

AMERICAN
BRAIN
COALITION

Annual Report

January – December 2022

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Closing

Thank you.

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Who we are...

The American Brain Coalition (ABC) is a nonprofit organization comprising many of the United States' leading patient advocacy and voluntary health organizations, as well as professional neurological, psychological, and psychiatric associations. We also enjoy the support of a small number of publicly-traded corporations that actively engage in brain-related research. Together, we seek to advance understanding of brain functions to reduce the burden and stigma of brain diseases and conditions in order to improve lives of affected people.

With an established presence in Washington, DC, ABC is a strong and powerful voice for the 100 million people with disabling brain disorders, bringing together organizations that represent concerned and interested patients, families, and professionals. This voice is used to advocate for increased support of research that leads to better treatment; services and support that improves patients' quality of life; as well as a national commitment towards finding cures for individuals with disabling neurological and psychiatric disorders.

On behalf of all who live with neurological and psychiatric disorders, we invite organizations that share our concerns and goals to join us in our educational, engagement and advocacy efforts.



ANNOUNCING ABC'S NEW MISSION & VISION

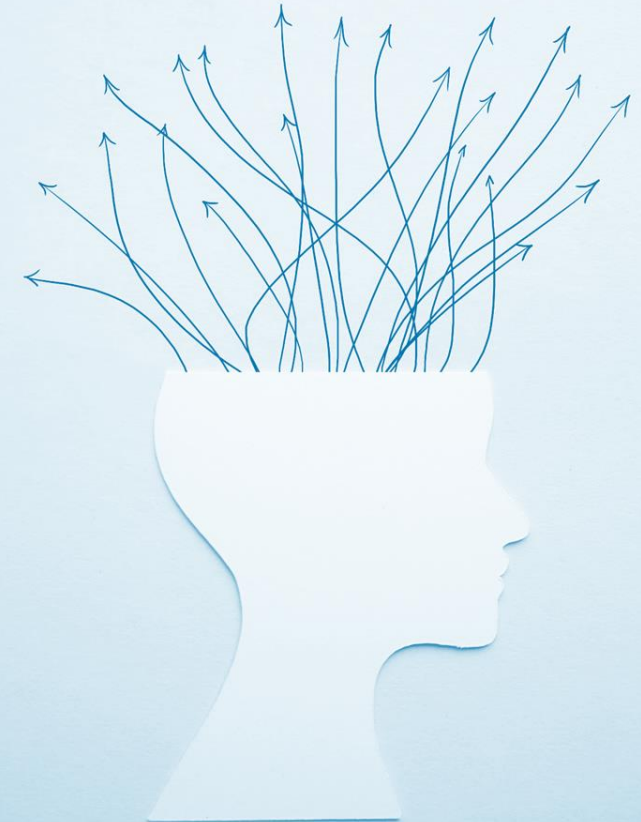
VISION

To improve the lives of *all* people affected 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 lives of affected 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

1 of 2



Nonprofit Members

2 of 2



Nonprofit Academic Members



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



MASSACHUSETTS
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL
TEACHING HOSPITAL



McLean
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL AFFILIATE



BRAIN
Institute

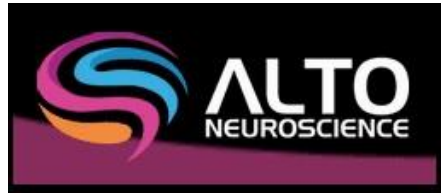


**University of Nebraska
Medical Center™**
BREAKTHROUGHS FOR LIFE.®



University of Pittsburgh
BRAIN INSTITUTE

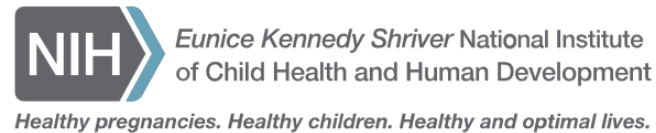
Corporate Members



Observers



Neurodiagnostics and Neurosurgical Devices Branch (NDNB)
Neurointerventional Devices Branch (NIDB)
Neurostimulation Devices Neurology Branch (NSDN)
Neurostimulation Devices Psychiatry Branch (NSDP)
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Devices Branch (PMDB)



Friends of the ABC



*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**





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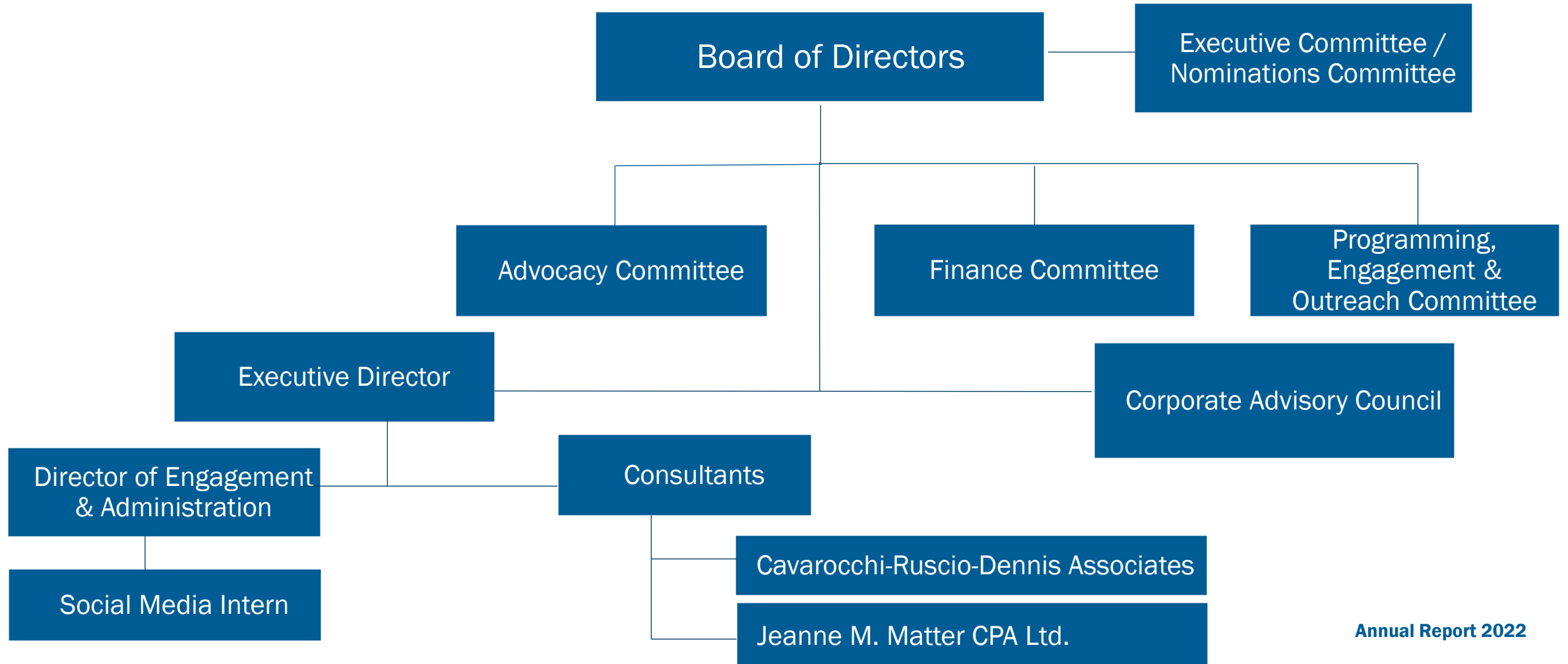
Our Team



Matthew Rizzo, PhD Board Chair

“I am ever grateful to be serving the American Brain Coalition, a unique marketplace of ideas for our many members and constituents, speaking together with one voice, to make heard the stories of over 100 million people living with 1,000 different brain disorders. Acting in concert in 2023, we will further advance strategic legislation and policies for greater neuroscientific discovery, care and cures for all Americans affected by these conditions”.

Flow Chart



Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Matthew Rizzo, MD

Frances and Edgar Reynolds
Professor & Chair
Department of Neurological Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical

VICE CHAIR

Mark Rasenick, PhD

Distinguished Professor of
Physiology & Biophysics
and Psychiatry
University of Illinois, Chicago

PAST CHAIR

Janet Hieshetter

Executive Director
Dystonia Medical
Research Foundation

TREASURER

Diana Felner

Vice President, Public Policy
Tourette Association of
America

SECRETARY

Bobby Heagerty

Emeritus Director,
Community Affairs & Education
Oregon Health & Science
University

BOARD MEMBERS

Josie Cooper

Executive Director
Alliance for Patient Access

Damien Fair, PA-C, PhD

Professor, Department of
Pediatrics
University of Minnesota
School of Medicine

Chantelle Ferland-Beckham, PhD

(term began Fall 2022)
Senior Director, External Affairs
Cohen Veterans Bioscience

L. John Greenfield, Jr., MD, PhD

Department of Neurology Chair
UConn Health

Theanne N. Griffith, PhD

Assistant Professor,
Department of Physiology &
Membrane Biology
University of California, Davis

Jason Kopinski, MS, CAE

Deputy Executive Director,
Chief Operating Officer
American Academy of Neurology

John L. Lehr

Chief Executive Officer
Parkinson's Foundation

Helen Mayberg, MD

(rotated off Fall 2022)
Professor, Neurology,
Neurosurgery, Psychiatry, and
Neuroscience
Icahn School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai

Patrick McCartney

*ABC Programming, Engagement &
Outreach Committee Chair*
Executive Director
International Essential Tremor
Foundation

Craig Obey, JD

Chief of Government Relations
American Psychiatric Association

Michele Oshman

Vice President, External Relations
Biotechnology Industry
Organization

Gentry Patrick, PhD

Professor, Neurobiology Section,
Division of Biological Sciences,
University of California, San Diego

Leslie S. Ritter, MA

ABC Advocacy Committee Chair
Associate Vice President,
Federal Government Relations
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Mar Sanchez, PhD

(term began Fall 2022)
Division Chief & Core Scientist,
Developmental & Cognitive
Neuroscience
Emory National Primate Research
Center

Stephen Strakowski, MD

Executive Director, Stone Center for
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry,
Indiana University School of
Medicine, Indianapolis
Associate Vice President, Regional
Mental Health, University of Texas
Dell Medical School, Austin

Sarah Tellock

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

Madhukar Trivedi, MD

Founding Director of Center for
Depression Research & Clinical Care
Betty Jo Hay Distinguished Chair
of Mental Health
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center

Marina Wolf, PhD

Professor, Behavioral Neuroscience
Oregon Health & Science University

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
ABC Founding Chair 2004-2008

Cathy Rydell
ABC Founding Board Member 2004-2015

Joseph Coyle, MD
Chair 2008-2011

Emanuel DiCicco-Bloom, MD
Board Member 2019-2021

Robin Elliott
Chair 2011-2015

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.



Yousuf Ali
Medical Director, Neuroscience
U.S. Clinical Development and
Medical Affairs
Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Corporation

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

Nancy Bayerlein
Director, Patient Engagement
and Support
Mitsubishi Tanabe Pharma America

Reina Benabou, MD, PhD
Vice President & Head of
Medical Affairs
Janssen Neuroscience US

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

Beatriz Duque Long
Director, Strategic Alliances, Public
Policy and Government Affairs
Biogen, Inc.

Julie Garner
Vice President, Government Affairs
and Public Policy
Sage Therapeutics

Shannon Gilbert
Associate Manager, Marketing –
Advocacy Lead
Teva Pharmaceuticals

Natalie Green
Vice President of Business
Development
Kernel

Marybeth Howlett
Senior Director
Eli Lilly & Company

Beth Keyt
Vice President Government Affairs
Pear Therapeutics

Anja Mett
Global Product Leader Neurology
Pharmaceutical Diagnostics
GE Healthcare

Jordann Phillips
Associate Director, Communications
and Patient Advocacy
Alto Neuroscience

Marsie Ross
Director, Provider Advocacy & Policy
Harmony Biosciences, LLC

Christian Rubio
Vice President, Patient Advocacy
Praxis Precision Medicines

Daniela Sharfstein
Government Affairs Associate Director
Jazz Pharmaceuticals

Maureen Sheltry
Executive Director, Advocacy Relations
Sunovion

Heather Strawn
Vice President, Government Affairs
Lundbeck Pharmaceuticals LLC

Michael Tunkelrott
Vice President, Marketing
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

Associate Vice President,
Federal Government Relations
National Multiple Sclerosis Society

COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR

Craig Obey, JD

Chief of Government Relations
American Psychiatric Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Juliane Baron

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

Wade H. Berrettini, MD, PhD

Director,
Center for Neurobiology & Behavior
University of Pennsylvania

Derek C. Brandt, JD

Director, Congressional Affairs
American Academy of Neurology

Phil Cronin

Legislative Consultant
Cure Alzheimer's Fund

Diana Felner

Vice President, Public Policy
Tourette Association of America

Katie Grady

Senior Manager
Advocacy & Federal Affairs
Society for Neuroscience

Bobby Heagerty

Emeritus Director, Community
Affairs & Education
Oregon Health & Sciences University
Brain Institute

Megan May, Ph.D.

Associate Director, Public Policy
The Michael J. Fox Foundation
for Parkinson's Research

Helen Mayberg, MD

Professor, Neurology,
Neurosurgery, Psychiatry, and
Neuroscience
Icahn School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai

Patrick McCartney

Executive Director
International Essential Tremor
Foundation

Stuart Spielman

Senior Policy Adviser and Counsel
Autism Speaks

Sarah Tellock

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

Jose I Suarez, MD, FNCS, FANA, FAAN

Past President Neurocritical Care
Society, Founding & Past Chair
Neurocritical Care Research Network

Madhukar Trivedi, MD

Founding Director of Center for
Depression Research and Clinical Care
Betty Jo Hay Distinguished Chair
of Mental Health
University of Texas Southwestern
Medical Center

Michael Ward, MS

Vice President of Public Policy and
Government Relations
Alliance for Aging Research

Laura Weidner, Esq.

Vice President, Government Relations
& Advocacy
Epilepsy Foundation

Monica Weldon

President & Chief Executive Officer
SYNGAP1 Foundation

Justine Welsh, MD

Assistant Professor
Emory University School of Medicine

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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

John Lehr
Chief Executive Officer
Parkinson's Foundation

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

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

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.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Patrick McCartney
Executive Director
International Essential Tremor Foundation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chinmayi Balusu
Founder & CEO
Simply Neuroscience

Chantelle Ferland-Beckham, PhD
Senior Director, External Affairs
Cohen Veterans Bioscience

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
Emeritus Director, Community Affairs & Education
Oregon Health & Science University

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

Gabriella Rizzo, MD, MBA
Resident Physician
Department of Neurological Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Staff



Katie Sale
Executive Director



Sheila Stern
*Director of Engagement
& Administration*



Elizabeth Wells
Social Media Intern



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COALITION

Review of 2022

ABC Strategic Plan

ABC's Board embarked in a strategic planning process in 2022. This initiative included the review and analysis of ABC's current Vision and Mission, which included the adoption of an updated Vision and Mission; completing an environmental scan (SWOT) of activities and resources, and the first steps of setting long-range goals based upon Vision, Mission, and Environmental Scan. More information will be circulated in 2023 regarding key goals and strategies for the next 5 years.

2022 SWOT Analysis

<u>Internal</u> Factors	Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistent revenue stream from committed members • Committed/experienced/engaged volunteer leaders • ABC is small – we can get things approved quickly • Executive Director’s historical knowledge – been with ABC since the beginning • Willing to adapt to change – went from a c4 to a c3 acknowledging the different role ABC was beginning to play • Only coalition for the brain community with wide membership base • Strong reputation with government agencies, especially NIH • Health community becoming increasingly aware of ABC as a resource • Now a 501c3 - able to obtain grants and individual donations • ABCI2 is moving along in a direction most are comfortable with 	Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small organizational structure - Part-time staff - Two employees doing all operations • ABC is small – limiting its scope • Some organizations may perceive the ABC as a lobbying organization since we were a 501(c)4 • Not many working committees • Small operating budget • Inexperienced staff with 501(c)3 • Challenges to providing value to larger nonprofit members • Limited diversity in revenue streams • Hard to engage all of the members we serve • Rely on dues of nonprofit and corporate partners who could opt out at any time • Competing with our member organizations’ funding • Unawareness of the ABC and its mission • Misperception of engagement with corporate partners
<u>External</u> Factors	Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding ABC role with Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) could improve impact • ABCI2 has better positioned us to work closer with FDA • Increased social channels allowing for better communication • Advancing patient-centered engagement of corporate partners 	Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other organizations could take on major programs out-competing ABC in its mission • New members of Congress in the CNC may be disinterested in ABC. • Disengagement of corporate partners from patient advocacy community • Inability to adapt to external crises such as the current pandemic

ABC Strategic Planning Steering Committee

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Stephen Strakowski, MD

Executive Associate Dean, Professor of Psychiatry
University of Texas Dell Medical School, Austin

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Matthew Rizzo, MD

ABC Board Chair

Frances and Edgar Reynolds Professor and Chair
Department of Neurological Sciences
University of Nebraska Medical Center

Mark Rasenick, PhD

ABC Board Vice Chair

Distinguished Professor of Physiology &
Biophysics and Psychiatry
University of Illinois, Chicago

Janet Hieshetter

ABC Board Past Chair

Executive Director
Dystonia Medical Research Foundation

Josie Cooper

ABC Board Member

Executive Director
Alliance for Patient Access

L. John Greenfield, Jr., MD, PhD

ABC Board Member

Department of Neurology Chair
UConn Health

Theanne N. Griffith, PhD

ABC Board Member

Assistant Professor, Department of Physiology &
Membrane Biology
University of California, Davis

Louise Vetter

Former ABC Treasurer & Board Member

President & CEO
Huntington's Disease Society of America, Inc.

New Vision & Mission

ORIGINAL Vision

ABC is a powerful voice for people with brain disorders bringing together organizations that represent concerned patients, families, and professionals. This collaborative voice will be used to create awareness and understanding, and advocate for increased research and resources that will improve patients' quality of life and enhance a national commitment toward cures for patients with brain disorders.

ORIGINAL Mission

The American Brain Coalition, a nonprofit organization, seeks to advance the understanding of the functions of the brain, and to reduce the burden of brain disorders through education, public advocacy, and outreach.

NEW Vision

We will improve the lives of *all* people affected by brain diseases and conditions.

NEW Mission

We seek to advance understanding of brain functions to reduce the burden and stigma of brain diseases and conditions in order to improve lives of affected 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.

2022 Public Policy Priorities

ABC has developed a set of public policy priorities to direct our advocacy work. Advancing these public policy priorities brings the ABC closer to fulfilling its mission to advance the understanding of the functions of the brain, and to reduce the burden of brain disorders through education, public advocacy, and outreach. As part of that mission, the ABC is dedicated to reducing the burden of illness, injury, disability and mortality among minority populations and older adults. In all we do, the ABC is working toward the elimination of health disparities, whether resulting from race/ethnicity, economic states, or stigma against brain disorders.

The following public policy priorities, which guide ABC's advocacy, are listed in alphabetical order below. Click on each priority for full description.

[Chronic Care](#)

[Ethical Use of Animals in Research](#)

[Federal Investment in Brain Research](#)

[Innovative Approaches for Developing New CNS Cures](#)

[Mental Health and Substance Use Insurance Parity](#)

[Stem Cell Research](#)

ACNP 2022 Public Service Award

The Public Service Award has been established in recognition of substantial contributions to affect public policies or other activities related to improving the health of the public with an emphasis on patients with brain diseases. This year the ABC nominated Congressional Neuroscience Caucus Co-Chairs Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers. [View nomination video](#) by Katie Sale, ABC Executive Director. View full [press release](#).



Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)
Co-Chair, Congressional Neuroscience Caucus

[Watch Acceptance Speech](#)



Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR)
Co-Chair, Congressional Neuroscience Caucus

[Watch Acceptance Speech](#)

2022 Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) Briefings

The bipartisan Congressional Neuroscience Caucus (CNC) promotes a better understanding of how the brain develops, functions, and ages. Co-chaired by Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA) and Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR), the caucus seeks to raise awareness about the millions of Americans afflicted with neurological disorders or mental illnesses. As emerging research has demonstrated the profound impact of COVID-19 on the brain, ABC has leveraged its relationship with the CNC to provide information to Congressional staff and the public to promote advances in neuroscience and brain health and recruit additional champions of neuroscience in Congress.

March 8, 2022

The Importance of Brain Donation for Treating and Curing Brain Diseases ([View Video](#)) ([View Summary](#))

Briefing was co-hosted with The Brain Donor Project and featured opening remarks by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). The panel of speakers included Walter Koroshetz, MD, Director of National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS); John Ngai, PhD, Director, NIH Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies® (BRAIN) Initiative; and Kathy McKenzie, a patient/family advocate.

May 18, 2022

Long-Haul Neurological and Psychological Impacts from COVID-19 ([View Video](#)) ([View Summary](#))

Briefing co-hosted with the AAN, ACNP and SfN, featured opening remarks by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). The panel of speakers included Dr. Igor Koralnik, Chief of Neuro-infectious Disease & Global Neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Danielle Kirk, patient advocate and Dr. Eric Lenze, Wallace Renard Professor of Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis

September 21, 2022

Potential of Psychedelics in the Treatment of Psychiatric Diseases: A Long, Strange Trip Toward Future Therapy ([View Video](#)) ([View Summary](#))

Briefing featured opening remarks by Representative Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). The panel of speakers included Dr. Nora Volkow, Director of NIDA, National Institutes of Health, Marcus Capone. Former Navy Seal & Founder & Chair of VETS Inc., and Dr. Rachel Yehuda, Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience of Trauma, Icahn School of Medicine.

Innovation Initiative (ABCI2)

In 2017, the ABC established an Innovation Initiative (ABCI2), a collaborative program to stimulate private investment in brain-related research and strengthen the entire research and development 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 a number of resources to the ABC membership, including a guide to navigating Public-Private Partnerships.

FDA Engagement: Speeding the Delivery of Cures and Treatments

Over the past two years ABC has been advocating with both Congress and the FDA to make efforts to address the unmet need for treatments and cures for brain conditions, with a particular emphasis on improving patient engagement in the FDA process. While we began our efforts by advocating for the creation of a Neuroscience Center of Excellence (NCOE) at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to increase capacity at the agency and advance a more transparent, innovative, and patient-guided approach to product development and provide clearer guidance to researchers and developers.

Through conversations between legislators and FDA officials, it became clear that FDA does not have the appetite to advance a NCOE at this time. Without the agency's support, our congressional champions were hesitant to force the authorization of an NCOE. While a full NCOE is still a long-term goal, ABC shifted to advocating for incremental efforts at FDA that will help speed the delivery of safe and effective treatments to individuals with brain conditions.

We continued to advocate for improvements before Congress, and ABC leadership met with FDA Commissioner Robert Califf and other senior FDA officials in September. We intend to continue our dialogue with FDA, including providing guidance on how the agency can improve patient engagement in the effort to mitigate the unmet need for cures and treatments for brain conditions.

Thanks to the advocacy of the American Brain Coalition and our partners, as well as key champions in Congress, we were pleased to see that the recently passed omnibus appropriations bill included \$2 million for a Neurology Drug Program at FDA. This program will focus on policy and guidance that keeps pace with scientific discovery in neuroscience, to advance the prevention and early detection of brain conditions.

With the input of ABC members and leadership ABC will continue to advocate for progress at FDA that advances our goal to speed the delivery of safe and effective cures and treatments to the millions of individuals impacted by brain conditions.



BRAIN Initiative

The American Brain Coalition was thrilled to become a member of the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative Alliance in 2021 ([View Press Release](#)). 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.

ABC held two BRAIN Initiative Briefings in 2022:

June 23, 2022 - Congressional BRAIN Initiative Briefing on the Importance of Neuroethics ([View Video](#)) ([View Summary](#))

Briefing co-hosted with the ACNP, the Dana Foundation, the International Neuroethics Society, and Simons Foundation featured opening remarks by Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA). The winners of the 2022 BRAIN Initiative Teen Challenge were highlighted and announced by ABC Chair, Matthew Rizzo, MD, the briefing moderator. The panel of speakers included Dr. Joseph J. Fins, President of the International Neuroethics Society, Dr. Jayatri Das, Chief Bioscientist at the Franklin Institute and Dr. Claire Weichselbaum, Barbara Gill Civic Science Fellow at Arizona State University.

October 19, 2022 - Congressional Briefing on the Importance of BRAIN Initiative Funding ([View Video](#))

Briefing featuring Dr. John Ngai, Director of NIH BRAIN Initiative, National Institutes of Health and moderated by Dr. Justin Jordan, Vice Chair, Health Policy Subcommittee, American Academy of Neurology.



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



Appropriations

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations process did not end until nearly six months into the fiscal year, when President Biden signed an omnibus spending package on March 15. The long-awaited package included important increases in funding for federal institutions that support brain and central nervous system (CNS) research. The FY 2022 agreement included a program level of \$44.959 billion for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a 4.7 percent increase over FY 2021; \$8.84 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), a 4.1 percent increase over the FY 2021; and \$882 million for the Veterans Administration's Prosthetic and Medical Research Program, an 8.2 percent increase. The BRAIN Initiative received a total of \$620 million. Last, the agreement provided \$1 billion for the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H).

Following the delays in enacting FY 2022 appropriations, the FY 2023 federal budget and appropriations process got off to a slow start. The President's budget was delayed by more than a month, but the House Appropriations Committee was able to advance all twelve of its bills through the committee. The Committee's Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-Ed) bill included \$47.46 billion for NIH, a proposed increase of \$2.5 billion, and \$620 million for the BRAIN Initiative. The House bill also proposed \$2.75 billion for ARPA-H, funded separately from the NIH budget. Though the House LHHS-Ed bill passed in committee, it did not reach the House floor for a vote.

Appropriations cont.

The House Appropriations Committee also approved the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies (CJS) Appropriations bill with a total of \$9.6 billion for the National Science Foundation (NSF), an increase of \$800 million over FY 2022. The full House did not vote on the CJS bill. Last, the Committee advanced the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon/VA) Appropriations bill with \$926 million, an increase of \$44 million, for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program. The MilCon/VA bill passed in the House as part of a package of six funding bills.

Like last year, the Senate Appropriations Committee did not take any formal action on FY 2023 appropriations. The Chair of the Committee, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT), posted draft bills on the committee's website on July 28. The draft Senate LHHS-Ed bill also included increased resources for ABC's priorities, including a total of \$47.96 billion for NIH. While the overall NIH number appears higher than that proposed by the House. The Senate bill includes \$1 billion funding for ARPA-H within that total, supplanting potential increases for existing NIH institutes and centers. The Senate draft also proposed \$700 million for the BRAIN Initiative, an increase of \$80 million. Additional draft Senate bills include \$10.3 billion for NSF, representing an increase of \$1.5 billion, and \$916 million for the VA Medical and Prosthetics Research Program, an increase of \$34 million.

Appropriations cont.

Congress was unable to enact legislation to fund the federal government in FY 2023 prior to the end of the previous fiscal year on September 30, 2022 and had to extend funding through a series of continuing resolutions (CR) into late December. The threat of long-term CR—or worse, a government shutdown—loomed. While CRs can be a necessary tool to keep the federal government operating, they add uncertainty to the federal grant making process and limit new research opportunities, stalling progress in brain research and other fields. ABC continued to advocate for bipartisan funding agreement that included increased investment in brain and CNS research.

On December 20, 2022, Appropriations leadership in the House and Senate released an omnibus spending agreement that included increased funding for federal research institutions.

The FY 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act includes \$47.5 billion for NIH, an increase of \$2.5 billion and \$680 million for the BRAIN Initiative, an increase of \$60 million. It also included an \$9.54 billion for the NSF's base budget, an increase of \$700 million and \$916 million for the VA Medical and Prosthetic Research Program, an increase of \$34 million.

The Senate passed the omnibus bill on December 22, 2022, and the House followed on December 23, 2022. The President signed the measure on December 29, 2022.

AGENCY	FY 2022	FY 2023
National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke	\$2,611,370,000	\$2,813,925,000
National Institute on Aging	\$4,219,936,000	\$4,407,623,000
National Institute of Mental Health	\$2,216,976,000	\$2,337,843,000
National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism	\$573,651,000	\$595,318,000
National Institute of Drug Abuse	\$1,595,474,000	\$1,662,695,000
National Center for Advancing Translational Science	\$882,265,000	\$923,323,000
BRAIN Initiative	\$620,000,000	\$680,000,000
Advanced Research Projects Agency-Health	\$1,000,000,000	\$1,500,000,000
National Science Foundation	\$8,838,000,000	\$9,539,011,000
VA Medical and Prosthetics Research Program	\$882,000,000	\$916,000,000

SIGN-ON OPPORTUNITIES

February 11, 2022 - Support of the Conrad 30 Reauthorization Act

The American Brain Coalition circulated a letter in support of S.1810/H.R.3541, the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act. The bill would extend and expand the Conrad State 30 program, which allows qualified foreign-trained physicians to provide care in underserved communities.

March 11, 2022 - Response Letter to Congress for NIH Letter on Animal Research

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by National Association for Biomedical Research (NABR) supporting the appropriate and ethical use of animals in research to help understand and treat diseases.

March 17, 2022 - One pager in support of the VA Neurology Centers of Excellence

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a one-page letter being circulated by the American Academy of Neurology endorsing the VA Neurology Centers of Excellence.

April 7, 2022 - FOVA Recommendations for FY 2023, Department of Veterans Affairs

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a one-page letter being circulated by the Friends of VA medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) detailing their recommendations for FY 2023, Department of Veterans Affairs.

May 10, 2022 - Public Health Data Modernization Initiative

The American Brain Coalition signed onto an annual appropriations letter in support of improvements to the United States' public health data infrastructure.

May 16, 2022 - LEAD FY 2023 Appropriations Letter

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the LEAD Coalition encouraging the continued financial support in FY 2023 toward the National Alzheimer's Plan goals and to advancing science, care and support, and public health.

June 1, 2022 - FY23 Animal Research Appropriations Letter

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by NABR outlining concerns related to animal research language in appropriations bills and reports.

July 14, 2022 - Understanding the implications of Long COVID

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the American Academy of Neurology urging Congress to explore the growing issue of long COVID.

July 29, 2022 - Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act (Letter to the Senate) (Letter to the House)

The American Brain Coalition signed onto letters being circulated by the American Academy of Neurology urging Congress consider and pass the Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act.

September 7, 2022 - Neurology Drug Program

The American Brain Coalition circulated a letter expressing our thanks to members of the Senate and House Agriculture appropriations subcommittee for including funding support of a Neurology Drug Program at the FDA in a recent Senate Agriculture-Rural Development-FDA draft bill.

September 7, 2022 - Medical Marijuana and Cannabidiol Research Expansion Act (MMCRE)

The American Brain Coalition circulated a letter urging the Senate to consider and pass the MMCRE Act which has already passed the House and would provide for research on medical marijuana and CBD and new therapeutic options for patients based on the research.

October 28, 2022 - National Plan to End Parkinson's Act

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the Michael J. Fox's Foundation for Parkinson's Research in support of the National Plan to End Parkinson's Act (HR 8585, S 4851).

November 4, 2022 - NIH Base Budget for FY 2023

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the Ad Hoc Group Steering Committee being sent to the House and Senate Appropriations Committee leadership, urging swift passage of at least the House Appropriations Committee-passed \$47.5 billion for the NIH base budget for FY 2023.

December 6, 2022 - FY 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by Research!America encouraging the secure passage of the FY 2023 Omnibus Spending Bill before the expiration of the current resolution.

December 7, 2022 - VA Infrastructure Powers Exceptional Research Act (VIPER Act)

The American Brain Coalition signed onto a letter being circulated by the Association of American Medical Colleges and American Psychological Association encouraging the Senate to pass the VIPER Act before the end of the year.

ABC 2022 Statements & Letters

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

Statements:

June 21, 2022 - [ABC Statement on Health Equity](#)

July 29, 2021 - [ABC Statement to advance a NCOE for PDUFA Hearing](#)

March 9, 2022 - [ABC FY22 Omnibus Appropriations Summary](#)

Letters:

November 30, 2022 - [ABC Welcome Letter to Dr. Arati Prabhakar, Director, Office of Science and Technology Policy](#)

September 15, 2022 - [ABC Letter to Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on inclusion of Cost of Mental Illness Act](#)

August 3, 2022 - [ABC Letter of Appreciation to Senator Collins regarding Neurology Drug Program at FDA](#)

March 7, 2022 - [ABC Animal Research Tabak Letter Response](#)

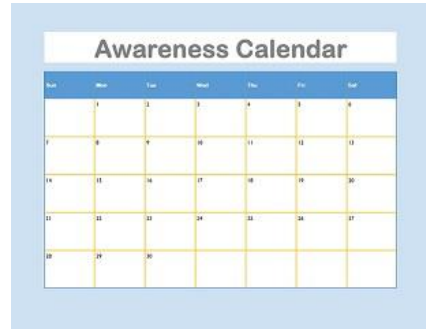
March 3, 2022 - [ABC BENEFIT Act Support Letter](#)

Website Resources

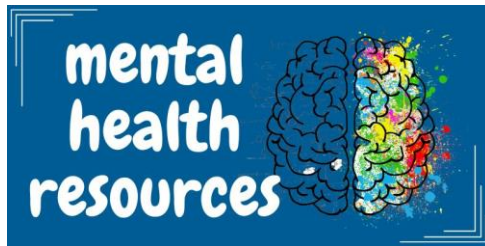
The American Brain Coalition is committed to providing its members and the public with resources on the brain to advance understanding about the cause, impact, and consequences of neurologic and psychiatric illness in our society.



Neuroscience in the midst of COVID-19



Responsible Use of
Animals in Research



Brain Research Initiatives



Takeda-Lundbeck White Paper



Nature Journals Ethics Statement



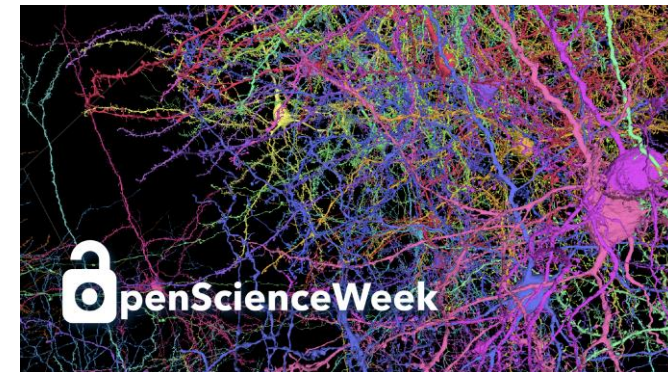
Ways to Get Involved...



Brain
Donor
Project



Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development®



Stay Connected with the ABC

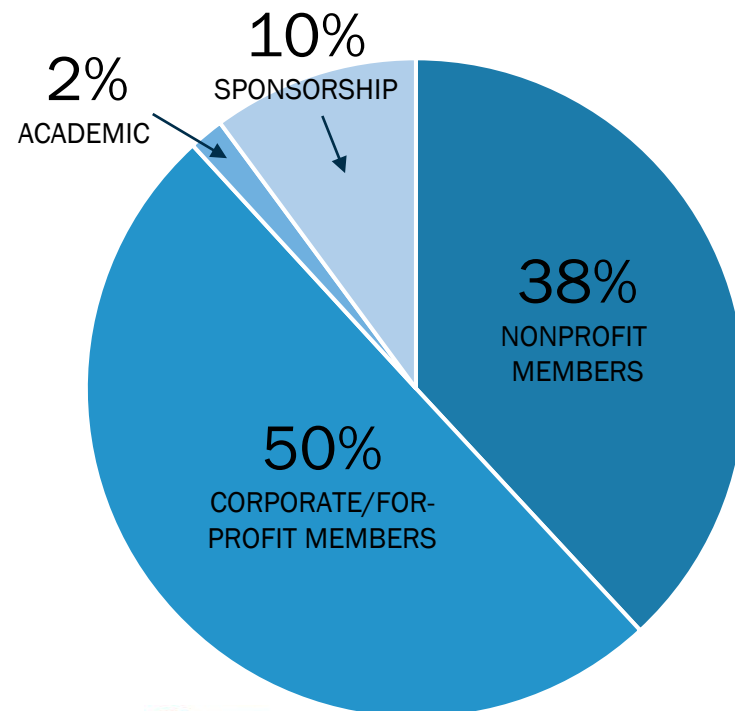
One of the many ways we can work together is through our social media accounts! We encourage all of our members to make sure they are connected to our accounts so we can share stories, events and valuable resources as we continue the work for the many affected by brain disorders.



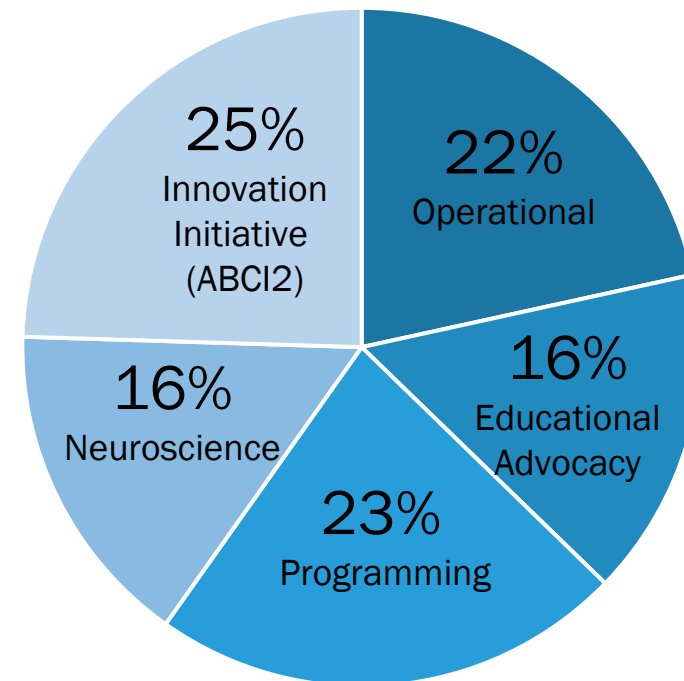
Financials

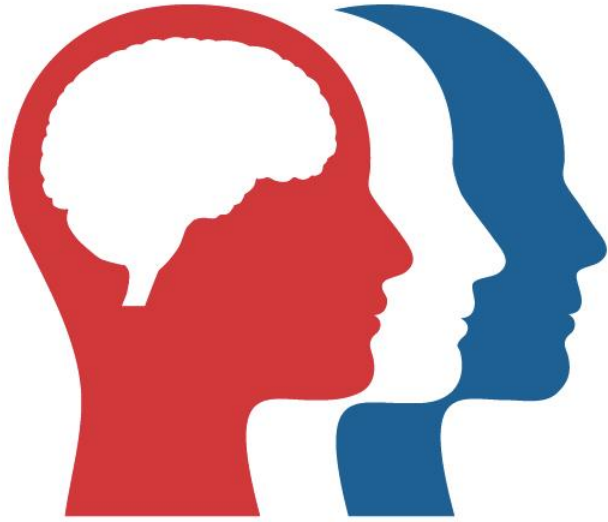
ABC relies on the generous support of membership dues to help ensure our modest total operating budget, which was just over \$400,000 in 2022. This revenue is used to support ABC's educational and advocacy programming.

2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses





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.

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www.americanbraincoalition.org