Coalition for Health Funding calling on Congress to provide an adequate allocation for the LHHS bill in FY25

June 20, 2024 - Office of Caregiver Health

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the Rosalyn Carter Institute for Caregivers in support of maximizing the existing caregiver resources and programs within the federal government with the creation of an Office of Caregiver Health.

June 21, 2024 - Non-defense Discretionary Funding

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the NDD United calling on Congress to reject arbitrary non-defense discretionary (NDD) funding levels.

July 9, 2024 - LHHS FY25 Restructuring

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter opposing the FY25 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Appropriations bill which proposes cuts to public health and biomedical research programs.

July 25, 2024 - FY2025 Funding for National Center for Injury Prevention

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the Brain Injury Association of America opposing the budget cuts in the FY2025 House Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill removing all funding for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (Injury Center).

September 30, 2024 - FY2025 National Defense Authorization Act

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the Americans for Medical Progress offering comments on animals in medical research in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 (H.R. 8070).

October 31, 2024 - Inclusion of Conrad 30

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the American Academy of Neurology urging Representative Tom Suozzi (D-NY) and Representative Morgan Luttrell (R-TX) for the inclusion of Conrad 30 in bipartisan immigration framework.

November 8, 2024 - Inclusion of Conrad 30 & HWRA

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the American Academy of Neurology to House and Senate leadership outlining the current state of the healthcare workforce and urging them to include Conrad 30 and HWRA in the expected end-of-year package.

November 18, 2024 - FY25 NIH Appropriations Conference Letter

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research urging congress to finalize the Labor-HHS spending bill by the end of the calendar year with a robust investment in the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

November 25, 2024 - FY25 Appropriations Letter for Biomedical Research with Animals

The American Brain Coalition signed on to a letter being circulated by Americans for Medical Progress requesting Congress provide robust funding for biomedical research with animals.

ABC 2024 Statements & Letters

Based on our policy issues, the ABC regularly provides statements and letters in support of or opposition of legislative bills.

Statements:

August 14, 2024 - [ABC Responds to the NIH Structural Reform Proposal](#)

July 26, 2024 - [ABC Submits Comments to Cures RFI](#)

May 20, 2024 - [ABC Submits Written Testimony on BRAIN to Senate Appropriations Subcommittee](#)

May 3, 2024 - [ABC Submits Written Testimony on BRAIN](#)

Letters:

September 26, 2024 - [ABC Thanks Senate Appropriations Committee & Ag-FDA Subcommittee for NDP Funding Support](#)

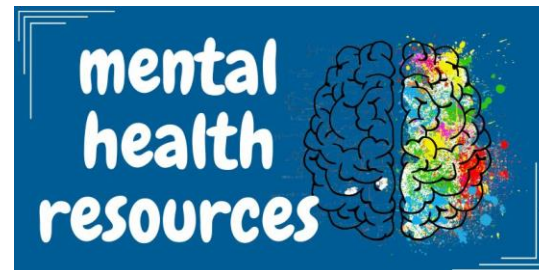
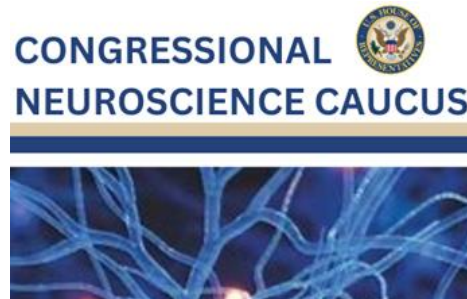
September 25, 2024 - [ABC Thanks Senate Appropriations Committee & LHHS Subcommittee for BRAIN Initiative Support](#)

Resources

The American Brain Coalition is committed to providing its members and the public with resources on the brain to advance understanding about the cause, impact, and consequences of neurologic and psychiatric illness in our society.



Responsible Use of
Animals in Research



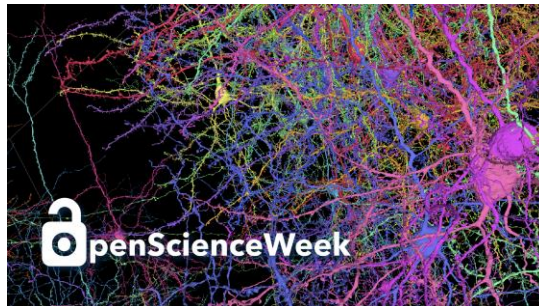
Ways to Get Involved...



Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development®



Brain
Donor
Project



STOP STIGMA
Together

About Research
Participation

What you need to
know before you decide



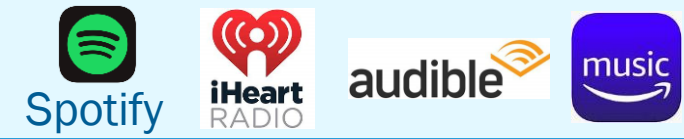
Medicare Part D
Resources



IHME Client Services

Data Tools and Practices

ABC Podcast Series



2024 ABC Educational Webinars

February 27, 2024 ~ [Deep Dive into CMS](#)

A virtual webinar providing an important overview of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) work and regulatory agenda, and learn about opportunities for you and your organization to weigh in.

March 21, 2024 ~ [Bringing Neuromodulation to the Advocacy Table](#)

A virtual webinar highlighting community engagement, advocacy efforts in the brain space and a real-world example of collaboration between ABC and FDA.

May 16, 2024 ~ [Military Brain Health Research Partnerships: The What and How](#)

A virtual webinar highlighting the priority areas of military research interest, how the military is organized to partner in brain health research, and several tips for how organizations can best position themselves to become military research partners. The webinar was organized and led by the Medical Technology Enterprise Consortium, an ABC member, and a leading military partner.

May 17, 2024 ~ [Collaborative Partnership Opportunities with the FDA](#)

A virtual webinar highlighting how you can collaboratively work with the FDA in ensuring the experiences of patients and their caregivers, as well as the professionals serving them, are included in the important conversations with the FDA and the companies they are working with.

September 16, 2024 ~ [Open Science Drives Discovery](#)

A virtual webinar highlighting what open science means, the importance of sharing data, and how it fuels scientific innovation.

The second Mental Health Innovation Summit (MHIS), hosted by the American Brain Coalition (ABC) on October 29, 2024, built upon the critical foundational work of the inaugural 2023 Summit. This year's summit united over 100 mental health advocates in a two-hour virtual event focused on practical, actionable solutions to persistent inequities in mental health diagnosis, support, treatment, and access. Leading experts engaged in dynamic presentations and panel discussions that encouraged cross-disciplinary insight sharing and utilization of existing resources to address long standing inequities in three areas: Access to Timely Diagnosis and Care, Access to Research & Innovation, The Cost of Persistent Mental & Behavioral Health Inequities.

[View Full Summary Report](#)

[View Full Recording](#)

2024



Mental Health
Innovation
Summit

championed by  AMERICAN
BRAIN
COALITION

The following Steering Committee members invite you to join us for the 2024 Mental Health Innovation Summit (MHIS):

 Alliance
for Aging Resources

 BLACK WOMEN'S
HEALTH IMPERATIVE

 CAREGIVER
ACTION
NETWORK

 DBSA
Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

 FABBS
Federation of Associations for
Bipolar & Related Disorders

 JED
The Jed Foundation

 MHA
Mental Health America

 NATIONAL
HEALTH COUNCIL

 PSI
POSTPARTUM SUPPORT
INTERNATIONAL

Mental Health Innovation Summit: Disparities to Parity

Accelerate *scalable*
solutions to organizations
and individuals, preparing
them to better *collaborate*
and *take action* against
mental health inequities.

TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 29
1:00-3:00PM ET

VIRTUAL EVENT

REGISTER HERE

AGENDA

Opening Remarks

Katie Sale, Executive Director, American Brain Coalition
John MacPhee, Chief Executive Officer, The Jed Foundation

Join us to hear from multi-sector experts piloting impactful solutions aimed at closing the disparity gap in mental health. Learn what's working in improving access to research, care, prevention, early intervention, and innovation, while also addressing the high cost of persistent mental health inequities.
Featured speakers include:

Nelson Dunlap, JD – Vice President, Public Policy & External Affairs, Meharry Medical College
Holly Garriock, PhD – Chief Cohort Development Officer, All of Us Research Program
Kristin Kroeger – Chief of Advocacy, Policy & Practice Advancement, American Psychiatric Association
Jeff Winton – Founder & Chairman, Rural Minds

These thought-provoking presentations will be followed by an engaging panel discussion, fostering deeper dialogue and exploration of solutions.

Q&A Session & Closing Thoughts

Summit
sponsored by

 Biogen

 Boehringer
Ingelheim

 Otsuka

 Sage
Therapeutics™

39 Annual Report 2024

 AMERICAN
BRAIN
COALITION

Stay Connected with the ABC

One of the many ways we can work together is through our social media accounts! We encourage all our members to make sure they are connected to our accounts so we can share stories, events and valuable resources as we continue the work for the many affected by brain disorders.

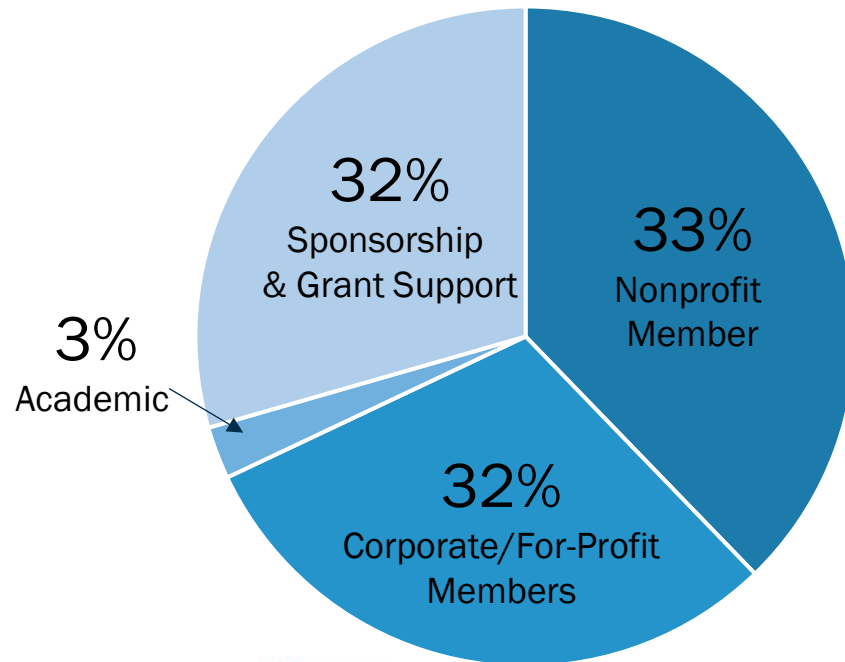


#ABrainCoProud

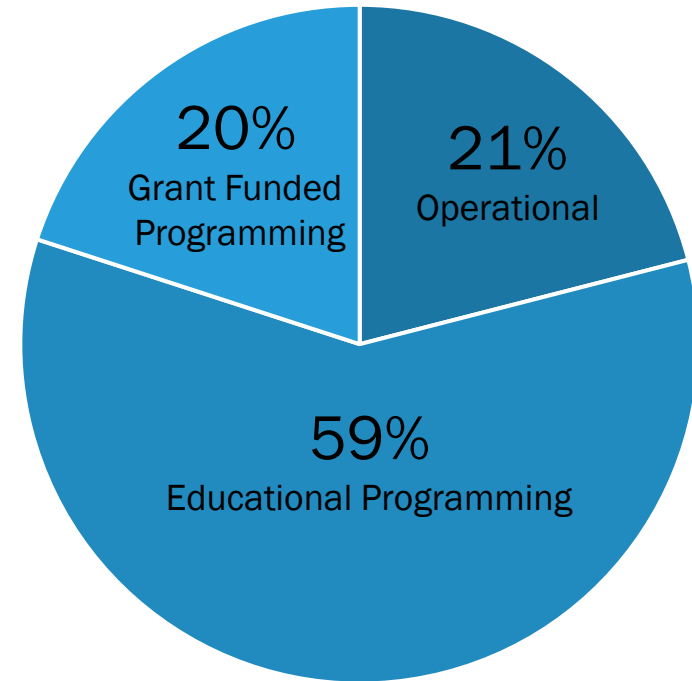
Financials

ABC relies on the generous support of membership dues, along with a small amount of sponsorship, to help ensure our modest total operating budget, which was just over \$600,000 in 2024. This revenue is used to support ABC's educational and advocacy programming.

2024 Revenue

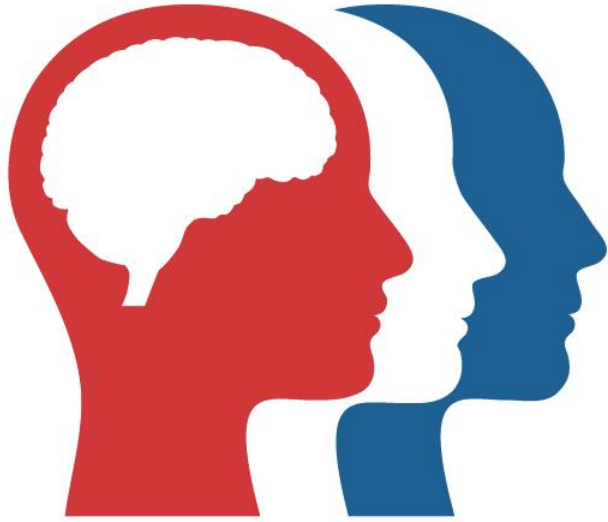


2024 Expenses



2024 Sponsorship & Grant Support





AMERICAN BRAIN COALITION

Thank you

Thanks to your commitment and collaboration, we know next year will be even better than the last.

We look forward to working together.

communications@americanbraincoalition.org

www.americanbraincoalition.org

