

From: [Hiremath, Kedar](#)
To: [Smith, Randy](#); [Sutherland, Sue](#)
Cc: [Godbout, Jonathan \(OSUMC\)](#); [Wold, Loren](#); [Spellacy, Amy](#); [Benear, Alexa](#); [Edwards, Colin](#); [Reed, Katie](#)
Subject: Proposal: Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery - ERIK
Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 5:41:38 PM
Attachments: [CBI Academic Center Planning 2025 \(v2\).pptx](#)
[CBI Academic Center Proposal v11- 2025\).pdf](#)

Drs. Smith and Sutherland,

On behalf of the Chronic Brain Injury Program as well as our leaders in the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK), please find attached our proposal to the Council on Academic Affairs to establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery within ERIK at The Ohio State University. The primary document includes a letter to you, the proposal narrative, and several appendices, as outlined in Faculty Rule 3335-3-36. Also attached is a slide deck summarizing the proposal.

Please let us know if you have any questions, need further information or documents, or require any other action by our group.

Thank you!

Jonathan Godbout, PhD & Kedar Hiremath, MBA, MPH



Kedar Hiremath, MBA, MPH (*he/him*)
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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Enterprise for Research,
Innovation & Knowledge

Chronic Brain Injury Program
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September 30, 2025

Vice Provost W. Randy Smith
Council on Academic Affairs
Office of Academic Affairs
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RE: Academic Center Proposal: Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery

Dear Dr. Smith,

Please find attached a proposal to establish a new Ohio State academic center within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK) titled *Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery* (CBIRD). This proposal is submitted by the current Chronic Brain Injury Program with support from ERIK, multiple Colleges, numerous departments and centers, and external partners.

On behalf of the faculty and staff who have participated in developing this proposal, we request the Council on Academic Affairs to review and advance this proposal for University Senate approval. We look forward to your feedback and support in building a world-class research platform to address the invisible epidemic of brain injury.

Sincerely,

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D.
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
Email: jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

**Proposal to Establish
The Ohio State University
Center for Brain Injury
Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD)**



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Introduction

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a significant individual and societal problem. Brain injuries are a major cause of death and disability across all ages, and the leading cause of death and disability among American children ages 0-4 and 15-19. The US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) identified approximately 2.8 million medical encounters in 2014 for which TBI was one of the diagnoses of patients treated and released from emergency departments (2019). The CDC estimated that for every TBI-related death there are at least 3 TBI-related hospitalizations (2019). These data, however, include neither patients who did not report immediate symptoms during medical encounters nor concussive brain injuries that are often unreported – as many as 8 in 9. Thus, the number of individuals who have had a brain injury is much higher than reported and there are millions of people in the US that continue to suffer from the chronic effects of these injuries. Researchers at The Ohio State University and State of Ohio partners estimate that approximately 25% of Ohio adults will experience a brain injury in their lifetime, often before the age of twenty, with resulting medical costs and lost wages totaling \$6 billion per year.

Injuries to the brain and other central nervous system areas encompass a range of conditions beyond TBI including spinal cord injury (SCI), acquired brain injury (e.g., stroke, hypoxic-anoxic injury), and neurodegenerative diseases (e.g., dementias, movement disorders, neurological conditions). Importantly, these injuries often have long-term or chronic effects on individuals. Over 43% of individuals who have suffered a head injury with loss of consciousness are living with a disability – roughly 10 million people – and estimates between 15-60% of TBI survivors continue to have chronic issues post injury that reduce functional recovery, health, and lifespan (Schneider et al, 2021; Haarbauer-Krupa et al, 2022). Rather than considering a brain injury as a singular event that heals like a broken bone, we must consider the injury with potential to manifest as a chronic condition. As such, **we define the term *chronic brain injury* to be the persistent and progressive life-long effects of brain injury that affect health, independent function, and participation in society** (Corrigan & Hammond, 2013). Overall, understanding the impact of chronic brain injury is important and is a biologically relevant area of focus.

It is important to highlight that there are significant connections between brain injuries and chronic health conditions. The most common health challenges are sensorimotor (e.g. vision, movement), behavioral (e.g. regulating emotions, impulsivity), and cognitive (e.g. decision-making, memory, comprehension, brain fog) complications. **A significant concern for aging injury survivors is an increased risk for additional brain injuries such as stroke and developing neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s disease, chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE), Parkinson’s disease, and epilepsy.** These effects and risks, in turn, create challenges to independent living, socialization, gaining and maintaining employment, succeeding in school, and financial wellbeing. Many of the effects of injury are invisible; it is difficult to recognize cognitive fatigue in the way you might see a scar or a sling. For all these reasons, the true burden of chronic brain injury is unclear. Thus, understanding the mechanisms that cause these persistent issues after brain injuries, and translation of this understanding into early detection, novel treatments, and multi-system supports, are several critical areas for investigation and intervention.

The challenges of addressing brain injury are further complicated by the inherent uniqueness to the survivor; no two brain injuries are alike. A brain injury survivor might experience cognitive or movement dysfunction, have challenges with seeing or hearing, struggle to manage mood or emotions, or experience stress and anxiety – or none of these. Injury burden and recovery are unpredictable, with some minor injuries resulting in significant impairments while major injuries can sometimes recover greatly. Injuries and related systemic issues also disproportionately affect vulnerable populations: young children and older adults who may fall; rural or underserved populations who might not receive essential follow-up care; survivors of domestic violence who must navigate criminal justice without a diagnosis; military service members and law enforcement officers whose work exposes them to blasts, crashes, and traumatic events; and people who are unhoused, in addiction treatment, or incarcerated, and lack brain injury accommodations in their recovery programs. Given these complexities, **brain injury research and care must engage a broad set of health sciences and other disciplines. These span medicine, nursing, public health, psychology, social work, speech and hearing sciences, artificial intelligence and data science, electrical engineering, materials science, law, policy, and more.**

Prior to the establishment of the Chronic Brain Injury (CBI) Program in 2014, researchers at The Ohio State University had established separate research and training activities related to neurotrauma research (Center for Brain & Spinal Cord Repair, Director: Phillip Popovich) and brain injury rehabilitation (Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention & Rehabilitation, Directors: John Corrigan, Jennifer Bogner), with other investigators distributed across campus. Now, with eleven years of CBI efforts, there is a significant community of faculty, scientists, and clinicians who engage in deeply interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research aligned with Ohio State's land grant mission. The augmentation within these areas is directly linked to core faculty within the CBI program. CBI jointly recruited 22 faculty in 5 Colleges through the Discovery Themes Initiative who paired with existing Ohio State faculty to drive interdisciplinary projects. Currently in 2025, the CBI program **has 49 Faculty Members (core faculty who are highly engaged and integrated) and 224 Faculty Affiliates (faculty who are interested and support projects), staff, learners, and externals.** These CBI affiliates represent 11 different colleges at The Ohio State University. This network, fueled by CBI investments and activities, has significantly enhanced Ohio State's extramural grant funding, rankings, experiential learning at all training levels, and outreach to industry, government, and communities. The broad goals of the proposed CBIRD center are to grow and expand these initial efforts into understanding brain injuries and to augment advances in research, innovation, and discovery at The Ohio State University.

The CBI program has already established that it benefits the scientific community at OSU. For instance, CBI funding and support programs for cross-college collaborative research projects are key reasons for the increase in productivity and impact on brain injury research here at OSU. From 2015-2025, CBI-sponsored pilot awards have helped Ohio State to capture \$29 million in extramural awards, and CBI members have published 366 collaborative publications. The impact of CBI's work in these areas is clear as **OSU ranks among the top 26 universities for active National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for traumatic brain injury research, with significant growth in Department of Defense (DOD) supported research programs (over \$20 million since 2018), and over \$73 million in collaborative extramural awards since the program's inception.** In

addition, the CBI program has led or participated in other advancements, including new federal research training grants, transdisciplinary research clusters like the Neuro-Developmental Research Affinity Group at Nationwide Children's Hospital and the statewide Brain Injury from Violence CARE Alliance, piloting novel treatments like Basking Bioscience's BB-031 stroke therapeutic, administering essential government supports including the NeuroTrauma Registry of Ohio, and developing community-student engagement programs such as OSU Brain CARE. CBI's bi-weekly NeuroTrauma Research in Progress Seminars (NT-RIPS), the public-facing Buckeye Neurotrauma Lectures series, the NeuroNights community outreach workshop series, joint Grand Rounds with clinical departments at the Wexner Medical Center, and an annual CBI Research Day are helping to drive new ideas, curricula, and policy. Taken together, CBI has successfully developed a nationally recognized research program in brain injury and expanded the national reputation in neurotrauma at OSU.

Based on the strong foundation of the CBI program, **we propose to establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK) at The Ohio State University.** The main objective of this new center is to deepen and broaden the implementation of our research and academic mission within four domains: *Discovery, Assessment, Recovery, and Systems*. Several cross-cutting themes representing faculty clusters and scientific trends will intersect multiple domains, and new themes are currently being explored. In strong alignment with ERIK's operations such as innovation and commercialization, peer University centers and institutes, and research development, CBIRD programming will continue to primarily support research collaborations involving multiple colleges, University offices, and external partners. CBIRD will formalize eleven years of cross-college and convergent research, teaching, and outreach activities into a University-level organization operating as a world-class, full-stack platform that translates ground-breaking discoveries into real solutions for some of the most challenging, life-altering, and prevalent health conditions.

Mission

To lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury.

A. Missions of the university (research, teaching, and service/outreach) relevant to CBIRD

The Chronic Brain Injury (CBI) Program via the Discovery Themes Initiative established a foundation to address complex, persistent, and life-long challenges presented by brain injury. CBI has driven interdisciplinary and translational research projects featuring teams of scientists across campus and external organizations by investing in new faculty, innovative projects, experiential training, and shared resources. Our proposed academic center, the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD), will continue this effort to holistically improve the University's research environment for funding success and societal impact by specifically incorporating projects and activities across University teaching, service, and outreach functions.

Research

- Expand, support, and maintain a basic science research program on chronic and age-related effects of traumatic brain injury, stroke and anoxic injury, spinal cord injury, and neurodegenerative diseases that is nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in neuroimmunology, neural repair, neural aging, scientific training, and innovation.
- Enable teams of investigators to build cross-college collaborative research projects across fundamental, observational, interventional, and implementation sciences for chronic brain injury topics leveraging expertise in artificial intelligence, preclinical modeling innovations, health services and clinical trials, imaging and monitoring technologies, health policy and economics, and justice.
- Expand, support, and maintain an interdisciplinary research program that successfully competes for funding from federal, foundation, and industry partners, with a particular focus on team and programmatic grants, through investments in people, equipment, software, and partnerships that facilitate world-class research and creative expression.

Teaching

- Acquire and enhance trainings such as courses, workshops, and extramurally funded fellowships that provide educational opportunities for undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral researchers and junior faculty to participate in brain injury research and clinical care.
- Elevate interdisciplinary research and professional education offerings for scientists and clinicians at the undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral and fellowships levels through regular seminars, symposia, grand rounds, invited lectures, and career development workshops.

Outreach

- Expand and support programs, services, and workshops that engage at-risk and rural communities for research study recruitment, piloting of novel interventions and clinical practices, feedback on needs and initiatives, and knowledge dissemination.
- Facilitate academic-industry collaborative networks and projects that increase capacity to innovate methods and tools to address brain injury in the lab and in the field, and placement of trainees within academic, industry, government, and community organizations.
- Lead communication of campus impacts to various audiences, including scientists, trainees, professional organizations, and funding agencies.

B. Interdisciplinary nature of the center

CBI's program activities were designed to build and support interdisciplinary teams and projects. As part of the Discovery Themes Initiative, CBI recruited faculty into the Colleges of Medicine (11), Arts & Sciences (5), Engineering (4), Nursing (1) and Public Health (1) to form groups of funded Ohio State researchers in and across established College centers (e.g. Center for Brain & Spinal Cord Repair, Center for Cognitive & Behavioral Brain Imaging, ElectroScience Lab, and Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research). Formal programming began in 2016 to build the network of faculty labs from just under 30 to now over 130 across 11 Colleges. From pilot grants to campus-wide seminars to undergraduate hackathons, CBIRD will continue to connect faculty and student clusters across campus. A campus-wide, cross-college approach is critical to identify, develop, and implement solutions for the multifaceted challenges of life after neural injury – our brains and bodies are critical to our life in so many more ways than just health.

This approach to CBI programming has been successful especially for the past 9 years (since 2016). For instance, 89 interdisciplinary projects have been developed and co-funded by CBI (\$2.7 million invested since 2016 with \$2.3 million in matching funds), including designing novel nanotechnologies for drug delivery to regenerate neural tissue, improving statewide injury surveillance through artificial intelligence, identifying mechanisms linking post-injury sleep disturbances to Alzheimer's disease, evaluating financial wellness coaching for brain injury survivors, and developing brain injury-informed policies to keep law enforcement officers healthy at work. To date, CBI program investments into these interdisciplinary, cross-college projects have resulted in over \$29 million in extramural grants to faculty in 10 Colleges. This important pilot grant program will continue to be a main facet of the proposed center.

CBIRD affiliates represent a broad range of faculty, staff, and students at Ohio State, the Wexner Medical Center, and Nationwide Children's Hospital. In addition to a diverse community, CBIRD aims to foster interdisciplinary collaboration across multiple disease types (e.g. characterizing spinal cord injury mechanisms driving infection and organ failure), complementary research methods (e.g. AI-enhanced driving rehabilitation for teens with concussion), and translational spectrum (e.g.

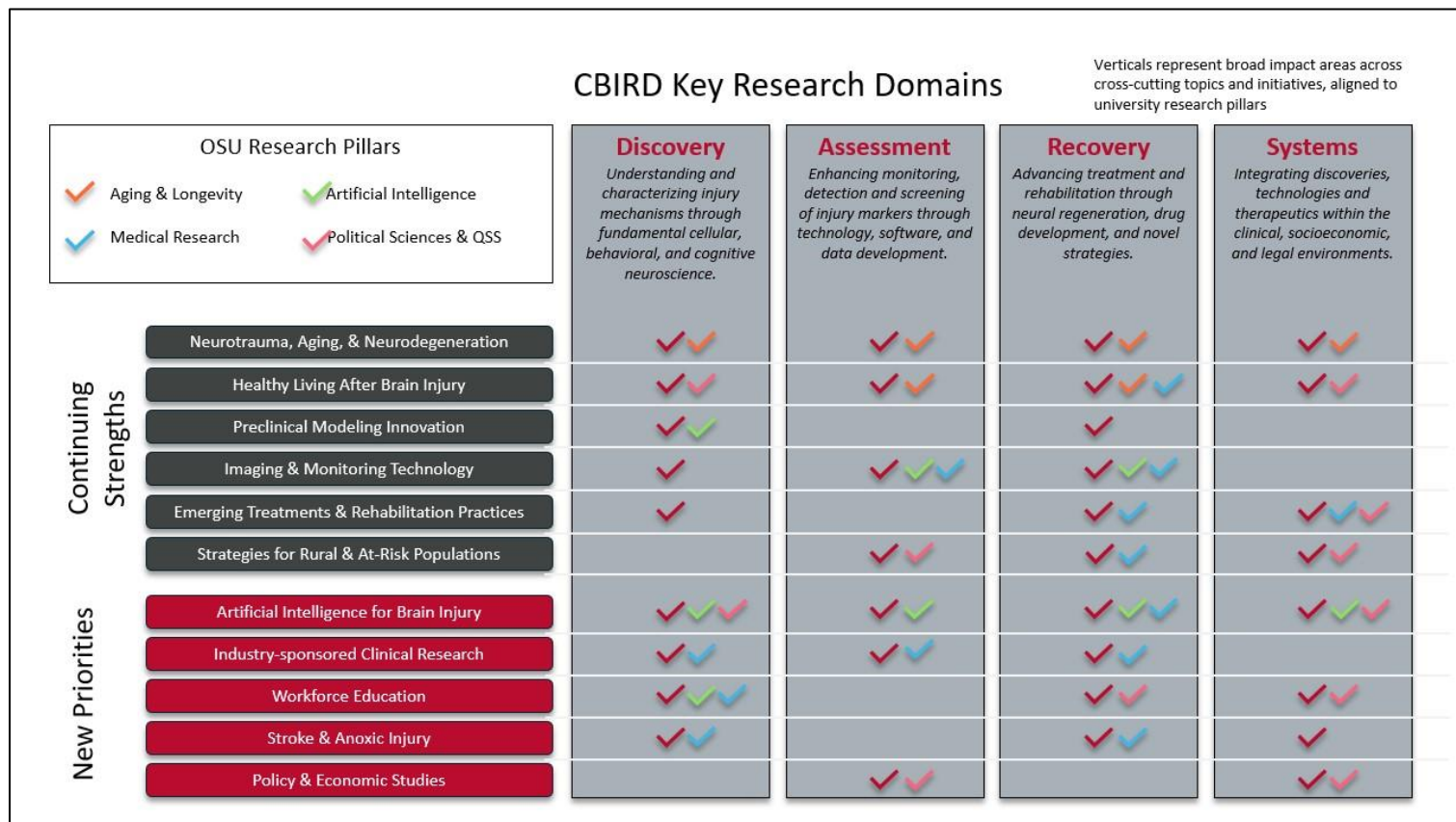
nutritional interventions to prevent dementia after injury). Collectively, CBIRD activities will be organized into four key research areas listed below and in Figure 1.

- Discovery: Understanding and characterizing injury mechanisms through fundamental cellular, behavioral, and cognitive neuroscience.
- Recovery: Enhancing monitoring, detection and screening of injury markers through technology, software, and data development.
- Assessment: Advancing treatment and rehabilitation through neural regeneration, drug development, and novel strategies.
- Systems: Integrating discoveries, technologies and therapeutics within the clinical, socioeconomic, and legal environments.

C. Goals of the center that cannot be met with existing academic units

Over the past eleven years, brain injury researchers, clinicians, learners, and community members have helped organically develop programming and capabilities that a university center could provide. Much of this has been piloted through CBI activities, such as identifying successful team-building approaches, seeding and sustaining cross-college research projects, and engaging community members through student-led efforts. Feedback from CBI's network of faculty in 2020 and 2021, strategic priorities from University and ERIK leadership, and strategic planning in 2024-2025 has indicated enthusiasm for CBI's efforts, and interest to develop new topics (e.g. artificial intelligence for researchers, clinicians, and survivors; studying and advising economics and legal aspects of brain injury policy; thought leadership in developing novel clinical trials; rural health and workforce development to treat vulnerable populations) and resources (e.g. grant-writing trainings and vouchers, positioning to support start-ups with novel technologies, structured cross-disciplinary mentorship) through CBIRD that would continue driving interdisciplinary and convergent research activities.

Figure 1: CBIRD Key Research Areas



These areas of success and emerging need are built into five goals describing aspirational impacts the University should have on brain injury research and care. CBIRD’s goals, shown in Figure 2, align well with the University and ERIK strategic goals shown in Figure 3.

Figure 2. CBIRD Goals

<i>Inform and provide a comprehensive plan of care for brain injury.</i>	Brain injuries are common, diverse, and have chronic effects on health and lifespan. They are challenging to treat due to their unique and invisible effects, including emotional, physical, cognitive, and social problems that can develop over time. Knowledge from medicine, nursing, public health, social work, and psychology will be integrated by research and clinical teams to rehabilitate survivors. (ERIK 1, 2, 3)
<i>Develop new diagnostics and therapeutic interventions</i>	Studying immune responses to brain injury, monitoring neural health through implants and wearables, and ultimately developing clinical trials for pharmaceuticals and medical devices can be accomplished by teaming and positioning neuroscientists, psychologists, electrical and materials science engineers, and surgeons. (ERIK 1, 2, 3, 4)
<i>Connect data to evaluate, predict, and treat injury</i>	Fragmented care and limited clinical data inhibit the power to study and improve rehabilitation. Through local and national data repositories, novel wearable biosensors, and artificial intelligence approaches, faculty clusters of engineers, computer and data scientists, and health services researchers can create informed changes in our injury care systems. (ERIK 3, 4, 5)
<i>Engage and train multidisciplinary teams of health professionals.</i>	Survivors and professionals agree that practicing and trainee health professionals are undereducated about chronic brain injury. To improve quality and access to care, our current and future clinicians must have access to regional and international experts, the latest research findings, and integrated central and community-based resources. (ERIK 1, 2, 3)
<i>Network a community of researchers, survivors, and care providers</i>	Fragmentation, lack of training, challenges in translational science, and the invisible nature of brain injury are significant barriers to implementing solutions in concert with Ohio State's land-grant mission. By operating a state-wide research registry, acclaimed outreach programs, and research-ready clinical resources, the local and Ohio brain injury community can collectively advance research and care. (ERIK 2, 3, 4)

Figure 3: Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Goals

1	Inspire a culture of research, innovation and knowledge excellence
2	Be globally renowned for discoveries, knowledge generation and creative expression
3	Lead development of impactful solutions to critical societal and community challenges through partnerships, innovation and entrepreneurship
4	Create and sustain dynamic infrastructure and capabilities that drive discoveries
5	Continuously increase operational excellence to enable shared and individual success

Faculty

A. Criteria for selection of faculty membership

Faculty Members of CBIRD will be selected through their expressed interest in participating in the center, and from targeted invitations to faculty and staff. All CBIRD faculty, staff, and student affiliates must meet established engagement criteria through center programming, and conduct research, clinical care, or training related to brain injury topics. Center participants will be categorized as either Faculty Members or affiliates.

- CBIRD Faculty Members are highly engaged faculty at Ohio State who perform research, teaching, or clinical practice within center key research areas. Members have full access to all center programs and activities, including Action Potential Grants, Partnership & Engagement Grants, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships, and Resource Awards. Faculty Members must meet multiple engagement requirements listed in Figure 4. Faculty affiliates who contribute to CBIRD in at least 3 engagement categories listed in Figure 4 during a given fiscal year will be considered Faculty Members in the following year. Members must continue to engage in at least 3 categories to maintain full membership.
- CBIRD Affiliates are faculty, staff, learners (postdocs, fellows, graduate students, undergraduate students), or external partners who engage in research, teaching, clinical practice, training programs, projects, or activities within CBIRD's key research areas. All Affiliates have access to center pilot awards and annual competitions. CBIRD Affiliates and unaffiliated faculty may participate in center grants as co-investigators. Affiliates may be eligible to participate in additional center research support programs if their mentor or principal investigator is a CBI Member. CBIRD Affiliates who are Ohio State faculty and meet engagement requirements for full membership in a given year will be eligible to become a CBIRD Faculty Member in the following year. Faculty members who do not meet engagement requirements each year will remain or be designated as a CBIRD Affiliate in the following year.

Current Faculty Members and Affiliates from CBI will be granted initial membership in CBIRD for a 1-year probationary period. New Affiliates will be reviewed by the Faculty Director and CBIRD staff upon requesting to join CBIRD. All Faculty Members and Affiliates will be reviewed annually by the CBIRD staff and Faculty Director to assess engagement and contribution.

A lack of involvement by Faculty Affiliates will generate communication from the Faculty Director, and after two years of insufficient engagement or contribution, Affiliates will be removed from CBIRD's membership. Exceptions may be accepted in extenuating circumstances, which must be documented in responses to communications from the Faculty Director. Membership may be granted or reinstated with the Faculty Director's approval.

Figure 4. CBIRD Membership Engagement Categories

Engagement Category	Criteria	Assessment
Contributes to center grant proposals as a principal investigator, co-investigator, or contributing faculty	Submits an extramural proposal supported by center programs and/or funding; Receives or continues an extramural grant resulting from center programs and/or funding; Submits an extramural proposal supported by center proposal development activities	Center worktags are included on ePA-005 form; center annual reporting; Semesterly Affiliates survey
Contributes to center resource development efforts	Serves as a core director of center-supported core or relevant campus core; Serves as a center Resource Awards reviewer; Advises or provides operational support for center programming	Center annual reporting; Semesterly Affiliates survey
Contributes to center educational offerings	Directs a center-supported course or seminar series; Advises or participates in center-supported trainee groups; Provides a center-supported open or internal lectures; Hosts an external speaker at a center-supported event; Serves as a center Research Day committee member	Center annual reporting; Semesterly Affiliates survey
Mentors scientists or trainees studying center topics	Mentors a junior faculty member with a relevant research project; Mentors a research trainee with a relevant research project; Mentors a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship awardee	Center annual reporting; Semesterly Affiliates survey
Serves on center or related advisory committees	Serves on center Faculty Advisory Board; Serves on a center-supported project or program committee; Serves on a target national committee relevant to center research	Center annual reporting; Semesterly Affiliates survey
Consults on study design and/or analysis	Serves as a reviewer for center project grants; Serves as a poster or annual award judge; Serves as an advisor for CBIRD-supported extramural proposals	CBIRD annual reporting
Received center funding or proposal support	Directs or co-directs a new project funded by CBIRD grants; Receives a CBIRD targeted investment; Receives CBIRD proposal development support	CBIRD annual reporting

B. Faculty expressing interest in associating with the Center

Currently in 2025, there are 49 Faculty Members and 86 faculty-level Affiliates engaging with CBI. Faculty Members represent the Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, and Public Health. A list of current Faculty Members is included in Appendix A, with accompanying letters of support from departmental chairs and directors in Appendix B.

C. Student & Staff Involvement

Staff, learners, and external members are important elements of the CBIRD community. These groups generally will be able to access CBIRD programming through support from a Faculty Member. Learner Affiliates may independently participate by attending and presenting at research seminars (Neurotrauma Research in Progress Seminars) and symposia (CBIRD Research Day, Ohio Brain Injury Summit, external conferences via travel awards). Current fellowship opportunities at

the undergraduate level (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships) are available to Learner Affiliates mentored by a Faculty Member. CBIRD will continue to work closely with the Neuroscience Undergraduate Major and undergraduate student groups such as Buckeyes Raising Awareness in Neuroscience (BRAIN) to participate in programming, fundraising events, and research internship placement. Graduate students and senior trainees are encouraged to join the center's Trainee Society for career development and cross-disciplinary mentorship workshops.

Staff and external Affiliates may participate in grant programs as co-investigators and may contribute to outreach programming such as NeuroNights for community education and wellness.

- Staff Affiliates either perform research in a Faculty Member's laboratory, work in administrative or academic units relevant to CBIRD activities or work in relevant clinical settings at the Wexner Medical Center or Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- Learner Affiliates may be postdoctoral researchers, undergraduate students, graduate students, or professional students working in a Faculty Member's laboratory, or have interest in CBIRD activities.
- External Affiliates may also include individuals not primarily affiliated with Ohio State who are actively involved in related basic, applied, clinical or translational research, or individuals providing services to brain injury survivors. Letters of support from selected external organizations are included in Appendix C.

Administration

The Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) will report through the Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK). The organizational structure is designed to empower individual and faculty clusters, foster increased engagement, communication, and insight from area leaders, and improve coordination and speed of implementing ideas (see Appendix D). The center's organizational structure includes a Faculty Director who reports to the senior associate vice president for research development and discovery in ERIK, an Associate Director, a faculty advisory board (FAB), an external advisory board (EAB), and program staff (2.0 FTEs). Via the FAB, CBIRD will have strong connections to College centers, including the Neurological Institute (Center for Brain & Spinal Cord Repair, Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention & Rehabilitation, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research, Neuroscience Research Institute) in Medicine, the Center for Cognitive & Behavioral Brain Imaging and Aphasia Initiative in Arts & Sciences, and the Center for Health Aging, Self-Management & Complex Care in Nursing to help in co-developing synergistic activities. An external advisory board, currently in development, will engage the broader brain injury community and will consist of representatives from industry, government, community, professional, and peer academic organizations, along with persons with lived experience.

A. Faculty Director | Jonathan Godbout, Ph.D. | Professor of Neuroscience | College of Medicine

Dr. Godbout is a Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and is the current Faculty Director of the Chronic Brain Injury Program. Critical to the **Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD)**, Dr. Godbout will serve as the Faculty Director. Dr. Godbout has the background and experience necessary to lead the faculty of this proposed Center. For instance, Dr. Godbout has a strong scientific background and expertise in neuroimmunology and neurotrauma. Moreover, Dr. Godbout has significant leadership experience at OSU as the Faculty Director of the Chronic Brain Injury Program (7 years), as the Assistant Director for Basic Research in the IBMR (5 years), as the Co-Director of an NIH T32 Training Program in Neuroimmunology (5 years), and as the former Co-Director of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (5 years). In addition, Dr. Godbout is the Principal Investigator of Department of Defense Focused Program award (4 years). Overall, Dr. Godbout has been a productive neuroscientist within brain injury and aging fields, and this is represented in over 125 peer-reviewed publications. Furthermore, Dr. Godbout has an extensive funding record and continued support through grants from the NIH (National Institute of Neurological Diseases & Stroke, National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Mental Health), Department of Defense, American Federation for Aging Research, Abbott Nutrition, and Ohio State. As the Faculty Director of CBIRD, Dr. Godbout will oversee all aspects of center operation with support from the associate director and other program staff with the intentions of strengthening the position of Ohio State in the brain injury space. Functions include:

- Implement strategy and tactics to achieve center goals;
- Mentor and develop CBIRD faculty in partnership with corresponding department chairs;
- Evaluate and drive engagement with faculty, staff, learner, and external affiliates;
- Represent the center within the university community and to the greater scientific community;

- Implement policy decisions made in consultation with the associate director, and where possible after advisement from the faculty advisory board; and
- Be a model of leadership in research and education in chronic brain injury both internally and externally.

B. Associate Director | Kedar Hiremath, MBA, MPH | Office of Research

Mr. Hiremath is the current Associate Director of the Chronic Brain Injury Program. Critical to CBIRD, Mr. Hiremath will serve as the Associate Director. Mr. Hiremath has provided leadership and support for CBI operations since 2016, including program development and administration, outreach and talent recruitment, and sustainability. Mr. Hiremath has significant experience in research and training support (12 years), and public health administration and research (3 years). Mr. Hiremath also serves as a vice president for the Brain Injury Association of Ohio (BIAOH), chairs the annual Ohio Brain Injury Summit, and holds advisory roles the Neurodevelopmental Research Affinity Group at Nationwide Children’s Hospital and other relevant campus partners. As part of these roles, Mr. Hiremath regularly engages with the State of Ohio’s Brain Injury Advisory Committee and Ohio Brain Injury Program, along with counterparts at other Ohio academic and advocacy organizations. The associate director will be responsible for center operations, strategy, and external engagement. Functions include:

- Administer center operations, including program development and delivery, budget and financial sustainability, and management of center staff;
- Identify, develop and maintain strategic internal and external partnerships with an emphasis on clinical, industry, government, and non-profit organizations; and
- Develop strategies to position CBIRD as a leader in chronic brain injury research.

C. Composition and function of the CBIRD Faculty Advisory Board

The composition of the faculty advisory board (FAB) will represent the diversity of discipline, background, and functions within the campus brain injury community. The initial composition of the FAB will retain the CBI Faculty Advisory Board members, listed in Appendix D. This group includes faculty members from multiple Colleges with faculty representation in the center, as well as faculty representing clinical and research groups at the Wexner Medical Center and Nationwide Children’s Hospital. Recommendations for FAB membership are made by the Faculty Director, with the selection determined by the majority vote of the Faculty Director, Associate Director, and FAB members. The FAB will:

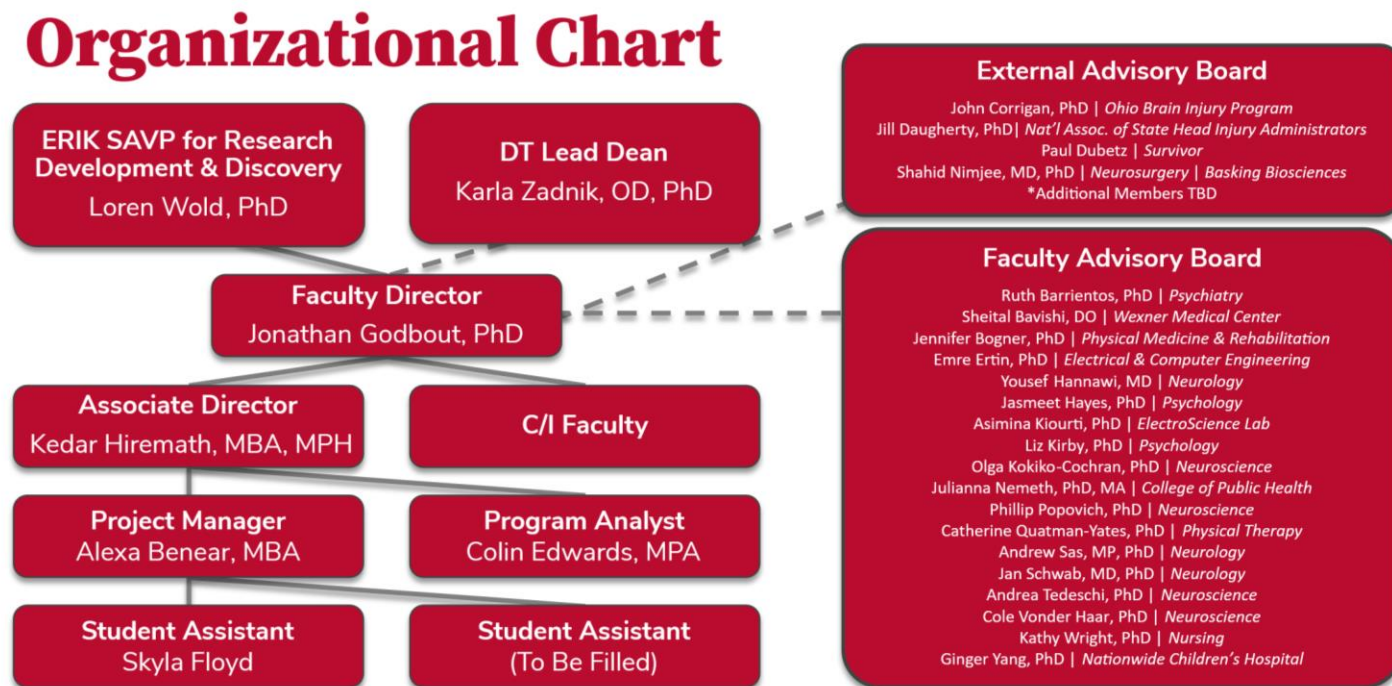
- Support the Faculty Director in the development and implementation of the center’s strategic plan;
- Advise and support programming and center investments in research, clinical services, training and outreach;
- Engage in outreach within the university community and with the greater scientific community;
- Lead or participate in center activities, events, and mentorship of junior faculty; and
- Support annual reviews of the performance of the center.

Upon establishment of CBIRD, FAB bylaws will be established for terms of appointment, voting structure, and responsibilities. CBIRD will make every effort to maintain a holistic representation of the university (research area, colleges represented, level of experience) on the FAB.

D. Reporting line

The proposed center will report through the Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK, see Figure 5). The director will report to Dr. Loren Wold, Senior Associate Vice President (SAVP) for Research Development & Discovery within ERIK. The Faculty Director will work with the SAVP to formalize budgets and set strategies in alignment with ERIK strategic priorities. The SAVP will represent the center to University leadership.

Figure 5. CBIRD Organizational Chart



E. Pattern of administration (to be formally established within one year)

The primary components of CBIRD's administration are detailed in sections IV.A-D. Since re-organizing under the Office of Research in 2018 and later under ERIK, the described pattern of administration has been established with exemplary members committed to leading the center's strategy. Given the existing structure, there will be no delay in establishing and updating the pattern of administration upon formal center status designation.

Budget & Funding

Historically the CBI program was funded by the Office of Academic Affairs with a hiring budget to cover annual salaries and startup costs, and an operations budget of \$500,000 per year from FY2016 to FY2020. Concurrent with reorganization to the Office of Research, a continuing operations budget was provided by the Office of Research (later Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge (ERIK) for the period FY2021-FY2025. This agreement created two sources of funding: central funding from the Office of Research and 50% share of indirect costs generated by CBI Discovery Themes faculty. Starting in FY2026, CBIRD shifted to direct funding through an endowment with continued effort to support the center through administrative grants, grants development and project management, industry sponsorship, and fundraising.

A. Expected Budget

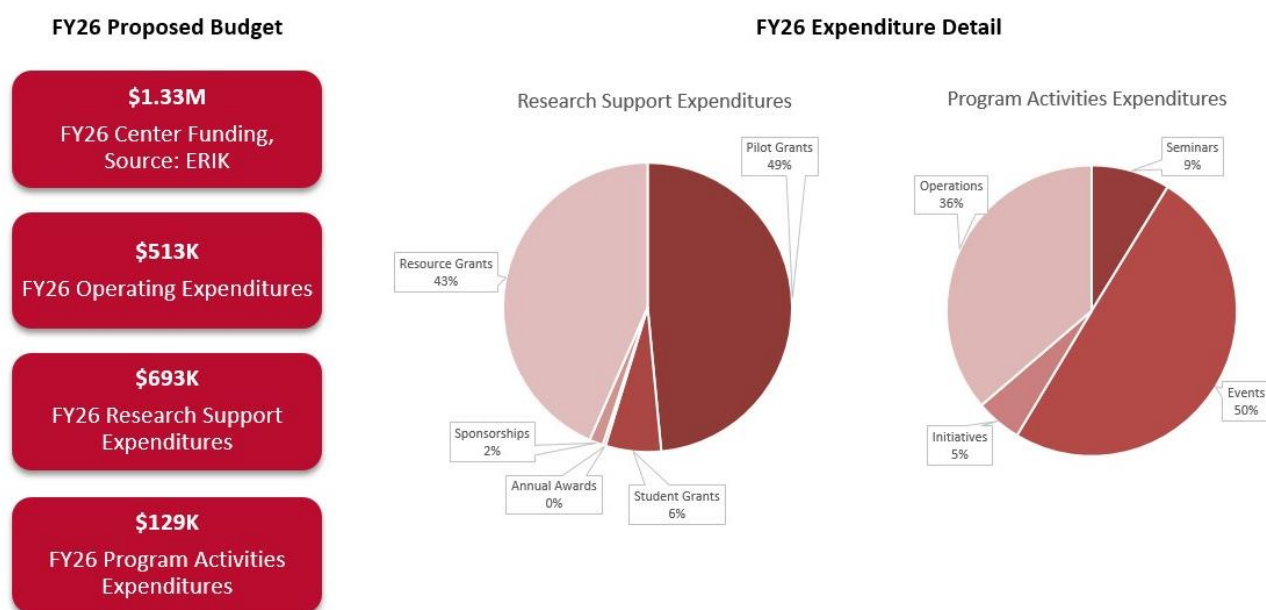


Figure 6. CBIRD FY26 Sources and Expenses.

Sources (FY26 - \$1.33 million): An investment of \$1.32 million from ERIK has been provided for FY2026. This investment is planned to continue through FY2028, with long-term support expected thereafter. Additional funding through direct costs for administrative support on grants, indirect costs on CBIRD-supported proposals, and fundraising will supplement these sources.

Uses (FY26 - \$1.3 million): Center expenses are shown in Figure 6 above. Operating expenses fund 3 full-time administrative positions, one shared clinical support, and two students. Programming consists primarily of project, resource, and trainee funding, along with teaming and recruitment events, marketing and outreach activities, and related supplies.

B. Equipment, Space, & Facilities

Presently, the center can leverage many facilities and resources aligned with center members and provided by the University infrastructure. Faculty, staff, and student members of the center are users of critical Ohio State resources, such as preclinical injury modeling equipment at the Neurotrauma Injury Core (Wiseman Hall) in Medicine and MRI imaging equipment and services at the Center for Cognitive & Behavioral Brain Imaging in Arts & Sciences. CBIRD will continue to invest in equipment and work with private organizations to enhance the equipment available to faculty clusters. Multiple teams of CBIRD faculty are positioned in or adjacent to space on west campus, with some laboratory space in the new Pelotonia Research Facility, engineering space in the ElectroScience Laboratory and Biomedical Engineering Complex 2, and biomechanics assessment in the Martha Morehouse Outpatient Care Facility.

CBIRD program staff are housed in Pomerene Hall with new office and conference space via ERIK for CBIRD operations and activities near central campus. Strategic growth in center shared resources include new investments in facilities and equipment, such as: acquiring a broader range of imaging hardware and software for campus microscopy and applied engineering areas; sustaining and complementing preclinical injury modeling equipment for existing murine models along with expanding infrastructure for large-animal models through grants and student capstones; support for multi-omic analyses (e.g., sequencing) through industry partnerships; support for screening and biobanking through clinical and governmental partnerships; and creating new infrastructure to study innovative health services programs and interventions. These needs will be assessed annually by the Faculty Director and the FAB.

C. Sustainability

Awareness of and research funding for brain injury topics have grown since the mid-1990s with the signing of the Traumatic Brain Injury Act of 1996 and subsequent reauthorizations through 2024. These federal acts expanded research and data collection efforts including specific initiatives for military service members and children. State funding for brain injury services and support has increased 700% since 2015, creating more opportunities to partner and innovate. Concurrently, public awareness has rapidly grown for sports-related concussion, blast injury and post-traumatic stress disorder in military veterans, and most recently brain injury in victims of domestic violence and law enforcement officers. Recognition that the chronic effects of brain injuries may include neurodegenerative conditions including epilepsy, CTE, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease has created additional funding pathways for aging, dementia, elder abuse, domestic violence, and fall prevention topics.

Federal funding for brain injury research has historically been housed at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Defense (DOD), Veterans Administration (VA), Administration for Community Living (ACL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CBIRD faculty have an excellent track record of funding success with all five major federal funding agencies, including several awards launched by the CBI seed grant program. In CBI's first 5 years, Ohio State researchers were awarded \$21.4 million in NIH funding for traumatic brain injury. Over the next 5-year period, Ohio State researchers were awarded \$32.8 million. The Ohio State university now ranks 12th nationally in new funding for TBI research from the NIH – including a \$16 million NIH award in 2022 to compare rehabilitation

outcomes following moderate to severe brain injury. Multiple CBI seed grants have led to NSF Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) awards for interdisciplinary engineering faculty. Supporting data for Ohio State's historical performance is shown in Appendix E.

Looking forward, the future of several major federal funding programs serves as an opportunity to be prepared for historical programs to continue or resume activities, and to seek new funding pathways in state government, industry-sponsored research and clinical trials, and with novel funders in developing research areas of interest. For example, the multi-agency Brain Research Through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative commits \$1.5 billion from NIH through 2026, with funding calls for technology development and transfer, basic and computational neuroscience, and neuromodulation systems; however, new avenues will be explored to continue developing technology and artificial intelligence projects. Currently the investment (\$125 million in 2021, possible \$40 million 2026) in DOD Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program's (CDMRP) Traumatic Brain Injury Public Health Research Program (TBI-PHRP) is discontinued, so research activities may pivot to include more Alzheimer's-related studies or seek new Veterans Administration and foundation support to develop and sustain injury research with veterans at Ohio State. Maintaining competitiveness for individual and team research funding, along with specific focus on bringing extramurally-funded training programs to Ohio State, will enable longer-term financial sustainability for the center, its faculty members, and trainees. Supporting data for future funding sustainability is shown in Appendix E.

Evaluative Criteria and Benchmarks

It is critical for CBIRD to constantly assess its performance. This is because the field of brain injury and the Ohio State activities in this space, are rapidly growing due to public awareness and increases in funding. Evaluation criteria and benchmarks have been used to determine performance of the CBI program in terms of research activities and programming. Many of these criteria will continue to be used in evaluating performance. Nonetheless, the CBIRD footprint will be broader and more diverse with respect to research in complementary health conditions such as stroke, and research areas including artificial intelligence and implementation science, which were not directly assessed in earlier evaluations more focused on traumatic brain injury and basic science. A subsequent benchmarking process will be part of the center's required strategic planning activities in its first year.

A. Evaluation criteria

Primary criteria for evaluation of the success of CBIRD will include:

- Funding of center core Faculty Members (average \$ per year per person, total \$)
- Number of extramural grant proposals featuring 2 or more center members
- Number of publications by Faculty Members in relevant scholarly journals with a priority in collaborative work (n total publications, n collaborative publications)
- Number of new internal and external collaborations between center members and other individuals and organizations
- % of members satisfied with program services and activities
- Increased community engagement in research studies (n new registry and biobank participants)

Secondary criteria for evaluation of the success of CBIRD will include:

- Improvements in student and postdoc training in Faculty Member labs (n extramural fellowships, n publications and research presentations, and % with successful job placement after graduation)
- Honors and awards for center members
- Industry, non-profit, and government partnerships in education, workforce development, and research,
- Development of new brain injury courses, workshops, seminars, and symposia

B. Benchmarks

Objective measurements for performance against the evaluation criteria as follows:

- Increase of extramural funding by 5-10% each year for core Faculty Members
- Increase interdisciplinarity amongst funded proposals
- Sustain seed grant success rate at or above 33% for funded projects receiving follow-on extramural funding within 3 years

- Sustain seed grant success rate at or above 10x return for lifetime seed grant dollars invested
- Sustain top 20 ranking for NIH annual funding across all Ohio State brain injury research projects
- Sustain collaborative proposal percentage at or above n% of all Faculty Member proposals
- Sustain collaborative publication percentage at or above n% of all Faculty Member publications
- Sustain member satisfaction rate at or above 90%

C. Evaluation of center performance

CBIRD will complete an annual report each fiscal year to be shared with ERIK and University leadership. As part of this process, evaluation metrics will be collected and reviewed. Upon yearly review, the Faculty Director and Faculty Advisory Board will establish strategies to grow areas of strength and bolster areas of performance that do not meet or exceed benchmark criteria. Additionally, per Ohio State University Academic Center Guidelines, Faculty Rule 3335-3-36 Centers and Institutes, CBIRD leadership shall initiate a comprehensive self-study with guidance from at least two external reviews (identified by the director and faculty advisory board) aligned to the criteria for evaluation described above. Furthermore, as defined in 3335-3-6, the center will be reviewed two years after initial establishment and at four-year intervals thereafter, as articulated in 3335-3-36.

Appendices

Appendix A: List of Core Faculty & Affiliates

CBIRD Faculty Members, FY26

Last name, First name	College	Department
Agarwal, Gunjan	Engineering	Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
Anderson, Sarah	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Barrientos, Ruth	Medicine	Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
Bavishi, Sheital	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Bogner, Jennifer	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Brello, Jennifer	Arts & Sciences	Speech & Hearing Sciences
Caccese, Jaclyn	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Corrigan, John	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Du, Lin	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Erting, Emre	Engineering	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Fu, Harry	Medicine	Neuroscience
Gallego Perez, Daniel	Engineering	Biomedical Engineering
Gao, Jie	Medicine	Neuroscience
Godbout, Jonathan	Medicine	Neuroscience
Gu, Bin	Medicine	Neuroscience
Hannawi, Yousef	Medicine	Neurology
Hayes, Jasmeet	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Hayes, Scott	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Hyzak, Kathryn	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Keiser, Megan	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Kiourti, Asimina	Engineering	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Kirby, Liz	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Kokiko-Cochran, Olga	Medicine	Neuroscience
Kolacz, Jacek	Medicine	Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
Lee, Kiryung	Engineering	Electrical & Computer Engineering
Lenz, Kathryn	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Li, Jinghua	Engineering	Material Science & Engineering
Lundine, Jennifer	Arts & Sciences	Speech & Hearing Sciences
Martens, Kris	Medicine	Neuroscience
Nemeth, Julianna	Public Health	Health Behavior & Health Promotion
Ning, Xia	Medicine	Biomedical Informatics
Onate, Jimmy	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Palmisano, Ilaria	Medicine	Neuroscience
Plant, Giles	Medicine	Neuroscience
Quatman-Yates, Catherine	Medicine	Physical Therapy

Reilly, Matthew	Engineering	Biomedical Engineering
Roup, Christina	Arts & Sciences	Speech & Hearing Sciences
Sas, Andrew	Medicine	Neurology
Saygin, Zeynep	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Schwab, Jan	Medicine	Neurology
Sehgal, Megha	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Taniguchi, Hiroki	Medicine	Pathology
Taylor, Hudson Gary	Medicine	Pediatrics
Tedeschi, Andrea	Medicine	Neuroscience
Vonder Haar, Cole	Medicine	Neuroscience
Wing, Jeffrey	Public Health	Epidemiology
Wright, Kathy	Nursing	Nursing
Yang, Ginger	Public Health	Epidemiology
Yarar-Fisher, Ceren	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

CBIRD Faculty Affiliates, FY26

Membership category	Last name, First name	College	Department
Faculty Affiliate	Askwith, Candice	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Babetto, Elisabetta	Medicine	Neurology
Faculty Affiliate	Basso, Michele	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Faculty Affiliate	Beaulieu, Cynthia	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Faculty Affiliate	Beirowski, Bogdan	Medicine	Neurology
Faculty Affiliate	Bolte, John	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Faculty Affiliate	Boxley, Laura	Medicine	Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
Faculty Affiliate	Bryan, Craig	Medicine	Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
Faculty Affiliate	Choi, Stacey	Optometry	Optometry
Faculty Affiliate	Costa-Giomi, Eugenia	Arts & Sciences	Music Education
Faculty Affiliate	Coutellier, Laurence	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Faculty Affiliate	Crawfis, Roger	Engineering	Computer Science & Engineering
Faculty Affiliate	Cucinotta, Christine	Medicine	Molecular Genetics
Faculty Affiliate	Cullen, Kevin	Student Life	Military & Veterans Services
Faculty Affiliate	Doble, Nathan	Optometry	Optometry
Faculty Affiliate	Eiferman, Daniel	Medicine	Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Fischer, Andy	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Gleichman, Amy	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Gray, Anthea	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Faculty Affiliate	Gu, Chen	Medicine	Biological Chemistry & Pharmacology
Faculty Affiliate	Guthrie, Michael	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Faculty Affiliate	Hagen, Josh	Engineering	Integrated Systems Engineering
Faculty Affiliate	Hartwick, Andrew	Optometry	Optometry
Faculty Affiliate	Heathcock, Jill	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Faculty Affiliate	Herson, Paco	Medicine	Neurological Surgery

Faculty Affiliate	Hoyt, Kari	Pharmacy	Pharmaceutics & Pharmacology
Faculty Affiliate	Ingiosi, Ashley	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Jordan, Lisa	Optometry	Optometry
Faculty Affiliate	Juckett, Lisa	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Faculty Affiliate	Kantarcigil, Cagla	Arts & Sciences	Speech & Hearing Sciences
Faculty Affiliate	Kegelmeyer, Deb	Medicine	Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Faculty Affiliate	Leuner, Benedetta	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Faculty Affiliate	Lin, C.Glenn	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Lonser, Russell	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Ma, Qin	Medicine	Biomedical Informatics
Faculty Affiliate	McDaniel, Jodi	Nursing	Nursing
Faculty Affiliate	McKenna, Patrick	Medicine	Occupational Medicine
Faculty Affiliate	McTigue, Dana	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Monroe, Todd	Nursing	Nursing
Faculty Affiliate	Nimjee, Shahid	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Obrietan, Karl	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Popovich, Philip	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Powers, Ciaran	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Prakash, Ruchika	Arts & Sciences	Psychology
Faculty Affiliate	Rose, Karen	Nursing	Nursing
Faculty Affiliate	Samaranch, Lluís	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Scharre, Doug	Medicine	Neurology
Faculty Affiliate	Schiff, Hillary	Dentistry	Biosciences
Faculty Affiliate	Sun, Wenjing	Medicine	Neuroscience
Faculty Affiliate	Tate, Judith	Nursing	Nursing
Faculty Affiliate	Tiso, Michael	Medicine	Sports Medicine
Faculty Affiliate	Walrod, Bryant	Medicine	Sports Medicine
Faculty Affiliate	Weber, Kevin	Medicine	Neurology
Faculty Affiliate	Wengerd, Lauren	Medicine	Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate	Worthen-Chaudhari, Lise	Medicine	Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Faculty Affiliate	Yuhas, Philip	Optometry	Optometry
Faculty Affiliate	Zadnik, Karla	Optometry	Optometry
Faculty Affiliate	Zhou, Min	Medicine	Neuroscience

CBIRD Staff, Trainee, and External Affiliates, FY26

Membership category	Last name, First name	College	Department
Learner	Acosta, Diana		
Learner	Alfredo, Anthony N.		
Learner	Allen, Ashley M.	Arts and Sciences	Anthropology
Staff	Anders, Paul	Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge	Human Performance Collaborative
Learner	Ansar Eliza		

Learner	Argall, Aaron D.		
Learner	Asghari Adib, Elham		
Learner	Balch, Maria	Medicine	Neuroscience
Staff	Bassett, Sam	Arts and Sciences	Psychology
Learner	Beales, Jeremy		
External Affiliate	Bedrosian, Tracy	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Institute for Genomic Medicine
Staff	Bilgin, Goksenin Berkin	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Biltz, Becca		
Staff	Blair, Aryelle	Wexner Medical Center	Outpatient Rehabilitation
Learner	Blevins, Cheasequah		
Staff	Bodine, Tina	Wexner Medical Center	Brain and Spine - Neurovascular Stroke Center
Learner	Boland, Rebecca		
Staff	Boring, Morgan	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Bovaird, Kevie M.		
Staff	Bowman Burpee, Susan	Wexner Medical Center	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Staff	Bray, Chelsea	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Breach, Mikayla		
Staff	Buhrts, Tami	Wexner Medical Center	University Hospital East
Staff	Bush, Ryan	Wexner Medical Center	Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
Staff	Buskirk, Jessica	Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge	Human Performance Collaborative
Staff	Carlino, Alessandro	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Castillo Martinez Guillermo		
Staff	Ceneskie, Gail	Medicine	Neurological Institute
Staff	Chahande, Sana	Medicine	Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Learner	Chen, Shane		
Learner	Cheong Yong		
Learner	Chester, Emma		
Learner	Corrigan, Rachel		
Learner	Cotter, Chris		
Learner	Datla, Nithin		
Learner	Davis, Amara		
Learner	Dye Courtney		
Learner	Edwards, Greg		
Staff	Emerson, Angela	Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge	Human Performance Collaborative
Staff	Foss, Rece	Wexner Medical Center	General Internal Medicine
Learner	Fritts-Davis, Curt		
Learner	Ganesh, Anish		
Learner	Gilfarb, Rachel		
Staff	Graham, Jillian	Arts and Sciences	Psychology
Staff	Hall, Jodie	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Harrigan Markus		
External Affiliate	Hester, Mark	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Institute for Genomic Medicine

External Affiliate	Hoskinson, Kristin	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Center for Biobehavioral Health
Learner	Houle Sam	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Hussein, Ayah		
Staff	Inman, Hannah	Medicine	Neurology
Staff	Islam, M Shifatul	Engineering	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Learner	Jennings, Kate		
Learner	Jimenez Daniela		
Learner	John Ben		
Staff	Jukkola, Peter	Medicine	Biological Chemistry and Pharmacology
Learner	Kalvas, Laura Beth A.		
Learner	Kamat, Rudra		
Learner	Kaye, Sarah		
Staff	Kempton, Alicia	Wexner Medical Center	Outpatient Rehabilitation
Staff	Kerwin, Thomas	Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge	Driving Simulation Laboratory
Staff	Kigerl, Kristina	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Kim, Tae Yeon		
Learner	Kobel Megaan		
External Affiliate	Koterba, Christine	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Center for Biobehavioral Health
Staff	Kovesci, Renee	Wexner Medical Center	Specialty Care Network
Staff	Lang, Kacie	Wexner Medical Center	Inpatient Rehabilitation
Learner	Leflao, Elenora		
Staff	Lenzo, Jamie	Medicine	Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Learner	Lessick, Heather	Arts and Sciences	Psychology
Learner	Li Jin		
Staff	Lin, Da	Medicine	Neuroscience
Staff	Ma, Ethan	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Mai, Hien		
External Affiliate	Malerba, Paola	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Battelle Center for Mathematical Medicine at RINCH
Learner	Marion, Christina		
Learner	Maus, Liz		
Staff	McCloskey, Jenna	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	McKenna Michael		
Staff	McLeod, Max	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	McPherson, Carly		
Staff	Mersy, Morgan	Wexner Medical Center	Rehabilitation Services
Staff	Mifflin, Katherine	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Miller, Lisa		
Learner	Mueller, Peyton		
External Affiliate	Nelson, Eric	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Center for Biobehavioral Health
Learner	Oconnell, Lizza		
Learner	Okonak, Ally		
Staff	Oliver, Braedan	Medicine	Neuroscience

Learner	Panchal, Rishi		
Learner	Pax, Kazune C.		
Learner	Pino Megan		
Learner	Prieto, Sarah		
Learner	Putta, Abhinay		
Staff	Recker, Emily	Wexner Medical Center	Rehabilitation Services
Learner	Ren, Cindi		
Learner	Robinson, Kat		
Learner	Rosado-Burgos, Ileanexis		
External Affiliate	Rose, Sean	Nationwide Children's Hospital	Neurology
Learner	Scavuzzo, Alaina		
Learner	Smail, Marissa	Arts and Sciences	Psychology
Staff	Smith, Ann	Medicine	Trauma
Learner	Smith, Carly		
Staff	Spellacy, Amy	Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge	Research Administration
Learner	Stark, Jessica		
Learner	Stauder, Matthew		
Learner	Stubbs, Toneisha D.		
Learner	Sun, Chao		
Learner	Sun, Sara		
Staff	Swan, Melanie	Wexner Medical Center	Inpatient Rehabilitation
Staff	Sweeney, Nick	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Taylor, Morgan	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Vadala, Christopher	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Valerio, Kate		
Learner	Vidman, Stephen	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Viola, Nicole		
Staff	Vo, Sheeny	Wexner Medical Center	Brain and Spine - Neurotrauma
Learner	Vocaturo, Luca		
Learner	Walsh Kevin		
Learner	Wangler, Lynde	Medicine	Neuroscience
Staff	Weaver, Samuel	Medicine	Neuroscience
Learner	Weibel, Maria		
Learner	Zhang, Mia		
Staff	Zimomra, Zachary	Medicine	Neuroscience

Appendix B – Letters of Support from Department Chairs & Directors

Colleges

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS

Dean

College of Medicine

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Phillip Popovich, PhD

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Department of Neuroscience
College of Medicine
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Centers & Institutes

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Director

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Devin Peterson, PhD

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Foods for Health Research Initiative

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Benjamin Segal, MD

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Kathy D. Wright, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, PMHCNS-BC, FNAP, FAAN

Director

Center for Healthy Aging, Self-Management
& Complex Care

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August 27, 2025

320 Hamilton Hall
1645 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Jonathan P. Godbout, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
460 Medical Center Drive
jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As Dean of The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at Ohio State, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core faculty members with 29 core members from the College of Medicine. All CBI faculty from the College of Medicine, including an additional 39 faculty affiliates, are listed below.

*(core are noted by *)*

*Sarah Anderson, PhD | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Candice Askwith, PhD | Neuroscience
Elisabetta Babetto, PhD | Neurology
*Ruth Barrientos, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
Michele Basso, Ed.D, PT | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
*Sheital Bavishi, DO | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Cynthia Beaulieu, PhD | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Bogdan Beirowski, MD, PhD | Neurology
*Jennifer Bogner, PhD, ABPP, FACRM | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
John Bolte, PhD | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
Laura Boxley, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
Craig Bryan, PsyD, ABPP | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
*Jaclyn Caccese, PhD, FACSM | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
*John Corrigan, PhD, ABPP | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Christine Cucinotta, PhD | Molecular Genetics
*Lin Du, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Daniel Eiferman, MD | Surgery
Andy Fischer, PhD | Neuroscience
*Harry Fu, PhD | Neuroscience
*Jie Gao, PhD | Neuroscience
Amy Gleichman, PhD | Neurological Surgery

*Jonathan Godbout, PhD | Neuroscience
 Anthea Gray, PsyD | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 *Bin Gu, PhD | Neuroscience
 Chen Gu, PhD | Biological Chemistry & Pharmacology
 Michael Guthrie, MD | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 *Yousef Hannawi, MD | Neurology
 Jill Heathcock, MPT, PhD | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
 Paco Herson, PhD | Neurological Surgery
 *Kathryn Hyzak, PhD | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 Ashley Ingiosi, PhD | Neuroscience
 Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
 Deb Kegelmeyer, DPT, MGH | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
 *Megan Keiser, PhD | Neurological Surgery
 *Olga Kokiko-Cochran, PhD | Neuroscience
 *Jacek Kolacz, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
 Deborah Larsen, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
 Chien-Liang Glenn Lin, PhD | Neuroscience
 Russell Lonser, MD | Neurological Surgery
 Qin Ma, PhD | Biomedical Informatics
 *Kris Martens, PhD | Neuroscience
 Patrick McKenna, DO, MPH | Occupational Medicine
 Dana McTigue, PhD | Neuroscience
 Shahid Nimjee, MD, PhD | Neurological Surgery
 *Xia Ning, PhD | Biomedical Informatics
 Karl Obrietan, PhD | Neuroscience
 *Jimmy Onate, PhD, AT, ATC, FNATA | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
 *Ilaria Palmisano, PhD | Neuroscience
 *Giles Plant, PhD | Neuroscience
 Philip Popovich, PhD | Neuroscience
 Ciaran Powers, MD, PhD | Neurological Surgery
 *Catherine Quatman-Yates, PT, DPT, PhD | Physical Therapy
 Lluís Samaranch, PhD | Neurological Surgery
 *Andrew Sas, MD, PhD | Neurology
 Doug Scharre, MD | Neurology
 *Jan Schwab, MD, PhD | Neurology
 Travis Smith, PhD | Neuroscience
 Wenjing Sun, PhD | Neuroscience
 *Hiroki Taniguchi, PhD | Pathology
 *Hudson Gary Taylor, PhD, ABPP | Pediatrics
 *Andrea Tedeschi, PhD | Neuroscience
 Michael Tiso, MD | Sports Medicine
 *Cole Vonder Haar, PhD | Neuroscience
 Bryant Walrod, MD | Sports Medicine
 Kevin Weber, MD | Neurology
 Lauren Wengerd, PhD, MS, OTR/L | Neurological Surgery
 Lise Worthen-Chaudhari, PhD, MFA, CCRC | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 *Ceren Yazar-Fisher, PhD, PT | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
 Min Zhou, MD, PhD | Neuroscience

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, learner support and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations. Key outcomes of center activities include extramural funding for collaborative research and interdisciplinary learning; impactful collaborative publications; membership growth and engagement among faculty, staff, learners and externals; and clinician and community engagement in research studies.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and learners within the College of Medicine to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol R. Bradford", with a stylized, flowing script.

Carol R. Bradford, MD, MS, FACS
Dean, College of Medicine
Vice President for Health Sciences, Wexner Medical Center
Leslie H. and Abigail S. Wexner Dean's Chair in Medicine
Professor of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

August 25, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am writing to express my support for the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery (CBIRD) at The Ohio State University. CBIRD represents a bold and timely initiative that promises to elevate OSU as a leader in interdisciplinary research addressing chronic brain injury.

The Center's mission – to facilitate translational research, foster collaborations, and invest in innovation and training – aligns with the values and approach of the College of Arts and Sciences. CBIRD's focus on discovery and recovery fits well with college's interest in promoting basic research for the benefit of society. Faculty in psychology, microbiology, and speech and hearing science have expertise that are critical to understanding the mechanisms of brain injury, developing effective interventions, and improving long-term outcomes for survivors.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students in the College of Arts and Sciences. It will also position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions. As such, I am delighted to support the establishment of this university center.

Sincerely,



David Horn
Dean



August 25, 2025

Office of the Dean

142 Hitchcock Hall
2070 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-2836 Phone

engineering.osu.edu

Dr. Jonathan Godbout
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research Building
460 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As Dean of the College of Engineering, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and the participation of Engineering faculty in the Center.

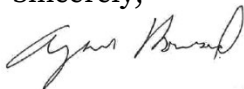
Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields, including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury (CBI) discovery theme initiative and currently has 49 core members, including 9 faculty from the College of Engineering. CBI faculty affiliates from the College of Engineering are listed below:

- Gunjan Agarwal, PhD, Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering
- Roger Crawfis, PhD, Computer Science & Engineering
- Emre Ertin, PhD, Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Daniel Gallego Perez, PhD, Biomedical Engineering
- Josh Hagen, PhD, Integrated Systems Engineering
- Asimina Kiourti, PhD, Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Kiryung Lee, PhD, Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Jinghua Li, PhD, Material Science & Engineering
- Matthew Reilly, PhD, Biomedical Engineering

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within the College of Engineering to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ayanna Howard".

Ayanna Howard, PhD
Dean, College of Engineering
Monte Ahuja Endowed Dean's Chair



September 3, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Dean of the College of Nursing, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation, and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, as well as the participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields, including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD emerged from broad interdisciplinary efforts within the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative and currently has 49 core members, including one faculty member from the College of Nursing. All CBI faculty affiliates from the College of Nursing are listed below:

Todd Monroe, PhD, RN-BC, FNAP, FGSA, FAAN | Nursing

Karen Rose, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNAP, FAAN | Nursing

Judith Tate, PhD, RN, ATS-F | Nursing

Kathy Wright, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, PMHCNS-BC, FNAP, FAAN | Nursing

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Rose, PhD, RN, FGSA, FNAP, FAAN
Dean and Professor

Co-Director, Golden Buckeye Center for Dementia Caregiving
The Ohio State University College of Nursing
rose.1482@osu.edu

August 26, 2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D.

Professor of Neuroscience

Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program

231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research Bld

460 Medical Center Dr.

Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As the Dean of the College of Public Health, I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 3 faculty from the College of Public Health, listed below:

Julianna Nemeth, PhD, MA | Health Behavior & Health Promotion

Jeffrey Wing, PhD | Epidemiology

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my college to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paula H. Song", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Paula H. Song, PhD

Dean, College of Public Health

Department of Speech and Hearing Science
110 Pressey Hall
1070 Carmack Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1002

614-292-9436 Phone
614-292-7504 Fax

bielefeld.6@osu.edu

August 11, 2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D.
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 3 faculty from the Department of Speech and Hearing Science. All CBI faculty affiliates from the Department of Speech and Hearing Science are listed below:

Jennifer Brello, EdD, CCC-SLP | Speech & Hearing Science
Cagla Kantarcigil, PhD | Speech & Hearing Science
Jennifer Lundine, PhD | Speech & Hearing Science
Christina Roup, PhD | Speech & Hearing Science

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Eric Bielefeld". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "E" and a stylized "B".

Eric Bielefeld, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Dept of Speech and Hearing Science
The Ohio State University



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND
REHABILITATION SCIENCES

College of Medicine
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Physical Therapy Division

Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D.
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program

516 Atwell Hall
453 W 10th Ave
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-5922 Phone
614-292-5921 Fax

go.osu.edu/dpt

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Director of the Division of Physical Therapy, home to the Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, which is presently ranked 4th in the nation among about 300 programs. I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University. I look forward to faculty and students from the Division of Physical Therapy participating in this center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields, including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and it currently has 49 core members, including 1 faculty from the Division of Physical Therapy, Catherine Quatman-Yates, PT, DPT, PhD. We are poised to hire new faculty in our program, particularly in neurologic rehabilitation, as many of our current faculty in this practice domain are at or near retirement. I expect 1-2 new faculty from physical therapy to join your center in the near future.

As you have shared, the mission for CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader, addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. The center activities such as developing early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants is a powerful tool to attract and retain the most talented new scientists in the field. It has been a pleasure to see you create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations. Dual degree students in the DPT/PhD program have benefitted greatly from this program.

I am confident that CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students in physical therapy to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions. I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

John Buford, PT, PhD, FAPTA
Professor and Director, Physical Therapy Division 41

August 8, 2025

Liz Klein, PhD, MPH
Professor and Chair, Health Behavior &
Health Promotion
College of Public Health

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 1 faculty from the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion, listed below:

Julianna Nemeth, PhD, MA | Health Behavior & Health Promotion

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Klein, PhD, MPH
Professor and Chair
Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion
The Ohio State University College of Public Health
358 Cunz Hall | 1841 Neil Avenue Columbus, OH 43210
614-292-5424 (Office)



Lang Li, PhD,
Professor and Chair

250 Lincoln Tower
1800 Cannon Drive
Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-4778 Phone
614-688-6600 Fax

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Biomedical Informatics, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 1 faculty from the Department of Biomedical Informatics. All CBI faculty affiliates from the Department of Biomedical Informatics are listed below:

- Qin Ma, PhD, Professor, Division Chief in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Department of Biomedical Informatics.
- Xia Ning, PhD, Professor, Division Chief in AI in Digital Health, Department of Biomedical Informatics.

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

Lang Li
Professor and Chair
Department of Biomedical Informatics
College of Medicine
The Ohio State University

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 2 faculty from the Department of Neurosurgery. All CBI faculty affiliates from the Department of Neurosurgery are listed below:

Lin Du, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Amy Gleichman, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Paco Herson, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Megan Keiser, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Russell Lonser, MD | Neurological Surgery
Shahid Nimjee, MD, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Ciaran Powers, MD, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Lluís Samaranich, PhD | Neurological Surgery
Lauren Wengerd, PhD, MS, OTR/L | Neurological Surgery

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R Lonser'.

Russell Lonser, MD
Professor and Chair, Department of Neurological Surgery
Faculty Affiliate, Chronic Brain Injury Program

22 August 2025

614-292-4668 Fax

mse.osu.edu

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Materials Science & Engineering, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative. Associate Professor Jinghua Li from the Department of Materials Science & Engineering is among the 49 core faculty members. I can personally state that Prof. Li has benefitted significantly from her strong engagement with CBI since joining OSU.

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Mills
Chair and Taine G. McDougal Professor of Engineering
Department of Materials Science and Engineering
The Ohio State University



August 12, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Interim Director of the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 3 faculty from the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences. All CBI faculty affiliates from the School of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences are listed below:

- Sarah Anderson, PhD | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Michele Basso, Ed.D, PT | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- John Bolte, PhD | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Jaclyn Caccese, PhD, FACSM | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Jill Heathcock, MPT, PhD | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Deb Kegelmeyer, DPT, MGH | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Anne Kloos, PT, PhD, NCS | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Deborah Larsen, PhD, FAPTA, FASAHP | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences
- Jimmy Onate, PhD, AT, ATC, FNATA | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND
REHABILITATION SCIENCES

phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

James A. Oñate, PhD, AT, FNATA
Interim Director, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences
Interim Vice Dean of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Medicine

August 22, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Pathology, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative and currently has 49 core members including 1 faculty from the Department of Pathology. All CBI faculty affiliates from the Department of Pathology are listed below:

Samad Ahmadian, MD | Pathology
Peter Kobalka, MD | Pathology
Hiroki Taniguchi, PhD | Pathology

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,



Anil Parwani, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.

Professor of Pathology and Biomedical Informatics

Chair of Pathology

Wexner Medical Center - Department of Pathology

The Ohio State University

E409 Doan Hall, 410 W. 10th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210

614-293-8496 Office

412-657-5702 Cell

Email: anil.parwani@osumc.edu



**THE OHIO STATE
UNIVERSITY**
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

K. Luan Phan, MD
Professor and Chair

Jeffrey Schottenstein
Endowed Chair in
Psychiatry & Resilience

**Department of Psychiatry &
Behavioral Health**

Pelotonia Research Center
2255 Kenny Road -Suite 4010
Columbus, Ohio, 43210

August 13, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 3 faculty from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health. All CBI faculty affiliates from the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health are listed below:

- Darrin Aase, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
- Ruth Barrientos, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
- Laura Boxley, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
- Craig Bryan, PsyD, ABPP | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
- Jacek Kolacz, PhD | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health
- Hudson Gary Taylor, PhD, ABPP | Psychiatry & Behavioral Health

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

K. Luan Phan, MD
Professor and Chair of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
Jeffrey Schottenstein Endowed Chair in Psychiatry and Resilience
Chief of Psychiatry Services, Wexner Medical Center



September 23, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am the Chair of the Department of Neuroscience, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 10 faculty from the Department of Neuroscience. All CBI faculty affiliates from the Department of Neuroscience are listed below:

Candice Askwith, PhD | Neuroscience
Andy Fischer, PhD | Neuroscience
Harry Fu, PhD | Neuroscience
Jie Gao, PhD | Neuroscience
Jonathan Godbout, PhD | Neuroscience
Bin Gu, PhD | Neuroscience
Ashley Ingiosi, PhD | Neuroscience
Olga Kokiko-Cochran, PhD | Neuroscience
Chien-Liang Glenn Lin, PhD | Neuroscience
Kris Martens, PhD | Neuroscience
Dana McTigue, PhD | Neuroscience
Karl Obrietan, PhD | Neuroscience
Ilaria Palmisano, PhD | Neuroscience
Giles Plant, PhD | Neuroscience
Philip Popovich, PhD | Neuroscience
Travis Smith, PhD | Neuroscience
Wenjing Sun, PhD | Neuroscience
Andrea Tedeschi, PhD | Neuroscience
Cole Vonder Haar, PhD | Neuroscience
Min Zhou, MD, PhD | Neuroscience

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance

their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phillip G. Popovich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Phillip" and last name "Popovich" clearly legible.

Phillip G. Popovich, PhD

College of Medicine Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience
Ray W. Poppleton Research Designated Chair
University Distinguished Professor



205 Drees Laboratories
2015 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone (614)247-5370
Fax (614)292-7596

shanker@ece.osu.edu

September 24, 2025

Prof. Jon Godbout
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research Building
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Prof. Godbout:

RE: In support of Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD)

I am the Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Ohio State, and this letter is in enthusiastic endorsement for the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University, and participation of my faculty in the center.

Over the last fifteen years, growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative, and currently has 49 core members including 3 faculty from the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, listed below:

- Emre Ertin, PhD | Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Asimina Kiourti, PhD | Electrical & Computer Engineering
- Kiryung Lee, PhD | Electrical & Computer Engineering

These faculty have extensive collaboration with others in the center and have been successful their research endeavors.

The mission of CBIRD is to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities broadly include opportunities to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee supports, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, it will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and to reiterate, I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate either writing to me at



205 Drees Laboratories
2015 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210

Phone (614)247-5370
Fax (614)292-7596

shanker@ece.osu.edu

shanker@ece.osu.edu or call me at (517) 449-0639.

Sincerely yours,

B. Shanker
Professor & Chair



August 22, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As Chair of the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, I am pleased to offer my support for the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University. I also fully endorse the participation of my faculty in this important initiative.

Over the past fifteen years, increasing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term impact of brain injuries has spurred significant interest and investment across a wide range of disciplines—including neuroscience, neurology, psychology, rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work, public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD emerged from the interdisciplinary efforts of the Chronic Brain Injury Discovery Theme and currently includes 49 core members, among them:

- **Gunjan Agarwal, PhD** | Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

CBIRD's mission is to elevate Ohio State as a global leader in chronic brain injury research, focusing on prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. The center will foster early-stage, high-risk research through seed funding and planning grants, build cross-college collaborations via seminars, symposia, and workshops, and strengthen the research ecosystem with advanced instrumentation, trainee support, and partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

This initiative presents valuable interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students in my department to expand their research and training efforts. I am confident that CBIRD will not only enhance our academic and scientific contributions but also position Ohio State at the forefront of chronic brain injury research and innovation.

I wholeheartedly support the establishment of CBIRD as a university center and look forward to the impactful work it will enable.

Sincerely,

Rob Siston, PhD
Chair, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Professor, Orthopaedics
Professor, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

February 21, 2025

Dr. Jon Godbout
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research Bld
460 Medical Center Dr.
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Godbout,

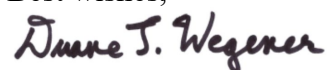
I am writing as the Chair of the Department of Psychology, and I am pleased to write this letter in support of the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge at The Ohio State University.

The last fifteen years have seen growing awareness of the prevalence, cost, and long-term consequences of brain injury. This work has driven funding and interest in research and care across many dimensions of health and scientific fields including neuroscience and neurology, psychology and rehabilitation, biomedical and electrical engineering, social work and public health policy, education, and artificial intelligence. CBIRD arose out of broad interdisciplinary efforts through the Chronic Brain Injury discovery theme initiative and currently has 49 core members including 6 faculty from the Department of Psychology. In fact, in total, the Psychology Department has nine CBI faculty affiliates including Laurence Coutellier, Jasmeet Hayes, Scott Hayes, Liz Kirby, Katy Lenz, Benedetta Leuner, Ruchika Prakash, Zeynep Saygin, and Megha Sehgal.

The mission of CBIRD is quite consistent with key aspects of the mission of the Psychology Department -- to lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation. Center activities parallel and complement department efforts to develop early-phase, high-risk research through seed project and planning grants, create powerful cross-college teams of investigators through seminars, symposia, and workshops, and enhance the research environment with instrumentation, trainee support, and external partnerships with industry, government, and community organizations.

It is my belief that CBIRD will act as a key interdisciplinary hub for the general topic of brain injury at Ohio State. As such, CBIRD will provide important interdisciplinary opportunities for faculty and students within my department to advance their research and training programs through the center's strategic initiatives. Moreover, CBIRD will position Ohio State as a world leader in chronic brain injury research and solutions, and I enthusiastically provide my support for establishing this university center.

Best wishes,



Duane T. Wegener, Ph.D.
College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Psychology
Chair, Department of Psychology



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge

University Square South
15 East 15th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43201
erik.osu.edu

September 19, 2025

Jonathan Godbout, PhD
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
Professor, Department of Neuroscience
The Ohio State University

Dear Dr. Godbout,

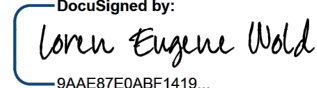
As Senior Associate Vice-President (SAVP) of Research Development and Discovery in the Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK) at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD) within ERIK.

The Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge positions Ohio State to expand curiosity-driven research and creative expression, further develop our research community including faculty, staff and students, and grow the innovation ecosystem to address societal challenges and improve communities locally and globally. In my role, I oversee ERIK's multidisciplinary research centers, including the Chronic Brain Injury Program (CBI). Our centers bring together faculty, students and staff to address focused topics whose breadth cannot be confined to research in a single college. These organizations are addressing the world's most pressing challenges through the creation and dissemination of new knowledge. Further, these centers help grow the capacity for interdisciplinary research by connecting researchers with external partners, development programs, and commercialization specialists.

Over the past 11 years, CBI has developed from a niche program into a robust hub for inquiry and innovation across brain injury topics including aging, healthy living, biotechnologies, health services, and socialization. CBI brings together over 130 faculty across 11 Colleges to form multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary teams, develop collaborative research projects through internal investments, and drive new discoveries into impactful solutions for clinics and communities. The capabilities and programming in CBI are ready to move forward as a University research center. CBIRD represents a strong platform to deepen this work in new areas of interest, including artificial intelligence, policy and economics, workforce education, and veterans' wellbeing. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, partnerships and training, and impact aligns perfectly with ERIK's approach.

I look forward to supporting CBIRD's success and advancement of solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

9AAE87E0ABF1419...

Loren Wold, PhD
Senior Associate Vice-President
Research Development & Discovery
Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge
The Ohio State University



**Wexner
Medical
Center**

**Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury
Prevention & Rehabilitation**
Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
480 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210-1245
Phone: (614) 293-3802
FAX: (614) 293-8886

August 25, 2025

Jon Godbout, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
460 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210
Email: jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

Dear Jon:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery. I think the new Center has the opportunity to serve as beacon of innovation in the field of brain injury research. With a mission to transform the lives of individuals affected by brain injuries, the Center will be dedicated to advancing the science of recovery. The heart of the Center will be a team of faculty who have a wealth of expertise in diverse areas of inquiry. Many of these faculty are leaders in their respective fields conducting cutting-edge research. Their commitment to excellence is evident in the innovative approaches they employ, grounded in the latest scientific methods, and tailored to meet the unique needs of persons living with brain injury.

Collaboration and partnership have been key components of the Chronic Brain Injury program's success and I expect it to continue with the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery. The new Center will have a foundation of established alliances with leading organizations and experts in the field. These collaborations will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and resources, driving forward the advancement of brain injury research and treatment. By working together with its partners, the new Center will be able to leverage collective expertise and accelerate the development of innovative solutions that improve lives of persons with brain injury.

The Center's impact extends beyond the walls of the university and into the broader community. Through outreach programs, educational initiatives, and advocacy efforts, the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery will be committed to raising awareness about brain injuries and promoting effective treatment strategies. The Center will actively engage with the community to provide valuable resources and support to individuals and families affected by brain injuries, empowering them with the knowledge and tools they need to navigate their recovery.

I expect the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery to be an invaluable resource for individuals and families affected by brain injuries. Its expert team and innovative science will provide hope to those navigating the challenges of recovery. I wholeheartedly endorse the Center for Brain Injury Recovery and Discovery and look forward to continuing to work with its talented faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'John D. Corrigan'.

John D. Corrigan, PhD
Professor, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Director, Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention
and Rehabilitation

Dear CBI Director Godbout,

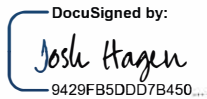
As Director of the Human Performance Collaborative (HPC) at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The Human Performance Collaborative (HPC) is a strategic initiative at The Ohio State University connecting assets (ex. knowledge and skills, capital, social, political, and physical) to better understand the integration and interaction between and among the eight factors on individual or team overall performance (Sleep and Relaxation, Social Life, Emotional Wellness, Cognition, Mental Fitness, Physical Wellness, Food and Nutrition, and Physical Exercise) by assessing current state, analyzing the current state relative to performance, and augmenting performance to optimize effectiveness. Our mission is to build and deploy interdisciplinary teams of investigators to advance the science of human performance that shapes the future of human performance assessment, augmentation, and analysis.

CBIRD represents a strong partner organization to deepen our work. Our current collaborations include first-in-the-nation research projects on concussion in law enforcement officers, a key aspect of our center's work. CBIRD's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact aligns perfectly with the HPC's approach. We are especially excited to integrate brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing efforts to innovate assessment and recovery methods for performers at risk for neurotrauma and its age-related effects.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

9429FB5DD7B450...

Josh Hagen, PhD

Faculty Director, Human Performance Collaborative
Research Associate Professor, Integrated Systems Engineering
The Ohio State University



August 23, 2025

Jonathan Godbout, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury (CBI) Program
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research Bld
460 Medical Center Dr.
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear CBI Director Godbout,

As Director of the Infectious Disease Institute at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) leads world-renowned interdisciplinary research into harnessing the beneficial effects of microbes and developing innovative solutions to the detrimental effects of microbes on the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment for the benefit of society. IDI takes a team approach to discovery and solutions, bringing talent and resources together to end the threat of infectious diseases.

CBIRD represents a strong partner organization to deepen our work. Opportunities to collaborate are highlighted by discovering the mechanisms driving the relationships between gut health and brain health (i.e., the role of the gut microbial communities in influencing central nervous system function), and the role of infection in driving chronic effects of brain injury. Long-COVID is a notable example of how an acute viral infection can long term impacts on cognitive function. CBIRD's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact aligns perfectly with IDI's approach. We are especially excited to integrate brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing innovations supporting the study and mitigation of infectious diseases.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

Michael Oglesbee, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Professor, Department of Veterinary Biosciences
Director, Infectious Diseases Institute
The Ohio State University



September 2, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As Faculty Director of the Foods for Health Research Initiative (FFH) at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

FFH's mission is to advance interdisciplinary research that defines the relationships among foods, disease prevention, and health promotion empowering people to lead healthier lives through scientific discovery. We build collaborative, cross-college research teams to explore how food and nutrition shape human health, with particular emphasis on food quality, precision nutrition, and ingestive behavior. CBIRD's vision to position Ohio State as a global research leader in chronic brain injury research aligns with our goals and opens new opportunities for transformative collaboration.

We are especially excited about CBIRD's focus on recovery and long-term outcomes for individuals with brain injuries, which connects directly to FFH-funded projects investigating the role of diet in brain health and cognition. For example:

- **Gut–Brain Axis & Cognitive Function:** FFH funded a collaborative project led by Dr. Cole Vonder Haar (Neuroscience, College of Medicine) testing dietary anthocyanins and prebiotic polysaccharides to prevent inflammation-induced cognitive impairment. This research demonstrated how foods such as blueberries can be formulated into functional interventions to improve resilience to brain injury and age-related decline.
- **Diet, Aging, and Neuroinflammation:** FFH supported a project led by Dr. Ruth Barrientos (Psychiatry, College of Medicine) investigating how high-fat diet consumption accelerates neuroinflammation and impairs mitochondrial function in the aging brain. This work identifies dietary mechanisms that compromise memory and points to therapeutic targets to preserve cognition in vulnerable populations. Dr. Barrientos will expand on this research as a keynote speaker at the FFH Annual Meeting this fall in her talk, *The Impact of Refined Diets on Brain Function and Cognition in Aging*.
- **Spinal Cord Injury, Gut Microbiome & Metabolism:** FFH is currently supporting work led by Dr. Dana McTigue (Neuroscience, College of Medicine) exploring how spinal cord injury alters bile acid metabolism, gut microbiota, and nutrient absorption. This project demonstrates the critical interplay between neurological injury, diet, and systemic metabolism, with implications for personalized interventions for spinal cord injury survivors.

These examples illustrate how FFH investments already bridge diet, nutrition, and brain health, an area of clear overlap with CBIRD's priorities in discovery, assessment, recovery, and systems integration.

FFH looks forward to working in partnership with CBIRD to expand the reach and impact of these efforts. Establishing CBIRD as an academic institute will provide the visibility, infrastructure, and integrative leadership needed to elevate Ohio State as a national leader in brain injury research and recovery.

Sincerely,

Devin Peterson, PhD
Faculty Director, Foods for Health Research Initiative
CFAES Distinguished Professor of Food Science
The Ohio State University



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER

Phillip G. Popovich, PhD
Distinguished Professor and Chair

Department of Neuroscience
676 Biomedical Research Tower
460 W 12th Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: 614-688-8327
Fax: 614-688-8742
phillip.popovich@osumc.edu

September 23, 2025

Dear CBI Director Godbout,

As Director of the Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). The Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury advances scientific research that will improve the quality of life for people with spinal cord injuries. This center is focused on the treatment of spinal cord injuries as a systemic disease to reduce the onset or impact of complications associated with spinal cord injury, including diabetes, inflammation or infectious, metabolic and cardiovascular diseases and other medical complications.

CBIRD represents a strong partner organization to deepen our work. Our current collaborative effort on the Neurotrauma Registry of Ohio and individual research projects in neurotrauma are key aspects of our center's work. CBIRD's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact aligns perfectly with the Belford Center's approach. We are especially excited to integrate brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing efforts to understand life after neurotrauma and to develop interventions that promote resilience and recovery in at-risk populations.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

Phillip G. Popovich, PhD

College of Medicine Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Neuroscience
Ray W. Poppleton Research Designated Chair
Executive Director, Belford Center for Spinal Cord Injury
University Distinguished Professor



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR COGNITIVE AND
BEHAVIORAL BRAIN IMAGING

Dr. Ruchika S. Prakash, PhD, Director
Distinguished Professor, Department of
Psychology

62 Psychology Building,
1835 Neil Ave, Columbus, OH 43210
Prakash.30@osu.edu | 614-292-8462

September 3, 2025

Dear CBI Director Godbout,

As Director of the Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging (CCBBI) at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging (CCBBI) in the College of Arts and Sciences is a state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research facility dedicated to pursuing structural and functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) studies. It aims to contribute to the development of future brain imaging modalities and to create and disseminate knowledge about brain, mind, and imaging research. The study of brain functioning and behavior (cognitive neuroscience), is one of the fastest growing fields in psychology and the social and biological sciences more generally. A major contributor to this growth is the development of innovative functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) technology. With a Siemens 3T Prisma system and ancillary equipment to support research spanning the cognitive and behavioral sciences, CCBBI is dedicated to the study of brain mechanisms underlying individuals' cognitive capacity and subjective well-being, as well as dysfunctions of these brain mechanisms in normal aging and mental disorders. CCBBI is open to all scholars exploring the relationship between the human brain and behavior.

CBIRD represents a strong partner organization to deepen our work. Our current collaborations include research projects in neurotrauma from the MINDSET Lab, Buckeye Brain Aging Lab, MOvES Lab, Aphasia Lab, Cognition & Brain Circuitry Lab, and Z-Lab, and are key aspects of our center's work. CBIRD's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact aligns perfectly with the CCBBI's approach. We are especially excited to integrate brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing efforts to innovate and leverage imaging technologies in understanding and assessing neurotrauma and its age-related effects.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

A45530740EEE4FF...

Ruchika Prakash, PhD

Director, Center for Cognitive and Behavioral Brain Imaging
Professor, Clinical Psychology, Cognitive Neuroscience
The Ohio State University



**Wexner
Medical
Center**

Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
460 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210-1228

Jonathan Godbout, Ph.D.
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
The Ohio State University
460 Medical Center Dr.
Columbus, OH 43210

August 29, 2025

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As Director of the Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research (IBMR) at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the establishment of The Ohio State University's Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The IBMR serves as the cornerstone of Ohio State's research program in the field of psychoneuroimmunology – the study of how the mind/brain interacts with the body's immune system. What began as a novel area of curiosity has grown into a transformative scientific field, one that has profound implications for public health and tremendous promise for enhancing medical treatments.

CBIRD stands as a natural and powerful partner in expanding and strengthening our work. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, and outreach and training align seamlessly with the IBMR's mission. Several CBIRD-affiliated faculty are currently housed within the IBMR, advancing research on stress, neuroinflammation, recovery strategies, and gut-brain health. We are pleased to integrate brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing efforts to understand healthy living and behavior. Through this integration, we will promote large collaborative, interdisciplinary projects to develop interventions that foster resilience and recovery in at-risk populations.

We look forward to deepening this collaboration and to contributing to CBIRD's success. This partnership will strengthen Ohio State's national leadership in brain injury research and ensure that our discoveries will translate into meaningful solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leah Pyter'.

Leah M. Pyter, Ph.D., M.S.
Director, Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
Brumbaugh Chair in Brain Research and Teaching, Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Health
223 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research · Ohio State University · Columbus, OH
Phone: 614-293-3496 · E-mail: Leah.Pyter@osumc.edu · <https://u.osu.edu/pyter.1/>



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

**Wexner Medical Center &
College of Medicine**

Benjamin M. Segal, MD

Chair and Professor, Department of Neurology
Director, Neuroscience Research Institute
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210
Phone: (614) 293-0831
Email: Benjamin.Segal@osumc.edu

Jonathon Godbout, PhD
Director, CBIRD
Pomerene Hall 175
1760 Neil Ave., Building 067
Columbus, OH 43210

September 11, 2025

Dear Jon,

As Director of the Neuroscience Research Institute (NRI) at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to express my support for the establishment of the Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The mission of NRI is to build a strong infrastructure and collaborative community that fosters interdisciplinary research on neurological disease and injury, bridges translational neuroscience with clinical implementation, and provides training and professional development for junior investigators. To this end, NRI offers numerous resources including an integrated brain bank and biorepository program, mentorship and career development programs, regular thematically focused educational symposia focused on translational neuroscience, and an annual retreat that hosts over 300 faculty and learners across Ohio State and Nationwide Children's Hospital. A core priority is promoting cross-campus collaborations in investigator-initiated research into neurological disease, encompassing preclinical models, high-throughput assays, biomarker discovery platforms and experimental therapeutics.

CBIRD is well positioned to serve as a natural partner in these efforts. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, translational research, training, and outreach aligns closely with the NRI's mission. With many CBIRD faculty already engaged in NRI activities, there are clear opportunities to advance shared priorities in neurotrauma, neurodegeneration, neuroinflammation, and recovery strategies. By integrating brain injury research and care infrastructure with our existing programs, we can further enhance the collective capacity to drive meaningful progress in neuroscience research at OSU.

We look forward to continued collaboration with CBIRD and to working together to improve outcomes for individuals living with neurotrauma and those who support them.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Segal, MD
Professor and Chair,
Department of Neurology

September 3, 2025

Dear CBI Director Godbout,

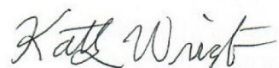
As Director of the Center for Healthy Aging, Self-Management and Complex Care at The Ohio State University, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The Center for Healthy Aging, Self-Management and Complex Care brings together a community of internationally renowned nurse scientists, scholars, clinicians, and educators dedicated to advancing our knowledge and response to the issues of complex care, self-management, and health promotion among vulnerable and aging populations. Our mission is to positively impact the health of adults of all ages through bench-to-population-based transdisciplinary research in six broad areas of inquiry: acute and chronic conditions, cognition, health equity, health promotion, social determinants of health, and symptom science.

CBIRD represents a strong partner organization that will help deepen our work. Current collaborations include several pilot projects, shared faculty and staff members, and overlapping interests in aging with chronic conditions, cognitive health, and community-engaged research. CBIRD's emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact align perfectly with our center's approach. We are especially excited to integrate brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing innovations that drive healthy aging and support for people with chronic disease.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,



Kathy D. Wright, PhD, RN, APRN-CNS, PMHCNS-BC, FNAP, FAAN
Director, Center for Healthy Aging, Self-Management and Complex Care
Associate Professor
Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs
The Ohio State University
College of Nursing

Appendix C – Letters of Support from Partners & Peers

Adam R. Ferguson, MS, PhD

Co-Director
Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Center
University of California, San Francisco
adam.ferguson@ucsf.edu

Rachel Ramirez, LISW-S, RA

Founder & Director
The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury
Ohio Domestic Violence Network
rachelr@odvn.org

John Gensel, PhD

Director & Endowed Chair
Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Center
University of Kentucky
gensel.1@uky.edu

Douglas H. Smith, MD

Director
Penn Center for Brain Injury & Repair
University of Pennsylvania
smithdou@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Lauren Holly

Executive Director
Brain Injury Association of Ohio
lholly@biaoh.org

Hudson Gerry Taylor, PhD

Director
Neurodevelopmental Research Affinity
Group
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Hudson.Taylor@NationwideChildrens.org

Jonathan Lifshitz, PhD

Associate Director of Outreach
Michigan Concussion Center
University of Michigan
lifshitz@med.umich.edu

Amy Wagner, MD

Associate Director
Rehabilitation Research
University of Pittsburgh
smithdou@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Brei Miller, MBA, MA, AT

Program Director
Ohio Brain Injury Program
miller.4235@osu.edu

**Department of
Neurological Surgery**

505 Parnassus Avenue, M779
San Francisco, CA 94143

tel: 415.353.7500
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weill.ucsf.edu
neurosurgery.ucsf.edu

September 8, 2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery
The Ohio State University
Jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

Re. Letter of Support

Dear Jon,

As Co-Director of the Brain and Spinal Injury Center (BASIC) at the University of California San Francisco, I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). As you and I have discussed, this application is a natural extension for your Discovery-themed program in Chronic Brain injury at OSU. As you know, I am acquainted with the neurotrauma research program at OSU. My team and I have interacted with OSU faculty and trainees over the years at the National Neurotrauma Society Conference and other forums. This engagement between our groups has been productive and rewarding. I share your mission of advancing basic and applied research in neurotrauma and brain injury. I agree that is critical to understand and address the significant and chronic challenges of traumatic brain injury. Therefore, I support the goals and mission of your OSU center application.

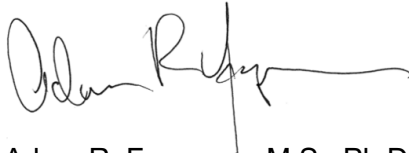
The UCSF Brain and Spinal Injury Center (UCSF-BASIC) is an multi-disciplinary translational research center in the Weill Institute of Neurosciences at UCSF, centered at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, the level 1 trauma center for the city. We host a range of research activities from basic preclinical models to translational and large-scale clinical precision medicine studies in spinal cord injury (SCI) and traumatic brain injury (TBI), such as the Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in TBI (TRACK-TBI) and SCI (TRACK-SCI) studies. We also have a strong history of large-scale collaboration around data, serving as the administrative site for the NIH-supported specialist data repositories for translational neurotrauma, the Open Data Commons for TBI (odc-tbi.org) and SCI (odc-sci.org). It is notable that these systems host federally funded data from over 1200 US researchers, but OSU neurotrauma researchers were among our first collaborators, illustrating the depth of our rich collaborative history.



CBIRD at Ohio State represents a strong peer organization to drive discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact is consistent with impactful centers and programs around the nation. We are especially excited to collaborate with the rich community of researchers and trainees to augment our ongoing efforts to understand and address chronic challenges of brain injury.

In summary, I am happy to support your center application at OSU. I share your goal of working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals. I look forward to interacting with you and the members of CBIRD for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam R. Ferguson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam R. Ferguson, M.S., Ph.D.
Co-Director, Brain and Spinal Injury Center (BASIC)
Professor, Department of Neurological Surgery
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
PI, SFVAHCS
Email: adam.ferguson@ucsf.edu
Phone: (415) 476-5326



John C. Gensel
Professor, Department of Physiology
Director, Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center
B483, Biomedical & Bio. Sciences Research Building
741 S. Limestone Street
Lexington, KY 40536-0509
Office: 859-218-0516
email: gensel.1@uky.edu



9/19/2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
The Ohio State University
Jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

Support for OSU Center Application

Dear Dr. Godbout,

I am pleased to provide my support for your application to establish The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). As you and I have discussed, The Ohio State University (OSU) Center designation is the logical next step for your Discovery-themed program on Chronic Brain injury. As you know, I am the Director of the Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center (SCoBIRC) at the University of Kentucky. I am very familiar with the excellent neurotrauma-based program at OSU. In fact, I pursued my graduate training at OSU because of the strong neurotrauma program in the early 2000's. The continued strength of neurotrauma research at OSU enabled me to complete my post-doctoral work there with Dr. Phil Popovich in Neuroscience. Neurotrauma, especially in brain injury research, has continued to grow and expand at OSU under your leadership. As such, faculty and trainees within our programs have intersected many times over the years at local, national, and international meetings. This engagement between our programs is always enriching and rewarding. I share your mission of advancing basic and applied research in neurotrauma and brain injury. I agree that it is critical to understand and address the significant and chronic challenges associated with traumatic brain injury. Therefore, I support the goals and the mission of your application to establish this important center.

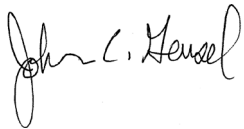
The Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center (SCoBIRC) at the University of Kentucky unites faculty in a variety of areas of neuroscience research to advance understanding of the acute pathophysiology of spinal cord and brain injury. The SCoBIRC mission is to 1) enhance understanding of the acute pathophysiology of spinal cord and brain injury and mechanisms that regulate neuronal plasticity, axonal guidance, and myelination; 2) identify biomarkers that can be used to track post-traumatic pathophysiology and the effects of neuroprotective and neurorestorative treatments; 3) help identify innovative clinical trial methodologies and therapeutic endpoints; 4) improve the use of rehabilitation strategies to maximize treatment effects; and 5) discover, translate and develop pharmacological, gene therapy, or cellular treatments to minimize damage, promote repair mechanisms, and enhance regeneration and remyelination following spinal cord or brain injury. SCoBIRC is composed of 12 primary faculty members and numerous adjunct faculty and clinicians from a variety of disciplines whose research spans the spectrum from the laboratory bench to the bedside and who are well-positioned to translate promising basic research findings into new treatments. The Center is funded in part by the Kentucky Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research Trust, which provides about \$2.5 million each year to support spinal cord and head injury research in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Due to our related research missions, close regional proximity, and shared desire for

excellence, it is not surprising that strong links have been established between our two Centers. Specifically, members of CBIRD serve on the external advisory committee for our T32 training program, as site-PI's for collaborative grants, and frequently attend and present data at our bi-annual Kentucky Spinal Cord and Head Injury Research Trust conference and meeting.

CBIRD at Ohio State represents a strong peer organization to drive discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact is consistent with impactful centers and programs around the nation, including SCoBIRC at UK. We are especially excited to collaborate with the rich community of researchers and trainees to augment our ongoing efforts to understand and address the challenges associated with neurotrauma and brain injury.

In summary, I am happy to support your center application at OSU. SCoBIRC shares your goal of working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals. I look forward to interacting with you and the members of CBIRD for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John C. Gensel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent and the last name "Gensel" written in a slightly smaller, more compact script.

Dr. John Gensel, PhD
Director and Endowed Chair, Spinal Cord and Brain Injury Research Center (SCoBIRC)
Professor of Physiology
University of Kentucky



September 23, 2025

Dear Director Godbout,

As Executive Director of the Brain Injury Association of Ohio (BIAOH), I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). Advancing basic and applied research is critical to understand, evaluate, and address the significant and costly chronic challenges of traumatic brain injury.

BIAOH is a statewide advocacy and education organization incorporated in 1982 to provide services and supports to Ohioans with brain injury and their families, to promote prevention and to lead brain injury advocacy in Ohio. BIAOH works collaboratively with survivors, family members, friends and professionals to promote better understanding, rehabilitation opportunities and lifelong community supports to assist an individual in living as fully and independently as possible and to work for prevention of brain injuries throughout the population.

CBIRD at Ohio State represents a strong partner organization to support our mission through discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. We collaborate with CBIRD staff and faculty to convene and educate professionals and survivors through the Ohio Brain Injury Summit, including research talks and poster presentations for community members. BIAOH members engage with CBIRD programs such as NeuroNights, Community Day, Brain Injury Awareness 5K, OSU Brain CARE, Brain Injury from Violence CARE Alliance, along with several CBIRD-funded studies. CBIRD's novel statewide registry, NTR-OH, promotes survivor engagement in research, and BIAOH looks forward to participating in helping connect survivors that participate in the program to community based resources in addition to research.

The transition from the Chronic Brain Injury Program to CBIRD is an excellent progression with impact for our statewide efforts. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations, breadth of science, survivor outreach, and workforce education creates impact for our communities. We are especially excited to collaborate with the rich community of researchers and trainees in our ongoing efforts to develop new solutions, inform policies, and advance community resources that support Ohioans with brain injuries to thrive.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren Holly".

Lauren Holly
Executive Director, Brain Injury Association of Ohio

September 11, 2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery
The Ohio State University
Jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu,

Dr. Godbout,

Without hesitation, I fully support and endorse your application to establish The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). I am very familiar with the Discovery-themed program in Chronic Brain Injury at OSU, having followed its start and subsequent year over year growth. I have the pleasure of collaborating with the CBI faculty and trainees, including an invitation as a seminar speaker and then Keynote Speaker at research day. In comparison to other brain injury-focused programs around the country, CBI has delivered on its multi-disciplinary mission with positive impacts on the field.

As you and I have discussed, this application to establish CBIRD is the natural extension and evolution of the aggregated resources at OSU. Locally, the existing program has created environments – physical and academic – to merge disciplines to understand and treat brain injury. Without question, the back-to-back DOD Focused Program Awards are proof positive of the collaboration, resources, and community at OSU. Additionally, your program (soon to be a center) does not have a narrow focus, rather reaching out intentionally to address legal, community, social services, and epidemiology issues surrounding brain injury. And beyond the Ohio test-bed for your practices, you then engage with national brain injury associations, head injury administrations, the research societies to advance knowledge, education, and community. Knowing many personally, your faculty, trainees, and administrators are outstanding.

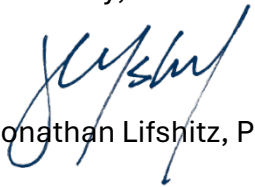
As a recent Associate Director of the Concussion Center at the University of Michigan, I am glad to be in the Midwest and plan integrated projects. In many ways, our center will benefit from CBIRD as a sister center and benchmark institution. We share the mission to advance basic and applied research in order for research outcomes to influence care and policy in neurotrauma and brain injury sets. Substantial center-level support will make the mission a reality. From your annual report, I do note that additional space for seminars and meetings would solidify your footprint, there is a need for indirect cost recovery to support the center, and the need to expand the external

advisory board. These challenges will be addressed by successful transformation from a program to a center.

Therefore, I support the goals and mission of your OSU center application. CBIRD at Ohio State represents a strong peer organization to drive discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact is consistent with impactful centers and programs around the nation. And most of these activities are established, underway, and showing societal impact. Speaking for my colleagues at University of Michigan, we are especially excited to collaborate with OSU's rich community of researchers and trainees to augment our ongoing efforts to understand and address chronic challenges of brain injury.

In summary, I am excited to see the growth and development of the program into a center. Without reservation, I support the CBIRD center application at OSU. I look forward to interacting with you and the members of CBIRD for years to come.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Lifshitz, PhD



Ohio Brain Injury

P r o g r a m

Ohio Brain Injury Program

480 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210-1245
Phone: (614) 293-3802
FAX: (614) 293-8886

September 15, 2025

Jon Godbout, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
231 Institute for Behavioral Medicine Research
460 Medical Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43210
Email: jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

Dear Director Godbout,

As Program Director of the Ohio Brain Injury Program, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). Advancing basic and applied research is critical to understand, evaluate, and address the significant and costly chronic challenges of traumatic brain injury.

The Ohio Brain Injury Program (OBIP) is the lead state-funded program for Ohioans who have been impacted by brain injuries in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3335.60. The mission of our organization is to advance prevention and treatment that will improve the lives of Ohioans impacted by brain injury. OBIP recognizes brain injury as a major public health problem that contributes to preventable loss of life and disability, and seeks to assure that individuals with brain injury and their families have access to relevant information, quality health care, and an effective support system.

CBIRD at Ohio State represents a strong partner organization to support our mission through discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. We collaborate with CBIRD staff and faculty to operate the NeuroTrauma Registry of Ohio (NTR-OH), a novel statewide registry to promote survivor engagement in research. CBIRD programs have supported data science projects to aid our injury surveillance capacity and impact. CBIRD members regularly participate in multiple OBIP-led interprofessional committees including the Brain Injury Advisory Committee, and OBIP staff regularly participate in CBIRD activities including NeuroNights, Community Day, Brain Injury Awareness 5K, Action Potential Grants, and Partnership & Engagement Grants.

The transition from the Chronic Brain Injury Program to CBIRD is an excellent progression with impact for our statewide efforts. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations, breadth of science, survivor outreach, and workforce education creates impact for our communities. I am especially excited to collaborate with the rich community of researchers and trainees to augment our ongoing efforts in assessing the impact of brain injuries on Ohioans, and evaluating and advancing policies that support survivors to thrive.

I look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Brei Elizabeth Miller

268074C09059436...

Brei Miller, MBA, MA, AT
Program Director, Ohio Brain Injury Program



174 E Long Street, Suite 200
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Phone: 614-781-9651
www.odvn.org

Dear Director Godbout,

As Director of the Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury at the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN), I am pleased to offer my strong support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). Advancing basic and applied research is critical to understand, evaluate, and address the significant and costly chronic challenges of traumatic brain injury, especially among victims of domestic violence.

ODVN's purpose is to support and strengthen Ohio's response to domestic violence through direct survivor support, training, public awareness, and technical assistance and to promote social change through the implementation of public policy. The Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury works within ODNV's network to raise awareness and provide leadership on the unidentified and unaddressed public health crisis of brain injury caused by violence. ODNV's membership includes domestic violence programs, allied professionals, and concerned individuals who are from every region of Ohio, representing both the rural and urban areas.

CBIRD at Ohio State represents a strong partner organization to support our mission through discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. We collaborate with CBIRD staff and faculty to convene and educate social services and justice professionals and survivors through the Brain Injury from Violence CARE Alliance, including clinical and research talks for community members. ODNV's topic areas overlap with CBIRD programs such as NeuroNights and Community Day, along with several CBIRD-funded studies.

The Chronic Brain Injury Program has been a faithful and engaged partner in addressing brain injury in the domestic violence context since 2018, and every year, our relationship deepens and the work that we do strengthens. The transition from the Chronic Brain Injury Program to CBIRD is an excellent progression with impact for our statewide efforts. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary and interprofessional collaborations, breadth of science, survivor outreach, and workforce education creates impact for our communities. We are especially excited to collaborate with the rich community of researchers and trainees in augmenting our ongoing efforts to develop new solutions, inform policies, and advance community resources that support Ohioans with exposure to both domestic violence and brain injuries to thrive.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals. I very much believe Ohio would not be a national and international leader in this space without the partnership of Kedar Hiremath and the Chronic Brain Injury program. I'm excited to see what we do together under the new umbrella of the CBIRD, and look forward to making significant and impactful change

that improves the lives of domestic violence survivors in Ohio, and serves as a model for others across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Ramirez', with a stylized, cursive script.

Rachel Ramirez
Director of Health and Disability Programs
Founder of the Center on Partner-Inflicted Brain Injury
Ohio Domestic Violence Network

University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Department of Neurosurgery

Penn Center for Brain Injury & Repair
Douglas H. Smith, M.D.
Director, Penn Center for Brain Injury & Repair
Robert A. Groff Professor of Neurosurgery
Vice Chairman for Research & Education,
Department of Neurosurgery

9/12/2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
The Ohio State University
Jonathan.godbout@osumc.edu

RE: University Center Application

Dear Dr. Godbout,

As Director of the Center for Brain Injury & Repair (CBIR) at the University of Pennsylvania (Penn), I am pleased to offer my enthusiastic support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). Indeed, I am familiar with your program in Neurotrauma and brain injury at The Ohio State University and have extensively interacted with many of your members including yourself. Furthermore, I was recently honored to serve as the keynote speaker at OSU for your CBI Annual Research Day this year. This allowed me to take a very close look at your team's efforts, accomplishments and future potential. Overall, I was very impressed with your research program in brain injury at OSU as well as for your thoughtful and dedicated leadership.

As we discussed, the OSU Center designation is the perfect next step for your Discovery-themed program on Chronic Brain injury. Your mission of advancing basic and applied research in neurotrauma has such important implications for transforming management and treatment of brain injury. I share this passion with you as well as your vision to bring experimental findings to a clinical reality. Therefore, I am wholeheartedly in support of your application to establish this vibrant center for brain injury.

I view Penn's CBIR and your program as complementary efforts, which share similar missions. Operating as a center at Penn allows us advantage in recruiting talented faculty and access to development prospects, both of which have become highly successful. I also believe that the center designation has greatly facilitated the establishment of an extensive funding portfolio and the generation of high impact publications that represent collaborations across disciplines represented in the center. In particular, our multidisciplinary efforts on chronic brain injury and neurodegenerative disease pathologies have opened the way to the establishment of an NIH-supported multi-institutional center without walls, with Penn's CBIR serving as the central leader. I anticipate that many of the same advantages will become realized for your proposed center.

Clearly, CBIRD at Ohio State will represent a strong peer organization that will drive discovery and solutions for the chronic effects of brain injury. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact is consistent with impactful centers and programs around the nation, including ours. We are especially excited to collaborate with the rich community of

researchers and trainees to augment our ongoing efforts to understand and address chronic challenges of brain injury. As testament, I have recently recruited an OSU graduate student to perform a post-doctoral fellowship in my laboratory.

In summary, I am in full support your center application at OSU. We share your goal of working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals. I look forward to interacting with you and the members of CBIRD for years to come.

Sincerely,



Douglas H. Smith, M.D.
The Robert A. Groff of Teaching and Research in Neurosurgery
Director of PENN's Center for Brain Injury and Repair, University of Pennsylvania

Dear CBI Director Godbout,

As Director of the Neurodevelopmental Research Affinity Group at Nationwide Children's Hospital, I am pleased to offer my strong and enthusiastic support for the establishment of The Ohio State University Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD).

The mission of the Neurodevelopmental Research Affinity Group is to facilitate research collaborations on neurodevelopment and neurodevelopmental disorders in children by increasing awareness of common research interests, creating new synergies in research methods, and broadening the scope and outreach of research activities in this area within Nationwide Children's Hospital and in association with The Ohio State University and the wider community.

CBIRD represents a strong partner organization to deepen our work. Its emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration, basic and translational research, outreach and training, and impact aligns perfectly with the NCH Neurodevelopmental Research Affinity Group's approach. Currently, CBIRD Associate Director Kedar Hiremath serves on our advisory board, and CBIRD faculty engage in talks, collaborative research projects, and professional workshops. We are especially excited to integrate adult brain injury research and care practices into our ongoing efforts to understand chronic brain injury and to develop interventions that promote resilience and recovery in children and adolescents.

We look forward to contributing to CBIRD's success and to working together to advance solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, and professionals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "H. Gerry Taylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H." and last name "Taylor" clearly legible.

Hudson Gerry Taylor, PhD, ABPP/CN
Principal Investigator, Professor of Pediatrics
Abigail Wexner Research Institute, Center for Biobehavioral Health
The Ohio State University



Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
University of Pittsburgh

09/19/2025

Jonathan P. Godbout, Ph.D.
Professor of Neuroscience
Faculty Director, Chronic Brain Injury Program
The Ohio State University

Dear Dr. Godbout,

It is my pleasure to provide strong support for The Ohio State University's application to establish the Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery (CBIRD). As Associate Director of Rehabilitation Research at the University of Pittsburgh, I have a long career in translational research and investigating precision rehabilitation strategies to promote multimodal recovery. I have followed the remarkable progress of the Chronic Brain Injury (CBI) Program, and I believe the transition to full Center status is both timely and necessary.

Over the past decade, your team has built a vibrant interdisciplinary community that has advanced fundamental and translational science, education, and outreach in brain injury. I have had the privilege of engaging with your faculty and trainees at national meetings such as the Neurotrauma Society Conference, and I have observed firsthand the program's capacity to convene leaders across campus to share and disseminate new ideas and innovative research advancements. My own virtual visit to CBI's Annual Research Day reinforced my impression that this is an outstanding and highly collaborative program ready for its next stage of institutional recognition.

CBIRD's anticipated mission is to lift Ohio State as a global leader addressing chronic brain injury through prevention, characterization, assessment, and rehabilitation is directly relevant to the challenges faced by rehabilitation science and long-term recovery. The center's "Recovery" pillar encompasses interventions in neural repair, pharmacologic and biologic therapies, rehabilitation practices, and wellness approaches. Importantly, this scope reflects the lived reality that brain injury is not a single event but a chronic health condition with lifelong impact. Survivors often face persistent cognitive, behavioral, and physical challenges, and CBIRD is uniquely structured to address those challenges through integrated preclinical, clinical, and community-based research.

CBIRD has already invested in interdisciplinary projects that bridge laboratory insights with practical rehabilitation strategies: from AI-enhanced driving rehabilitation for teens with concussion, to wellness coaching to support financial and social reintegration, to translational studies linking post-injury sleep disturbances to Alzheimer's disease risk.

These initiatives extend beyond acute neurotrauma, directly targeting long-term function, quality of life, and participation outcomes—core goals of rehabilitation research. The commitment to broad, cross-college collaboration ensures that novel technologies (e.g., optogenetics, multiphoton imaging, nanotechnology for drug delivery) are developed alongside behavioral interventions, health services research, and justice-informed policy reforms.

CBIRD's portfolio aligns well with current NINDS and other strategic federal funding priorities setting the stage for ongoing success in a competitive federal funding environment, with work on 1) *Neuroinflammation & Neuroimmune Interactions* such as microglial activation, interferon pathways, and neuroimmune regulation 2) *Neural Repair & Recovery Mechanisms* via studies on traumatic optic neuropathy, stem cell-based repair, and circuit-level imaging 3) *Cognition, Behavior, and Mental Health* studies on depression, PTSD, and cognitive outcomes in first responders with brain injury. 4) *Data Science, Technology, and AI* integrating advanced imaging, bioinformatics, and AI-driven health services research, 5) *Health Equity and Implementation Science* via engagement with justice-involved populations, rural health, and vulnerable communities to reduce health disparities and translate research into practice.

Center designation, with collaboration across colleges and other centers and institutes, will allow CBIRD to sustain and expand this momentum by:

- **Expanding team-based research** across neuroscience, rehabilitation, engineering, AI, and health policy.
- **Scaling educational offerings**, from undergraduate fellowships to advanced postdoctoral training, ensuring a pipeline of next-generation rehabilitation and neurotrauma investigators.
- **Deepening community and industry partnerships**, such as the Brain Injury from Violence CARE Alliance, Nationwide Children's Hospital collaborations, and law enforcement partnerships that bring science to frontline rehabilitation and recovery contexts
- **Driving national leadership**, positioning OSU among the top tier of institutions with comprehensive centers devoted to chronic brain injury, reinforced by its #12 ranking in new NIH R01 awards in brain injury research.

CBIRD represents exactly the type of forward-looking, interdisciplinary, and community-engaged center that our field needs. It is a natural evolution of the highly successful CBI program and a vital resource for advancing solutions for neurotrauma survivors, caregivers, trainees, and professionals. Its mission speaks directly to rehabilitation, recovery, and to the long-term needs of survivors, while its portfolio reflects and reinforces federal funding priorities. I strongly endorse this application and look forward to continued collaboration with CBIRD as it shapes the future of chronic brain injury science and care.

Sincerely,



Amy Kathleen Wagner, MD

Professor and Vice-Chair Faculty Development

Director Translational Research

Dept. Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Professor, Neuroscience

Professor, Clinical & Translational Science Institute

Associate Director Rehabilitation Research

Safar Center for Resuscitation Research

Training Faculty, Center for Neuroscience

3471 Fifth Avenue, Kaufman Bldg, Suite 910

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh PA 15213

Phone: 412-648-6666; Fax: 412-692-4354

Email: wagnerak@upmc.edu

Appendix D: Programming & Organization

Section 1: Organization

Figure D1: Research Scope

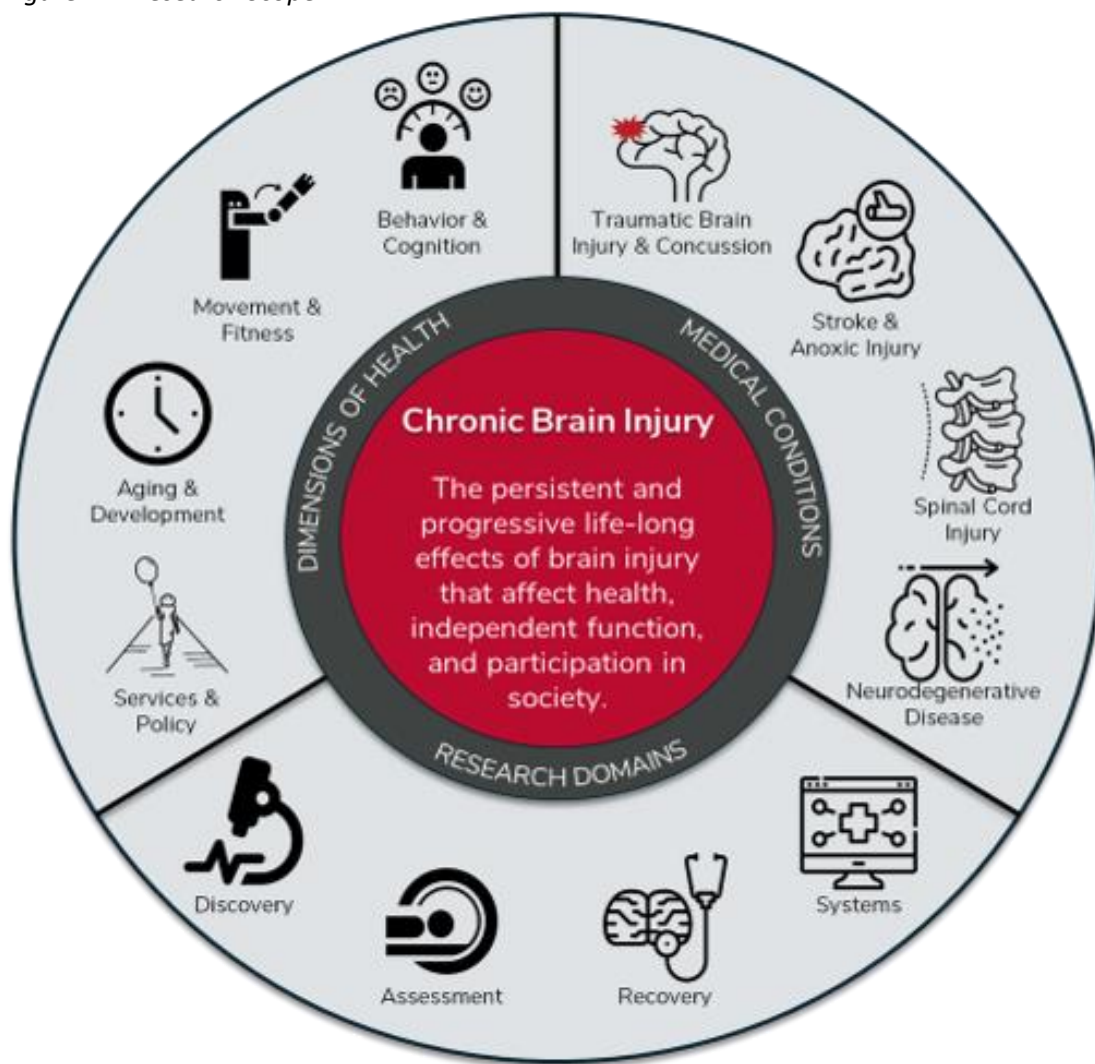


Figure D2. Key Research Domains, Topics, and Alignments

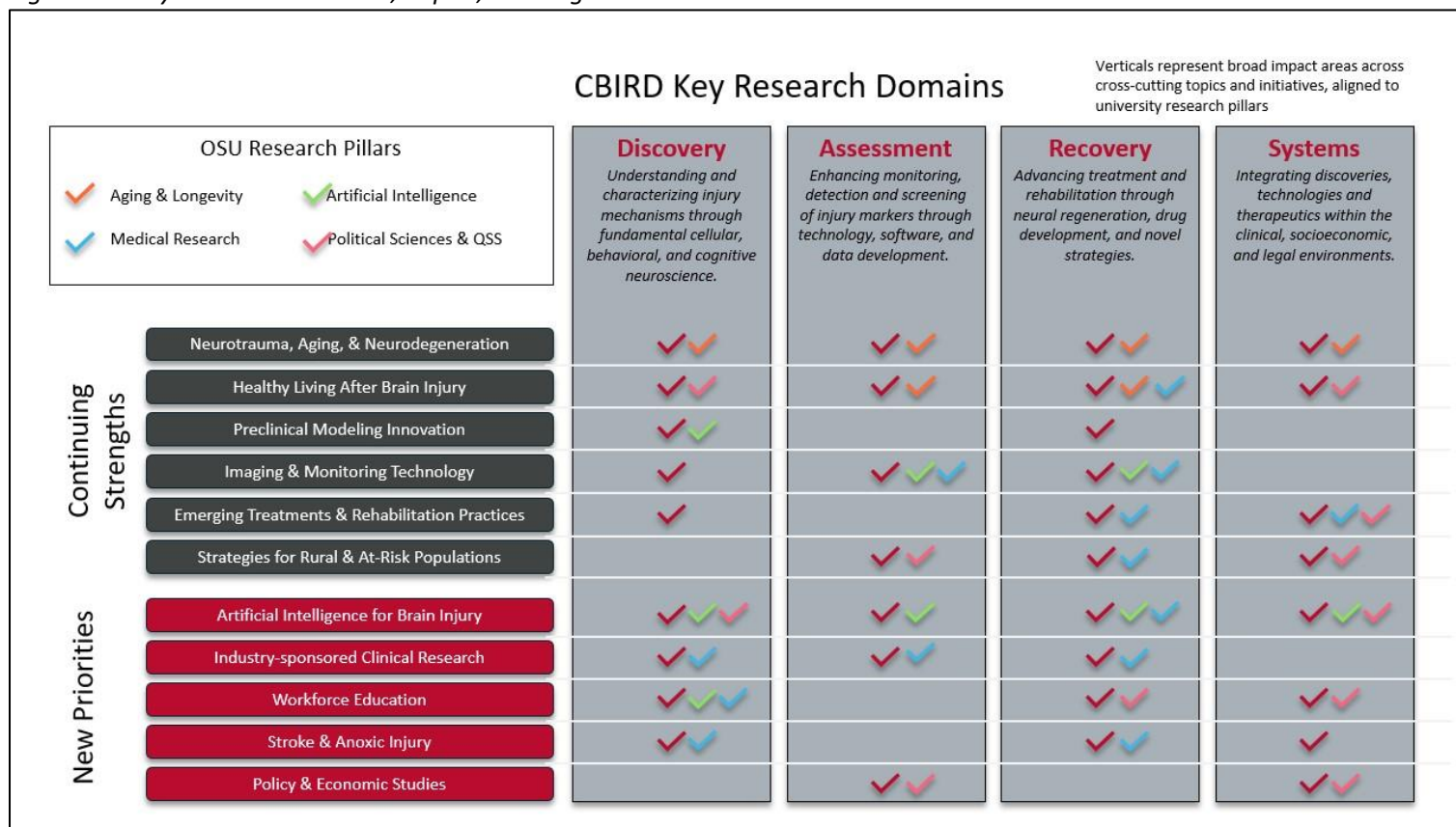


Figure D3. Organizational Chart

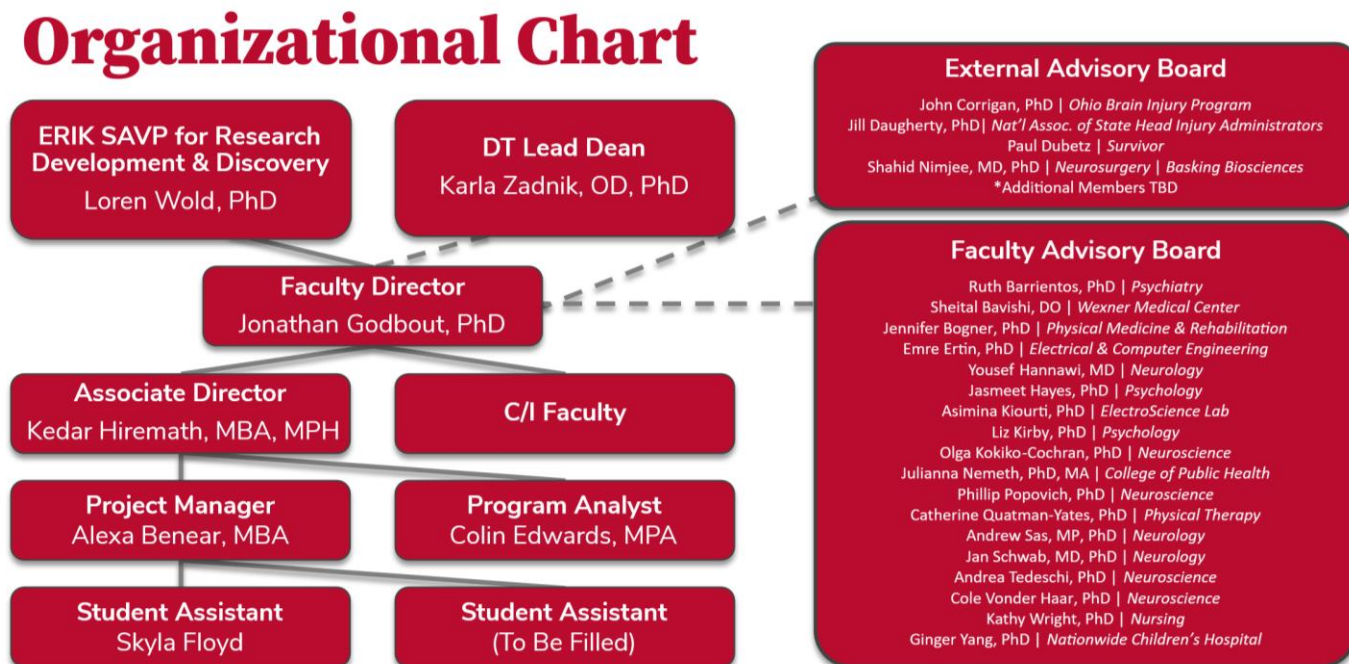
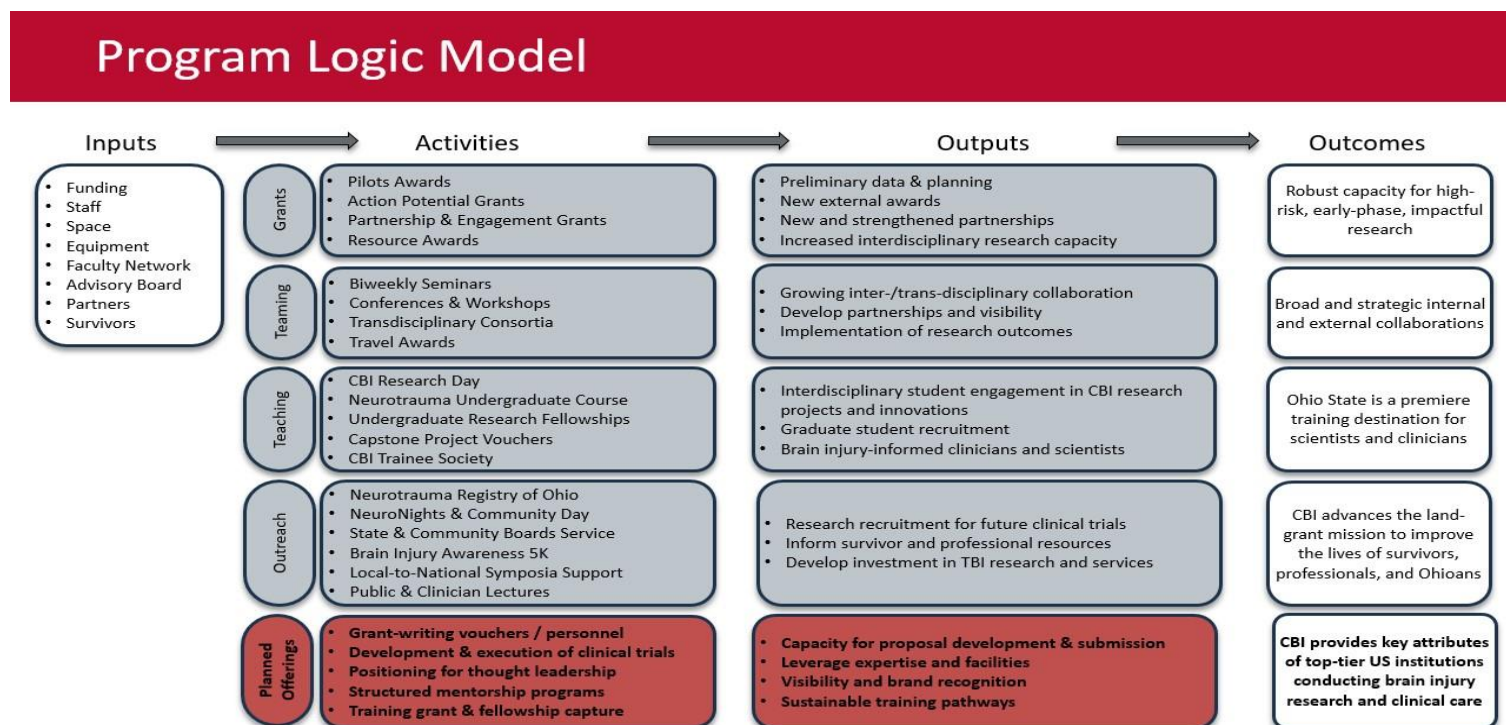


Figure D4. Research Support Programs



Appendix E: Supporting Data for Performance & Sustainability

Attached “Chronic Brain Injury Program Strategic Planning Report: Data-Driven Insights to Support CBI’s Proposal for Academic Center Status” - May 2025



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Chronic Brain Injury Program Strategic Planning Report

Data-Driven Insights to Support CBI's Proposal for Academic Center Status

Prepared by:

Colin Edwards, MPA
Program Analyst | Chronic Brain Injury Program
Enterprise for Research, Innovation, & Knowledge
The Ohio State University

Date:

May 15, 2025

Confidentiality Note:

For internal planning and review purposes only. Not for public distribution.

Executive Summary

This document provides data-driven strategic insights to inform the Chronic Brain Injury Program's (CBI) proposal for official recognition as an academic research center at The Ohio State University. Through comprehensive benchmarking, rigorous self-evaluation, and alignment analysis with the University's strategic plan, this report identifies strengths, addresses gaps, and highlights strategic opportunities to support effective decision-making and enhance competitive positioning as CBI prepares its proposal.

Analyses

Benchmarking

The benchmarking analysis compares CBI with selected leading national and regional research centers, representing standards to which CBI aspires. This identifies best practices in governance, research infrastructure, interdisciplinary integration, and community engagement, revealing strategic opportunities to enhance competitive standing and operational effectiveness.

Self-Evaluation

The self-evaluation presents annual performance metrics and assesses CBI's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT analysis). This provides a comprehensive perspective on internal capacities, operational limitations, and potential avenues for strategic growth and improvement.

Alignment with University Strategic Plan

This section evaluates the alignment between CBI's objectives and OSU's strategic priorities. Demonstrating strong congruence ensures institutional support, enhances resource access, and advances shared goals in research excellence, community impact, and innovation.

Strategic Insights & Recommendations

Insights

Ohio State currently secures approximately 25% to 50% of the NIH funding levels attained by aspirational peer centers (2020–2024), with fewer awards across diverse funding mechanisms and study sections. Immediate opportunities exist to pursue targeted NIH mechanisms (R49, U24, P30/41), with longer-term aspirations toward larger center grants (P01, P50, U54, UG1, U10). CBI leverages key strengths such as genuine interdisciplinarity, institutional support, high-risk research, and robust community outreach, though it faces notable challenges in advancing translational and clinical projects.

Recommendations

- **Expand and strategically leverage CBI's interdisciplinary strengths** to pursue new research opportunities, especially in AI, rural health, health policy, clinical trials, and workforce education initiatives.
- **Strengthen translational research pathways** through enhanced preclinical-industry partnerships and innovative modeling approaches.
- **Deepen community impact and implementation research** by prioritizing engagement with vulnerable populations, including domestic violence survivors and law enforcement officers, and expanding the stroke research portfolio.
- **Enhance faculty success in funding competitions** through structured grant-writing support, targeted mentorship programs, and increased emphasis on securing T32 and other training grants.

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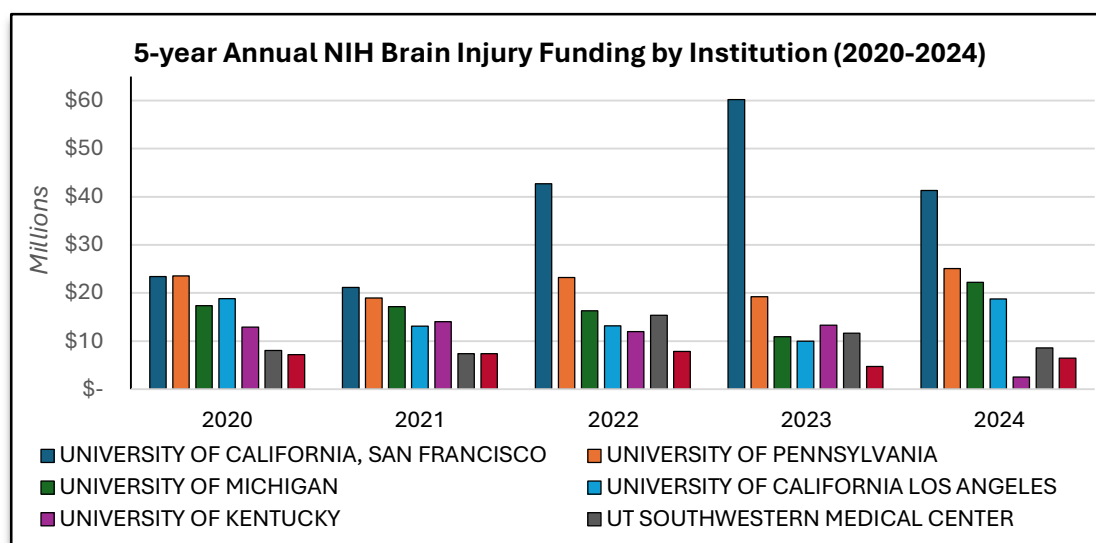
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Benchmarking External Research Centers

This section provides detailed benchmarking information on selected external research centers, identified as leading national and regional institutions to which CBI aspires. Each center's profile includes governance structures and faculty engagement models, interdisciplinary research integration, NIH funding portfolios, translational and educational infrastructure, and community engagement activities. This comparative analysis highlights best practices, strategic opportunities, and standards of excellence to help guide CBI's growth and development toward and beyond achieving official academic center status.

Benchmarking against selected external research centers reveals common characteristics among top-performing institutions, including robust clinical collaboration, diverse funding streams, and strong translational and educational infrastructure. As seen in the chart below, these aspirational centers typically secure significantly higher NIH funding across multiple mechanisms. They also maintain substantial community engagement initiatives and possess well-developed internal funding programs to foster innovative research and early-career mentorship.



While currently trailing these benchmark organizations in total funding, diversity of NIH mechanisms, translational and clinical project infrastructure, and brand recognition, CBI demonstrates notable strengths in its breadth of interdisciplinary collaboration and strength of community outreach that can be strategically leveraged.

Specifically, CBI is well-positioned to pursue and successfully compete for near-term NIH mechanisms such as R49 (Injury Control Research Centers), U24 (Resource-Related Research Projects), and P30/P41 (Center Core Grants). These mechanisms support infrastructure development, resource coordination, and multidisciplinary collaboration—areas where CBI already demonstrates comparative strength and institutional alignment. In contrast, large-scale mechanisms such as P01 (Program Project Grants), P50 (Specialized Center Grants), U54 (Specialized Center—Cooperative Agreements), UG1, and U10 (Clinical Research Networks and Coordinating Centers) are aspirational. These require a mature translational pipeline, extensive clinical research capacity, and sustained funding history—long-term goals CBI can work toward through strategic investment and targeted growth.

The rest of this section provides the profiles for each benchmarked center and is followed by a summary table of each center's features and a summary table of each center's 5-year NIH funding by type of award, both of which are also included in the appendices.

University of Pennsylvania [Center for Brain Injury and Repair](#) (CBIR)

Governance structures and faculty engagement models

- University of Pennsylvania → Perelman School of Medicine → CBIR
- Director (Doug Smith, MD) → Associate Director for Preclinical Research (David Meaney, PhD) & Associate Director for Clinical Research (Ramon Diaz-Arrastia, MD, PhD)
- 35 Faculty Collaborators
- Membership parameters unknown

Interdisciplinary research integration

Researchers from the following areas are listed on the website:

Neurosurgery, Bioengineering, Pharmacology, Pathology, Neurology, Pediatrics, Neuroradiology, Rehabilitation, Emergency Medicine

Research grant portfolio

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024)					
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D	Grand Total
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$8,200,646	\$1,743,488	-	\$100,063,235	\$110,007,369

- Research support grants
 - T32 Brain Injury Training Grant
 - Mind Your Brain Foundation Fellowship – Undergraduate program pairs student with PI to develop and conduct a research project

Community engagement, education, and translational infrastructure

- Member of the Pennsylvania Consortium on TBI which focuses on expanding educational and outreach programs aimed at raising awareness and promoting TBI prevention across the state.
- CBIR collaborates with institutions like the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the PA Consortium on TBI to further enhance its capacity to translate research findings focused on understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of TBI into clinical applications.

University of Michigan [Neuroscience Institute](#)

Governance structures and faculty engagement models

- University of Michigan → Michigan Neuroscience Institute (MNI)
- Executive Director (Ravi Allada, MD) → unknown
 - 8 Administrative staff (communication, finance, IT, facilities)

- 15 Research staff
- 53 Postdoctoral researchers
- 5 Graduate students
- 175 Faculty affiliates
- Membership & engagement
 - Benefits
 - Opportunities to interact with, learn from, and collaborate with a university-wide interdisciplinary community of neuroscientists.
 - Access to a resource database that will include information regarding available transgenic animal lines, tissue repositories, viruses, etc.
 - Grant-writing support, including internal reviews.
 - Mentorship opportunities for early and mid-career faculty.
 - Eligibility to submit proposals for MNI internal funding awards.
 - A website profile and assistance with enhancing visibility of your research.
 - Participation in identifying and selecting invited speakers for neuroscience seminars.
 - Ability to advertise neuroscience job postings (i.e., Post doc and staff positions) on the MNI website.
 - Criteria
 - An active primary faculty appointment in a University of Michigan department.
 - A track record of peer-reviewed research in the neurosciences.
 - A commitment to contributing to the neuroscience community at the University of Michigan.
 - Opportunities for Engagement
 - Organizing seminars
 - Involvement in faculty recruitment
 - Mentoring early and mid-career faculty
 - Assist in grant review prior to submission
 - Review grants for internal competitions (e.g. seed fund proposals)
 - Serve on educational committee (to better bridge undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral education in neuroscience)
 - DEI committee
 - Plan and participate in community outreach events
 - Plan and participate in community-building events

Interdisciplinary research integration

The Michigan Neuroscience Institute comprises 19 research groups connected to a wide range of biomedical and clinical departments. Its core faculty play a central role in fostering cross-campus collaboration, supported by strategic investments in infrastructure and recruitment to strengthen neuroscience research throughout the university.

Research grant portfolio

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024)					
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D	Grand Total
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	\$4,536,062	-	\$850,000	\$78,467,109	\$83,853,171

Community engagement, education, and translational infrastructure

MNI appears primarily to leverage resources and infrastructure from other units within the university rather than independently creating or managing them itself.

Specifically:

Community Engagement

MNI promotes outreach programs like BrainsRule!, Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, and the Sciences (FEMMES), and Science Education and Engagement for Kids (SEEK), all established initiatives led by the Neuroscience Graduate Program rather than directly managed by MNI.

Educational Infrastructure

The Translational Research Education Certificate (TREC) certificate and annual neuroscience conferences seem embedded within the larger University of Michigan ecosystem, suggesting MNI utilizes existing institutional educational structures rather than independently developing distinct educational programs.

Translational Research Infrastructure

MNI benefits from translational resources provided by larger entities like the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHR) and the Center for Basic and Translational Science (CBATS), which are independently funded and operated.

University of Texas Southwestern [Peter O’Donnel Jr. Brain Institute](#)

Governance structures and faculty engagement models

- University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center → Peter O’Donnel Jr. Brain Institute (OBJ)
- Director (William Dauer, MD) → Associate VP (Vicki Dennis, MBA, MHA) → Associate Director, Clinical Research Administration (Mariam Andersen, MA, CCRP) → 5 Staff
- 9 Members of Clinical and Research Leadership team which appears to be an advisory board
- Membership & engagement
 - Benefits
 - Subsidies on OBI Core resources: STED, RBC, Two-Photon Microscope
 - Access to BioHPC
 - Invitations to seminars, workshops, symposia, Grand Rounds, and other research-related activities
 - Eligibility to apply for OBI internal grant programs.
 - Criteria – must meet at least one of the following

- Active in brain-related research as evidenced by serving as a PI or Project Leader of a brain-related, peer reviewed grant (NIH R award or DOD/VA/NSF equivalent, T32, or grant from nationally recognized foundation)
- PI/leader of an active clinical trial performed in the Perot Neuroscience Translational Research Center with ten or more accruals per year
- Leader of a clinical or educational activity within a nationally recognized research network or consortium (e.g., NeuroNext)
- Key contributor to the OBI scientific mission (e.g., hold an OBI leadership position)
- New Assistant Professor in the first 5 years of appointment actively pursuing an independent research career

Investigators are expected to participate in Institute activities and to help shape OBI's scientific direction and growth through participation in recruitment, mentorship, and planning committees.

Interdisciplinary research integration

Collaborating groups:

Advanced Imaging Research Center, Bioinformatics, Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases, Neurological Surgery, Neuropathology, Neurology, Child Neurology, Neuroradiology, Neuroscience, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Psychiatry

Internal research awards

Visionary Neuroscience Program (VNP)

The VNP funds high-risk, high-reward collaborative projects that are typically not eligible for NIH funding due to their novelty. Projects must involve OBI investigators from at least two different departments and focus on advancing fundamental insights into brain disease biology or translating discoveries into clinical applications. Up to \$500,000 available per grant.

Clinical Neuroscience Research Excellence Initiative

Administered by the Perot Neuroscience Translational Research Center, this initiative comprises two programs:

- **OBI Human Neuroscience Collaborative Research Program:** Provides resources and funding for clinical research teams conducting hypothesis-driven projects.
- **OBI Clinical Investigator Development Program:** Supports early-career faculty engaged in prospective human subject research.

Research Interest Group Program

This program supports multidisciplinary groups of UT Southwestern researchers who share a common research focus, promoting collaboration across laboratory and clinical brain science. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

Research grant portfolio

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024)					
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D	Grand Total
UT SOUTHWESTERN	\$1,436,703	-	-	\$49,552,018	\$50,988,721

- Private foundation fundraising secured investment of \$1 billion in 2022 for facilities and research projects.

Community engagement, education, and translational infrastructure

Community Engagement

Outside of a large fundraising operation, OBI appears to not have a particular focus on community outreach.

Education

Sprouts Grant Program

Sprouts grants offer pilot funding for exploratory research directions not easily supported by other sources. The program encourages creative, high-quality research that advances the training of young laboratory or clinical scientists and enhances OBI's research portfolio. Up to \$25,000 available per grant.

Trainee Travel Grant Program

OBI offers up to ten travel grants per fiscal year to support affiliated trainees—including Ph.D. students, postdoctoral scientists, residents, and clinical fellows—in attending and presenting original research at national and international conferences. Applications are currently open for conferences held March–December 2025. Up to \$2,500 available per grant.

Translational Research Infrastructure

OBI's translational research efforts are bolstered by significant investments, including a \$1 billion campaign completed in 2022, which combined philanthropic support and institutional investments to advance brain research and clinical care. The institute integrates basic and translational research with advanced clinical care, fostering collaborations among researchers and clinicians to accelerate the development of new therapies.

UCSF Brain and Spinal Injury Center (BASIC)

Governance structures and faculty engagement models

- UCSF → San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH) → Department of Neurological Surgery → Weill Institute for Neurosciences → BASIC
 - Hosted at SFGH
- Director of Research (Michael Beattie, PhD), Clinical Director (Sean Braden, MSN, NP)
- Membership & engagement
 - 34 members including faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and staff
 - Membership criteria unknown

Interdisciplinary research integration

BASIC doesn't explicitly promote transdisciplinary research collaboration. Its focus on translational research implies a degree of interdisciplinarity but does not overtly extend beyond neuroscience disciplines.

Research grant portfolio

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024)					
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D	Grand Total
UCSF	\$10,594,724	\$770,022	-	\$177,423,929	\$188,788,675

- Administrative Core for TRACK-TBI, TRACK-SCI

Community engagement, education, and translational infrastructure

MNI appears primarily to leverage resources and infrastructure from other units within the university rather than independently creating or managing them itself.

Specifically:

Community Engagement

While BASIC contributes to patient education, community resources, and outreach, these initiatives are typically structured and administered under partnerships facilitated by UCSF's Weill Institute and the Center for Community Engagement. BASIC funds the TBI Support Group and potentially but links to most other programs.

Educational Activities

Educational programs like the Neurotrauma Fellowship, symposiums, and training courses are significantly supported by UCSF's Weill Institute infrastructure such as the Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program. BASIC benefits from institutional support in organizing, funding, and promoting these activities, reducing the administrative and financial burdens on the center itself.

Translational Research Infrastructure

BASIC stands out for its focus on translational research. Key initiatives include acting as the Administrative Core for the NIH-funded TRACK-TBI and TRACK-SCI programs.

BASIC also houses the UCSF Critical Care Data Warehouse and serves as a hub for the NIH-funded Neurological Emergencies Trials Network, facilitating large-scale, multi-institutional research collaborations.

Additionally, BASIC has developed a Private Data Commons for Spinal Cord Injury (PDC-SCI), providing a secure platform for qualified data sharing and team science in late-stage translational research. This infrastructure supports the integration of diverse data types, including clinical, imaging, and biomarker data, to accelerate the development of effective therapies.

UCLA [Brain Injury Research Center](#) (BIRC)

Governance structures and faculty engagement models

- UCLA and UCLA Health → Dept. of Neurosurgery → BIRC
- Director (Mayumi Prins, PhD)(she is also an Associate Director of BrainSPORT)
 - External Advisory Board conducts grant application reviews
- Membership & engagement
 - 7 faculty members listed, including Director and BrainSPORT Director
 - No clear membership structure or benefits. Perhaps determined based on winning BIRC Funds research awards

Interdisciplinary research integration

Nothing explicitly indicates any emphasis on interdisciplinary research.

Research grant portfolio

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024)					
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D	Grand Total
UCLA	\$4,027,434	-	-	\$69,724,260	\$73,751,694

- BIRC exists primarily as a vehicle to provide state sponsored BIRC Fund research awards.

Community engagement, education, and translational infrastructure

These activities are primarily conducted by the BrainSPORT program.

University of Kentucky [Spinal Cord & Brain Injury Research Center](#) (SCoBIRC)

Governance structures and faculty engagement models

- University of Kentucky → College of Medicine → SCoBIRC
- Director (John Carib Gensel, PhD) → Associate Director (Kathryn Saatman, PhD)
- 11 Faculty, 25 Faculty Associates, 20 trainees (post-docs & grad students), staff (lab techs and administration)
- Membership parameters unknown

Interdisciplinary research integration

Researchers from the following areas are listed on the website:

Neuroscience, Neurosurgery, Biochemistry, Biology, Biomedical Engineering, Pharmacology , Pathology, Psychology, Neurology , Radiology, Rehabilitation, Physiology

Research grant portfolio

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024)					
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D	Grand Total
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY	\$1,912,966	\$1,778,991	-	\$51,072,778	\$54,764,735

- Partially funded through legislatively mandated Kentucky Spinal Cord & Head Injury Research Trust Fund (KSCHIRT). Funding split between UK and University of Louisville and overseen by board.
- Research support grants
 - T32 Neurobiology of CNS Injury & Repair Training Grant
 - UKNeu-PREP – University of Kentucky Neuroscience Post-Baccalaureate Research Education Program provides research training and education to post-baccalaureate students prior to applying to a graduate program. NIH funded.
 - SCoBIRC All Access Research Training Scholars Program (AARTS) – Provides advanced undergraduate and graduate students with ~\$6,000 for summer research projects in a SCoBIRC faculty lab. UK funded.

Community engagement, education, and translational infrastructure

Community Engagement

SCoBIRC emphasizes collaboration with individuals affected by SCI and TBI. For example, the Stewart Lab actively seeks involvement from community members living with SCI to guide research priorities, enhance communication strategies, and educate lab members through shared experiences. This participatory approach ensures that research remains patient-centered and responsive to real-world needs.

Educational Activities

The center is committed to training future researchers through various programs including a NIH T32 grant, student funding opportunities, courses, workshops and seminars.

Translational Research Infrastructure

SCoBIRC's infrastructure supports the transition of basic research findings into clinical applications:

- **CNS-Met COBRE:** This NIH-funded Center of Biomedical Research Excellence focuses on central nervous system metabolism, fostering interdisciplinary research and supporting junior investigators.
 - Pilot Projects for 1 year of up to \$50,000
- **Core Facilities:** The center boasts 12,000 square feet of laboratory space equipped for advanced SCI and TBI research, facilitating studies that span from molecular mechanisms to potential therapies.

Sum of 5-year NIH Awards by Type (2020-2024): All Benchmarked Organizations

Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D Projects	Grand Total
UCLA	\$4,027,434			\$69,724,260	\$73,751,694
UCSF	\$10,594,724	\$770,022		\$177,423,929	\$188,788,675
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$8,200,646	\$1,743,488		\$100,063,235	\$110,007,369
UT SOUTHWESTERN	\$1,436,703			\$49,552,018	\$50,988,721
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	\$4,536,062		\$850,000	\$78,467,109	\$83,853,171
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY	\$1,912,966	\$1,778,991		\$51,072,778	\$54,764,735
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	\$1,790,818			\$31,735,115	\$33,525,933

Benchmark Group Table of Features

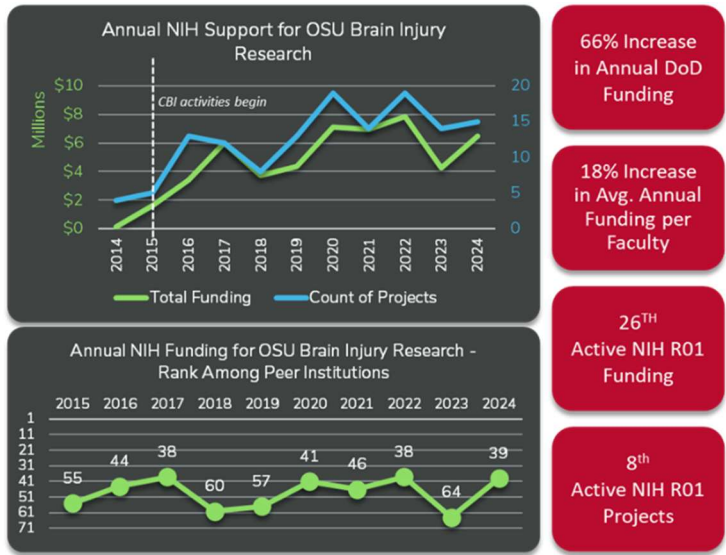
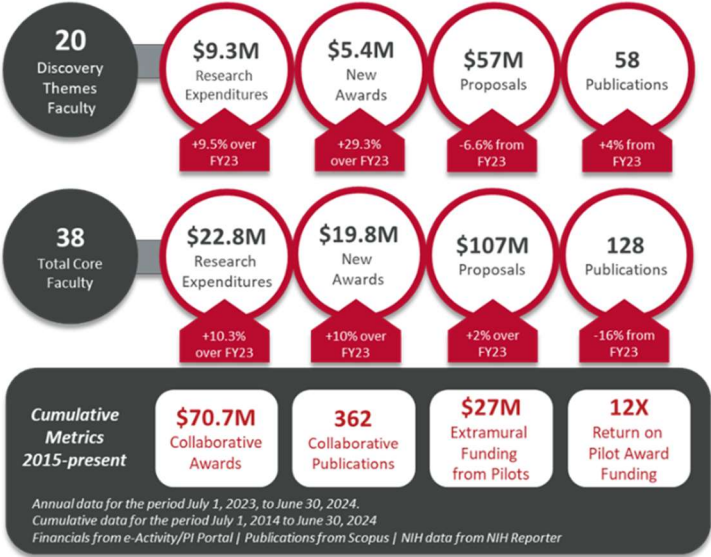
Feature	UPenn (CBIR)	U Mich (MNI)	UT SW (OBI)	UCSF (BASIC)	UCLA (BIRC)	UK (SCoBIRC)
Governance & Membership	Director + two Associate Directors; 35 collaborating faculty. Membership criteria unclear.	Director; 175 faculty affiliates, structured engagement criteria and committees.	Director, Clinical & Research Admins, advisory board. Defined membership criteria.	Director (Research & Clinical). 34 faculty, staff. Membership criteria unclear.	Director + advisory board; small faculty (7 members), membership unclear.	Director + Associate Director; 36 core and associated faculty. Membership criteria unclear.
Interdisciplinary Integration	Strong across neurosurgery, bioengineering, neurology, pediatrics, rehab, emergency medicine.	Extensive across medical departments including genetics, psychiatry, bioinformatics, internal medicine.	Extensive collaboration in medical & clinical fields (imaging, neurology, surgery, psychiatry, rehab).	Primarily neuroscience; implied interdisciplinary due to translational nature.	Limited explicit interdisciplinary focus.	Extensive across medical & clinical fields.
5-yr NIH Funding	~\$110 million	~\$84 million	~\$51 million	~\$189 million	~\$74 million	~\$55 million
Research Infrastructure & Programs	T32 Training Grant; Mind Your Brain Fellowship.	Internal funding, grant-writing support, mentorship.	Visionary Neuroscience Program; Clinical Neuroscience Excellence; Internal collaborative grants.	TRACK-TBI & TRACK-SCI; Private Data Commons (PDC-SCI); Neurological Emergencies Trials Network.	Primarily BIRC Fund state-sponsored awards. NIH conference grant (R13).	State-funded internal awards; T32 Training; UKNeu-PREP program; AARTS program
Community Engagement & Outreach	Active via PA Consortium on TBI; partnerships with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.	Primarily utilizes existing U-M infrastructure (BrainsRule!, FEMMES, SEEK).	Limited explicit outreach; significant fundraising operations.	Mostly via Weill Institute and UCSF institutional resources; limited independent BASIC outreach.	Minimal independent outreach; largely via BrainSPORT.	Primarily lab-initiated, project-based outreach.
Education & Translational Efforts	Strong translational focus, cellular and molecular research to clinical applications.	Leverages translational resources (MICHR, CBATS); educational certificates through broader U-M structure.	Significant translational infrastructure supported by \$1B fundraising; Sprouts pilot grants; trainee travel awards.	Strong translational emphasis; central role in TRACK-TBI/TRACK-SCI; fellowship, symposiums supported by Weill Institute.	Limited; relies mostly on BrainSPORT infrastructure.	Strong trainee programs/funding; shared resources; focused translational program.

CBI Self-Study

This section provides an internal assessment of CBI through two complementary approaches: an evaluation of key performance indicators (KPIs) from the most recent annual report and a structured SWOT analysis. Together, these analyses offer a comprehensive view of CBI's current capabilities, impact, and areas for improvement. By identifying strengths to build on, weaknesses to address, and opportunities to pursue, this self-study informs strategic planning and supports CBI's case for formal designation as an academic center.

Key Performance Indicators

CBI continues to strengthen its research portfolio, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community engagement. As shown in these infographics, CBI-affiliated faculty secured \$19.8M in new awards in FY2024—led by the College of Medicine and largely supported by the Department of Defense and NIH. Total research expenditures reached \$22.8M, reflecting a 10.3% increase over FY2023. Core faculty accounted for the majority of awards and spending, while 158 total faculty affiliates across multiple colleges participated in program activities.



Annual NIH funding for OSU brain injury research has grown significantly since CBI's founding, with an 18% increase in average funding per faculty and a 66% increase in DoD funding. However, OSU still ranks 26th among peer institutions for total NIH R01 funding and 8th in number of active R01 projects.

More detailed program activities, research highlights, and performance metrics can be found in the [CBI FY2024 Annual Report](#).

SWOT Analysis

This analysis outlines CBI's internal strengths and weaknesses, as well as external opportunities and threats. It provides a strategic snapshot of the program's current position within its environment and informs recommendations for future growth and center development. A SWOT chart concludes this section and is also available in the appendices.

Strengths

Transdisciplinary Expertise:

- Strong integration of interdisciplinary research, combining neuroscience, rehabilitation, engineering, and public health.
- Established partnerships across OSU colleges and external institutions enhance credibility and resource access.

Established Research Infrastructure:

- Strategic teaming and planning via robust data management and analytical capabilities to position faculty research clusters for new, pioneering opportunities
- Proven ability to leverage Pilot Grants and attract federal funding (NIH, DoD) and conduct impactful, externally funded research projects.

Strategic Institutional Alignment:

- Positioned strategically within ERIK, aligning closely with university-wide research priorities in health sciences, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Track record of alignment with previous OSU strategic frameworks, providing stability and institutional backing.
- Programming and initiatives portfolio is naturally adaptable for many interest areas.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement:

- Effective outreach efforts such as Research Day, Community Day, NTRIPS, NeuroNights elevate CBI's public profile and relevance.
- Strong partnerships with local organizations (e.g., Brain Injury Association of Ohio, Ohio Domestic Violence Network) enhancing community-based research impact and support.

Operational Competence:

- Experienced and skilled staff, including specialists in research administration, analytics, policy evaluation, and project management.
- Research and clinical experts provide practical and strategic perspectives across the academic enterprise and healthcare services.

Weaknesses

Dependence on External Funding:

- Heavy reliance on federal grants, making the program vulnerable to shifts in funding priorities and potential budget cuts.
- Limited diversified funding streams (private philanthropy, industry partnerships, state funding), posing sustainability risks.

Visibility and Brand Recognition:

- Limited national/international recognition relative to aspirational institutions, potentially reducing competitiveness in larger grant proposals.

Limited Translation Infrastructure:

- Translational research and commercialization pathways are not yet strongly established.
- Limited history of collaboration with OSU's broader entrepreneurial and commercialization support networks (TCO, Keegan Center, SBIR/STTR programs).

Institutional Constraints:

- Disconnect from a variety of University- and College-level supportive administrative functions, such as Development and Marketing.
- Potentially restrictive administrative structures can limit program features, adaptability, and responsiveness.

Opportunities

Strategic Funding and Research Expansion:

- Capitalizing on emerging funding trends in digital health, AI applications in medical research, home-based care, and personalized prognostication for brain injury recovery.
- Expanding efforts into areas of high-impact translational collaboration, such as preclinical modeling, biomarker and target identification, and emerging neurotechnology.
- Advancing the systems-level implementation of research outcomes in rural health, at-risk populations, and complex care networks.

Strengthening Industry and Philanthropic Relationships:

- Increasing engagement with corporate partners, health tech firms, and private foundations to diversify funding sources and accelerate translational research.
- Leveraging OSU's innovation and training assets to drive commercialization, innovation-driven partnerships, and experiential learning.

Enhanced Visibility and Branding Initiatives:

- Developing a clearer brand narrative focused on research excellence, clinical impact, and community engagement to attract talent, funding, and partnerships.
- Creating a digital library of educational resources and leveraging targeted dissemination efforts to amplify research impact and reputation.

Policy and Advocacy Leadership:

- Positioning CBI as a leader in brain injury policy and advocacy, leveraging research outcomes to influence public health policies, healthcare delivery, and funding allocation.
- Collaborating with government and nonprofit entities to advance evidence-based policy agendas, enhancing CBI's role and recognition in the public sector.

Leveraging Technology and Innovation:

- Embracing emerging technologies such as AI, data analytics, and telemedicine to enhance research methodologies, clinical trials, patient care innovations, and interdisciplinary collaborations.
- Establishing strategic initiatives to integrate AI-driven tools, cutting-edge imaging devices, and assistive technology into ongoing research and clinical practices to differentiate CBI nationally.

Threats

Shifting Landscape and Ecosystem:

- Shifts in governmental funding priorities could negatively impact the availability of, stability of, and competition for research funding.
- Weakening of the brain injury ecosystem reducing support services, collaborative partnerships, trainee placement, and research inputs/needs.

Operational Risks and Workforce Stability:

- Potential loss or challenges in attracting key researchers, clinician-scientists, or administrators to competing institutions or the private sector, negatively impacting operational continuity.

Institutional Priorities and Strategic Alignment:

- Potential misalignment or reduced prioritization within the university's strategic direction, particularly if research priorities shift significantly.

Regulatory and Compliance Challenges:

- Increasing complexity in research compliance and regulatory frameworks (e.g., data privacy, ethics of AI), posing administrative and logistical hurdles.

Technological Obsolescence and Innovation Gap:

- Risks of technological obsolescence if investment in digital infrastructure, advanced analytics, and emerging technologies does not keep pace with peer institutions.
- Potential widening innovation gap if competing centers aggressively pursue cutting-edge technologies faster than CBI.

Recommended Actions

Strategic Diversification of Funding: Actively pursue diverse funding sources beyond NIH and DoD, including private philanthropy and industry partnerships.

Enhanced Translational Research Infrastructure: Develop targeted initiatives to foster translational research, emphasizing commercialization support and industry collaboration.

Strengthen Brand and Visibility: Launch a focused branding and communications initiative to amplify CBI's impact, credibility, and distinct value proposition nationally.

Policy Advocacy Leadership: Proactively engage in advocacy efforts to position CBI as a thought leader in brain injury policy and public health innovation.

Tech-Forward Approach: Invest strategically in emerging technologies and analytical capabilities, particularly AI and digital health innovations, to differentiate and remain competitive.

CBI SWOT Chart

Strengths	Weaknesses
• Transdisciplinary Expertise • Established Research Infrastructure • Strategic Institutional Alignment • Community & Stakeholder Engagement • Operational Competence	• Dependence on External Funding • Visibility & Brand Recognition • Limited Translational Infrastructure • Institutional Constraints
Opportunities	Threats
• Strategic Funding & Research Expansion • Strengthening Industry & Philanthropic Relations • Enhanced Visibility & Branding Initiatives • Policy & Advocacy Leadership • Leveraging Technology & Innovation	• Funding Uncertainty & Competition • Institutional Priorities & Strategic Alignment • Operational Risks & Workforce Stability • Regulatory & Compliance Challenges • Technological Obsolescence & Innovation Gap

Alignment with President Carter’s Strategic Plan

CBI aligns strongly with Ohio State University's strategic priorities, particularly in advancing research excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, accessible healthcare innovation, and impactful community engagement. This alignment positions CBI to effectively support the university’s objectives in academics, health care delivery, workforce development, and community service, while fostering a culture of talent attraction and retention. Continued strategic integration ensures CBI remains integral to achieving institutional goals and securing sustained institutional support.

University Plan’s Foundational Themes

Bold text denotes the strongest elements of University-CBI alignment.

Academics	Creating a teaching-and-learning environment that is accessible and affordable to all that achieves both academic excellence and a strong focus on workforce development .
Research & Creative Expression	Building and expanding Ohio State’s research capacity and artistic creativity to achieve new levels of state, federal and global significance in emerging and meaningful areas of discovery.
Health Care	Advancing exemplary academics, research and clinical care in Ohio and nationally at the Wexner Medical Center and health sciences colleges — in coordination with the medical center’s strategic plan.
Talent & Culture	Establishing Ohio State as a destination workplace for highly qualified faculty and staff , as well as <i>a community with the highest standards of respect for one another and diversity of thought</i> .
Operations	Making a large, complex university more effective through excellence in resource stewardship, new revenue generation, leadership , and advanced support from alumni and partners.
Collegiate Athletics	Elevating Ohio State as the nation’s foremost leader in student-athlete development, achievement and support , while continuing to adapt to the evolving state of the intercollegiate athletics model.

University Plan’s Cross-Cutting Priorities

Bold text denotes the strongest areas of University-CBI alignment.

Accessibility	• Clinical care accessible to as many patients as possible • Scientific and creative expertise accessible to communities and industry • Education accessible financially, geographically and in terms of people’s schedules • Creating a culture of greater accessibility by incentivizing regional enrollment • Ensure our campuses are accessible for individuals who have disabilities to provide equal access to an education and university life
Student Success	• Complementing academics with training through internships, student employment, and research • Student involvement in health care enterprise across disciplines • Grow a campus culture of well-being, mattering and belonging • Off-field educational support for student-athletes

Workforce Development	• Hybrid and online educational options for working professionals seeking to upskill • Expand co-ops, internships and other extracurricular student experiences • Utilize scholarship and research to improve the way industry partners operate • Translate university innovations to new products/ startups that employ Ohioans
Outreach & Engagement	• Utilize Ohio State scholarship and research to uplift surrounding communities • A culture of civic engagement among students that extends beyond graduation • Alumni mentoring that connects students with community and career resources • Expand health care access to rural communities and families in Ohio and the region • Make service-learning projects an essential part of the student experience
Affordability	• Improve overall operations to help lower costs for students • Ensuring an excellent Ohio State education is a worthwhile investment • Creating culture of financial awareness among students through programming • Philanthropic support for scholarships that apply to the broadest student body
Performance Excellence & Resource Stewardship	• Funding and facilities for innovations in research and creative expression • New and advanced spaces for broad range of educational experiences • Student scholarships that brings additional talent • Address changing landscape in athletics to create sustainable funding model • Facilities and planning to bring clinical care to those who need it.
Workplace of Choice	• Retaining and recruiting exemplary talent across faculty and staff • Providing training and experiences through student employment • Access to Wexner Medical Center and health sciences services • Opportunities to pursue academic degrees and certificates
Service to the State of Ohio	• Research and creative expression that benefits organizations and communities • Most effective operations to be excellent stewards of state funds • Academic training that prepares the state's citizens • Producing/retaining talented workforce for in-demand fields • Improve the health and wellness of families with rural health centers • Build spirit and pride through support of Ohio State athletics

Conclusion

This report presents a comprehensive evaluation of CBI's readiness to pursue formal designation as an academic center at OSU. Drawing on benchmarking against leading national and regional research centers, a detailed self-study grounded in annual performance metrics, and alignment with university strategic priorities, the findings support a clear and compelling case for CBI's advancement.

Benchmarking analysis revealed that while Ohio State currently receives 25–50% of the NIH funding secured by aspirational peer institutions, CBI exhibits comparable strengths in interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. However, it lags in clinical translation infrastructure, workforce development, and breadth of external funding mechanisms. The self-evaluation, including a SWOT analysis, further highlights CBI's capacity for high-impact, collaborative research and its growing portfolio of externally funded projects—balanced by structural limitations and ongoing reliance on federal sources.

Alignment with President Carter's strategic plan confirms that CBI meaningfully contributes to the university's goals in research, health care, workforce development, and public service. CBI's mission, programming, and collaborative model reflects OSU's foundational themes and cross-cutting priorities, positioning it as a strategic asset for institutional growth.

The report's recommendations are both pragmatic and forward-looking. CBI must deepen its translational research efforts, diversify funding through industry and philanthropic partnerships, expand research into high-risk priority areas such as AI, rural health, and workforce education, and strengthen faculty development through targeted grant-writing and mentorship support. These actions will enable CBI to compete in the near-term for larger NIH funding mechanisms like R49, U24, and P30/P41, while building toward long-term aspirations such as P01, P50, U54, UG1, and U10.

With strong institutional alignment, a growing research footprint, and clear opportunities for strategic growth, CBI is well-positioned to transition into a formal academic center and further elevate Ohio State's leadership in brain injury science.

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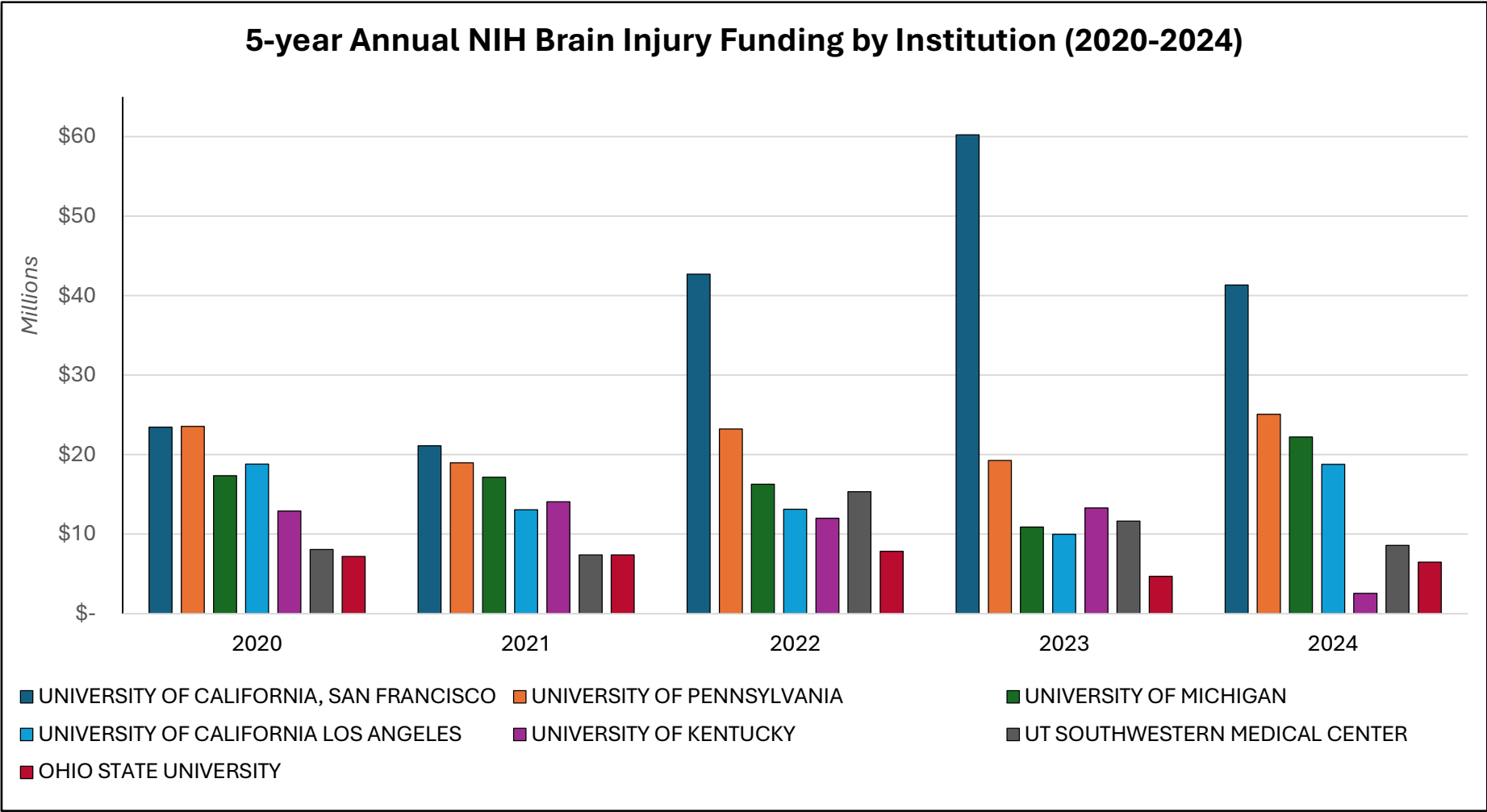
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Appendix A – 5-year Annual NIH Brain Injury Funding by Institution (2020-2024)

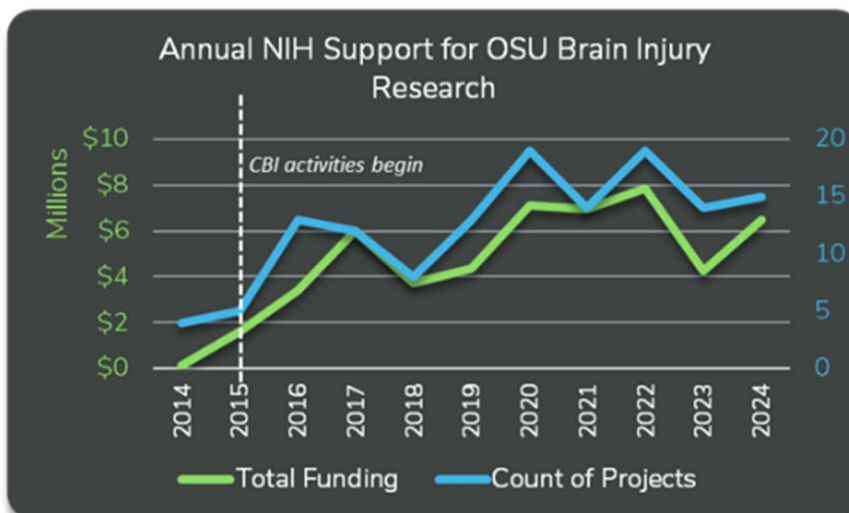
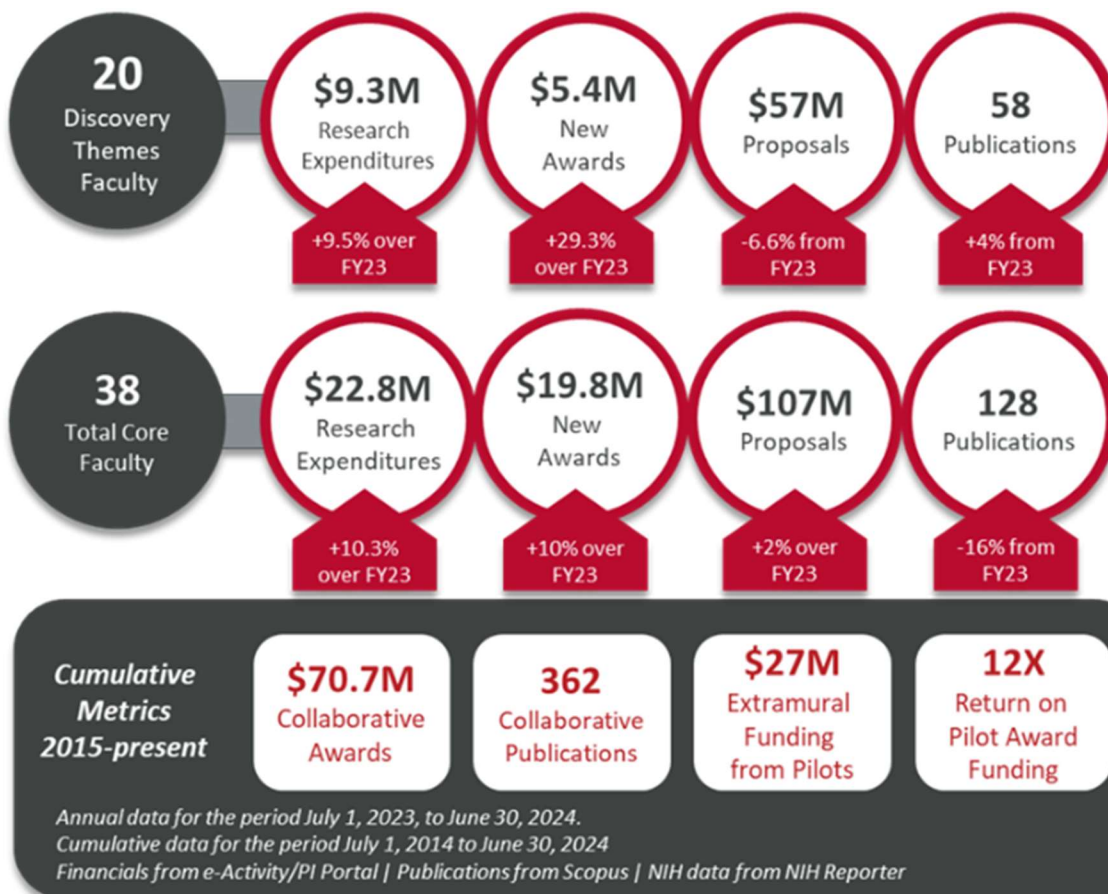


Sum of 5-year NIH Funding by Award Type (2020-2024)

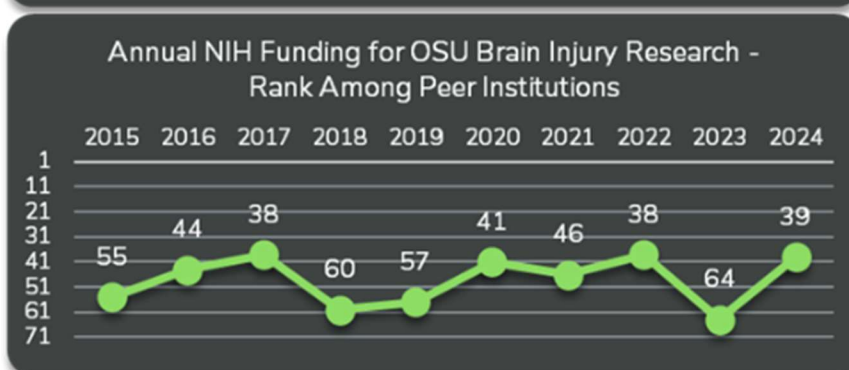
Organization	Research Training and Career Development	Resource-Related Research Projects	Special R&D Projects, Support, Centers	R&D Projects	Grand Total
UCLA	\$4,027,434			\$69,724,260	\$73,751,694
UCSF	\$10,594,724	\$770,022		\$177,423,929	\$188,788,675
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA	\$8,200,646	\$1,743,488		\$100,063,235	\$110,007,369
UT SOUTHWESTERN	\$1,436,703			\$49,552,018	\$50,988,721
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN	\$4,536,062		\$850,000	\$78,467,109	\$83,853,171
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY	\$1,912,966	\$1,778,991		\$51,072,778	\$54,764,735
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY	\$1,790,818			\$31,735,115	\$33,525,933

Appendix B – Benchmarking Comparison Tables

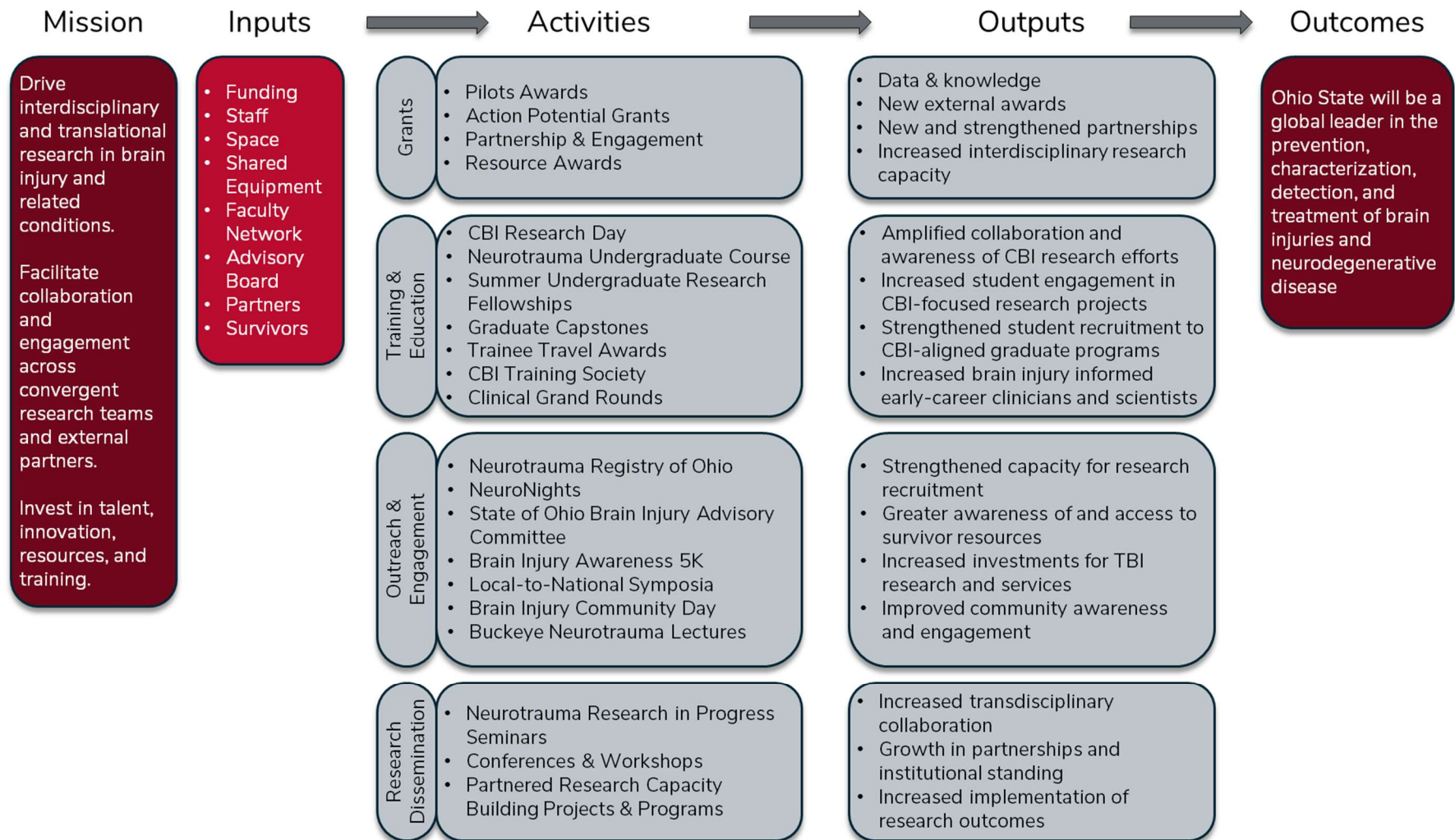
Table of Comparison Group Features						
Feature	UPenn (CBIR)	U Mich (MNI)	UT SW (OBI)	UCSF (BASIC)	UCLA (BIRC)	UK (SCoBIRC)
Governance & Membership	Director + two Associate Directors; 35 collaborating faculty. Membership criteria unclear.	Director; 175 faculty affiliates, structured engagement criteria and committees.	Director, Clinical & Research Admins, advisory board. Defined membership criteria.	Director (Research & Clinical). 34 faculty, staff. Membership criteria unclear.	Director + advisory board; small faculty (7 members), membership unclear.	Director + Associate Director; 36 core and associated faculty. Membership criteria unclear
Interdisciplinary Integration	Strong across neurosurgery, bioengineering, neurology, pediatrics, rehab, emergency medicine.	Extensive across medical departments including genetics, psychiatry, bioinformatics, internal medicine.	Extensive collaboration in medical & clinical fields (imaging, neurology, surgery, psychiatry, rehab).	Primarily neuroscience; implied interdisciplinary due to translational nature.	Limited explicit interdisciplinary focus.	Extensive across medical & clinical fields.
5-yr NIH Funding	~\$110 million	~\$84 million	~\$51 million	~\$189 million	~\$74 million	~\$55 million
Research Infrastructure & Programs	T32 Training Grant; Mind Your Brain Fellowship.	Internal funding, grant-writing support, mentorship.	Visionary Neuroscience Program; Clinical Neuroscience Excellence; Internal collaborative grants.	TRACK-TBI & TRACK-SCI; Private Data Commons (PDC-SCI); Neurological Emergencies Trials Network.	Primarily BIRC Fund state-sponsored awards. NIH conference grant (R13).	State-funded internal awards; T32 Training; UKNeu-PREP program; AARTS program
Community Engagement & Outreach	Active via PA Consortium on TBI; partnerships with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.	Primarily utilizes existing U-M infrastructure (BrainsRule!, FEMMES, SEEK).	Limited explicit outreach; significant fundraising operations.	Mostly via Weill Institute and UCSF institutional resources; limited independent BASIC outreach.	Minimal independent outreach; largely via BrainSPORT.	Primarily lab-initiated, project-based outreach.
Education & Translational Efforts	Strong translational focus, cellular and molecular research to clinical applications.	Leverages translational resources (MICHR, CBATS); educational certificates through broader U-M structure.	Significant translational infrastructure supported by \$1B fundraising; Sprouts pilot grants; trainee travel awards.	Strong translational emphasis; central role in TRACK-TBI/TRACK-SCI; fellowship, symposiums supported by Weill Institute.	Limited; relies mostly on BrainSPORT infrastructure.	Strong trainee programs/funding; shared resources; focused translational program.



- 66% Increase in Annual DoD Funding
- 18% Increase in Avg. Annual Funding per Faculty
- 26TH Active NIH R01 Funding
- 8th Active NIH R01 Projects



Appendix D – CBI Logic Model



CBI SWOT Chart	
Strengths • Transdisciplinary Expertise • Established Research Infrastructure • Strategic Institutional Alignment • Community & Stakeholder Engagement • Operational Competence	Weaknesses • Dependence on External Funding • Visibility & Brand Recognition • Limited Translational Infrastructure • Institutional Constraints
Opportunities • Strategic Funding & Research Expansion • Strengthening Industry & Philanthropic Relations • Enhanced Visibility & Branding Initiatives • Policy & Advocacy Leadership • Leveraging Technology & Innovation	Threats • Funding Uncertainty & Competition • Institutional Priorities & Strategic Alignment • Operational Risks & Workforce Stability • Regulatory & Compliance Challenges • Technological Obsolescence & Innovation Gap

Center for Brain Injury Recovery & Discovery

Academic Center Planning FY25-26

cbi.osu.edu



Vision & Scope

Vision

To lift Ohio State as a global research leader addressing chronic brain injury

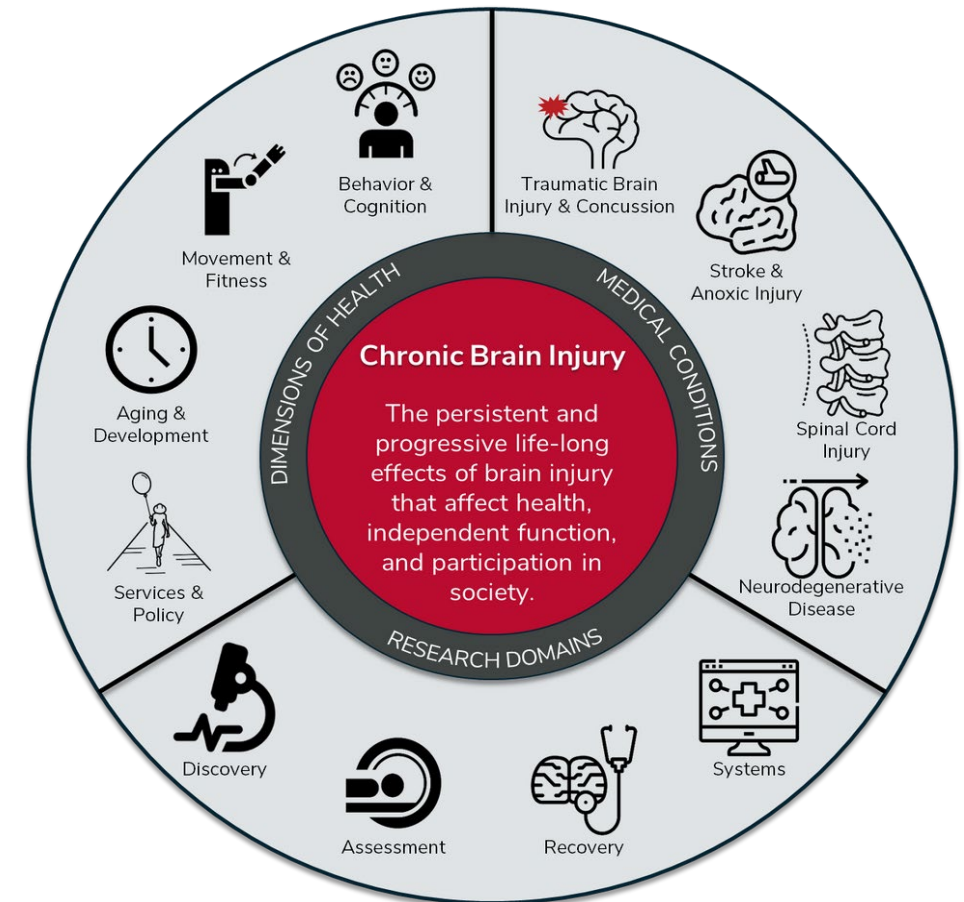
Mission

- Drive interdisciplinary and translational **research** in brain injury and related conditions.
- Facilitate collaboration and engagement across **convergent research teams and external partners.**
- Invest in talent, innovation, resources, and training.

Interdisciplinary Attributes

CBIRD supports research teams with cross/multi-disciplinary, convergent, transdisciplinary, and translational collaborations. CBI complements university offerings by focusing on brain injury broadly, investing in multi-college high risk research projects. CBI activities build and resource faculty teams for large cross-college projects; increase visibility and recruitment to studies; and provide staff support for transdisciplinary initiatives

Research Scope



Significance

Brain injury is an invisible and costly epidemic that affects the health, education, careers, relationships, and social participation of individuals, families, and communities. Existing CDC and Ohio Brain Injury Program data show alarming prevalence and impact of brain injury here and across the nation. Our health care and support systems struggle to address the lifelong and complex health and social challenges of chronic brain injury.

25%

One in four Ohio adults will be a brain injury survivor, often by the age of 20.

9

Brain injuries including TBI and stroke occur every 9 seconds, far more frequently than breast cancer and heart attacks.

\$77B

Each year, Ohioans incur \$6B in direct costs and lost wages related to TBI; nationally, brain injuries cost \$110B annually.

70%

Many brain injury survivors may face long-term consequences including impaired function, disability and job loss.

50%

Up to 50% of concussions may go unreported, limiting our understanding of prevalence and TBI-related outcomes.

4

Medical students receive only four hours of training on brain injury, limiting awareness of brain injury among health professionals.

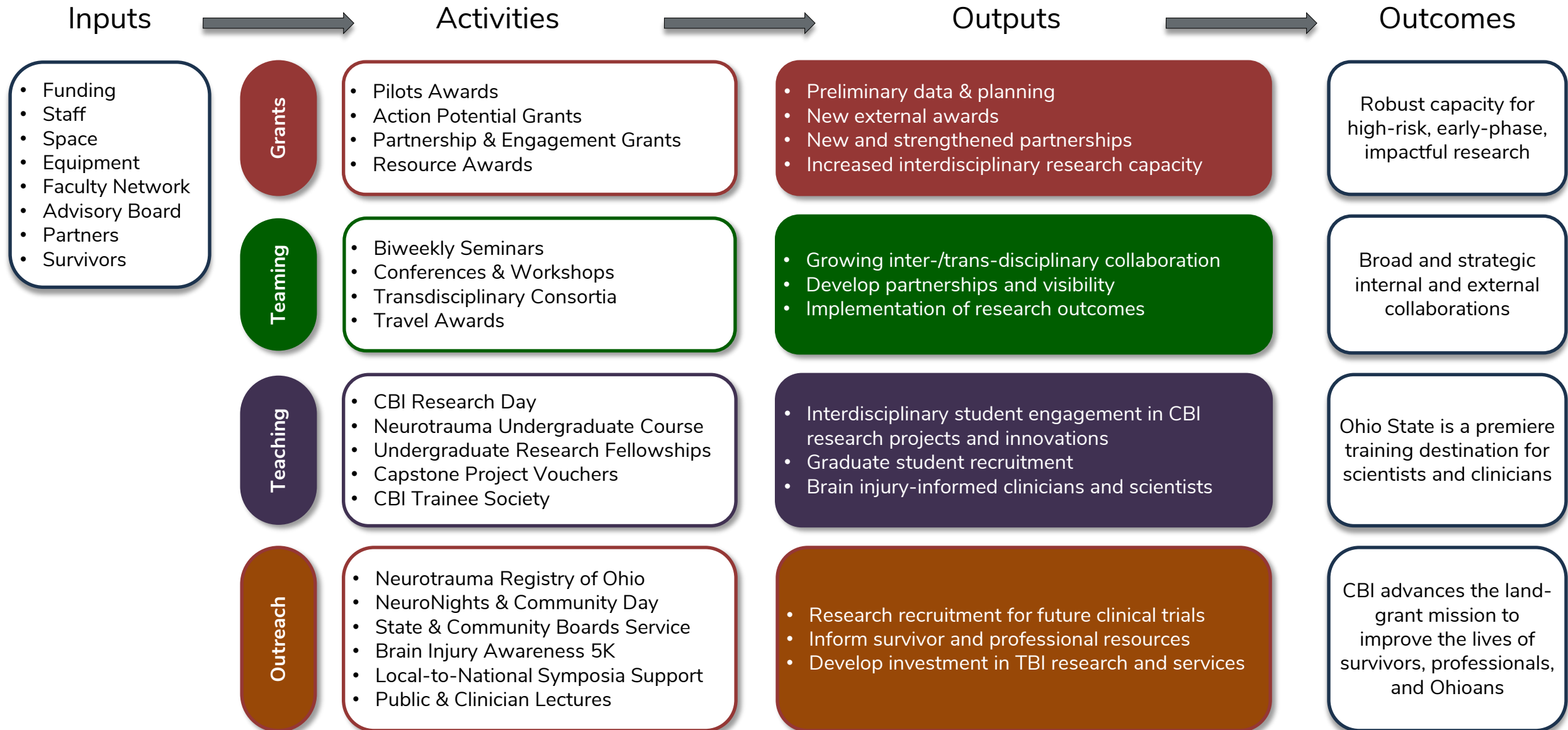


Alignment of CBIRD Strategic Areas with University Priorities

Gray columns represent CBIRD's Research Domains, and the dark gray and red rows represent CBIRD's existing areas of strength and new strategic focus areas. The black check marks indicate that an area aligns with the above research domain and the color-matched checks indicate alignment with the university-wide strategic priorities shown on the left.

OSU Research Pillars		Discovery	Assessment	Recovery	Systems
	Aging & Longevity				
	Artificial Intelligence				
	Medical Research				
	Political Sciences & QSS				
Established Strengths	Neurotrauma, Aging, & Neurodegeneration	✓ 	✓ 	✓ 	✓ 
	Healthy Living After Brain Injury	✓ 	✓ 	✓  	✓ 
	Preclinical Modeling Innovation	✓ 		✓	
	Imaging & Monitoring Technology	✓	✓  	✓  	
	Emerging Treatments & Rehabilitation Practices	✓		✓ 	✓  
	Strategies for Rural & At-Risk Populations		✓ 	✓ 	✓ 
New Priorities	Artificial Intelligence for Brain Injury	✓  	✓ 	✓  	✓  
	Industry-sponsored Clinical Research	✓ 	✓ 	✓ 	
	Workforce Education	✓  		✓ 	✓ 
	Stroke & Anoxic Injury	✓ 		✓ 	✓
	Policy & Economic Studies		✓ 		✓ 

Program Logic Model



Faculty

49 Faculty Members: Core faculty who deeply engage in research projects and programming to actively contribute to the CBIIRD mission. Must meet 3 membership criteria below each year to qualify for full membership.

86 Faculty Affiliates: Additional faculty members in clinical roles or with technical capabilities and expertise that advance our members' research efforts.

89 Learner Affiliates: Representing undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral trainees involved in our educational and research initiatives.

42 Staff Affiliates: Representing research, clinical, and administrative staff whose work is essential to conducting and implementing research and care.

7 External Affiliates: Collaborating with the program to expand its reach and impact.

Membership Criteria

Research grants in CBI scope

Mentors trainees in CBI scope

Consults on study design

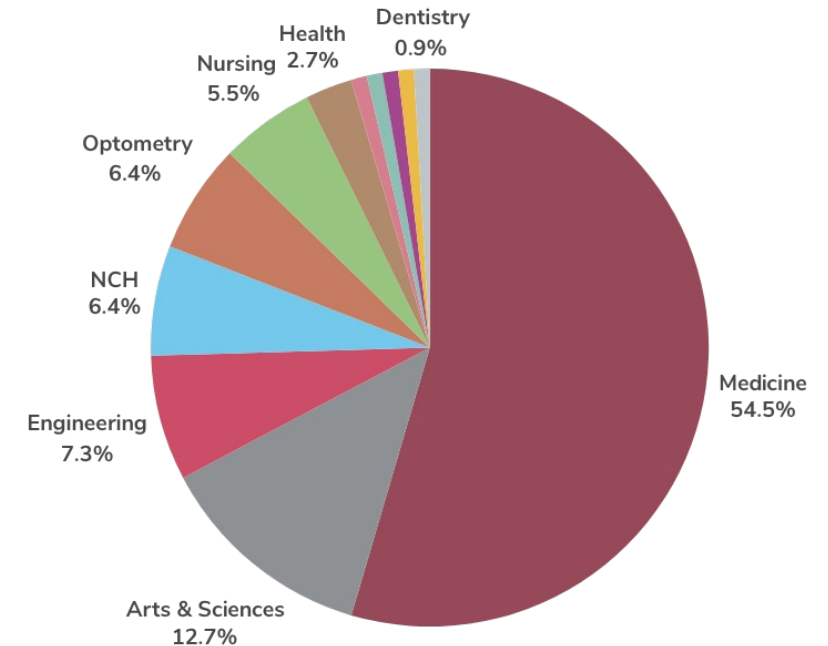
Supports resource development

Serves on CBI committees

Supports educational programs

Receives CBI funding / support

Faculty Affiliation by College



60 | Medicine

14 | Arts & Sci

8 | Engineering

7 | Optometry

6 | Nursing

3 | Public Health

7 | Nationwide Children's

2 | Dentistry

1 | EHE

1 | Pharmacy

1 | Social Work



Staff, Trainee & Externals

CBIRD Research Day: A signature event that brings together attendees from across the university to showcase the breadth of neurotrauma research at Ohio State. Featuring 70+ poster presentations and 10+ research talks, the event provides a platform for sharing innovative discoveries and fostering collaboration.

Neurotrauma Undergraduate Course: We support the Department of Neuroscience in offering upper-level undergraduate students a comprehensive introduction to the science and clinical aspects of neurotrauma, preparing the next generation of researchers and healthcare professionals.

Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships: Provides undergraduate students with hands-on research experience, enabling them to work closely with faculty mentors on cutting-edge projects in brain injury science.

CBIRD Capstones: Supports graduate students and trainees in completing capstone projects that synthesize knowledge and contribute meaningful insights to the field of neurotrauma.

Trainee Travel Awards: Provides trainees with financial assistance to attend conferences and symposia, facilitating the dissemination of research findings and networking opportunities with experts in the field.

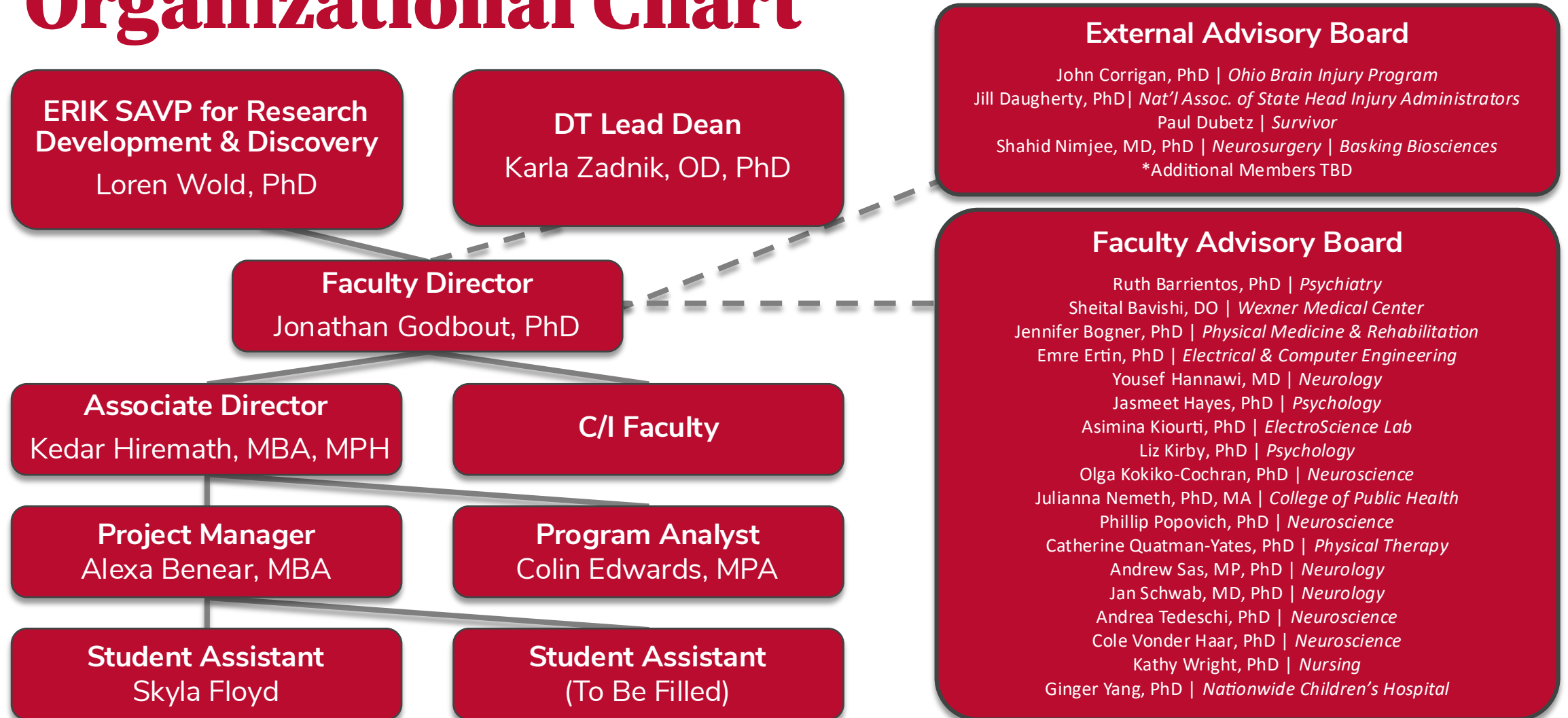
CBIRD Trainee Society: Open to undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, the Trainee Society provides professional development workshops and fun activities that connect and educate research trainees from across campus to prepare them for a career in brain injury research.

CBIRD Clinical Grand Rounds: Designed for clinicians and healthcare providers, these sessions focus on the clinical application of research findings, bridging the gap between science and patient care to improve brain injury outcomes.

NeuroNights: CBIRD and partners at the Wexner Medical Center provide monthly workshops to disseminate research findings, clinical best practices, and survivor stories to community members and future professionals.

Administration

Organizational Chart



Funding

FY26 Proposed Budget

\$1.33M

FY26 Center Funding,
Source: ERIK

\$513K

FY26 Operating
Expenditures

\$693K

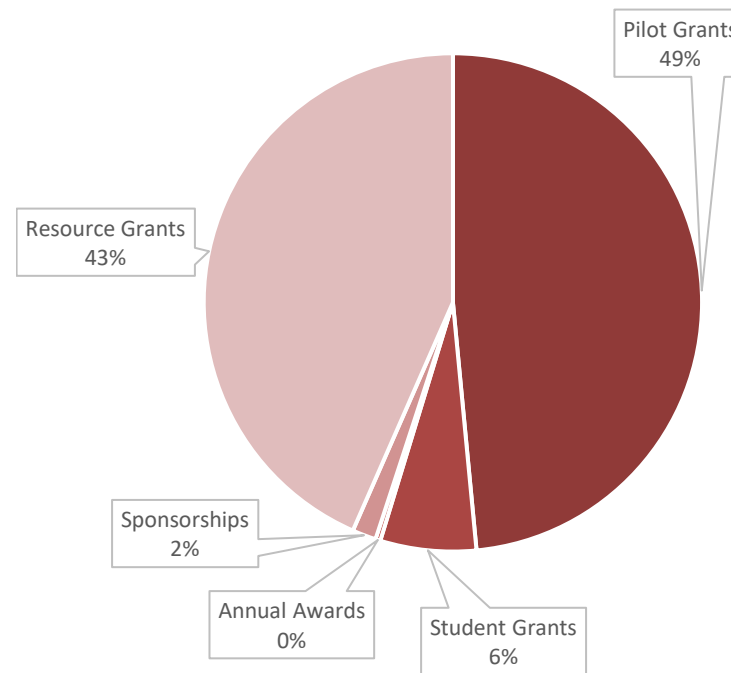
FY26 Research Support
Expenditures

\$129K

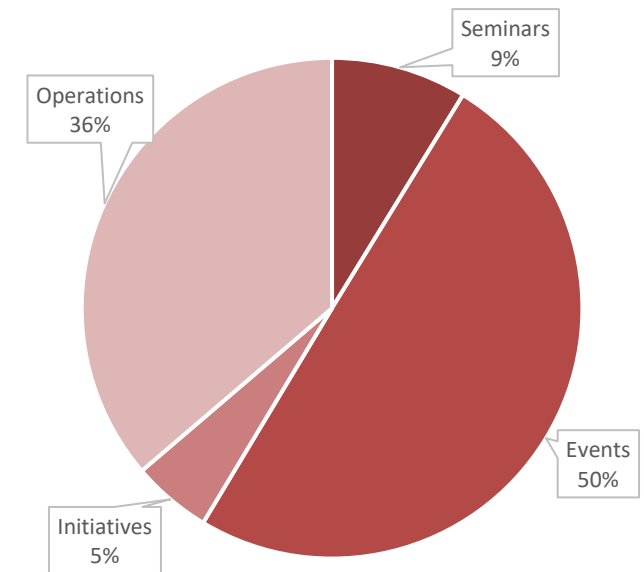
FY26 Program Activities
Expenditures

FY26 Expenditure Detail

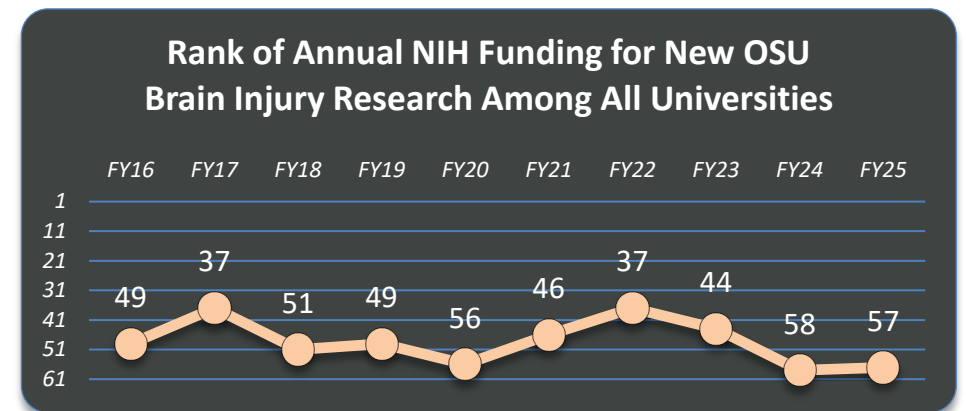
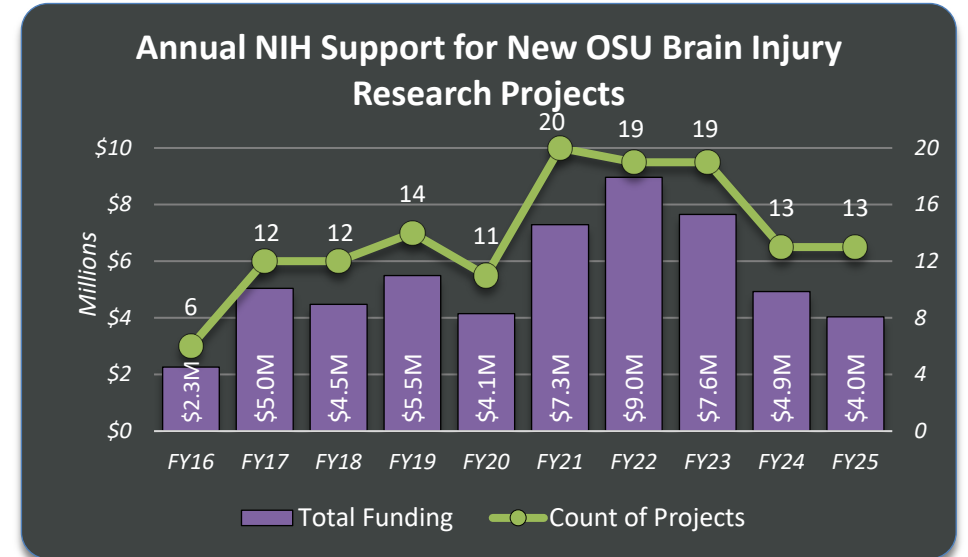
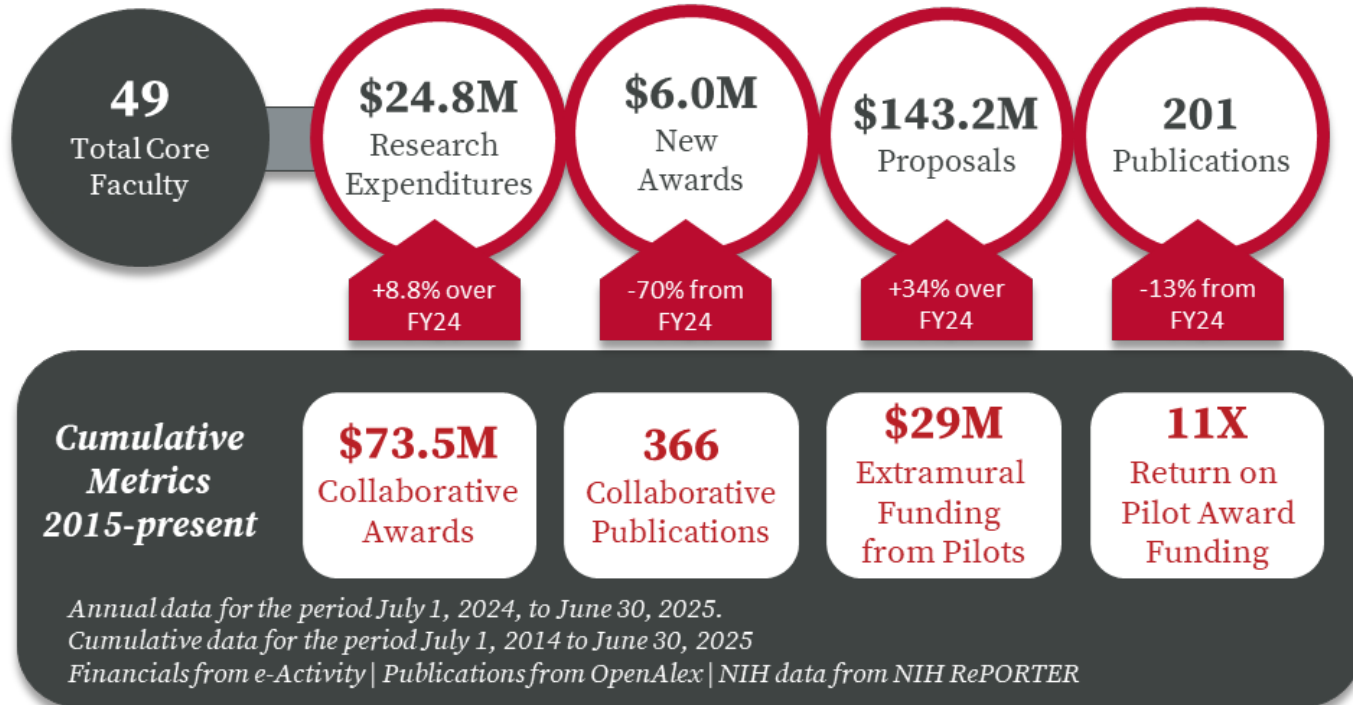
Research Support Expenditures

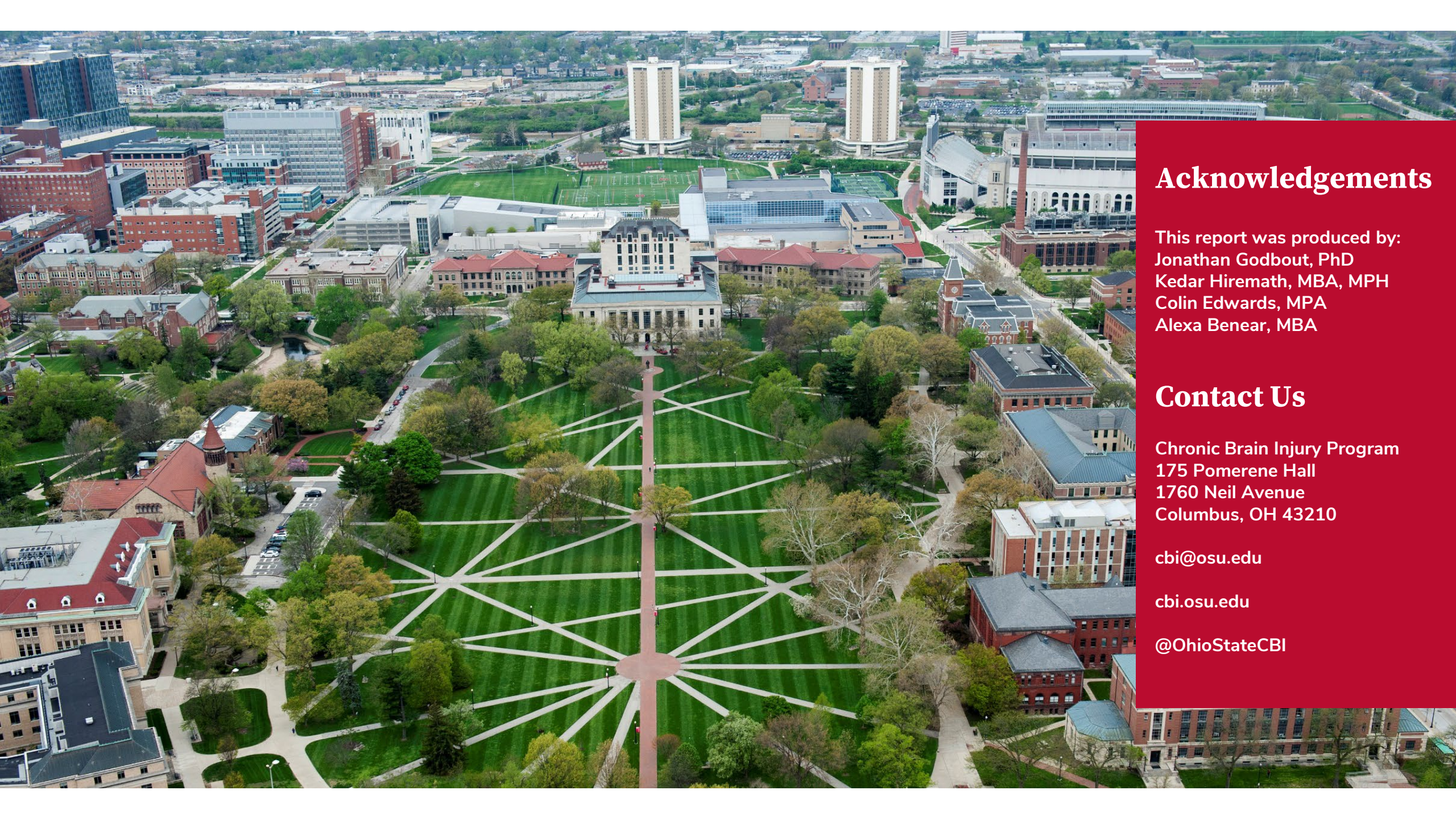


Program Activities Expenditures



Evaluation





Acknowledgements

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