

15 years of commitment
to brain health,

**FOR YOU
AND WITH YOU**

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Cover: An area of the brain where several tracts of white matter cross, with the color indicating the direction (red for right/left, green for front/back and blue for up/down). In the center lies the corpus callosum, which connects the two cerebral hemispheres. Diffusion-weighted MRI image acquired using the 3T CIMA.X scanner at CENIR.

Photo credits: Christophe Lemaitre; The Paris Brain Institute; Jimmy Delpire; Mélanie Didier; PBIA / Tony Behar; Pierre Kitmacher / Sorbonne University; Rémi Poulverel; Simon Cassanas

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OUR MISSION

The most complex organ in the human body, the brain manages our social behavior, our emotions and our actions. It is the brain that makes us aware of the world around us, of ourselves and of others. But despite considerable progress achieved in science and technology, our understanding of how the brain works is still very patchy, and treating brain disorders remains a major challenge for the health of humanity.

The Paris Brain Institute was established in 2010, and has created a collaborative, interdisciplinary research model that promotes innovation and groundbreaking discoveries. This environment, in which patients, researchers, clinicians, engineers, technicians, business leaders and students work side by side, has become one of Europe’s leading centers for research into the central nervous system.

With drive and ambition, the Institute’s teams work tirelessly to achieve a single objective: to transform fundamental discoveries into therapeutic solutions, so they can be accessed by patients and by society as quickly as possible.

15 YEARS OF BOLD SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION, NEW MOMENTUM FOR THE FUTURE

After 15 years as President of the Paris Brain Institute, Professor Gérard Saillant made the decision to step down. Serge Weinberg, who is another of the Institute’s founders, took over from him on October 1, 2025. This transition builds on the Institute’s founding values, while marking the start of a new phase in its development. A conversation between two Presidents committed to a single ambition for science and society.



SERGE WEINBERG

PROF. GÉRARD SAILLANT

RENEWAL FOR PROGRESS

66 I have had the honor of chairing the Institute’s Board of Directors since its inception and of witnessing the growth of a model that is unparalleled in Europe; one based on innovation, excellence and entrepreneurial spirit, and which is now recognized within the international scientific community.

As the Paris Brain Institute celebrates 15 years on this journey, I can reflect on how far we have come: collectively, as founders, partners, scientists and donors, we have overcome many challenges and shared successes that have shaped the history of our discipline and the lives of many patients—for example, advances such as less invasive treatments for focal epilepsy and new techniques capable of eliminating debilitating tremors in a matter of minutes. This progress is the result of our long-term work, made possible by backing from our donors and patrons, who are much more than financial supporters: they are true partners.

Any organization that wants to continue to move forward must know how to evolve. That is why the Board of Directors unanimously elected Serge Weinberg—a long-standing companion and the Institute’s treasurer for the past 15 years—as our new Chairman.

“Much more than financial supporters, our donors and patrons are true partners.”

His leadership, strategic vision and passion for neuroscience are undeniable assets in continuing and building on this trajectory. I am confidently and proudly passing on the baton to him, in the firm belief that he will be able to provide the teams at the Paris Brain Institute with the resources they need to accelerate the discovery of new treatments, and I wish him every success in his new role.

PROF. GÉRARD SAILLANT
President (2010–2025)
and Honorary President (since 2025)

INNOVATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

66 I would like to thank the Board of Directors of the Paris Brain Institute for the trust they have placed in me, and to express my deep gratitude to Gérard Saillant. I have had the privilege of working alongside him to create and grow the Institute. He was the leader this project needed. I am delighted that his commitment to the Institute will continue in his new role as Honorary President, and that he will still be on hand to support us through his vision and guidance.

In taking on the role of Chairman, I am fully committed to continuing the trajectory set by the founders. Our responsibility is to develop this unique model, which combines the Foundation’s visionary ambition with the strength of key partners—Greater Paris University Hospitals (AP-HP), the CNRS, Inserm and Sorbonne University—and which is underpinned by a variety of funding sources. This partnership enables us to innovate and to transform the world of research and the daily lives of our patients.

“My role will be clear: to provide the teams with all the resources they need to accelerate the discovery of new treatments and make a difference to the lives of patients and their families.”

Since January 1, 2025, we have been fortunate to have Professor Stéphanie Debette working alongside us as the Institute’s Executive Director. Her ambitious, international and partnership-based vision is a real asset for the future. In particular, she spearheaded the organization of the World Brain Health Forum, an international scientific event held from January 14 to 16, 2026 to reflect on, debate and lay the foundations for collective action to support brain health, and also initiated the creation of a center specializing in artificial intelligence and data science, which are set to bring about a profound transformation in the way research is conducted.

At a crucial time for research around the world, my role will be clear: to provide the teams with all the resources they need to accelerate the discovery of new treatments and make a tangible difference to the lives of patients and their families. And it is a task that I will undertake passionately, enthusiastically and responsibly.

SERGE WEINBERG
Chairman (since 2025)



SUPPORTING OUR TEAMS IN CAPITALIZING ON THE OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTED BY A NEW ERA IN BRAIN RESEARCH.

INTERVIEW WITH...

PROF. STÉPHANIE DEBETTE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

One year after taking up her post, Professor Stéphanie Debette looks back on the foundations she has laid and the key initiatives launched in 2025. She discusses the major factors paving the way for the Paris Brain Institute to take its next steps and increase its impact in supporting patients with brain disorders and promoting brain health.

You took up your post on January 1, 2025. How did you find your first year?

PROF. STÉPHANIE DEBETTE | Thanks to the remarkable work of my predecessor, Professor Alexis Brice, I have been very fortunate to take office with an exceptionally strong foundation on which to build. The new initiatives we are launching are capitalizing on a longstanding pursuit of excellence. The Institute's unique public-private model with world class academic partners and centrally positioned within a large hospital campus recognized for its expertise in brain disorders, creates an ideal environment for launching ambitious new projects. I have been particularly impressed by the remarkable collective strength of our researchers, engineers, technicians and support teams, who bring together their expertise to advance brain research with the aim of better understanding how the brain works and opening up new avenues for treatment and prevention. My role is to guide the Institute through the next stage of its development. While preserving and further strengthening the qualities that define its identity and reputation—scientific excellence, clinical relevance and innovation—my mission is to help our teams seize the opportunities emerging at what could be a turning point for brain research.

The Institute adopted a new roadmap in 2025. What are the main priorities and initial measures that have been put in place?

S.D. | My appointment coincided with the renewal in early 2025 of the Joint Research Unit (UMR)—which is affiliated with Inserm, the CNRS and Sorbonne University—following very positive evaluations. The Institute now brings together 29 research teams

and more than 1,000 staff. Building on these strong foundations, our 2025–2030 roadmap is structured around several key priorities:

- developing an ambitious strategy for data science and artificial intelligence, making optimal use of the wealth of human and experimental data generated across the Institute and harnessing their transformative potential for brain research and health;
- expanding the application of next-generation technologies to the Institute's biobanks, leveraging our state-of-the-art core facilities to investigate the molecular and cellular mechanisms of brain diseases at unprecedented resolution and scale;
- fostering strong synergies across teams, disciplines and approaches, supporting curiosity-driven fundamental research and conceptual advances while launching ambitious cross-disciplinary and translational collaborative projects;
- increasing the impact of the Institute's research on patients and brain health globally, by accelerating the translation of scientific discoveries into new approaches to treatment and prevention;
- strengthening the Institute's position as a collaborative hub, by reinforcing strategic partnerships across Europe and globally, as well as developing ambitious joint programs with key partners.

Throughout the year, we have worked to translate these priorities into action: establishing the Center for AI and Data Science; launching a new "Synergy" call for proposals to foster ambitious collaborations across the Institute; strengthening existing partnerships and forging new ones with leading institutions; and organizing the first World Brain Health Forum at UNESCO.

You mention the Center for AI and Data Science, which was created in early 2025: what is its current status?

S.D. | The Paris Brain Institute's new Center for AI and Data Science, headed by Olivier Colliot, has moved into dedicated premises just a few minutes' walk from the Institute's main building. The first teams moved in during July 2025, together with an initial cohort of residents from research groups across the Institute. New teams are currently being recruited in areas that complement and expand our existing expertise. The Center's mission is to bring together the Institute's expertise in the field of AI, disseminate AI and data science methods across research teams, develop methodological research applied to brain health or to advancing our understanding of the brain, and organize data from human and experimental research to maximize and optimize their use and facilitate sharing. The Center works in close collaboration with the Institute's research teams and core facilities, as well as with our institutional partners, and AP-HP's health data warehouse.

Strengthening international partnerships is a key focus of your role. How important is this aspect to your strategic vision?

S.D. | The Institute has a strong international outlook. Over the past year, we have worked both to deepen our existing partnerships and to forge new ones, including in Asia and the Global South. In Europe, the CURE-ND alliance—bringing together the Paris Brain Institute, DZNE in Germany, the UK DRI in the UK and Mission Lucidity in Belgium—has strengthened its shared strategic vision and launched a joint program on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), made possible by the generous support of our ambassador, Olivier Goy. The appointment of Professor Philip De Jager, a leading neuroimmunology expert at Columbia University, New York, as a Distinguished Visiting Professor brings complementary expertise to the Institute, particularly in single-cell sequencing and spatial transcriptomics. In September 2025, with the support of the French Embassy, we organized the first Franco-Japanese symposium on brain ageing and data science in Tokyo, laying the groundwork for closer scientific collaboration with Japan. In India, we established a new partnership with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Sorbonne University, marked by the inauguration in New Delhi of an Indo-French Center for AI in Health, in the presence of President Macron, reflecting our ambition to advance brain research and health globally.

In January 2026, the Institute organized the first World Brain Health Forum. What does this event represent?

S.D. | Held on the occasion of our 15th anniversary, the first World Brain Health Forum represented an important milestone for the Institute. Over several days, it brought together more than 1,000 participants at the Paris Brain Institute, UNESCO House and the Academy of Sciences to address one of the major societal challenges of our time: brain health. More than 80 speakers from around the world contributed to a scientific program of the highest caliber, including Nobel and Breakthrough Prize laureates, directors of leading research institutes and senior representatives

from industry. The Forum featured inspiring addresses by the eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon; the Directors-General of WHO and UNESCO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Mr. Khaled El-Enany; French Minister for Higher Education and Research, Philippe Baptiste; and senior leaders from our institutional partners. Together, they underscored that brain health has become a defining challenge of the 21st century—one that is not only medical, but also economic and societal, and therefore calls for strong global and cross-sectoral action. In his speech, our ambassador Olivier Goy stressed the urgent need to join forces to accelerate the translation of research discoveries into therapeutic and preventive innovations for brain health. An article published in *Lancet Neurology* in May 2026 highlights the Forum's key messages, while other publications are being prepared with its international organizing committee to develop a framework for action and launch the first concrete initiatives.

“Brain health has become a defining challenge of the 21st century—one that is not only medical, but also economic and societal, and therefore calls for strong global and cross-sectoral action.”

You have also made some changes to scientific governance. What are the objectives of those changes?

S.D. | Owing to the Paris Brain Institute's rapid growth in recent years, we have strengthened our scientific governance to support its next phase of development. A Strategic Scientific Committee has been established, involving four Deputy Scientific Directors: Olivier Colliot for AI and data science, Jean-Christophe Corvol for clinical research, Brian Lau for coordination of the 12 core facilities and as Deputy Director of the UMR, and Claire Wyart for basic and translational research. Together with the Innovation Director, Géraldine Farjot, they have also joined the Institute's Executive Committee. We have also begun the process of renewing the Scientific Advisory Board, with a more focused international membership and a format designed to provide Institute-wide strategic guidance. These changes aim to ensure that scientific decision-making reflects the breadth of the Institute's research, strengthens synergies across teams, and supports the implementation of our strategic priorities. We are also preparing to establish a patient advisory board to help guide the development of OneBrain, our planned large-scale cohort and next-generation biobank.

In your view, what are the key pillars of the Paris Brain Institute's success?

S.D. | Three stand out: the dedication of our teams, the trust of our partners and the support of our donors. Together, these three pillars enable us to look to the future with confidence, ambition, and enthusiasm.



READY
AND MOTIVATED!

CORINNE FORTIN
SECRETARY GENERAL
OF THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

Corinne Fortin shares her vision for what will be a pivotal year for the Paris Brain Institute. Driven by strengthened governance, ever more ambitious research and the collective energy of its teams, the Institute is entering a new phase in its growth and taking on an increasingly leading role in scientific and medical advances.

66 In 2024, our scientific and support teams seamlessly joined forces to successfully complete a number of strategic projects and to prepare for both the appointment of Professor Stéphanie Debette as Executive Director and the launch of the Paris Brain Institute's renewed Joint Research Unit (UMR) on January 1, 2025. It is now composed of 29 teams.

The Executive Director's determination to strengthen scientific governance and support for science has been taking shape. The aim is to increase the impact of research and the funding opportunities available for ambitious projects.

In January 2025, the Innovation Director joined the Institute's Executive Committee. In September, a strategic scientific committee was set up, comprising four deputy scientific directors who are members of the Executive Committee, and a department for international partnerships and competitive funding was also launched. This new structure is now fully operational and has demonstrated its effectiveness at events such as the World Brain Health Forum and in the development of projects such as the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science and the CURE-ND4ALS program.

By 2025, the Innovation Department had completed the transformation of its business model and organization. Its innovation focus is on bringing to market patient-centered solutions developed by startups that emerge from its research work or its accelerator programs.

At the instigation of the Court of Auditors, the Board of Directors reasserted and clarified the Paris Brain Institute's social missions, while formalizing its policy on reserves. The procedures for preparing the accounts

for our donors have therefore been reviewed, and the clarity and transparency of our financial reporting have been improved. We were delighted that the Court of Auditors, in its report on the Institute, recognized our innovative governance structure—which is well suited to our partnership-based model—and commended our dynamic, well-managed financial position, which is underpinned by a diversified resources.

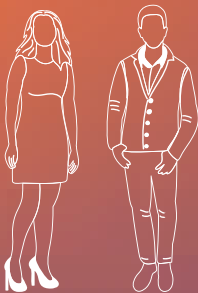
“A simple, flexible and dynamic scientific and administrative structure that frees researchers from unnecessary constraints and opens up funding opportunities for ambitious projects.”

These findings are the result of the virtuous circle envisaged by our founders when the Institute was established: a simple, flexible and dynamic scientific and administrative structure that frees researchers from unnecessary constraints and opens up funding opportunities for ambitious projects.

Driven by the scientific ambition and energy of its teams, the Paris Brain Institute is moving confidently into a particularly exciting phase of its development, at a time when scientific and technological advances are accelerating our understanding of the brain and opening up new prospects for patients. We are ready and raring to go!



THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE
IN 2025



1,000
STAFF MEMBERS,
including 83.5% scientific, medical
and paramedical staff



50
NATIONALITIES
represented



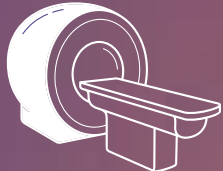
42
NEW INDUSTRY
partnership contracts signed



582
PUBLICATIONS
in scientific journals in 2025



308
PATIENTS INCLUDED
in trials by the Neuroscience CIC in 2025



12
CORE FACILITIES
and biobank



18
CLINICAL RESEARCH
facilities (ICRIN)



66
ONGOING TRIALS
in the Neuroscience CIC



17
TRAINING PROGRAMS
at the Open Brain School, with over 1,036 participants



115,500
ACTIVE DONORS
between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025



61
ACTIVE PATENTS
including 1 new patent request
filed in 2025

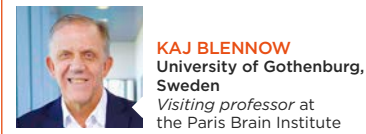
ACHIEVEMENTS

AWARDS

ELECTION TO THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND INSERM GRAND PRIX 2024



THE RAINWATER PRIZE FROM THE RAINWATER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



THE LILIANE BETTENCOURT PRIZE FOR LIFE SCIENCES FROM FONDATION BETTENCOURT SCHUELLER



THE LAMONICA PRIZE FOR NEUROLOGY FROM THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND THE 2025 ROGER DE SPOELBERCH PRIZE



THE SCHLUMBERGER FOUNDATION FOR EDUCATION AND RESEARCH PRIZE



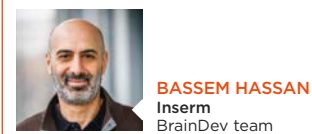
THE ANTOINE LACASSAGNE AWARD FROM COLLÈGE DE FRANCE



THE FRENCH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES PRIZE FOR "MAJOR FRENCH ADVANCES IN BIOLOGY", FUNDED BY THE FONDATION MERGIER BOURDEIX



THE HUMBOLDT RESEARCH AWARD FROM THE HUMBOLDT FOUNDATION



ELECTIONS TO LEARNED SOCIETIES

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARKINSON AND MOVEMENT DISORDER SOCIETY (MDS-ES)



PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE FOR TREATMENT AND RESEARCH IN MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS (ECTRIMS)

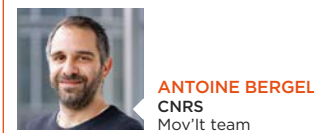


PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH SOCIETY OF NEUROLOGY

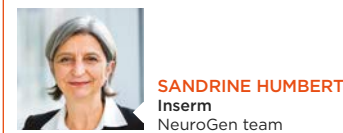


FUNDING

ATIP-AVENIR



CHAIR OF EXCELLENCE IN BIOLOGY AND HEALTH



17.2 million euros — total competitive national and international funding obtained between October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025.

13 — ANR grants won in the same period, a success rate of 28%, including 4 ANR Early Career Scientist grants.

COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (NORMAL GRADE), CNRS



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (NORMAL GRADE), INSERM



RESEARCH ASSOCIATE (NORMAL GRADE), INRIA



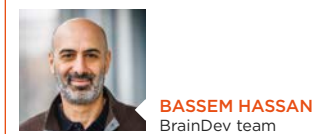
RESEARCH DIRECTOR (CLASS 2) (DR2), INSERM



RESEARCH DIRECTOR (CLASS 2) (DR2), CNRS



RESEARCH DIRECTOR (OUTSTANDING CLASS) (DRCE), INSERM



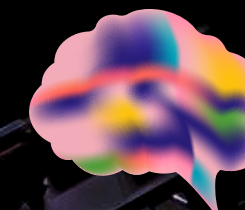
UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR-HOSPITAL PRACTITIONER (PU-PH)



UNIVERSITY LECTURER-HOSPITAL PRACTITIONER (MCU-PH)



JANUARY 14-16, 2026



WORLD
**BRAIN
HEALTH**
FORUM 2026

JANUARY 14-16, 2026: WORLD BRAIN HEALTH FORUM

MAKING BRAIN HEALTH A GLOBAL PRIORITY

In January 2026, the Paris Brain Institute organized the World Brain Health Forum, an international event that was at the heart of its 15th anniversary celebrations.

Over three days, from January 14 to 16, around 80 international speakers and more than 1,000 participants gathered in Paris at the Paris Brain Institute, UNESCO House and the Academy of Sciences to reflect, debate and lay the foundations for collective action to prioritize brain health.

— **International plenary lectures on January 14**, held at the Paris Brain Institute, highlighted the major advances in neuroscience achieved at the Institute over the last 15 years. This also sparked a discussion about future prospects, as seen through the eyes of committed young researchers.

— **On January 15** at UNESCO House, the World Brain Health Forum (WBHF) welcomed a wide range of world-renowned scientists, policymakers, politicians, representatives from international institutions, key private sector players and government bodies. High-level speakers included His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, former United Nations Secretary-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO), Mr. Khaled El-Enany, UNESCO Director-General, and many distinguished international researchers and experts, including Nobel prize winner Philippe Aghion and Breakthrough Prize winner Jeffery Kelly.

Their inaugural lectures shared the conviction that brain health can no longer be viewed as a strictly medical or scientific challenge. It is one of our great contemporary challenges, affecting public health, economic development, social cohesion and the sustainability of our societies. As reiterated by Serge Weinberg during his welcome address, *“the brain is our greatest asset in society: our greatest asset for education, work, innovation and, increasingly, economic sustainability”*.



The figures cited during the Forum have highlighted the scale of the challenge. In Europe, around 165 million people are currently living with a neurological or psychiatric disorder, at an estimated cost of 800 billion euros per year to health and social welfare systems. Globally, more than one third of the population will be affected by a brain condition in their lifetimes, yet investments in research and innovation remain well below what's needed, given the human, social and economic impact of these conditions.

The World Brain Health Forum brought together a wide range of disciplinary perspectives, from basic neurosciences to population



neuroscience, artificial intelligence (AI), therapeutic development, prevention policies, health economics and equity issues. The talks highlighted a two-fold trend: on the one hand, an unprecedented acceleration in scientific knowledge and technological tools, and, on the other, heightened political and societal awareness that still does not reflect the magnitude of what is required.

In her speech, the Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute, Prof. Stéphanie Debette, argued that *“we now have the scientific and technological tools to radically transform our understanding, prevention and care of brain diseases. However, to achieve impact more rapidly, it is crucial that we break down disciplinary and sectoral silos and instead develop collective, coordinated strategies that are supported on a global scale, to enable faster and more equitable advances”*. She stressed the importance of strengthening links between research, care, innovation and public policies, to uncover concrete and equitable responses to the challenges of brain health.



— **The Forum program on January 16** marked a milestone in this ambition, with the development of a “Framework for action for Brain Health” designed to build shared recommendations. These recommendations are currently being drafted, under the supervision of the Forum's international organizing committee, at the request of a leading scientific journal.

Beyond the event itself, the World Brain Health Forum laid the foundations for a collective movement founded on a simple but central idea: brain health must become a global priority on the same level as major environmental, educational and climate issues.



- 1 — Speech by Prof. Stéphanie Debette at UNESCO House.
- 2 — From left to right: Monika Froehler, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon, Mr. Khaled El-Enany, His Excellency Heinz Fischer, Jean Todt, Prof. Stéphanie Debette and Prof. Gérard Saillant.
- 3 — Inaugural address by His Excellency Ban Ki-moon at UNESCO House.
- 4 — Broadcast of Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus's inaugural address at UNESCO House.
- 5 — Auditorium of UNESCO House.
- 6 — Visit to the Paris Brain Institute by the Ban Ki-moon Foundation.
- 7 — Welcome address by Serge Weinberg at UNESCO House.
- 8 — Visit of the MOSAIC team at the Paris Brain Institute. From left to right: His Excellency Heinz Fischer, Jean Todt, His Excellency Ban Ki-moon and his wife, Stéphanie Baulac and Jean-Pierre Martel.
- 9 — Signature of the partnership agreement between the Ban Ki-moon Foundation, the Paris Brain Institute and the Vascular Brain Health Institute, to launch the Global Brain Care Scholars Program.
- 10 — Talk by Olivier Goy, the Paris Brain Institute ambassador, at UNESCO House.
- 11 — Closing of the World Brain Health Forum at the Academy of Sciences.



AT A GLANCE...

2024

OCTOBER

Paris Brain Institute America annual dinner

On October 8, 2024, the French Consulate in New York hosted Paris Brain Institute America (PBIA) annual dinner, gathering together prominent philanthropists and influential figures from the scientific community for an evening dedicated to transatlantic research on brain diseases.

> see pp. 52 and 90



Art-Science Breakfast

With support from the Art Basel Paris contemporary art fair, the 13th iteration of our Art-Science Breakfast took place on October 16, 2024 at Pavillon Ledoyen. The artists Laura Vazquez, Florian Zumbrunn, the Obvious collective, and the researchers Fabrizio De Vico Fallani and Camile Bousfiha discussed the topic of strokes, with a particular focus on brain-machine interfaces.

DECEMBER



Second NeurAL accelerator program

The Neuroscience Acceleration Launchpad (NeurAL) program, launched in 2023 and renewed for a second iteration thanks to support from Fondation Anne et Claude Berda since 2023, Indosuez Wealth Management in 2024, and now the Circle of Friends, has provided two winners with personalized support to help them establish an innovative business with a significant medical impact.

> see pp. 58-59

NOVEMBER

Interglitches 2024, La Folie des Grands Runs marathon

Organized since 2019 by the charity Le French Restream, this *speedrunning* marathon has been a huge success, thanks to the incredible support of the *gaming* community and an audience that grows every year. The 2024 Interglitches event raised 30,220 euros for research at the Paris Brain Institute.



Inauguration of a 7-Tesla MRI scanner: achieving scientific ambition with cutting-edge technology

On November 25, the Paris Brain Institute launched an exceptional piece of equipment: the latest generation 7-Tesla MAGNETOM Terra.X MRI scanner from Siemens Healthineers, purchased through the support of Richard Mille and the commitment of Greater Paris Region. With this 7T MRI scanner, the Institute is taking a technological leap forward for the benefit of the neuroscience community and, ultimately, for patients.

> see p. 46



Huntington's disease: the energy hypothesis gets traction

Huntington's disease, a rare hereditary neurological disorder, is associated with an energy deficit that precedes the onset of symptoms and is closely linked to their progression. Fanny Mochel and her team are testing a compound called triheptanoin that can potentially compensate for this deficit. A phase II trial has shown an unexpected effect on the progression of clinical signs.

2025

JANUARY

Prof. Stéphanie Debette takes over as Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute

Prof. Stéphanie Debette has been appointed Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute for a five-year term, and took up her new post on January 1, 2025. Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Bordeaux and neurologist at Bordeaux University Hospital since 2014, Prof. Debette headed the Bordeaux Population Health (BPH) research center until April 2024 and has managed the VBHI University Hospital Institute (IHU) since 2023. She succeeds Prof. Alexis Brice, who served as Executive Director from 2012.

> see pp. 4-5

Launch of the "Invincible Été" philanthropic fund for ALS research

At the initiative of the French entrepreneur Olivier Goy, ambassador and loyal supporter of the Paris Brain Institute, and the private equity management company Pams, a new philanthropic fund was created in January. Called "Invincible Été", the purpose of the fund is to fund European research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), drawing in particular on the scientific expertise of the Institute.

> see pp. 48-49

FEBRUARY

Visit by Sir Rory Collins

On February 5, the Paris Brain Institute had the honor of welcoming Sir Rory Collins, Head of the Nuffield Department of Population Health at the University of Oxford and Principal Investigator and Chief Executive of the UK Biobank, during his visit to France at the invitation of the AP-HP Foundation. The discussions focused on the Paris Brain Institute's creation of the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science.



NewBorn Neurodigital project highlighted at AI action summit

France welcomed representatives from some 100 countries at the Summit for Action on Artificial Intelligence (AI), which took place in Paris on February 10 and 11, 2025. The NewBorn NeuroDigital project, led by the Paris Brain Institute and the AP-HP, was selected by the General Secretariat for Investment (SGPI) from among the 35 "AI Convergence" challenges presented at the event.

MARCH

#StandUpForScience

On March 7, the Institute joined forces with the #StandUpForScience movement, which supports science and scientists, and expressed its support for American researchers, and for all those fighting for scientific independence and academic freedom in the face of external pressure.



Franco-Indian workshop on artificial intelligence, healthcare and future prospects for India and France

The Paris Brain Institute and Sorbonne University organized a workshop on March 22, in collaboration with Indian Institute of Technology Delhi and AIIMS in New Delhi. This helped to strengthen research collaborations between the two countries and to promote groundbreaking advances in medical science.

> see pp. 50-51

2025

APRIL

The iGenSeq platform acquires two new sequencers

The iGenSeq platform is the first in France to acquire two new sequencers: the Illumina MiSeq i100, in December 2024, and the PacBio VEGA, installed in April 2025. The platform now has a full range of next-generation sequencers, bolstering its capacity to provide academics and industry with cutting-edge tools and services for genomic analysis.

> see p. 46



The ICEBERG cohort: 10 years of collective scientific and medical mobilization

This cohort, comprising a total of 300 individuals, is investigating the factors that predict the onset and progression of Parkinson’s disease. Since 2021, analysis of the data collected has resulted in the publication of nearly 20 scientific articles, some of which have appeared in prestigious journals. All these findings are promising, as they could make it possible to predict the onset of Parkinson’s disease with a low margin of error.

JUNE

Could Aphantasia be linked to alterations in brain connectivity?

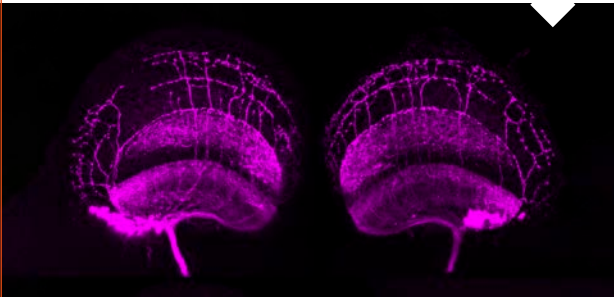
Using an ultra-high-field functional MRI scanner, researchers at the Paris Brain Institute and NeuroSpin—the neuroimaging center of the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)—have, for the first time, explored the neural substrate of visual imaging at ultra-high resolution. Their findings, published in the journal *Cortex*, pave the way for a better understanding of this fascinating cognitive ability, which is entirely absent in some people.

MAY

The stochastic aspect of brain development

Although every person’s personality is the result of genetic and environmental factors, these are not the only factors at play. Bassem Hassan and his BrainDev team have discovered that individuality in fruit flies (*drosophila*) also stems from random (stochastic) processes that occur during brain development. If this phenomenon is also confirmed in humans, it could partly explain why there are such different responses to certain psychiatric diseases.

> see p. 27



“La Génèreuse”, a charity regatta in aid of ALS research

The mission of La Génèreuse is to raise funds to support charitable causes by organizing sporting and cultural events. In 2025, it supported Olivier Goy’s campaign for ALS research at the Paris Brain Institute.



Intellectual development disorders: two new genes under the microscope

A Franco-German research team has successfully developed two new types of test to diagnose ReNU syndrome, a rare disorder that presents, among other things, as intellectual development delays. These tests make it possible to diagnose many patients who previously had to endure what is known as the “diagnostic odyssey”, and to improve knowledge about the causes of these diseases.

JUNE

AI and neuroscience at VivaTech 2025

The Paris Brain Institute took part in VivaTech, Europe’s largest innovation-focused event, where Prof. Stéphanie Debette, Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute, chaired the “Silicon & Synapses” panel discussion with Nisim Perets, founder and CEO of Itay&Beyond, and Ali Haddad, CEO and co-founder of XARLabs. The discussions focused on the growing synergies between artificial intelligence and neuroscience. Selected as one of the highlights of the day, this panel discussion showcased AI’s major potential to accelerate research into brain diseases and foster the emergence of increasingly personalized medicine.

JULY

The cause of Lance-Adams syndrome finally identified

First described 60 years ago, chronic myoclonus following cerebral anoxia is now known as Lance-Adams syndrome. This is a severe disorder but the associated mechanisms have so far been poorly understood. Geoffroy Vellieux, Vincent Navarro, and their colleagues (EpiC) at the Paris Brain Institute have now demonstrated that this condition originates in the motor cortex.

Launch of The Brain Fund II

The Brain Fund II, a shared private equity fund managed by Impact Partners, aims to provide the Paris Brain Institute with sustainable funding to support its research teams’ projects.

> see p. 93



AUGUST

An international database to better understand dreams

In an article published in *Nature Communications*, researchers from 37 scientific institutions—including the Paris Brain Institute—are unveiling the DREAM database: an ambitious project designed to centralize, share, and standardize data from research on sleep, consciousness, and dreams.

SEPTEMBER

Ophélie Meunier, a dedicated patron of the Foulées du Cortex challenge

Ophélie Meunier, a prominent media figure in France, was the patron of the 2025 Foulées du Cortex. Having been particularly impressed by the research carried out by the Paris Brain Institute, she brought her remarkable energy to this connected race, which took place on September 17 to 28.

> see p. 95



Serge Weinberg appointed Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute Board of Directors

In September, Serge Weinberg was elected Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute by its Board of Directors. He succeeds Prof. Gérard Saillant, founding President, who will now serve as Honorary President after 15 years of dedicated service to the Institute.

> see pp. 2-3

“Brain to Market” Summer School: a look back at the 2025 event focusing on autism

From September 8 to 12, the Paris Brain Institute’s education hub organized the eleventh “Brain to Market” Summer School, its unique course in neuroscience and entrepreneurship that promotes innovation in the field of healthcare. This year’s course focused on autism spectrum disorder in adults without an intellectual disability.

> see p. 65



RESEARCH

UNRAVELING THE MYSTERIES OF THE BRAIN, ADVANCING SCIENCE

The Paris Brain Institute's scientific and medical strategy is based on a transdisciplinary, synergistic approach combining basic and translational research, clinical expertise and support for cutting-edge technology platforms. This structure enables the Institute to meet the challenges involved in understanding the nervous system and the diseases that affect it, and to build a strong international reputation with growing visibility.

OUR RESEARCH TEAMS

The Paris Brain Institute brings together 29 research teams, working in five different fields, following a multidisciplinary approach.

The list below summarizes all the teams and the funding they obtained between October 2024 and September 2025.

Machine Learning and Data Science for Brain Disorders
ARAMIS



NINON BURGOS
CNRS

OLIVIER COLLIOT
CNRS

Inserm-MIC

Brain Development and Dysfunction in Neurogenetic Diseases
NeuroGen



ALEXANDRA DURR
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

SANDRINE HUMBERT
Inserm

ANR - France 2030 - Chair of Excellence in Biology and Health, Fondation pour la Recherche sur Alzheimer, Euro-HSP, Sorbonne University

Neurovascular Interfaces in Brain Tumors and Vascular Malformations
NOVA



EMMANUELLE HUIILLARD
CNRS

MATTHIEU PEYRE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

ARC, Cancéropôle Île-de-France (2), FRM grant, Ligue contre le Cancer

ALS: Causes and Mechanisms of Motor Neuron Degeneration
DecodALS



SÉVERINE BOILLÉE
Inserm

ANR-PRC, ARSLA (2)

From Movement to Cognition: Insights from Motor Disorders—**Mov'it**



EMMANUEL FLAMAND-ROZE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

PIERRE POUGET
CNRS

ANR-JCJC, ANR-PRC (3), ANR-JPND, COST action, Inserm ATIP-Avenir, FMR, France Life Imaging, FRM grant, Fondation pour la Recherche sur Alzheimer, Fondation pour la Recherche sur les AVC, MJFF, PSP France

Neuronal Circuits & Brain Dynamics
NeuroCircuits



NIKOLAS KARALIS
Inserm

FRM grant

Laboratory of Brain Plasticity—**Plastic**



NICOLAS RENIER
Inserm

FRM

Repair in Demyelinating Diseases: From Biology to Clinical Application—**REGAIN-MS**



BRUNO STANKOFF
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

ANR-PRC, NeurATRIS, France Sclérose en Plaques [French Association for Multiple Sclerosis Research] (3), Inserm-Messidore

Belief Decision Neuroscience—**BEND**



PHILIPPE FOSSATI
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

LIANE SCHMIDT
Inserm

Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy—**EpiC**



VINCENT NAVARRO
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PONCER
Inserm

FRM grant, LFCE, Fondation des Gueules Cassées

The Prefrontal Cortex as a Critical Hub for Higher Cognitive Functions: From Health to Disease—**Frontlab**



RICHARD LÉVY
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

EMMANUELLE VOLLE
Inserm

ANR-PRCI, Association France-DFT, FHU, Campus France—Chateaubriand Fellowship

Brain Development—**BrainDev**



BASSEM HASSAN
Inserm

MSCA-PF, FRM grant (2), EMBO, FMR

Brain Tumor Heterogeneity, Immunity and Therapy—**BRIGHT**



FRANCK BIELLE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

MEHDI TOUAT
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

INCa, Inserm ATIP-Avenir, Cancéropôle Île-de-France, SiRIC (2), Ligue contre le Cancer (2), ARC

Alzheimer's Disease and Prion Diseases
ALZHEIMER-PRIONS



STÉPHANE HAÏK
Inserm

MARIE-CLAUDE POTIER
CNRS

ANR-PRC, Fondation pour la Recherche sur Alzheimer, Rainwater Charitable Foundation, Saclay University, T2IRS

Cerebral Small Vessel Disease and Neurodegeneration
GENOVASC



HUGUES CHABRIAT
AP-HP/Université Paris Cité

PROF. STÉPHANIE DEBETTE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

ANR—France 2030—Chair of Excellence in Biology and Health, Fondation ARNEVA, ANR-PRCI, ANR-MRSEI

Experimental Neurosurgery—**NEURXP**

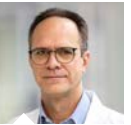


CARINE KARACHI
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

BRIAN LAU
CNRS

Fondation de France, Fondation pour la Recherche sur Alzheimer, DIM C-BRAINS

Molecular Pathophysiology of Parkinson's Disease—**MPP+**



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE CORVOL
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

PHILIPPE RAVASSARD
CNRS

AMADYS, France Parkinson, Limoges University Hospital, Inserm, MJFF, Sorbonne University

Cellular Mechanisms of Sensory Processing—**SENSOR**



NELSON REBOLA
CNRS

ANR-PRC, Cancéropôle Île-de-France, FRM Team

Systems Neuroengineering to Model and Interface Brain Networks
NERV LAB



FABRIZIO DE VICO FALLANI
Inria

ANR-JCJC

Sleep, Dreams, and Cognition—**DreamTeam**



ISABELLE ARNULF
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

DELPHINE OUDIETTE
Inserm

MSCA-PF, ENS-PSL grant, FRM grant, Mind Science Foundation

Metabolism, Immunity and Neurodegeneration—**MIND**



FANNY MOCHEL
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

VIOLETTA ZUJOVIC
Inserm

Neurophysiology of Social Cognition
SocialNeuro



JULIA SLIWA
CNRS

Genetic Mosaicism in Epilepsy and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
MOSAIC



STÉPHANIE BAULAC
Inserm

MSCA-PF, 2024 Lamonica Prize—French Academy of Sciences

Physiological Investigations of Clinically Normal and Impaired Cognition—**PICNIC Lab**



PAOLO BARTOLOMEO
Inserm

LIONEL NACCACHE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

JACOBO SITT
Inserm

ANR-JCJC, Fondation pour l'Audition, ENS-PSL grant, FRM grant

Motivation, Brain and Behavior
MBB



JEAN DAUNIZEAU
Inserm

MATHIAS PESSIGLIONE
Inserm

ANR-PRC, DGOS, Fondation Fyssen

Cellular Physiology of Cortical Microcircuits—**CircuitLab**



ALBERTO BACCI
Inserm

FRM grant

Gut-Brain Axis Communication and Physiology—**GutSense**



DAFNI HADJIECONOMOU
Inserm

ANR-PRC

Navigation, Sensorimotor Integration Brain & Body Integration Lab—**SIBBIL**



CLAIRE WYART
Inserm

ANR-JCJC, Richard Lounsbery Foundation

Molecular Physiology of Presynaptic Function (Diane Barrière Chair)
PreSyn



JAIME DE JUAN-SANZ
CNRS

GLOSSARY

ANR-JCJC: French National Research Agency (ANR)—Early Career Scientists
• **ANR-JPND:** ANR—EU Joint Programme—Neurodegenerative Disease Research • **ANR-MRSEI:** ANR—Setting up European or International Scientific Networks • **ANR-PRC:** ANR - Collaborative Research Projects
• **ANR-PRCI:** ANR - Collaborative International Research Projects
• **ARC:** French Association for Cancer Research (ARC) Foundation • **ARSLA:** French Association for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research • **Association France-DFT:** French Association for Frontotemporal Lobar Degeneration • **COST:** European Cooperation in Science and Technology • **DGOS:** Department for Healthcare Provision • **DIM C-BRAINS:** Major Research and Innovation Field—Cognition and Brain Revolutions: Artificial Intelligence, Neurogenomics, Society • **EMBO:** European Molecular Biology Organization • **ENS-PSL:** École Normale Supérieure - PSL University
• **ERC CoG:** European Research Council Consolidator Grant • **Euro-HSP:** Federation of European Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia Associations
• **FHU:** University Hospital Federations
• **FMR:** French Rare Diseases Foundation
• **FRM:** French Foundation for Medical Research • **INCa:** French National Cancer Institute • **Inserm-Messidore:** French National Institute for Health and Medical Research—Methodology for Innovative Clinical Trials, Devices, Tools and Research Utilizing Health Data and Biobanks • **Inserm-MIC:** French National Institute for Health and Medical Research—Contributions of Mathematics and Computer Science to Oncology (MIC)
• **LFCE:** French League Against Epilepsy
• **MJFF:** The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research • **MSCA-PF:** Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions—Postdoctoral Fellowships • **PSP France:** Progressive Supranuclear Palsy France Association • **SiRIC:** Integrated Cancer Research Sites • **T2IRS:** Trisomy 21 Research Society

FRESH IMPETUS FOR RESEARCH

From the opening of a center dedicated to artificial intelligence applied to medicine and data science, to a renewed focus on partnerships spearheaded by the new Executive Director, Brian Lau looks back at the highlights of 2025 and forward to what is set to define 2026.

INTERVIEW

BRIAN LAU

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE JOINT RESEARCH UNIT AND DEPUTY SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR
RESPONSIBLE FOR CORE FACILITIES

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The Institute has taken a step forward by establishing the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science. Why are you launching it now, and what do you hope to achieve?

BRIAN LAU | The Center addresses a long-standing need to fully integrate computational neuroscience into the Institute's projects. Our AI and data science strategy has taken different forms over recent years, but the center took shape in late 2024 with the appointment of Olivier Colliot to lead the project and the arrival of Prof. Stéphanie Debette as Executive Director of the Institute. Their work has been instrumental in making this ambition an institutional and operational reality. The availability of the Chevaleret building provided us with the space we needed to implement the project successfully. It is thanks to these opportunities aligning that we have been able to launch this strategic initiative. We want to make AI and data science more integrated, more accessible and more useful, so that more of our researchers and clinicians can benefit from them. This is a unique opportunity for the Institute to establish its position on these increasingly important issues and to lay the foundations for world-class applications of AI and data in neuroscience, clinical and translational research, and healthcare. This center is sure to shape the future of science and the Institute's role on the international stage.

You mention the appointment of Prof. Stéphanie Debette as Executive Director. What do her leadership and vision for science bring to the Institute?

B.L. | Prof. Stéphanie Debette has a bold, comprehensive vision for the Institute. One of her key beliefs is the importance of developing strategic international

partnerships. Research today focuses on global issues, and no single institute can, on its own, bring together all the necessary expertise, methodologies and data. Under her leadership, we have therefore stepped up our efforts to develop new, formal partnerships. In 2025, for example, we agreed a partnership with Rice University in Texas, and a series of growth-focused initiatives with several long-standing partners, including Sorbonne University, IIT Delhi, Yale University and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

“At a time when research and some sources of funding are under pressure, maintaining—and where possible strengthening—our ties with our North American and international partners are a practical way of supporting science and scientists.”

Why is this partnership-based approach important, particularly in the current context?

B.L. | Science is most likely to succeed when it is open, collaborative and based on partnership. First, because the challenges we are trying to tackle require us to pool the best expertise, regardless of which institution that comes from. It is also a question of resources, particularly when it comes to data: the larger and more diverse your sample, the better your chances of making a discovery. This prompts us to question the way in which we produce, utilize and share our data so that it can be widely used. These will be key issues

that are central to the work carried out by the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science. Finally, I believe we cannot ignore the geopolitical landscape, even though we are doing our utmost to shield our teams and researchers from its fluctuations. Science has come under strain recent months, and it is more essential than ever to support our colleagues, our programs and our partnerships. Against a backdrop of international tension and uncertainty, this is all the more crucial. At a time when research and some sources of funding are under pressure, maintaining—and where possible, strengthening—our ties with our North American and international partners is a practical way of supporting science and scientists. It is, of course, a question of leadership, but it is also, above all, a vision of science as a vast community without borders, striving to tackle challenges that affect us all. This commitment to open and collaborative science was brought to the fore in 2026 with the World Brain Health Forum, held in January, and during the G7 summit hosted by France in Évian in June 2026.

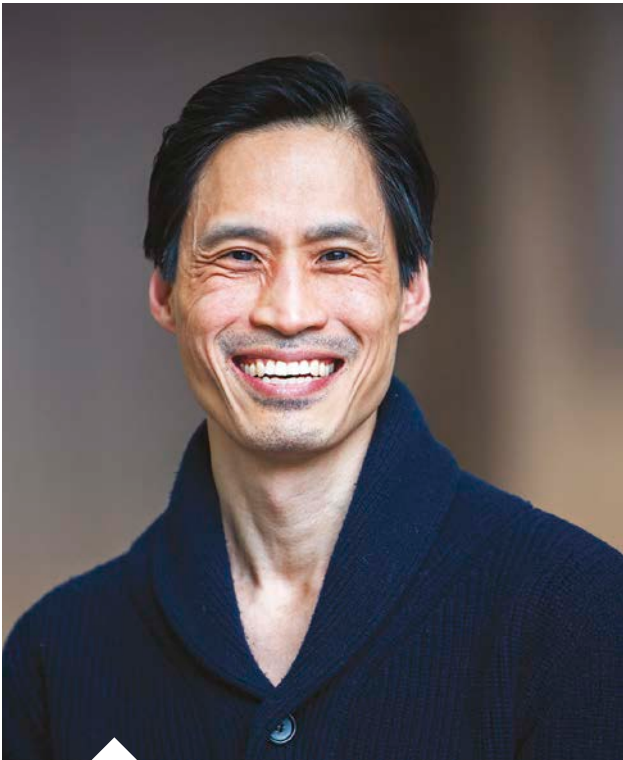
This collaborative approach also draws on the expertise of visiting professors. What will Philip De Jager, Distinguished Visiting Professor from Columbia University, bring to the table?

B.L. | Philip De Jager is an outstanding researcher and neurologist whom we were fortunate enough to meet, along with Prof. Stéphanie Debette, during our visit to his campus in late 2024. Like his predecessors in this role, he brings a twofold advantage: he has a world-class scientific perspective and specific, in-depth technical expertise, for example in spatial transcriptomics—methods that map gene activity in tissues while preserving the spatial organization of cells. The reason we invite visiting professors to the Institute is specifically to bring in expertise and technology to support our researchers. Philip De Jager is working closely with our platforms and scientists to speed up the roll-out of these approaches across the Institute. This process has already proven its worth: the previous visiting professor, Kaj Blennow from the University of Gothenburg, a specialist in fluid biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease, helped drive the momentum that led to the launch in 2025 of a new proteomics platform, specializing in very large-scale protein analysis.

“We are truly on the cusp of a very exciting era for our understanding of the brain and its fundamental functions.”

What can we expect in 2026?

B.L. | First, to see the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science become fully operational. For many teams, data analysis has become a bottleneck. The structure and training opportunities that the Center will provide will enable us to devise new experiments and take our research to a whole new level. We are truly



on the cusp of a very exciting era for our understanding of the brain and its fundamental functions. A number of our major projects are also set to ramp up, such as OneBrain and the four cross-functional projects (> see p. 22). These are multi-team, multi-platform projects that require technological solutions on a scale that no single team can manage alone, and call for the development or creation of new tools for interdisciplinary collaboration. Here too we can expect major advances, not only in research itself, but also in our ability to complete large-scale projects of this kind. Finally, 2026 marks part of a wider shift in scale: the Institute will gradually transition from a single-site operation to a campus-based model, with sites that are close to one another but distinct. This change in setting is coupled with a genuine shift in our mindset, with the challenge of maintaining and developing a high level of integration between our areas of expertise. Our activities are growing, creating a challenge in terms of aligning scientific leadership with operational organization to support collective ambition.

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DYNAMIC RESEARCH WITH A STRONGER INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute built on its scientific momentum, with dynamic research that is open to the world and underpinned by ambitious collaborations. New teams, groundbreaking projects, clinical innovations and advances in neuroscience are shaping a collective momentum that is more forward-looking than ever.

In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute confirmed the excellence of its research with 582 publications, 69% of which were open access. Of these papers, 213 were published in journals with an impact factor greater than 7, representing a proportion of 36.5%.

The organization's international reach has grown across all continents, not only through its long-standing partners, but also through the establishment of new alliances. At European level, the CURE-ND alliance has gained traction, as demonstrated by the launch of the CURE-ND4ALS initiative, focused on ALS (> see box p. 23). The Institute made its first appearance on the international diplomatic stage at the G7 Canada Brain Economy Summit and the United Nations General Assembly Brain Health Summit (> see p. 53).

The Institute continued to develop and shape its clinical research with the launch of 18 clinical research infrastructures (iCRIN), which have been accredited for five years (> see pp. 39-40). This year's recipient of the clinical fellows exchange program, which has been supported by Fondation André et Michel Bouriez since 2024, was Dario Saracino, who is working in Professor Emanuele Buratti's molecular pathology laboratory in Trieste (Italy).

Collaborations to drive forward major cross-functional projects

Key milestones have been achieved in each of the four cross-functional projects (NeuroPrems, NEIMO, the Brain Functional Genome Program and Deep Brain Stimulation). These programs were subject to an in-depth evaluation in 2025 by a panel of high-level international experts. Some of their comments focused on the potential for new collaborations and an increased international component for the projects in question. These experts have been invited to take part in a new review in 2026, which will take the form of two cross-disciplinary symposia covering all four programs: the Brain Functional Genome Program, which aims to

deepen our understanding of the human brain during development by linking gene expression sites to their functions, has consolidated an integrated approach combining a fluorescence-based RNA detection technique (3D RNA FISH) and spatial transcriptomics with analysis pipelines and traceability tools; Deep Brain Stimulation, which is developing new strategies to stimulate resilient motor circuits in Parkinson's disease, has made progress on the genetic markers of the disease and on iPSC (human induced pluripotent stem cells) and organoid models, with results currently being prepared for publication; NEIMO, a translational project focusing on imaging and biomarker analysis in multiple sclerosis and early-stage Parkinson's disease, has established a joint imaging protocol with Yale University, developed tools for multimodal integration and standardized clinical annotations, and has resulted in five publications; NeuroPrems, dedicated to identifying markers in the presymptomatic stages of neurological diseases, has secured its first cohort and obtained approval from the French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM)—patient enrollment is scheduled for early 2026.



A program opening its doors to partners

Finally, the five winning projects from the fourth iteration of the Big Brain Theory, selected in 2024, were officially launched in 2025. This program funds groundbreaking projects intended to address major challenges in neuroscience and was opened up for the first time in 2024 to researchers from the Institute's international partners. For example, one of these projects explores what happens in the brain when we visualize an image in our minds or when we dream. Another aims to understand how the brain distinguishes between words and numbers. These projects also focus on neurological disorders such as hereditary spastic paraplegia type 4 (HSP4), or help us to understand the effects of head injury on states of consciousness.

CURE-ND4ALS: ALS at the top of the agenda

Hosted by the Institute and supported by the philanthropic fund established by Olivier Goy, the Paris Brain Institute ambassador, the CURE-ND4ALS initiative is driven by CURE-ND, a group of European research institutes: the UK Dementia Research Institute in the UK, the Belgian interdisciplinary partnership Mission Lucidity, the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases in Germany, and the Paris Brain Institute. The aim of this new ALS-focused initiative is to speed up the development of new clinical trial approaches by ensuring that resources are comparable across different countries. The harmonization of protocols, standardized collection of data and samples, and common monitoring criteria should make it easier to identify biomarkers, enable better participant selection and speed up the evaluation of therapeutic protocols.





THREE QUESTIONS FOR
FABRIZIO DE VICO FALLANI (INRIA)
TEAM-LEADER OF THE NERV LAB AT THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

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What was the key factor behind the creation of the NERV lab?
FABRIZIO DE VICO FALLANI | I was working on complementary areas within the ARAMIS team: on the one hand, data science applied to neuroimaging; on the other, an experimental strand focusing on brain-machine interfaces, with an element of systems neuroengineering. At a certain point, I felt that these areas were becoming significant enough to warrant a dedicated team. Winning a grant from the European Research Council was the catalyst. It gave me the impetus and the resources to structure NERV around two clear pillars: brain-machine interfaces and the mathematical modeling of the brain as a network.

How do these interfaces work?
F.D. V.F. | The idea is to record the brain's electrical activity using electrodes placed on the scalp, without the need for surgery. This activity varies, depending on a person's intention, when that person imagines a movement. We are developing algorithms capable of detecting these variations and translating them into commands: moving a cursor, controlling a robotic arm or triggering a device that helps open the hand. The aim, after a stroke, is to explore how these interfaces can aid rehabilitation.

To do this, we need to look at the brain as a whole, rather than just the role of each individual brain region. The network-based approach allows us to describe nodes and connections, and what they reveal when brain function is disrupted. It is a way of linking mathematical tools to practical questions, to improve the decoding of brain-machine interfaces and promote neural plasticity.

How is collaboration on your projects organized?
F.D. V.F. | We make use of key facilities, particularly the MEG-EEG (magnetoencephalography and electroencephalography) facility within CENIR, where we carry out our brain-machine interface experiments. With these partners, we have built a platform complete with all the necessary equipment. To ensure that these tools can be used on a day-to-day basis, particularly by clinicians who do not wish to write code, we have developed software with intuitive graphical user interfaces, with the support of the France 2030 plan. On the clinical side, particularly for strokes, we work as part of a network: we collaborate with rehabilitation departments and centers in the Greater Paris region. This is essential for recruiting a sufficient number of volunteer patients.

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GENOVASC: gaining a better understanding of the interaction between the vascular system and neurodegeneration

Led by Prof. Stéphanie Debette and Hugues Chabriat, the GENOVASC team is investigating the links between cerebrovascular diseases—particularly small-vessel diseases—and neurodegeneration. The aim is to combine expertise in genetics, clinical medicine, molecular biology and imaging, to identify biomarkers, therapeutic targets and precision-medicine techniques, with a view to improving the prevention and management of vascular cognitive disorders. Set up in 2025, this team is addressing an area that has so far not been widely explored at the Institute: understanding how vascular dysfunction contributes to brain ageing and interacts with neurodegenerative diseases. The uniqueness of this project lies in its use of rare resources at the interface between rare familial cerebral vascular diseases and their common forms, with expertise in imaging and multiomics. Access to the Institute's core facilities will accelerate the transition from mechanisms to diagnostic and therapeutic applications, in collaboration with national (IHU-VBHI) and international partners.



NOVA, a new team to investigate brain-body interfaces

Led by Emmanuelle Huillard and Matthieu Peyre, the NOVA team focuses on the brain's border regions, where vital exchanges take place between the central nervous system and the rest of the body. Its research is structured around three complementary areas: the venous-lymphatic system, which is involved in the circulation and drainage of fluids; meningiomas, tumors of the meninges; and oligodendrogliomas, a type of brain tumor. NOVA works closely with the BRIGHT team. The two teams complement each other, share resources and collaborate on joint projects involving several types of tumor. The NOVA team, which is specifically working to improve the care of patients with intracranial hypertension, is fostering collaborations through projects relating to sleep (SLEEP-IIH), cognition (NEIMO) and genetics (Gen-IIH).

FIVE RESEARCH FIELDS

CELLULAR AND MOLECULAR NEUROBIOLOGY

The primary objective of the researchers working in this field is to identify the genetic, molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying brain function during development and ageing. This fundamental knowledge is essential for understanding major brain functions and neurological and psychiatric diseases, and for developing new therapeutic targets.



MANAGER FOR THE RESEARCH FIELD
STÉPHANIE BAULAC
INSERM RESEARCH DIRECTOR
TEAM LEADER

Mosaicism in focal epilepsy associated with brain malformations

Some severe forms of childhood epilepsy are linked to malformations of the cerebral cortex, characterized by the presence of dysmorphic neurons. Recent studies have identified the presence of somatic genetic mutations that arose during brain development in various cell types. What is notable is that fewer than 10% of the mutated cells exhibit a dysmorphic phenotype. The affected neurons demonstrate hyperexcitability, mitochondrial abnormalities and markers of cellular senescence, which could contribute to the onset of seizures. These findings provide new insights into cortical malformations associated with epilepsy, highlighting the role of genetic mosaicism, and pave the way for more targeted therapeutic strategies.

> Baldassari S. *et al. Nat Neurosci.* 2025

MOSAIC team

Pathological mechanisms of TBK1 deficiency in ALS/FTD

Dominant mutations resulting in loss of function of the *TBK1* gene have been linked to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), frontotemporal dementia (FTD), and combined forms of both conditions. *TBK1* plays a role not only in neurons, but also in microglial cells, the immune cells of the brain and spinal cord. As immune cells are easier therapeutic targets than

neurons, researchers sought to understand whether the loss of *TBK1* in immune cells might contribute to the ALS/FTD disease spectrum. Researchers have shown that inactivation of the *TBK1* gene in microglia in the spinal cords and brains of mice induces pro-inflammatory activation of these cells, comparable to that observed during ageing and neurodegenerative processes. Although this inactivation does not result in the motor neuron damage characteristic of ALS and does not alter its course, the deletion of *TBK1* in microglia is sufficient to cause early FTD-like deficits in social recognition. These findings suggest that microglial dysfunction plays a causal role in FTD associated with mutations in the *TBK1* gene.

> Lenoel I. *et al. Nat Commun.* 2025

DecodALS team

Progress in identifying genetic modifiers of FTD/ALS

Carriers of the pathogenic GGGGCC expansion in the *C9orf72* gene display extreme clinical heterogeneity, including a clinical presentation ranging from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) to frontotemporal dementia (FTD), and a wide range of ages at disease onset. In the past, research into these genetic modifiers has focused almost exclusively on a particular type of polymorphism (SNP). By sequencing the whole genome of 195 patients with pathological *C9orf72*-gene expansions, researchers focused on microsatellites, another type of polymorphism consisting of repeated

sequences, which are sometimes associated with “expansion” disorders. They have shown that “intermediate” CAG repeats in the *HTT* gene, which encodes Huntington’s disease, are associated with an earlier onset of the disease. These findings provide further evidence of potential biological links between Huntington’s disease and *C9orf72*, which are still unclear, and also highlight the value of incorporating microsatellite analysis into genetic association studies. The inclusion of these potentially functional microsatellites in association studies will help to better characterize modifier genes in FTD and ALS, thereby improving our ability to predict and understand the progression of this disease.

> Barbier M. *et al. Brain Commun.* 2025

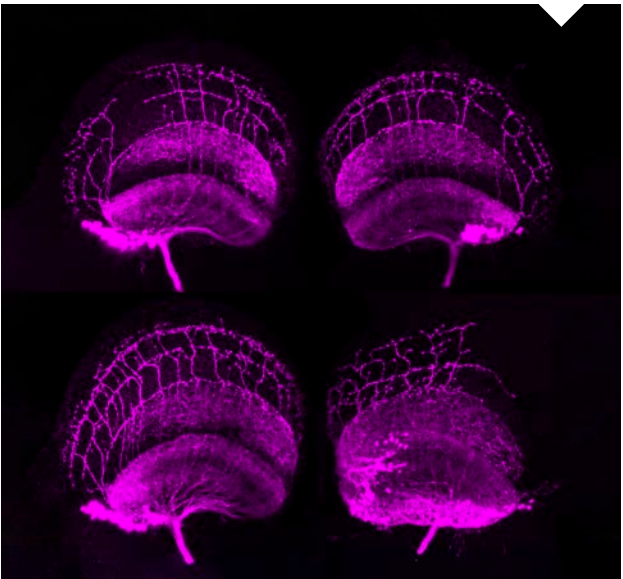
Frontlab team

Random genetic processes modulate neural connections

In previous studies, researchers have shown that behavioral variability in fruit flies (*drosophila*) is linked to individual differences in a neural network involved in the processing of visual information. Early in development, the cell extensions of these neurons, known as “axons”, migrate into the brain to establish cwnnections—also to varying degrees—with two regions of the opposite hemisphere: the lobula (L-DCN) and the medulla (M-DCN). Although these axonal extensions extend and retract erratically, only those cells in which one of the axons stabilizes—based on *notch* and tubulin gene expression—manage to establish a permanent connection with the medulla on the contralateral side. These findings highlight genetically encoded stochastic development mechanisms.

> Andriatsilavo M. *et al. Nat Neurosci.* 2025

BrainDev team



Four confocal images of the visual system of *drosophila*, showing structural differences between individuals in DCN visual neural networks.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



MAHEVA ANDRIATSILAVO (CNRS), a postdoctoral researcher in the BrainDev team, has been awarded the French Academy of Sciences Prize for “Major French Advances in Biology”, funded by Fondation Mergier Bourdeix.



NIKOLAS KARALIS (Inserm), leader of the NeuroCircuits team, was awarded the Schlumberger Foundation for Education and Research (FSER) Prize in December 2024 and has therefore joined Cercle FSER, which champions and promotes basic research.

Mitochondria: essential organelles for brain health

The abnormalities that cause neurodegenerative diseases could arise as early as the neurodevelopmental stage, several decades before the first clinical symptoms appear. Mitochondria—particularly those found in axons—are responsible for producing ATP, the energy essential for cellular function. They also play a key role in local calcium regulation, the formation of synapses (areas of communication between neurons) and brain plasticity. Researchers have identified a genetic regulatory program that controls mitochondrial quality during a critical period of neurodevelopment. When this program is switched off, the axonal mitochondria become abnormally large, and the neural connections deteriorate significantly. In fruit flies (*drosophila*), transient inactivation of *Mirana* and *PINK1* is sufficient to cause lasting alterations in brain connectivity. *PINK1* is implicated in Parkinson’s disease, which lends further weight to the hypothesis that neurodegenerative processes could have a neurodevelopmental origin.

> Mohylyak I. *et al. Nat comm.* 2025

BrainDev and PreSyn teams

FIVE RESEARCH FIELDS

INTEGRATIVE NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

Scientists specializing in neurophysiology study the mechanisms and neuronal interactions underlying sensory processing, cognition and motor control. Their main goal is to characterize the activity of synapses—areas between several neurons where information is exchanged—and of microcircuits and whole-brain networks. This research also seeks to understand the how and why of neuronal activity linked to behavior or movement malfunctions in pathological conditions such as an epileptic seizure, or a motor block during gait in Parkinson’s disease.



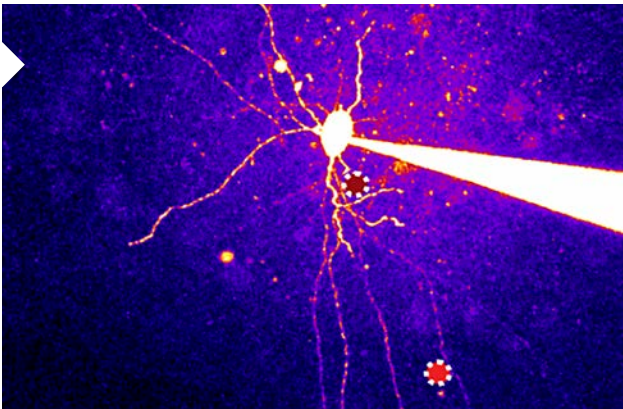
MANAGER FOR THE RESEARCH FIELD
CLAIRE WYART
INSERM RESEARCH DIRECTOR
TEAM LEADER

Distinct dendritic integration strategies control dynamics of inhibition in the neocortex

The brain consists of neurons capable of continuously integrating signals transmitted via specialized connections—synapses—located mainly on the dendritic tree. However, the influence of their spatial organization on information processing is still poorly understood. By studying two classes of inhibitory interneurons in the neocortex—somatostatin-expressing (IN-SST) and parvalbumin-expressing (IN-PV)—this research shows that the distribution of excitatory synapses differs depending on cell type and is associated with distinct functional properties. IN-PV interneurons, which are low in NMDA receptors and have a high proximal synaptic density, are optimized for rapid, linear summation, with millisecond precision. Conversely, IN-SST interneurons possess NMDA receptors and facilitate the short-term release of neurotransmitters, enabling them to modulate dendritic activity over longer time scales. These findings suggest that the timing of cortical inhibition depends on fine-scale dendritic specializations, opening up new avenues for understanding their role in certain diseases.

> Morabito A. *et al. Neuron.* 2025

CENSOR team



Use of light to study how individual neurons process information. This image shows a single neuron in layer 2/3 of the mouse’s primary visual cortex, filled with a fluorescent dye that makes it possible to visualize its delicate branches, called dendrites. The dotted circles indicate sites on the dendrites that have been stimulated by light. By activating these tiny regions, researchers can study how dendritic branches shape the way individual neurons receive, combine, and process information.

Movement: behavior influenced both by internal states and the environment

To what extent do an animal’s movements depend on external stimuli (such as prey or danger) rather than on its internal states (hunger, fear, motivation)?

To address this question, researchers have developed new modeling approaches that make it possible to quantify these influences and their interactions. They have shown that, in zebrafish larvae exposed to various sensory contexts, movement is organized according to a hierarchy of motor strategies, in which changes of direction reflect a trade-off between exploration and resource exploitation. These findings also reveal that the animals’ behavior depends on their individual history: fish reared with live prey develop strategies that differ from those reared without prey, and these differences are long-lasting. These findings, combined with the analytical methods used, shed new light on how animals integrate internal and external information to adapt their behavior.

> Sridhar G. *et al. PNAS.* 2024

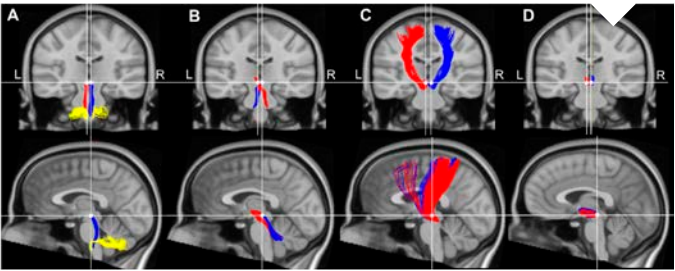
SIBBIL team

Cervical dystonia: a dysfunction of the interstitial nucleus of Cajal

Cervical dystonia (CD) is characterized by abnormal neck and head movements, possibly related to a dysfunction of the interstitial nucleus of Cajal (INC). This nucleus forms part of a system involved in the control of head and eye movements, known as the “neural head integrator”. A cross-sectional observational study, conducted in 19 patients with CD and 21 healthy controls, used functional and diffusion magnetic resonance imaging to identify microstructural abnormalities in the INC and cerebral peduncle in the patients. These findings suggest that an impairment in the feedback signals from cortical and cerebellar regions—or from the spinal pathways carrying proprioceptive information from the neck to the neural integrator of the head—could disrupt postural control of the head and neck.

> Zito GA. *et al. Mov Disord.* 2025

Mov’It team



Anatomical white matter connections of the interstitial nucleus of Cajal (INC). (A) Tracts originating in the INC and projecting to the cerebellum. (B) Tracts originating in the cerebellum and projecting to the INC. (C) Tracts originating in cortical areas involved in oculomotor control and projecting to the INC. (D) Tracts originating in the substantia nigra and projecting to the INC. The pathways crossing the right INC are shown in blue, those crossing the left INC in red, and the fibers with an anatomical relay in the olive that project to the cerebellum are shown in yellow.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

MARIE VIDAILHET
(Sorbonne University/AP-HP), a researcher in the Mov’It team, is the President of the 2025-2026 Board of the French Society of Neurology.



ANTONIO CARLOS COSTA, a researcher in the SIBBIL team, was successful in the competitive examinations for qualification as an Inserm research associate (normal grade). He also received ANR funding for early-career researchers for his project, which explores how inter-individual differences in zebrafish—a model organism—develop in response to the unpredictability of natural environments.



Depression, anxiety and serotonin: potential new neurobiological mechanisms

The prefrontal cortex plays a key role in higher cognitive functions and emotional behaviors. Abnormalities in this region are associated with various brain disorders, including major depression and anxiety. In mice, exposure to fluoxetine—a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor—administered during the first two postnatal weeks led to depressive and anxious phenotypes in adult mice. Researchers demonstrated that fluoxetine administered during this critical period of susceptibility profoundly alters the activity of a specific subgroup of pyramidal neurons in the prefrontal cortex. This work highlighted the major role of 5-HT7 serotonergic receptors in mediating these effects. In this context, these findings could have translational significance for considerations regarding the prescription of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors during pregnancy and early childhood.

> De Stasi AM. *et al. J Neurosci.* 2025

CircuitLab team

FIVE RESEARCH FIELDS

COGNITIVE NEUROSCIENCE

The aim of research in this field, at the intersection of psychology and biology, is to identify the circuits in the brain behind mental processes and how they are impaired by disease, treatment and rehabilitation. Researchers study language, attention, and how the brain accesses information, as well as motivation and decision-making. They also analyze the influence of cognitive biases, mood, creativity, and social factors on behavior. Using behavioral tests, modeling, and brain imaging, they explore cognition in healthy subjects and patients to shed light on neurological and psychiatric disorders and to open up new avenues for treatment.



MANAGER FOR THE RESEARCH FIELD
LIANE SCHMIDT
INSERM RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
TEAM LEADER

Specialized neural networks control conscious perception

Recent brain recordings in humans indicate that the frontoparietal circuits connected by the superior longitudinal fasciculus play a central and lateralized role in conscious perception. The networks in the right hemisphere are primarily involved in the organization of attention and the prioritization of information, while those in the left hemisphere are more involved in perceptual decision-making processes and the construction of internal models. These hemispheric dissociations support and refine the clinical observations made in patients with spatial neglect. The results of this study suggest that the neural mechanisms underlying attention and consciousness are more specialized than previously thought.

> Bartolomeo P. *et al. Trends Cogn Sci.* 2025

PICNIC Lab team

A universal compass for the creative mind: how we judge our own ideas

Previous research suggests that creativity consists of two main phases: idea generation and idea evaluation. A recent theoretical framework posits that the evaluation phase corresponds to a process in which value is assigned to ideas before any selection is made. In a recent study, researchers discovered that we systematically evaluate our ideas according to a

universal mental “formula” that remains the same across different fields, whether we are drawing, writing, or coming up with creative ways to use everyday objects. These results were obtained using a computational modeling approach and provide the first experimental evidence supporting the existence of a general subprocess of creative thinking.

> Battistello G. *et al. Commun Psychol.* 2025

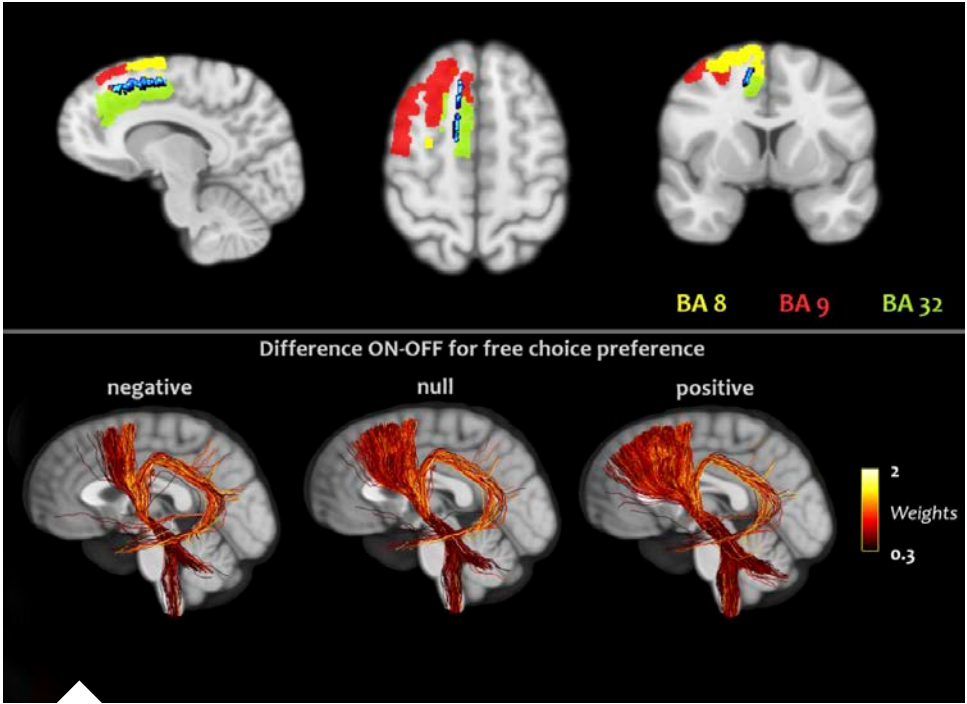
Frontlab team

How does the brain process sign language?

For many deaf people, lip-reading plays a major role in verbal communication. However, lip movements are inherently ambiguous, and sign language (SL) was developed to eliminate this ambiguity. The objective of this study was to map the brain regions involved in the perception of SL and to identify their role in visual and linguistic processes. The results show that a set of brain regions, primarily located in the left hemisphere, play a role in how we perceive sign language. These include the visual cortices, the fronto-parietal regions involved in controlling visual attention among hearing sign language users, and distinct regions supporting the integration of lip-reading and gestures, depending on the level of expertise. In addition, the researchers identified neural correlates of inter-individual variability.

> Sarré A. *et al. Imaging Neurosci (Camb).* 2025

PICNIC Lab team



Visualization of neural networks activated by deep brain stimulation of the subthalamic nucleus and associated with a greater preference for free choice. Top section: the yellow, red, and green areas indicate the frontal regions involved in choice preference and influenced by deep brain stimulation. The blue area shows the main difference between patients based on whether their preference for free choice was restored following stimulation. Bottom section: illustrations of the connections between the subthalamic nucleus and the frontal cortex in three patients, showing negative, neutral, and positive effects of stimulation on free-choice preference (from left to right).

Parkinson’s disease, decision-making, and the value of free choice

Human beings show a marked preference for freedom of choice, even when it does not maximize future gains, suggesting that the ability to choose freely is in itself a source of intrinsic reward. Twenty patients with Parkinson’s disease who were treated with deep brain stimulation (DBS) and 25 others who received only dopaminergic therapy performed a decision-making task developed by the researchers that made it possible to distinguish between the intrinsic value associated with free choice and the extrinsic (monetary) reward.

The results of this research show that the dopamine deficiency characteristic of the disease reduces intrinsic motivation to make choices. However, it can be restored to near-normal levels—particularly in high-risk situations—through DBS or with high-dose chronic dopamine therapy.

> Bendetowicz D. *et al. Biol Psychiatry Cogn Neurosci Neuroimaging.* 2025

NEURXP team

The role of the reward system in creativity

Creative thinking relies on the ability to evaluate one’s own ideas in order to select the most relevant one. By combining approaches from creativity research and neuroeconomics, researchers have shown that we allocate a subjective value to our ideas by striking a balance between their originality and their appropriateness. At brain level, three networks work together: one processes originality and another processes appropriateness, while the reward system calculates the overall satisfaction we derive from the idea we have in mind. The study also reveals that the most creative people are those who prioritize originality or a balance of these criteria in their personal judgment. In conclusion, our individual preferences and our internal “value allocation system” play a key role in our ability to come up with creative ideas.

> Moreno-Rodriguez S. *et al. Commun Biol.* 2025

Frontlab team

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



JULIA SLIWA (CNRS) assumed responsibility for a new team, SocialNeuro, on January 1, 2025. The team is studying the neural mechanisms that enable the transformation of social perceptions into social concepts.

FIVE RESEARCH FIELDS

CLINICAL AND TRANSLATIONAL NEUROSCIENCE

From the laboratory to the patient’s bedside and vice versa, the main objective of this field is to develop translational research into neurological and psychiatric diseases. Researchers are seeking to understand the physiology and pathophysiology of the brain, using human diseases as models. They design innovative tools for clinical assessment, diagnosis, identification of biomarkers of progression, and the design of new therapies. Their research is based on patient cohorts that are finely characterized in terms of phenotype and biology, combining molecular biomarkers, brain imaging, and electrophysiological data. The aim of these approaches is to shed light on pathological mechanisms and promote personalized medicine.



MANAGER FOR THE RESEARCH FIELD
CÉLINE LOUAPRE
NEUROLOGIST (SORBONNE UNIVERSITY/AP-HP)
COORDINATOR OF THE NEUROSCIENCE CIC
RESEARCHER AT THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

Innate immune response in multiple sclerosis

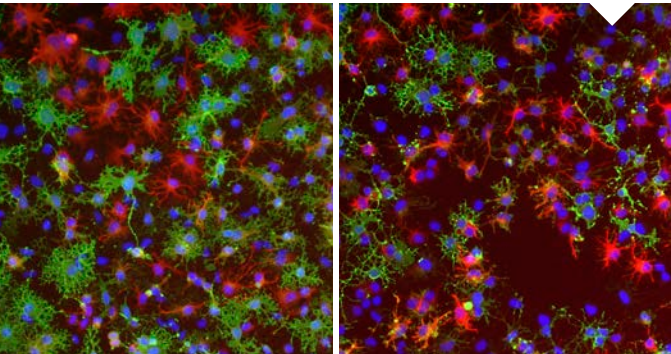
In this study, researchers analyzed the activation profiles of macrophages in patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) to clarify the role of these innate immune cells in the development and/or repair of lesions. The results show that, even when exposed to homeostatic or pro-regenerative stimuli, macrophages from patients with MS retain a pro-inflammatory

profile associated with reduced myelin phagocytosis ability. In addition, macrophages from these patients are unable to properly stimulate the differentiation of oligodendrocyte precursors (OPC cells), which are essential for myelin regeneration. These observations suggest that in MS, macrophages are “dysregulated” and no longer respond properly to various signals from the environment. This opens up new possibilities for developing novel therapeutic strategies that specifically target these dysfunctions.

> Fransson J. *et al. Neurol Neuroimmunol Neuroinflamm.* 2024

MIND team

Glial cell precursors exposed to a conditioned medium derived from macrophages from healthy donors or patients with multiple sclerosis, influencing their differentiation into astrocytes (labeled red) or oligodendrocytes (labeled green).



RAB3A: a gene involved in several movement disorders

A study of 1,235 patients with ataxia and/or spastic paraplegia has expanded the phenotypic spectrum of disorders associated with the *RAB3A* gene. The study shows that, for the most common mutation, cerebellar ataxia may be accompanied by pyramidal signs, while other mutations are primarily associated with predominant spastic paraplegia, sometimes accompanied by cognitive impairments.

In conclusion, this study identifies *RAB3A* as a new causative gene for autosomal dominant cerebellar ataxia and suggests that it should also be considered in cases of spastic paraplegia. In addition, the phenotype associated with this gene frequently includes other movement disorders, such as Parkinson’s disease, or hyperkinetic abnormal movements such as choreas, tremors, and dystonias.

> Mouraux C. *et al. Brain.* 2025

NeuroGen team

Subtle deficits in episodic memory: an early sign of Alzheimer’s disease

Episodic memory—the memory of our personal experiences as they relate to their context (time, place, etc.)—could be an early preclinical marker of Alzheimer’s disease.

To demonstrate this, researchers followed 263 older adults at risk of developing the disease over several years, analyzing their episodic memory, the accumulation of amyloid plaques, abnormalities in their brain metabolism, and the progression of their symptoms, up to the point of a potential diagnosis of the disease.

The results highlight subtle deficits in episodic memory that could make it possible for diagnosis of the disease to be made even before irreversible neuronal degeneration occurs, thereby improving patients’ quality of life through appropriate early treatments.

> Raposo Pereira F. *et al. J Neurol.* 2024

NEURXP team

Relationships between subthalamic nucleus activity, gait initiation and freezing of gait in Parkinson’s disease

The study included 38 patients who had deep brain stimulation electrodes implanted in the subthalamic nucleus (STN), 35 of whom experienced episodes of freezing of gait during their daily lives. Researchers recorded neural activity within the STN and analyzed the nature and characteristics of the electrical waves emitted before and during gait, as well as immediately before the onset of episodes of freezing.

The results reveal three distinct patterns of gait initiation in patients with Parkinson’s disease associated with the absence, predisposition, or imminence of freezing, with neural modulations that differ dynamically between the posterior and central subregions of the STN. These electrophysiological findings could support the development of adaptive deep brain stimulation strategies tailored to episodic gait disorders.

> Collomb-Clerc A. *et al. Ann Neurol.* 2025

NEURXP team

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BRUNO STANKOFF, a neurologist (Sorbonne University/AP-HP) and leader of the REGAIN-MS team, has been President of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) since September 2024.



FANNY MOCHEL, a neurologist (Sorbonne University/AP-HP), became leader of the MIND team on January 1, 2025, alongside Violetta Zujovic.



Brain connectivity: an early marker of frontotemporal dementia

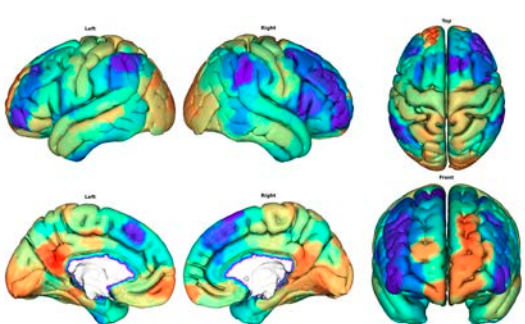
Mutations in the *MAPT* gene cause frontotemporal dementia (FTD), a condition characterized by behavioral, language, and motor impairments resulting from alterations in brain connectivity. A study of 86 patients with a *MAPT* mutation and 272 controls revealed the progressive and sequential nature of changes in structural and functional connectivity among mutation carriers, with distinct patterns across different stages of the disease.

These findings suggest that functional networks might support long-term compensatory mechanisms in this genetically based condition, with clinical symptoms emerging only when structural lesions reach a critical threshold. These findings pave the way for the identification of new predictive biomarkers.

> Bouzigues A. *et al. Alzheimers Dement.* 2025

Frontlab team

The regions of the brain are organized into functional networks. These are organized hierarchically to optimize the cognitive functions of a healthy brain.



FIVE RESEARCH FIELDS

COMPUTATIONAL MODELING IN NEUROSCIENCE

Mathematical and computational modeling of brain mechanisms on a varying scale is essential to our understanding of healthy and pathological brain function. Scientists in this field are developing exploratory methods, including network science, signal and image processing, machine learning and artificial intelligence, to interpret and analyze data from neuroscience research and improve diagnosis and prognosis of neurological and psychiatric diseases.



MANAGER FOR THE RESEARCH FIELD
JACOBO SITT
INSERM RESEARCH DIRECTOR
TEAM LEADER

Brain connection networks, cognition, and diseases

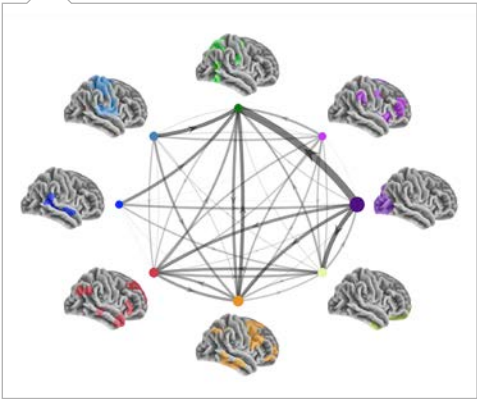
The coexistence of multiple “networks” within the brain is an emergent property of its intrinsic functioning and represents a key factor in understanding human behavior, under both normal and pathological conditions. Brain specialization not only underlies the neural basis of language, attention, and motor control, but is also essential for the evaluation and

management of deficits associated with mental or neurological disorders. On that basis, researchers developed and applied an analytical approach that ingeniously combines graph theory and control theory to study 6,314 human brain networks. The results made it possible to identify particularly influential brain regions and to map the directed interactions between brain systems, offering new insights into the brain’s functional organization and hemispheric lateralization.

> Ben Messaoud R. *et al. PLoS Comput Biol.* 2025
NERV team

Brain mechanisms underlying irrational behavior

People’s attitudes toward risk depend on how options are presented—whether they are framed in terms of gains or losses. More broadly, many “irrational” behaviors result from a relative and subjective—rather than absolute and objective—assessment of potential losses and gains. First, this study shows why and how the relative evaluation of gains and losses actually reduces information loss in artificial neural networks trained to make decisions where risk is present.



Brain map: the different colors in the brain identify the various brain networks (motor, visual, attention, etc.). The size of the arrows in the graph measures a network’s ability to influence the activity of another network and reveals how different regions influence one another based on their anatomical connections.

But this mechanism is not neutral: for example, as the magnitude of gains increases, losses seem more aversive, and the populations of neurons involved in decision-making become less sensitive to gains. Ultimately, these predictions were confirmed by scanning activity in the orbitofrontal cortex (OFC) while the subjects made decisions involving risk.

> Brochard J. *et al. Elife.* 2024

MBB team

A method for the automatic evaluation of clinical MRI image quality

The quality of MRI images from clinical data repositories often differs significantly from that of research datasets, due to the inherent variability in clinical practice. Using these data therefore requires the implementation of robust and appropriate quality control tools. Using 5,500 pre-existing, manually annotated MRI images and 926 3D FLAIR images, researchers developed an automated analysis method capable of identifying poor-quality images with 89% accuracy, comparable to that of a human evaluation. These results help overcome a major obstacle related to the varying image quality in clinical data repositories and pave the way for new research based on the use of routine clinical 3D FLAIR brain MRI scans.

> Loizillon S. *et al. Med Image Anal.* 2025

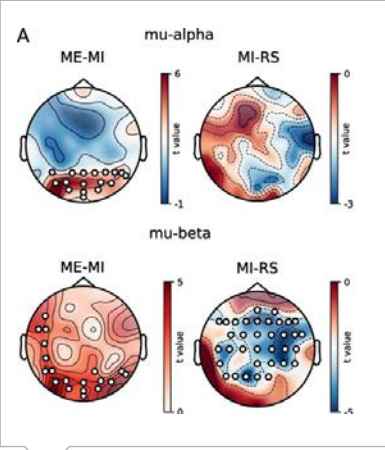
ARAMIS team

Predictive markers of ataxia progression

The objective of this study was to model the progression of ataxia based on a five-year longitudinal follow-up study involving 55 patients with a mutation in the SCA7 gene, and 124 patients with a mutation in the SCA3 gene, all of whom were asymptomatic at the start of the follow-up. Clinical scores, serum neurofilament concentrations and neuroradiological data (MRI) were assessed before and after the onset of symptoms and then analyzed together. The results suggest that serum neurofilament levels and markers of neurodegeneration could serve as predictive biomarkers for the disease, while certain MRI variables could be used to monitor its progression. These markers would make it possible to stratify patients for inclusion in clinical trials tailored to their disease progression profiles.

> Petit E. *et al. Brain.* 2025

NeuroGen team



Cluster-based permutation analysis for mu-alpha power (top) and mu-beta power bands (bottom). Left: t-values for the contrast between motor execution (ME) and motor imagery (MI). Right: t-values for the contrast between motor imaging and the resting state (RS).

Consciousness disorders: detecting brain signals related to motor control

The aim of this study was to develop a diagnostic tool that could be used in routine clinical practice to detect the presence of consciousness in patients unable to produce explicit motor or verbal responses. Researchers recorded brain (EEG) and muscle (EMG) responses in patients with consciousness disorders and in healthy controls, who were asked to perform a movement. The results show that EEG can distinguish brain activity associated with the mental representation of a movement, in the absence of any motor execution, highlighting the value of combining brain and muscle recordings in the assessment of consciousness disorders.

> Fló E. *et al. BMC Med.* 2025

PICNIC Lab team

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



LORENZO POSANI, a former researcher at Columbia University (United States), joined the SocialNeuro team in February 2026. He is working to identify the link between the structure of the neural code and cognitive functions, in collaboration with local and international laboratories, as well as using large-scale datasets. In addition, in 2025, he passed the CNRS competitive examination for the position of research associate (normal class).

FROM CARE TO RESEARCH, FROM RESEARCH TO CARE, CLINICAL EXCELLENCE IN ACTION

Clinical and translational research lies at the intersection of scientific exploration and the development of treatments. As an essential link in a complex continuum, it is—at the Paris Brain Institute—a center of recognized excellence that supports efforts that have global impacts.



FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF...
CÉLINE LOUAPRE
NEUROLOGIST (SORBONNE UNIVERSITY/AP-HP)
COORDINATOR OF THE NEUROSCIENCE CIC SINCE JANUARY 1, 2025
RESEARCHER AT THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

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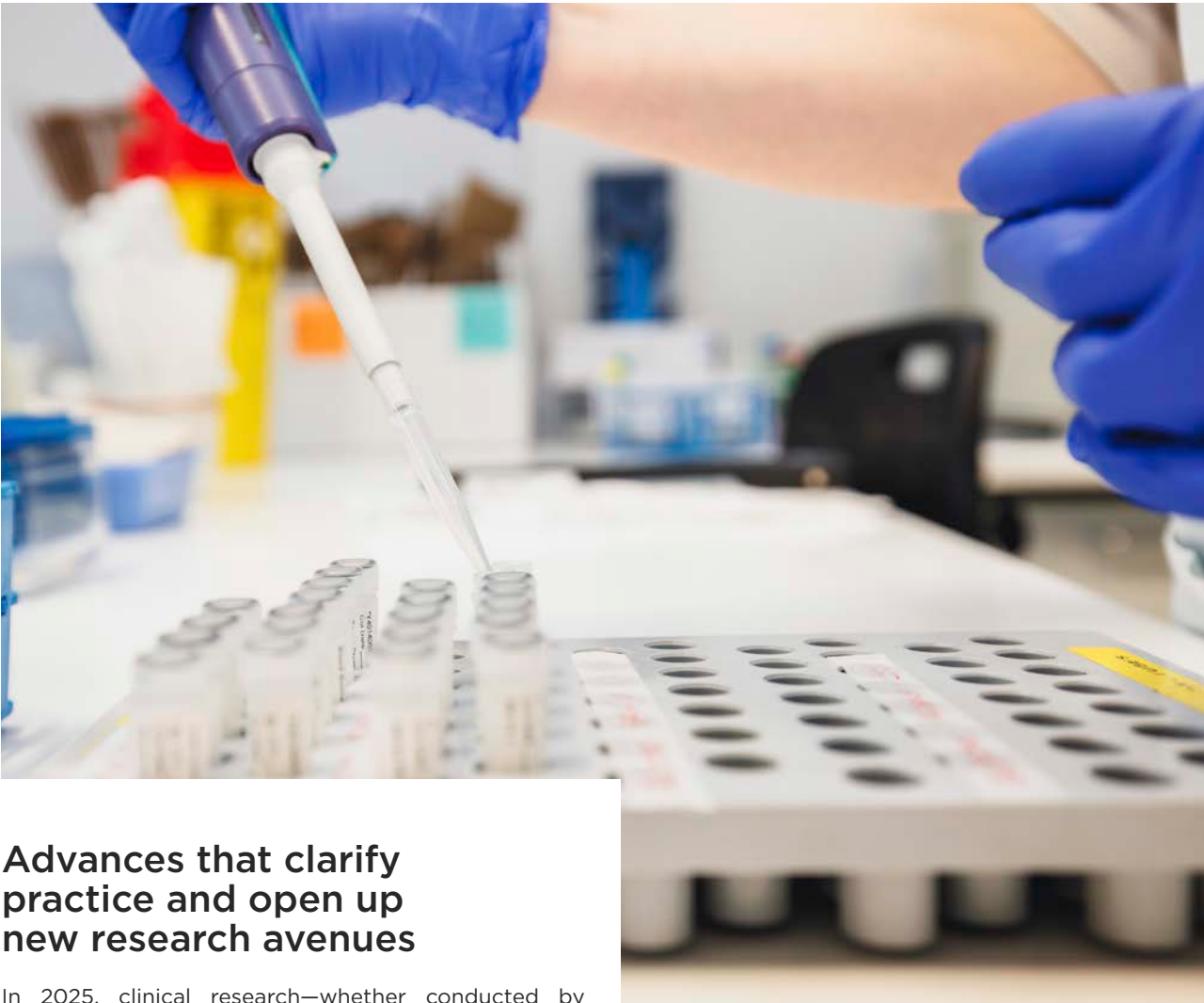
The clinical research environment at the Paris Brain Institute is ideal: the Neuroscience Clinical Investigation Center (CIC) has been renewed for five years, beginning in early 2025, following a very positive evaluation by the French High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (HCERES), driven by strong momentum and significant support, both within the Institute and from key partners. This framework is invaluable because the stakes are high: neurological diseases are affecting an increasing number of patients—especially with an ageing population—and are often difficult to treat. We are making progress by learning to better understand the mechanisms of diseases and to better control, delay, or alleviate certain symptoms.

What makes this environment so strong is its position at the intersection of basic research and patient care. The goal is twofold: to give researchers access to patients, so they can conduct research that is more closely aligned with real-world conditions, and to enable patients to benefit from advances in research. Within this continuum, clinical research is underpinned by specific methodological and operational expertise. Designing a study, selecting the right evaluation criteria, determining the appropriate number of participants, and organizing follow-up and data collection—all of this involves a complex scientific and logistical process that requires expert organization.

The Neuroscience CIC (AP-HP/Inserm/the Paris Brain Institute) supports researchers and physicians. Our priority is to be responsive, through an organization capable of taking quick and effective action. We verify that the protocols are well designed and feasible, and we help establish the conditions required to conduct the studies in accordance with established guidelines.

This agility is supported by a broader ecosystem. In 2025, the Institute renewed its clinical research infrastructure: As a result, 18 iCRIN were selected and launched on January 1 to strengthen the links between research at the Institute and the Sorbonne University/AP-HP hospital departments. National clinical research networks also help to consolidate and amplify the impact: they make it possible to pool expertise, harmonize practices, and increase the statistical power of studies, improving the quality of results and, ultimately, benefiting patients. At the Paris Brain Institute and the Neuroscience CIC, the positioning of coordination teams—particularly project leaders—within national networks (multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) strengthens our ability to deploy and coordinate multicenter studies on a national and international scale.

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Advances that clarify practice and open up new research avenues

In 2025, clinical research—whether conducted by the Institute's research teams or by the Neuroscience CIC—involved a number of clinical trials and studies on various neurological disorders. The findings of these projects are essential for guiding clinical decisions and shaping future developments.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS: INTERVENING EARLIER, SLOWING PROGRESSION

Several important findings from 2025 illustrate the evolution of treatment strategies for multiple sclerosis (MS), particularly for progressive forms, where treatment options remain limited. One significant development involves tolebrutinib, an oral medication that targets an enzyme involved in the activation of certain immune cells (BTK). In an evaluation in non-relapsing secondary progressive MS, the trial—to which the CIC contributed, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*—reports an effect on criteria associated with the progression of disability, in a field where the goal is to slow long-term progression. At the same time, the Institute is conducting in-depth research into the chronic inflammation that fuels the disease, using imaging and biological markers. This is the goal of InflaNET, a program led by Bruno Stankoff (Sorbonne University/AP-HP, leader of the REGAIN-MS team), which was designed as a follow-up to InflaSEP and aims to better characterize these underlying processes and refine the tools used to monitor them in patients. These approaches rely on imaging techniques

The ACUITY Study: moving toward a Phase III trial

The ACUITY study focuses on optic neuritis, an acute inflammation of the optic nerve that can lead to a sudden loss of vision, particularly in the context of demyelinating diseases. The goal is to test a neuroprotective approach: to limit damage to nerve fibers and improve visual recovery following an acute episode. Conducted between 2021 and 2024 through the Neurotrials unit, which specializes in managing industry-sponsored early-phase clinical trials, ACUITY evaluated the compound OCS-05 in an early-phase trial. The results released in 2025 indicate less neuronal loss and better visual recovery among the treated participants. Having been presented at international conferences, these findings now need to be confirmed on a larger scale: a Phase III trial is currently being prepared.

capable of visualizing inflammation in the brain beyond what an MRI can detect.

At an earlier stage, the D-Lay MS trial, published in *JAMA*, evaluated the effect of high-dose vitamin D administration in patients in the very early stages of the disease (during the phase known as “typical clinically isolated syndrome” (CIS)). The Neuroscience CIC was one of the centers taking part in this French multicenter study.

**AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS:
CHALLENGING RESEARCH, BALANCING
THERAPEUTIC INSIGHTS AND
UNDERSTANDING MECHANISMS**

In 2025, the MIROCALS study made a significant breakthrough: the evaluation of low-dose interleukin-2, as an adjunct to riluzole, demonstrated a survival benefit in a subgroup of patients with moderate disease progression. Published in *The Lancet*, this study—in which the Neuroscience CIC participated—creates a new frontier for immunomodulation: targeting specific immune responses.

At the same time, clinical practice is drawing on research that provides a more detailed description of the mechanisms involved. The PULSE cohort, coordinated by Lille University Hospital and involving the Neuroscience CIC, is based on clinical follow-up and muscle biopsies, and aims to link biological signatures to the natural history of the disease. An article published in *Brain* highlights, among other things, disturbances in lipid metabolism—with elevated cholesterol levels in muscle correlated with disease severity—as well as abnormalities that can be detected very early on, sometimes even before symptoms appear.



**PARKINSON’S AND RELATED DISEASES:
TARGETED APPROACHES, MIXED RESULTS**

Some of the therapeutic research into Parkinson’s disease focuses on the alpha-synuclein protein, which aggregates in clumps and is implicated in the disease. The goal is to slow progression by targeting these biological mechanisms.

In 2025, the PADOVA study—evaluating prasinezumab (an antibody targeting alpha-synuclein), to which the Neuroscience CIC contributed—yielded mixed results: while the primary endpoint (a significant slowing of the decline in motor function) was not met, additional analyses led to the decision to proceed with clinical development into Phase III.

In addition to Parkinson’s disease, research is actively under way into related and rarer diseases. In multisystem atrophy, the evaluation of ATH434, which targets excess iron in the brain, has shown encouraging results, particularly in terms of imaging markers. In progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP), results for AZP2006 (from Alzprotect) have also been reported in a Phase IIa trial, and the candidate molecule has been incorporated into a specific trial platform.

**EPILEPSY: MEASURING THE IMPACT IN REAL
LIFE USING NATIONAL DATA**

Clinical research also draws on real-world studies, based on very large datasets, to describe incidence, mortality, and care pathways. In 2025, two publications based on the French National Health Data System (SNDS) documented status epilepticus, a serious condition requiring urgent care.

An article published in *Neurology*, authored by Quentin Calonge (EpiC team) and his colleagues, analyzed recurrence and mortality following a first episode of status epilepticus, providing insights into prognosis and the importance of follow-up. A second study by the same team, published in *Epilepsia*, described the incidence, mortality, and management of status epilepticus in France between 2012 and 2022—including the Covid-19 period—and provided valuable information to guide prevention and the organization of care.

**ALZHEIMER’S: EARLIER DETECTION
THROUGH BLOOD BIOMARKERS**

In 2025, the Institute devised the FOR-AD study, which focused on plasma biomarkers in at-risk but asymptomatic individuals. Led by Nicolas Villain (ALZHEIMER-PRIONS team), FOR-AD will, once launched, rely on the digital research tools developed by Meditwin (> see p. 60).



**iCRIN: the bedrock of
the Institute’s clinical
research strategy**

The iCRIN (clinical research facilities) support and coordinate clinical research projects in the neurosciences led by the Institute’s teams. They provide scientific, regulatory, and operational expertise to support the performance of clinical trials, enhance their quality, and accelerate the transition from research to practical applications. The iCRIN therefore play a key role in the Paris Brain Institute’s strategy by organizing and advancing clinical research aimed at improving our understanding of brain diseases.

Certified for a period of five years, the Paris Brain Institute’s first 13 iCRIN reached the end of their term in December 2024. A call for applications was issued in 2024 to renew them. Eighteen iCRIN were selected and launched on January 1, 2025.

Neuro-oncology iCRIN

Improving the quality of studies, increasing the number of trials, and expanding the number of patients enrolled... Led by Ahmed Idbaih and Franck Bielle (Sorbonne University/AP-HP), the purpose of this iCRIN is to strengthen clinical research in this field at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital (AP-HP) and the Paris Brain Institute. It brings together the key clinical stakeholders (neuro-oncology, neurosurgery, neuropathology) and, at the Institute, the BRIGHT team. This cross-disciplinary approach makes it possible to harmonize practices, develop shared tools, and support underfunded sectors. The iCRIN helps to strengthen the ONT2 cohort, a research platform built from samples and data collected in the course of patient care. In 2025, the first steps will focus on increasing enrollment in studies with little or no funding, launching a quality initiative aimed at ISO 9001 certification, and reorganizing the sharing of samples between Greater Paris University Hospitals (AP-HP) and the Paris Brain Institute.

Sleep iCRIN

This iCRIN, led by Isabelle Arnulf and Stéphanie Lenck (Sorbonne University/AP-HP), explores the interactions between sleep and neurological disorders using a clinical and translational approach. One area of focus, which has been active since 2018, is dedicated to rapid eye movement (REM) sleep behavior disorder, which is characterized by restless nightmares and could precede certain diseases such as Parkinson’s. In a cohort of 390 patients, researchers found that approximately 22% of volunteers developed a neurodegenerative disease. The goal is to identify early markers of this shift and to prepare for future neuroprotection trials. In 2025, this study provided evidence supporting the role of prodromal depressive symptoms and led to the launch of the SOMPARK study (20 participants). A second research area, launched in 2025, focuses on idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) and the link between sleep and the flushing of cerebrospinal fluid. The initial results from 10 patients before and after venous stenting contributed to the submission of the ANR LYRES project proposal and the establishment of a database. In 2026, a standardized data collection process and a weekly neuroradiology consultation dedicated to IIH are planned.

10 CROSS-DISCIPLINARY iCRIN

STROKE



FRÉDÉRIC CLARENÇON
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

CHARLOTTE ROSSO
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

NEURO-ONCOLOGY



FRANCK BIELLE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

AHMED IDBAIH
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

SPINOCEREBELLAR DEGENERATION



ALEXANDRA DURR
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

DANIELLE SEILHEAN
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

NEW TREATMENTS IN PSYCHIATRY



FLORIAN FERRERI
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

BRUNO MILLET
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT



SOLVEIG HEIDE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

LAÏLA EL-KHATTABI
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS



BENEDETTA BODINI
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

NATALIA SHOR
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS



EMMANUEL FLAMAND-ROZE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

YULIA WORBE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

SLEEP



ISABELLE ARNULF
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

STÉPHANIE LENCK
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

NEUROSURGERY AND BRAIN IMAGING



CARINE KARACHI
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

NADYA PYATIGORSKAYA
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

CONSCIOUSNESS DISORDERS



LIONEL NACCACHE
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

BENJAMIN ROHAUT
Sorbonne University/AP-HP

8 SINGLE-THEME iCRIN

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE



RICHARD LÉVY
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

PARKINSON'S DISEASE BIOMARKERS
AND TREATMENTS



DAVID GRABLI
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY



**HUGUES
PASCAL-MOUSSELRD**
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

EPILEPSY



VINCENT NAVARRO
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

NEUROSURGERY



**ALEXANDRE
CARPENTIER**
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS
(CHARCOT'S DISEASE)



GAËLLE BRUNETEAU
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

CRANIAL TRAUMA



ÉLÉONORE BAYEN
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS
IN ADULTS



HÉLÈNE VULSER
Sorbonne University/
AP-HP

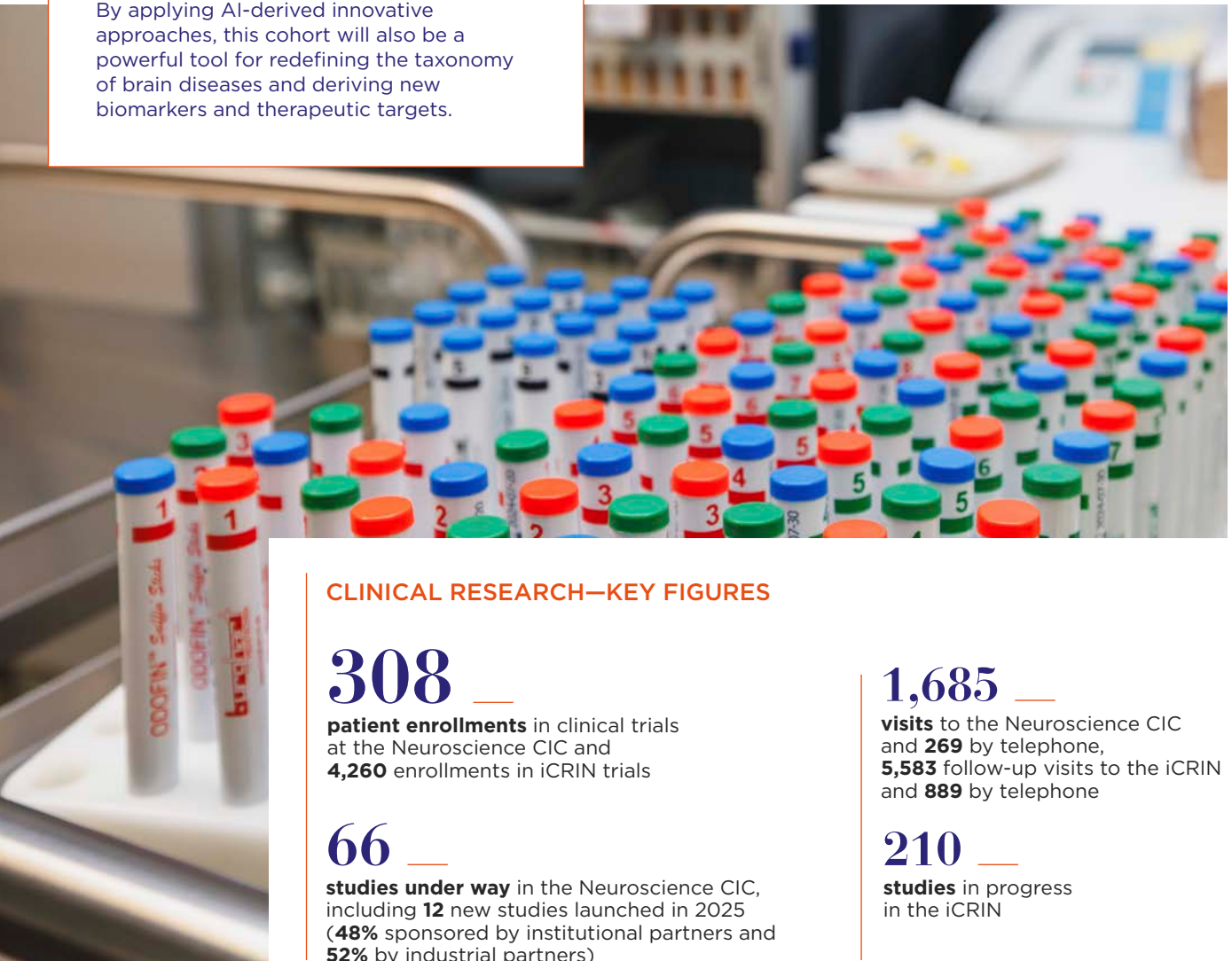
OneBrain Cohort

Coordinated by Jean-Christophe Corvol (Sorbonne University/AP-HP), principal investigator, and Stéphanie Debette, scientific director, supported by Salma Kotti, head of clinical research and cohort coordination, OneBrain addresses the need for a real-world cohort enriched with research data. The idea is to recruit volunteers being treated at Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital (AP-HP) in order to create a very large group of participants that is representative of brain disorders. The goal is to enroll 100,000 people over five years, across all medical conditions, using healthcare data and—with participants' consent—additional data relevant to research, along with biological samples. This resource will help identify new biological or genetic factors, better distinguish between disease subtypes to develop more targeted treatments, and establish a well-characterized group of volunteers for future personalized clinical trials, in accordance with informed consent and ethical and regulatory frameworks. By applying AI-derived innovative approaches, this cohort will also be a powerful tool for redefining the taxonomy of brain diseases and deriving new biomarkers and therapeutic targets.

Outlook for 2026: expanding cohorts, accelerating trials, and staying closely aligned with clinical care

2026 should build on our momentum through transformative projects that more closely integrate research and clinical practice. One of the key levers involves cohorts closely tied to patient care, designed to track patients over time and better link clinical pathways, care data, and research data. OneBrain, for example, follows this approach, with a broad scope and a focus on the ethical framework for data collection and use.

Several major cross-functional projects led by the Institute are also set to increase momentum. NeuroPremis, which is intended to identify biomarkers in the presymptomatic stages of neurological diseases, aims to enroll its first participants in early 2026, once the necessary approvals have been obtained. NEIMO, a translational project focused on imaging and biomarker analysis in multiple sclerosis and early-stage Parkinson's disease, aims to gain a more detailed understanding of certain interactions between the brain and the rest of the body, with patient enrollment expected to begin in 2026.



CLINICAL RESEARCH—KEY FIGURES

308 —
patient enrollments in clinical trials at the Neuroscience CIC and **4,260** enrollments in iCRIN trials

66 —
studies under way in the Neuroscience CIC, including **12** new studies launched in 2025 (**48%** sponsored by institutional partners and **52%** by industrial partners)

1,685 —
visits to the Neuroscience CIC and **269** by telephone, **5,583** follow-up visits to the iCRIN and **889** by telephone

210 —
studies in progress in the iCRIN

THE CENTER FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND DATA SCIENCE: ORGANIZING, EVALUATING, ACCELERATING

The new Center for AI and Data Science enables us to pool the data expertise of the Paris Brain Institute. The vision is to develop cutting-edge technological research, organize data, and build a reliable medical AI system to support research and patient care.

Established in 2025, this new center was founded on the belief that artificial intelligence and data science can accelerate the transformation of knowledge about the brain into tangible benefits for patients.

The Institute is particularly well placed to achieve this, situated at the crossroads of a multidisciplinary environment, a rich clinical ecosystem and cutting-edge core facilities that promote the production of high-quality data. The center opened in July 2025 in the Chevaleret building, which had previously been

home to the start-ups incubated at the Paris Brain Institute. This 1,500 m² center brings together the Institute's existing resources: the ARAMIS team, the Data Analysis Core (DAC) facility, the software development team from the Information Systems Department, the national Image Acquisition and Processing Center (CATI, a joint venture with the Atomic Energy Commission (CEA)) and residents from other teams. It will eventually be able to accommodate up to 150 people.

Developing AI and data science research to support brain health

Sixteen award winners joined the center for an inaugural residency program in 2025, aimed at fostering dialogue on data expertise and biomedical complexities.

These residencies support a range of projects in neuro-oncology (the BRIGHT team), centered on a genomic atlas of the brain (the BFGP cross-disciplinary project) and the modeling of consciousness disorders (the PICNIC Lab team).

In 2026, the Center will strengthen its capabilities in areas where in-house expertise is currently limited, particularly in the application of AI to "omics" data, neuroepidemiology and drug discovery, through the launch of an international call for applications to enable the recruitment of junior group leaders.

Systematizing data to exploit its full potential

In October 2025, the Institute appointed a Chief Data Officer, Sylvie Bothorel, to coordinate data policy across the organization.

A major project is getting under way to create a research data warehouse that will bring together, systematize and ensure the interoperability of data from various studies, with a view to facilitating cross-referencing and sharing, while adhering to a rigorous ethical and regulatory framework (> see box).

Developing reliable, trustworthy medical AI for the benefit of patients

In healthcare, an algorithm is only of value if it is reliable, rigorously evaluated and genuinely useful to both clinicians and patients.

The Center will help to create new databases and use cases to validate and compare methods and gain a better understanding of their limitations.

It will also work with partners to develop international recommendations aimed at promoting ethical, robust AI methodologies that are tailored to the real needs of clinical practice.

Data supporting research: presenting the roadmap

When Sylvie Bothorel, the new Chief Data Officer at the Paris Brain Institute, took up her post in October 2025, she set a goal of using data to support research in a systematized, supervised and reliable way. *"Without big data, there is no AI, and without systematized data, there is no open science,"* she explains. To achieve this goal, the priority is to make an already substantial dataset (5 petabytes) usable on a day-to-day basis, starting with the foundation: a data warehouse that serves as a shared hub, facilitates access to datasets and avoids having to start from scratch for every project. It is due to be launched in 2027.

But this is not only a technical challenge. It is also a question of establishing clear governance and fostering a data-driven culture: determining who can access what, under what conditions, how to document data, managing its lifecycle (archiving, costs) and ensuring a robust ethical framework, particularly with regard to patient consent and involvement. The aim is to standardize processes, in line with the guidelines laid down by the French Data Protection Authority (CNIL), in order to speed up the launch of projects without compromising compliance.

Another priority is interoperability, which involves ensuring that data produced by a wide range of stakeholders (partners, institutions) can be shared. The aim here is to create opportunities for collaboration on these issues in order to develop future standards. The initiatives launched should also enable the Institute to influence the development of a European policy on these issues.



3 QUESTIONS FOR
OLIVIER COLLIOT
(CNRS), DIRECTOR
OF THE CENTER
FOR ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE (AI)
AND DATA SCIENCE
AND CO-LEADER OF
THE ARAMIS TEAM

66

What will this new Center bring?

OLIVIER COLLIOT | Neuroscience is entering an era in which the volume of data produced, collected and potentially usable is skyrocketing. To transform this wealth of data into benefits for patients and resources for researchers, we need robust methods and teams that combine data expertise with scientific knowledge. The Center brings these specific areas of expertise under one roof to encourage day-to-day cooperation and collaboration that will feed into all the Institute's projects.

How can we guarantee reliable AI in healthcare?

O.C. | Our priority is to build trustworthy AI, based on models evaluated to the highest standards, scenarios aligned with clinical reality, and a framework for ethical and responsible practice. Benchmarking, which involves objectively comparing approaches using shared datasets, is a key tool that I will have the opportunity to present at "MICCAI 2026", the world's leading conference on AI for medical imaging.

What are your partnership plans for the center?

O.C. | We would like to combine excellence in AI with unique expertise in brain diseases. This involves building strategic partnerships with the SCAI (Sorbonne University) and PR[AI]RIE-PSAI (PSL University) AI clusters, synergies within the European CURE-ND alliance, and engaging in targeted international collaborations (notably with India, the United States, Chile and Japan). The center is being developed on the basis of an open science approach, which is by nature partnership-based and collaborative.

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CORE FACILITIES: INVESTING TO EXPLORE MORE EFFECTIVELY

The purpose of the Institute’s 12 core facilities is to provide scientific teams and industry with state-of-the-art tools for studying the brain and neurological and psychiatric disorders. Those tools cover a vast range of specialisms, such as imaging, genomics, cell biology, experimental models, data analysis and clinical research.

DNA & CELL BANK

The DNA & Cell Bank is an ISO 20387-certified Biological Resource Center (BRC) specializing in the collection, processing, conservation and provision of samples from patients and controls.



SYLVIE FORLANI*

ALEXIS BRICE AND ALEXANDRA DURR**

DATA ANALYSIS CORE

The Data Analysis Core (DAC) facility provides support and expertise in data processing, integration, analysis, and management, from study design to data interpretation.



STEPHEN WHITMARSH*

VIOLETTA ZUJOVIC**

EPHYS

The ePHYS platform specializes in electrophysiology and offers a wide range of technology approaches such as functional screening of cell excitability, functional characterization of iPSc-derived human neurons, and exploration of drug effects.



CARINE DALLE*

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE PONCER**

HISTOMICS

The Histomics facility provides scientists with all the infrastructure they need for histological tissue analysis: from standard analysis (sectioning, staining, immunohistochemistry) to advanced analysis such as artificial intelligence image analysis and spatial transcriptomics.



ANNICK PRIGENT*

BRAHIM NAIT OUMESMAR**

ICM.QUANT

The quantitative cellular and molecular imaging core facility (ICM.Quant) offers advanced expertise in light microscopy, electron microscopy and image analysis. It offers researchers customized support—including advice, training and methodological guidance—as well as access to state-of-the-art equipment. This core facility is ISO 9001-certified.



OLIVIER RENAUD*

NELSON REBOLA**

IGENSEQ

The ISO 9001* and GIS IBiSA-certified genotyping and sequencing core facility specializes in genome analysis techniques (DNA and RNA) to detect mutations or variations in the expression of disease-associated genes. iGenSeq is part of the France Génomique network.

*ISO 9001:2015 (excluding provision of equipment and animal DNA and RNA genotyping)



YANNICK MARIE*

SARA BALDASSARI**

ICV

The Cellular Engineering and Vectorology (ICV) core facility is organized around three technical platforms:

PHILIPPE RAVASSARD**

ICV-3C (CELL CULTURE AND FLOW CYTOMETRY)

Cellular models and tools designed for cell culture, multiparameter flow cytometry, cell sorting, and characterization of cytokines and chemokines.



LAETITIA STREHL*

ICV-VECTOROLOGY

Construction and production of viral vectors for gene transfer. This platform is ISO 9001:2015-certified (excluding provision of equipment).



BLANDINE BONNAMY*

ICV-IPS

Human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSc).



STÉPHANIE BIGOU*

* OPERATIONAL MANAGER
** SCIENTIFIC MANAGER



CENIR

The CENIR neuroimaging core facility comprises five technical platforms:

MRI NEUROIMAGING



ÉRIC BARDINET*

STÉPHANE LEHÉRICY**

PRECLINICAL MRI

Intended for imaging experimental disease models for translational research projects.



MATHIEU SANTIN*

PIERRE POUGET**

MEG-EEG



LAURENT HUGUEVILLE*

NATHALIE GEORGE**

PANAM

Physiology and movement analysis center.



JEAN-CHARLES LAMY*



LINA DAGHSEN*

MARIE-LAURE WELTER AND CHARLOTTE ROSSO**

PET-MRI



ÉRIC BARDINET*

AURÉLIE KAS AND NADYA PYATIGORSKAYA**

PHENOPARC

The PhenoParc facility specializes in preclinical exploration. It provides a wide range of animal models and state-of-the-art equipment, while the expertise of its staff contributes to ambitious and innovative research projects that comply with animal welfare and ethical guidelines.

PHILIPPE RAVASSARD, coordinator

PHENO-ZFISH



NOÉMIE FRÈRE*

KEVIN FIDELIN**

PHENO-PRIMR



MORGANE WEISSENBURGER*

JÉRÔME MUNUERA**

PHENO-ICMICE



NADÈGE SARRAZIN*

SERGE MARTY**

PHENO-TRANSVERSE



BÉNÉDICTE DABOVAL
(veterinarian, animal welfare body manager)

PRISME

PRISME specializes in the study of brain function and normal and pathological human behavior.



KARIM N'DIAYE*

ALIZÉE LOPEZ-PERSEM**

PROTEOMIC

The ProteomIC facility has state-of-the-art equipment for in-depth protein analysis. The team assists in sample preparation (fractionation, ultracentrifugation), biomarker analysis using ultrasensitive immunodetection, recombinant protein production, protein misfolding amplification, study of protein-protein interactions (PPIs), screening of compounds for therapeutic purposes, and performance of mass spectrometry analysis in collaboration with partners.



KATARINA GRZNAROVA*

STÉPHANE HAÏK**

F.P. JOURNE CHARITY FUND R&D UNIT

The purpose of the F.P.Journe Charity Fund R&D Unit is to provide equipment and advice to develop innovative and unique tools not available on the market.



PIERRE TISSIER*

CHARLY ROUSSEAU**

Boosting potential with new equipment

Driven by an ambitious strategy to acquire high-tech equipment and optimize its core facilities, the Institute achieved a new milestone in 2025. This important step was made possible by the loyal support of donors and patrons. Thirteen engineers and technicians were recruited and trained to develop the skills essential for making the best possible use of the technologies available within the Institute's core facilities.

The introduction of new technologies—PacBio Long-Read Sequencing, Olink and Xenium—will make it possible to carry out very-high-throughput analyses. Integrated into the iGenSeq core facility, PacBio long-read sequencing enables the sequencing of long DNA or RNA fragments, whereas previous technologies—known as “short-read” technologies—limit reads to 600-1,000 base pairs. New acquisitions in the recently launched ProteomIC core facility include Olink, which offers high-throughput, high-resolution analysis of protein expression, and Xenium, which innovatively combines *in situ* hybridization

and spatial imaging to enable highly accurate 3D analyses, particularly of tissue architecture. The ICM.Quant core facility has expanded its offering by incorporating quantitative image analysis for projects using the iDISCO+ technique, and has also acquired several new microscopes, including the AODscope, an innovative instrument developed by the Greater Paris Region-based startup Karthala System.

The teams working with the Institute's core facilities are committed to conducting high-level research. They are involved in training researchers and supporting their projects from the initial design stage right through to the final application of the results.

Latest-generation 7-Tesla MRI scanner: a major step forward for the scientific community

On November 25, 2024, the Paris Brain Institute unveiled a state-of-the-art 7-Tesla MRI scanner, the MAGNETOM Terra.X (Siemens Healthineers). This acquisition was possible thanks to the support of Richard Mille and the Greater Paris Region, and forms part of an ambitious national and international initiative.

“Through dynamic signal homogenization techniques, very powerful gradients and multi-core imaging capabilities, the system will provide images of unrivaled precision at submillimeter level, and open up new fields of application, such as very-high-resolution imaging, sodium imaging in brain tumors and precise tracking of nerve fiber bundles,” explains Éric Bardinnet, Operational Manager of the CENIR MRI neuroimaging core facility.

“Cortical anatomy has traditionally been studied using microscopic imaging of post-mortem tissue. However, using a non-invasive technique such as the 7T MRI scanner makes it possible to map the brain in an extremely precise, micro-anatomical way and identify new therapeutic targets,” says Brian Lau, Deputy Director of the UMR and Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Core Facilities.

The Institute's teams will use the new equipment to build a massive database of healthy subjects, based on a cohort of 600 people aged between 8 and 80. This database, developed in collaboration with the Montreal Neurological Institute-Hospital in Canada (part of McGill University), will be accessible to researchers worldwide as part of an open science initiative.

New ISO certifications

The Paris Brain Institute's core facilities received two new certifications in 2025: ISO 9001 certification for ICM.Quant, and ISO 20387 certification for the DNA & Cell Bank (> see p. 78). These accreditations confirm that the Institute's services meet the highest international standards in research. Together with the accreditations already achieved by other entities (iGenSeq, ICV-Vectorology and Neurotrials), they represent a key marker in the consolidation of the Institute's quality network and demonstrate the maturity of its management systems.



INSIGHT

STÉPHANE HAÏK AND

KATARINA GRZNAROVA

Journey to the Center of the Protein

At the intersection of Stéphane Haïk's (CNRS) and Katarina Grznarova's research lies a common thread: prions, and, more broadly, the study of the diseases associated with them. Haïk is co-leader of the ALZHEIMER-PRIONS team at the Paris Brain Institute, and coordinator of the national reference center for non-conventional transmissible agents. Grznarova, who holds a PhD in neuroscience and biochemistry, devotes her research to neurodegenerative diseases—Parkinson's, Alzheimer's and prion diseases—at the Institute. Together, they support the scientific community at every stage of their work through the new proteomics core facility established in 2024, designed to meet growing demand. This first year of operation saw the recruitment of the first staff member, and essential work done to fully roll out this brand-new research facility.

The 2025 call for R&D projects: from basic research to applications

A call for R&D projects has been organized by the Institute since 2016. The number of projects submitted has continued to rise and five projects were selected from the 2025 call. *“This call for projects supports the development of innovative technologies within the core facilities,”* says Brian Lau. *“It therefore funds ambitious initiatives aimed at achieving significant technological advances, designed to strengthen the capabilities of the core facilities and anticipate the needs of neuroscience research. The five projects selected in 2025 illustrate the diversity and dynamism of R&D at the Paris Brain Institute. While addressing major advances in basic research—such as the automation of organoid culture, the detailed exploration of methylation profiles in central nervous system tumors, and the standardization of electrophysiology data—they also open up direct practical applications, such as the design of modular equipment for behavioral studies on animal models and the implementation of solutions for monitoring human behavior in ecological contexts.”*



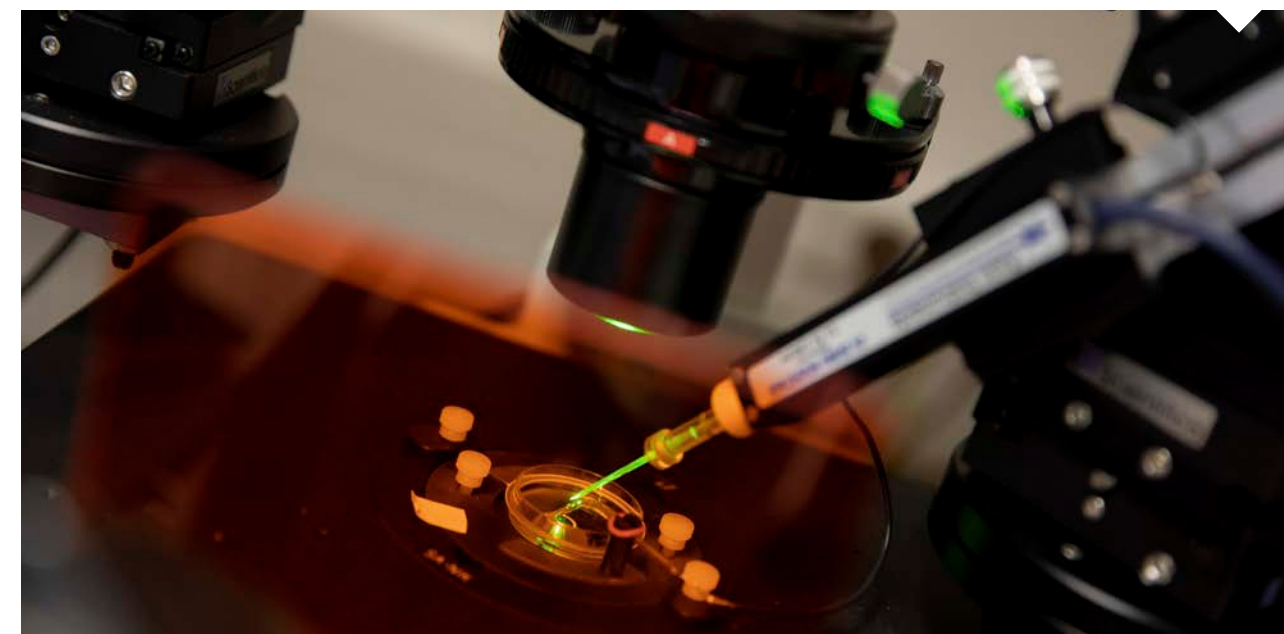
New expertise for the ICM.Quant core facility

The ICM.Quant core facility expanded its range of services with the arrival of Louise Mathé in November 2024. A graduate in health information technology, Louise draws on her computer science expertise to analyze images of mouse brains that have been made transparent using the iDisco+ technique. She acts as the link between the Plastic team—which developed the ClearMap software required for image processing—and the core facility. This technology makes it possible to analyze the entire brain and identify differences at cellular or vascular level, depending on the region.

ePHYS: electrical activity, from *in vitro* to *in vivo*

There are a whole raft of new features this year for this expert electrophysiology platform: Jean-Christophe Poncer (Inserm), co-leader of the EpiC team, took up the post of Scientific Manager of the core facility on January 1, 2025, and the team gained two new recruits in September. While the platform's traditional activities are continuing, 2025 marks a clear shift towards *in vivo* research. *“The analysis of human and animal cells, tissues and organoids (derived from iPS cells) is still essential, particularly the collection of human tissue during patients' operations, but we are developing methods for analyzing*

tissues in vivo, correlated with behavioral data,” explains Jean-Christophe Poncer. *“Electroencephalograms (EEGs) were unable to identify the precise point at which an electrical signal originated. With electrode-array analyses (increasing from 64 to 4,000 electrodes per measurement), combined with optical-fiber technology, we are at the cutting edge of imaging and EEG. This enables us to visualize the flows and their sources in ultra-fine detail at cellular level. These advances open up new horizons for the scientific community and, we hope, will lead to new applications for patients.”*



INTERNATIONAL REACH: PUTTING RESEARCH ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Research in neuroscience is a collaborative endeavor. Driven by this belief, the Paris Brain Institute has continued to develop its international alliance, drawing on a network of leading partners from all over the world.

From North America to Asia, via sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania, the Paris Brain Institute has strengthened existing collaborations and established exciting new strategic partnerships, expanding the scope of its alliances. Scientific meetings, academic exchanges and large-scale projects have punctuated a busy year defined by increased visibility among prominent

international bodies and policymakers. These partnerships are helping to accelerate neuroscience research and develop innovative solutions to address major brain health challenges, and are underpinned by an important shared ambition: to foster dialogue on science, innovation and societal impact on an international scale.

Pooling the expertise of key European players through high-level networks

At the very heart of Europe's scientific community, the Paris Brain Institute is engaging in areas where vital synergies are driving major advances in neuroscience. By playing an active role in networks such as CURE-ND and SAME-NeuroID, the Institute is helping to shape collaborative European research, based on a strategy built around sharing expertise and exchanging knowledge. These initiatives, which focus on research into the brain, neurodegenerative diseases and neuropsychiatric disorders, have yielded a number of successes throughout the year. These opportunities for dialogue and cooperation all support a shared goal: to accelerate discovery and innovation across the continent, for the benefit of both patients and society.

CURE-ND ALLIANCE: A YEAR OF INNOVATIONS AND INITIATIVES

The CURE-ND network, which is driven by the commitment and expertise of the UK Dementia Research Institute (UK-DRI), the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), Mission Lucidity in Belgium, and the Paris Brain Institute, saw the tireless joint work of its 2,000 researchers widely recognized. The four partners presented a collective analysis in *Lancet Neurology* (May 2026), demonstrating their shared goal to build an integrated European response to accelerate research, promote therapeutic innovation and bring tangible improvements to the lives of patients with neurodegenerative diseases. In March 2025, the Institute hosted the fourth CURE-ND Workshop for ECRs (early-career researchers), offering these talented researchers a space in which to share their work on neurodegenerative diseases and exchange ideas with



other young researchers. In May, the meeting of the CURE-ND alliance directors in Paris brought together clinicians and scientists to discuss the challenges of research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and the prospects for achieving progress in treating this disease. The launch of the CURE-ND4ALS initiative, spearheaded by the Institute and its ambassador, Olivier Goy, is helping to organize European research efforts and provide a decisive boost to European research into ALS (> see p. 50). Finally, the CURE-ND conferences, held in London in September, involved speakers from all four institutes meeting for two days of discussions on the applications of AI and machine learning for neurodegenerative diseases and brain health. These workshops, attended by Olivier Colliot (CNRS), Deputy Scientific Director and Director of the Center for AI and data science (> see p. 43), among others, helped to identify the extraordinary opportunities offered by these technologies, ranging from fundamental science to clinical applications.

SAME-NEUROID: A PROMISING COLLABORATION WITH IMMENSE POTENTIAL

The SAME-NeuroID project has proven itself to be a driving force for European cooperation in neuroscience. The NeuroHack hackathon, held over three days on the Łukasiewicz-PORT campus in Wrocław, Poland, in late 2024, gave young PhD students and postdoctoral researchers—supported by mentors, academic experts and innovation practitioners—the opportunity to turn their ideas into solutions, which were presented during a final pitch. In this spirit of exchanging ideas,

two postdoctoral researchers from the Paris Brain Institute, recipients of grants under the prestigious European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) program, shared their experiences with young scientists from Łukasiewicz-PORT during the session “How to Write a Successful MSCA Application”, organized as part of the “PORT for Health: Neuroscience 2025” conference in Wrocław in April. Lastly, the consortium partners met in September 2025 for the final meeting of the SAME-NeuroID project. The aim was to present the positive results achieved in the development of standardized models in neuropsychiatry, to take stock of the scientific collaborations and training initiatives carried out as part of the project, and to define the next steps for this very important cooperation beyond the Horizon Europe funding. The Paris Brain Institute's involvement in this international collaboration has had a tremendously positive impact, not only in scientific and educational terms, but also strategically, by contributing to the development of a pan-European ecosystem for innovation and research.

EUROPEAN THCS DELEGATION: SPOTLIGHT ON EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

On June 3, 2025, the Paris Brain Institute welcomed a delegation from the European partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS), accompanied by representatives from the French Ministry of Health and Inserm. Institutional and scientific presentations showcased the Institute's expertise at the interface of basic research, clinical research and innovation, as well as its state-of-the-art core facilities.

From Asia to Oceania:
building bridges for innovation

The Paris Brain Institute has strengthened its links with a number of leading academic institutions in India, Japan and Australia. These partnerships, which center on the mobility of early-career researchers and the development of joint projects, reflect a common ambition: to foster bold new approaches and accelerate discoveries.

NEW INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIP
WITH JAPAN

Contacts between researchers from France and Japan have moved into a new and exciting phase with the launch of what is now an invaluable institutional partnership between the Paris Brain Institute and its

counterparts in Japan. In September, a delegation from the Institute traveled to Tokyo, with the support of the French Embassy, for the Japanese-French Symposium on Data Science to Promote Healthier Brain Ageing, hosted at the Maison Franco-Japonaise (MFJ) and jointly organized with Kyoto University, the University of Tokyo and several French partners (Sorbonne University, Inserm, CNRS, AP-HP, the University of Bordeaux and the Vascular Brain Health Institute (VBHI)). This high-level symposium laid the foundations for long-term cooperation in neuroscience and data science, focusing on healthier brain ageing.

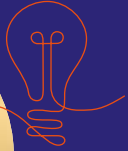
A NEW FRONTIER IN THE FRANCO-INDIAN
PARTNERSHIP

In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute and Sorbonne University continued their collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) as part of the

Franco-Indian Campus for Health, which encourages postgraduate student mobility and exchanges in various disciplines related to neuroscience. In March, a delegation from the Institute (including Executive Committee members) traveled to New Delhi to attend an Indo-French workshop on artificial intelligence, health and future prospects for India and France, jointly organized with IIT Delhi and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), and supported by the Indo-French Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) and the Integrated Health program at the Franco-Indian Campus.

EVEN CLOSER TIES WITH THE FLOREY
IN AUSTRALIA

One year after a delegation from The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health—one of the world’s leading research centers for the brain and mental health—visited the Institute, collaboration between the two organizations continued in 2025, focusing on joint research and training projects. In June, the Paris Brain Institute welcomed the director of this leading institution, Peter van Wijngaarden, to discuss promising new opportunities for joint funding, upcoming scientific meetings and PhD and postdoctoral researcher mobility.



3 QUESTIONS FOR
MATHIEU VANDENBULCKE
DIRECTOR OF THE LEUVEN BRAIN INSTITUTE—KU LEUVEN, BELGIUM
MEMBER OF MISSION LUCIDITY’S SCIENTIFIC MANAGEMENT TEAM

66

Why is a European alliance between research
institutes so strategic today?

MATHIEU VANDENBULCKE | A European alliance is not merely strategic but essential. No single institute, regardless of excellence, can address the complexity of neurodegenerative diseases alone. As breakthroughs in fundamental neuroscience converge with transformative technologies, the sophistication required exceed national or institutional boundaries. To deliver real patient impact, we aim to operate as an integrated European neuroscience institute, where distributed excellence drives a single translational engine.

How does Mission Lucidity’s expertise
complement that of the other three institutes?

M.V. | Mission Lucidity, a Belgian research partnership between KU Leuven, UZ Leuven, imec and VIB, embedded in Leuven Brain Institute, forms a technology-driven bridge between fundamental neuroscience and the clinic. We integrate neurotechnologies, advanced imaging and experimental models with patient-centred research. Within CURE-ND, this interface strengthens our partners’ clinical and biological expertise and advance robust, scalable platforms for biomarker validation and therapeutic development. Building on Leuven’s strong tradition in technology

transfer, Mission Lucidity accelerates translation from lab to clinic.

The CURE-ND4ALS initiative is due to become
operational in 2026. How will this scientific
partnership help to speed up research into ALS?

M.V. | Within CURE-ND, we aim to accelerate ALS research by shifting from parallel efforts to a coordinated strategy. Shared standards, harmonized data and joint validation strengthen findings and accelerate therapeutic development. By embedding patient-centred design and cross-disciplinary collaboration from the outset, CURE-ND4ALS stands to transform not only what we discover, but how quickly and effectively we translate discoveries into hope for people living with ALS. We are grateful for the support by the Olivier Goy Fund and the Paris Brain Institute, and proud that we were invited to contribute to this exciting initiative.



The international voices
shaping neuroscience

As part of its scientific program (Monday lectures and guest seminars) the Paris Brain Institute hosted over 40 leading figures from the international neuroscience community throughout 2025:

- **Kari Alitalo** (University of Helsinki), lymphatic vessels and brain conditions;
- **Esther Becker** (University of Oxford), spinocerebellar ataxias and organoids;
- **Martin Dichgans** (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München), cerebral small vessel disease;
- **Karen Duff** (University College London), tauopathy in Alzheimer’s disease and frontotemporal dementia;
- **Agustín Ibáñez** (UCSF/BrainLat), the importance of the exposome for brain health;
- **Yoichiro Kamatani** (University of Tokyo), stroke genomics;

- **Ariel Levine** (National Institutes of Health, NIH), spinal neurodevelopment;
- **Andreas Luthi** (University of Basel), neurobiology of emotional states;
- **Giovanna Mallucci** (Altos Labs), proteostasis: a new therapeutic avenue for neuroprotection;
- **Oscar Marín** (King’s College London), the role of interneurons in brain circuit development;
- **Eric J. Nestler** (Icahn School of Medicine), the neurobiology of addiction and depression;
- **Francisco J. Quintana** (Harvard), neuroimmunology of multiple sclerosis;
- **Robb Rutledge** (Yale University), modelling happiness and depression;
- **Sudha Seshadri** (University of Texas Health San Antonio), biobanks and genetic studies of Alzheimer’s disease;
- **Vikaas Sohal** (UCSF), neuronal synchronization and schizophrenia.

These distinguished speakers were invited by the research teams or by the Executive Committee to share the results of their research in a spirit of international scientific cooperation.

North America: a driving force behind strategic partnerships

Across the Atlantic, the Paris Brain Institute continues to consolidate high-level partnerships with leading US universities, from Rice to Yale.

AN AMBITIOUS PARTNERSHIP WITH RICE UNIVERSITY

In September 2025, the Paris Brain Institute and Rice University laid the foundations for a bold strategic partnership during a visit to Paris by Caroline Levander, Vice-President for Global Strategy at the Texas-based university. Organized in partnership with the Baker Institute for Public Policy and the Rice Neuroengineering Initiative, the first Brain Economy Executive Seminar provided an exciting forum for researchers and policymakers to discuss neuroscience, sustainability and public policy on brain health. This collaboration laid the groundwork for a memorandum of understanding and the establishment of the Rice Brain Institute in 2026, with the Paris Brain Institute as founding partner.

JOINT INITIATIVE WITH YALE UNIVERSITY AND MOUNT SINAI

The Paris Brain Institute focused on building a basis for future collaborations with Yale University and the Friedman Brain Institute at the Icahn School of Medicine (Mount Sinai) during the third annual dinner organized

by Paris Brain Institute America in New York in October 2025. Chaired by Martine Assouline and attended by Prof. Gérard Saillant, this event highlighted the steadfast commitment of the Institute and its partners to combating neurological diseases and supporting international research into neurodegenerative illness (> see p. 12).

From the scientific arena to diplomatic forums

Driven by the belief that solutions to major health issues are shaped through dialogue between nations, the Paris Brain Institute has made its voice heard wherever critical decisions are taken. The work of the Institute's teams has been showcased to representatives and decision-makers from around the world, underscoring the growing importance of neuroscience in major contemporary debates on health and society. Through this involvement at the highest level, the Institute is reaffirming its commitment to multilateral cooperation and helping to position brain science at the very heart of our collective priorities.

G7: A FIRST FOR THE INSTITUTE

On the fringes of the G7 summit held in Canada in June 2025, the Paris Brain Institute took part for the first time in the G7 Canada Brain Economy Summit in Calgary.



Brain disorders account for more than 8.5 trillion dollars in annual productivity losses for the global economy, and Edith Gross, International Scientific Affairs Officer at the Institute, spoke in support of the Institute's mission, explaining how brain health fuels innovation, economic growth and the resilience of societies. This summit marked the launch of the Brain Economy Declaration, which sets out policy recommendations aimed at placing brain health among the G7's priorities when France hosts the summit in 2026. In late 2025, the French Academy of Sciences asked Prof. Stéphanie Debette and Yves Agid to coordinate the drafting of brain health recommendations from the Science 7 (S7), the national science academies of the G7 nations.

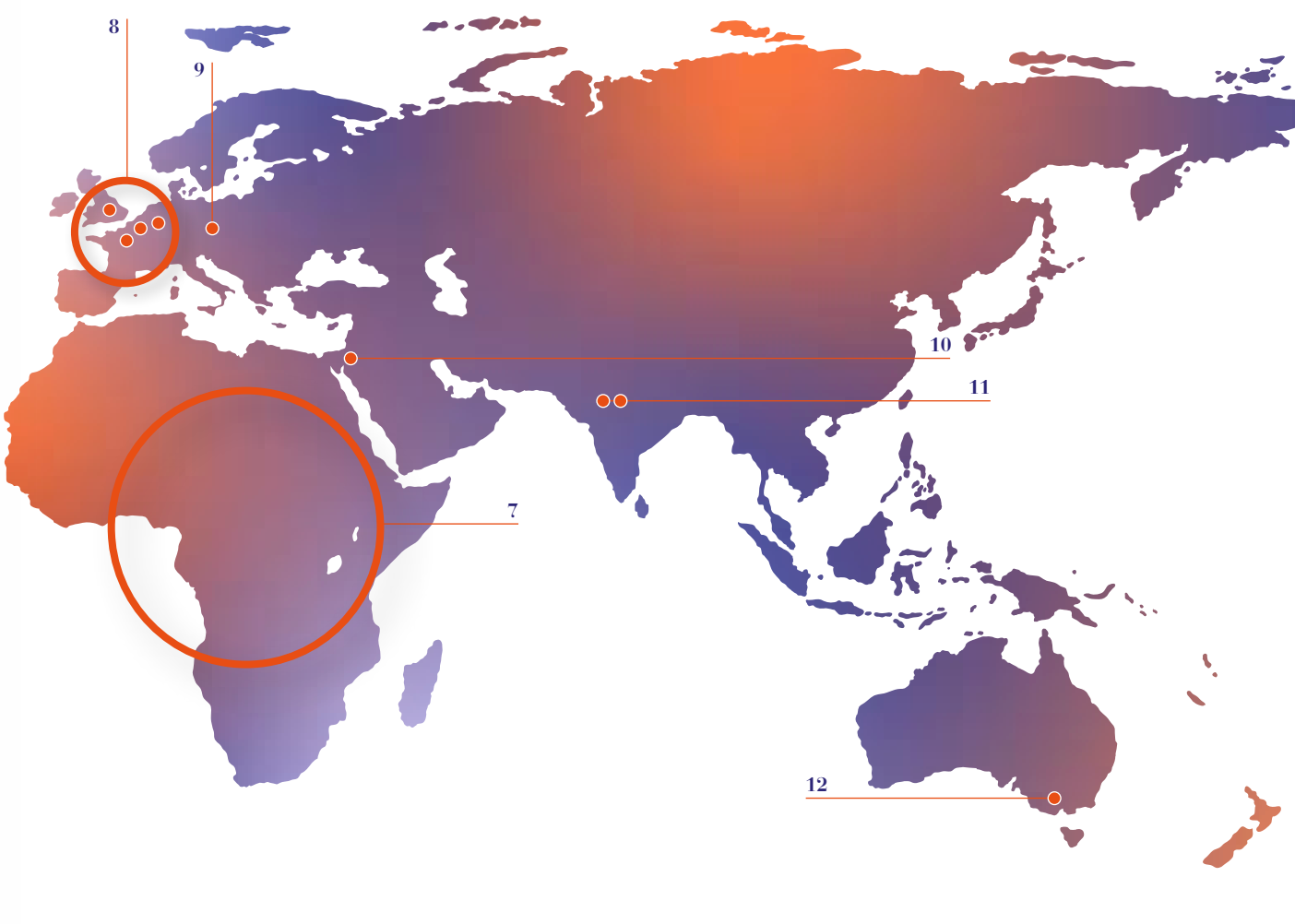
BRAIN HEALTH TAKES CENTER STAGE AT THE UN

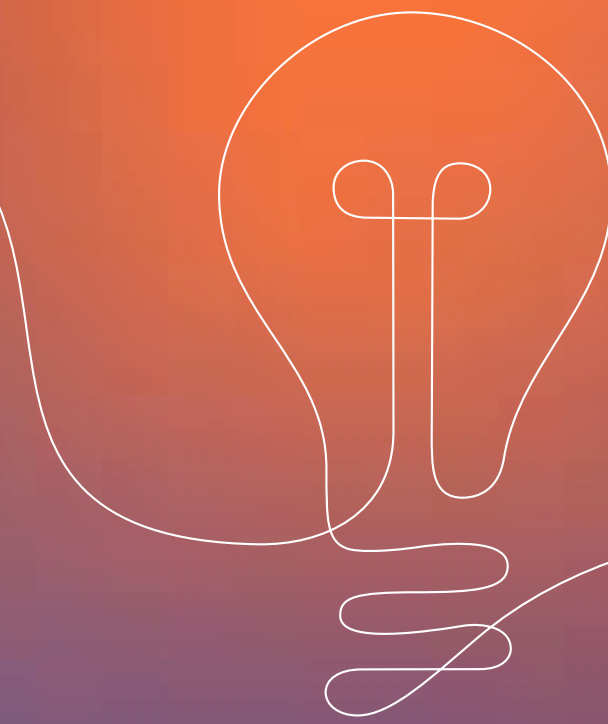
The Paris Brain Institute took part in the World Summit on Brain Health, held as part of the United Nations General Assembly in New York from September 24 to 26, 2025. This important event, which focused on international scientific cooperation, provided an opportunity for researchers, public health experts and policymakers to come together around a vital common goal: to ensure that brain health is recognized as a key issue in global health policy. The Institute has contributed to the work carried out with the European Brain Council (EBC) and the Global Brain Coalition by sharing the progress made by its teams in understanding brain mechanisms and preventing neurological disorders. The discussions highlighted the need for an interdisciplinary approach

Strengthening the partnership with Rwanda

In September 2025, the Paris Brain Institute funded the participation of four Rwandan neurology students in the first International Course on Epidemiology and Vascular Neurology, organized in Grand-Popo (Benin) by the Universities of Abomey-Calavi and Limoges, with the involvement of the Vascular Brain Health Institute (VBHI) in Bordeaux and partners. Through this partnership with Rwanda, the Institute is building an African cooperation network dedicated to advancing knowledge and promoting brain health.

combining basic research, clinical innovation and coordinated public policies. The Paris Brain Institute is thus reaffirming its role as a valued strategic scientific partner and its commitment to translating scientific research into public policy for the benefit of global brain health.





INNOVATION

ACCELERATING DISCOVERIES, TRANSFORMING LIVES

The Paris Brain Institute's Innovation Department is focused on accelerating the delivery of therapeutic solutions in neurology and psychiatry that can benefit patients and society as a whole.

EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF INNOVATION

Since its foundation, the Institute has focused its mission squarely on innovation: to use its scientific discoveries to develop practical solutions that benefit patients and society.



GÉRALDINE FARJOT
INNOVATION DIRECTOR

In 2025, this ambition resulted in new strategic impetus for the Innovation Department. *“The aim was to align our work even more closely with the Institute’s mission, focusing on projects likely to lead to the market launch of therapeutic solutions,”* underlines Géraldine Farjot, Innovation Director since April 2024. This ambition has led to a fundamental shift in the Institute’s innovation strategy.

One of the key objectives of this new strategy was to create fresh momentum around the ecosystem of excellence established at the Paris Brain Institute, in terms of both research and market entry. The initiatives implemented in 2025 were therefore aimed at accelerating the translation of discoveries

relating to new concepts into practical innovations accessible to patients and the healthcare system. To support this ambition, the Department has increased its staff numbers and restructured itself into three main operational divisions—the innovation units, the entrepreneurship program, now known as NeurAL, and the Business Unit.

“The arrival of Prof. Stéphanie Debette in 2025 has further strengthened and supported this momentum,” adds Géraldine Farjot. This large-scale project forms part of a long-term ambition that has engaged the entire Innovation Department in recent years, working closely with the research teams.

INNOVATION UNITS

Care Lab: research and innovation at the heart of the hospital

Established in 2015 by the Paris Brain Institute and the Greater Paris University Hospitals (AP-HP), the Care Lab is France’s first living lab dedicated to medical innovation in neurology and psychiatry. The lab develops solutions (3D, digital, patient education tools) and innovative services to improve not only the care pathway but also the quality of life of patients and their carers. The lab supports projects at every stage, from conception through to industrial development. It relies on a unique ecosystem, integrated with the neurology and psychiatry departments at the AP-HP hospitals of Saint-Antoine, Tenon, Rothschild, Charles-Foix, and Pitié-Salpêtrière.

Developing innovative services intended to improve not only the care pathway but also the quality of life of patients and their carers.

“Thanks to the health design methodology developed by the Institute, which combines fieldwork and graphics, we will be able to gather the perspectives of patients and

their carers, and compare them with the feedback and perceptions of healthcare professionals,” says Thibaud Guymard, Director of Innovation, Services and Digital at Biogen France. *“The aim is to identify the obstacles, sticking points or sources of friction on both sides, in order to come up with specific areas for improvement.”*

Another highlight is the launch of TraumaCare, an innovative digital tool. Developed by the Institute in partnership with the Paris Medical and Psychological Emergency Unit (CUMP), this mobile solution is intended to facilitate the care and follow-up of patients suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The evolution of PTSD, which is often slow and fluctuating, can give patients the impression that they are stagnating, or even regressing, which can lead to feelings of discouragement and a loss of engagement with their treatment.

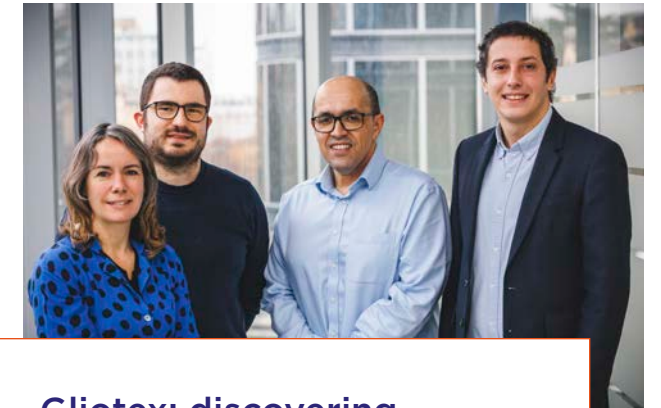


Sleeping Beauties: awakening untapped drugs that could have potential

The primary mission of the Sleeping Beauties unit is to identify and optimize promising molecules, taking them through to the advanced pre-clinical stage, and to then prepare the characterization data and dossiers required for progression to clinical trials. Researchers at the Institute have worked closely together, as well as with the unit and specialists in medicinal chemistry from French pharmaceutical laboratories. *“This collaboration is based on our firm belief that new small molecules with therapeutic potential, which remain untapped, are lying dormant in chemistry laboratories,”* says Géraldine Farjot. The Institute’s translational research projects may form part of an in-house drug development program or translational neurology research programs carried out in cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, in their areas of interest. By 2025, the unit will have a portfolio of seven programs running in parallel, across five different indications, including glioblastoma.

“New small molecules with therapeutic potential, which remain untapped, are lying dormant in chemistry laboratories.”

Géraldine Farjot, Innovation Director



Gliotex: discovering treatments for glioblastoma

With 3,500 new cases per year in France, glioblastoma is the most common malignant brain tumor and also one of the most aggressive. Despite the progress made, current treatments cannot cure this disease. *“We are trying to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms underlying treatment resistance,”* explains Mehdi Touat (Sorbonne University/AP-HP), a neuro-oncologist, co-leader of the BRIGHT team and winner of the 2025 ATIP-Avenir award.

“This resistance stems from the heterogeneity of tumor cells and their high plasticity. One of the hypotheses we are investigating is that it might be facilitated by close communication between tumor cells and their microenvironment, particularly immune cells (microglia).”

As part of their efforts to find ways to circumvent these mechanisms, members of the research team (Ahmed Idbaih and Maïté Verreault) have identified several therapeutic approaches using the tumor cell bank for glioblastoma patients (the Gliotex collection).

The Innovation Department supports this team in defining the scope of its therapeutic development projects and strategic industrial partnerships. *“We hope to be able to develop innovative clinical trials to improve the care of patients with glioblastoma, and, in the long term, other cancers with a poor prognosis that are treated using DNA-altering agents,”* adds Mehdi Touat.

Within the BRIGHT team, the Gliotex group is also stepping up its efforts to identify candidates for the therapeutic development of GHR inhibitors and to optimize a compound known as ferrocifen for use in treating these diseases. The aim is to more effectively block certain mechanisms involved in tumor development and to pave the way for more targeted and effective treatments for patients.

GENOV: focusing on new gene and cell therapies

The GENOV innovation unit focuses on severe neurological diseases affecting adults and children, such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson's disease and lysosomal storage disorders (genetic leukodystrophies and mucopolysaccharidoses). Led by Françoise Piguet, 12 experts from various disciplines carry out research projects and support those undertaken by academic or industrial partners. The team has one of the most advanced technical facilities. In particular, it can carry out the ultra-precise intracerebral administration of gene and cell therapies, as well as ultrasound to optimize the crossing of the blood-brain barrier, which is one of the main stumbling blocks in this field of research.

Numerous conferences and meetings took place during this period—such as the WORLD Symposium on Lysosomal Diseases Research and the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy (ASGCT, USA), the French Society for Cell and Gene Therapy (SFTGC, France) and the European Society for Gene Therapy (Italy), as well as the Sanfilippo syndrome awareness day organized by GENOV—providing an opportunity to share the unit's major advances in gene therapy projects.

GENOV has secured five grants totaling 1.45 million euros: from AFM-Téléthon, to continue its research into rare lysosomal storage disorders, from the Vaincre les maladies lysosomales (VML) association, from Fondation Cure San Filippo, from the French National Research Agency (ANR) and from the French Foundation for Alzheimer's Research, to fund research into Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease (PMD), giant axonal neuropathy and San Filippo disease, with a patent filed in 2025.

Two new collaborations—with the biotech firms Whitelab Genomics (AI, *in silico* testing) and Release Therapeutics (a specialist in the encapsulation of proteins designed to reach the brain)—are expected to further accelerate research, particularly in the field of diseases known as "storage disorders".



NEURAL

Start-up studio and accelerator dedicated to neuroscience

NeurAL (Neuroscience Acceleration Launchpad) is the first startup studio dedicated to neuroscience, transforming scientific discoveries into innovative businesses.

A MECHANISM DESIGNED TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO LAUNCH

The set up of NeurAL (the former iPEPS incubator) aims to provide a response to a well-known problem: deep-tech projects stemming from research face the same obstacles as those encountered by laboratories when attempting to navigate market entry.

The main challenges identified include:

- lack of funding at the earliest stages, even before the business is set up;
- the need for an entrepreneurial structure to turn a scientific finding into a viable project;
- the need to mitigate technological risk through robust preclinical proof-of-concept studies.

THE NEURAL PILOT PROGRAM

To overcome these barriers, NeurAL draws on its pilot program launched in 2023, which selects high-potential academic projects and provides them with funding and structured support.

The program's objectives are:

- to support key stages of R&D;
- to expand the preclinical data set;
- to increase the technological maturity of projects;
- to make projects more attractive to potential investors (business angels, venture capital).

A PHILANTHROPIC COMMITMENT TO INNOVATION

This program is made possible by sponsors committed to therapeutic innovation:

- Fondation Anne et Claude Berda;
- Indosuez Wealth Management;
- The Paris Brain Institute Circle of Friends.

Thanks to their support, NeurAL is able to step in at the very earliest stages of development, when the need is most critical and traditional funding is rarely available.

OTHER STARTUPS

The Paris Brain Institute's entrepreneurial ecosystem continues to thrive, with innovative startups such as:

- Terna Bio, a biotech company specializing in three-dimensional screening of molecular adhesives in neurology, has been selected for support among 17 candidates;
- Neurometers, winner of the startup pitch competition at the French American Innovation Days in New York, having secured funding from BPI France (€90,000).

In return for its committed support, the startup studio—which aims to make a lasting impact—takes

an equity stake in the companies it supports. This model enables the Institute to play an active role in the development of new therapeutic and medical solutions, while anticipating a long-term return on investment to support research.

SOME KEY EVENTS IN 2025

How does NeurAL support the development of future therapeutic and technological innovations in neuroscience? Here is a look back at the highlights from 2025.

- **NeurAL 1**
The official launch of CicaNeuro, the winning startup from the first call for projects, will take place on September 30, 2025. The company intends to develop a neuroprotective therapeutic approach for Parkinson's disease.
- **NeurAL 2**
Signing of contracts and launch of the GlycaDx and Braincoder support programs.
- **NeurAL 3**
Ten eligible projects received, six startup projects shortlisted, one selected. This initiative has now scaled up to become Europe-wide, with applications received from Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom.

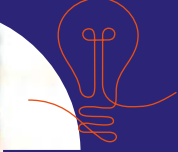


GlycADx and Braincoder: two startup projects supported by NeurAL

The GlycADx project, led by Dulce Papy Garcia (UPEC) and Minh Bao Huynh (UPEC), is based on a major discovery: the identification of a brain enzyme, HS3ST2 (heparan sulfate 3-O-sulfotransferase 2), as a new therapeutic target that potentially plays a central role in the cellular mechanisms leading to Alzheimer's disease. Most current strategies target two proteins that are characteristic of the disease: tau and beta-amyloid. GlycADx offers a different approach: targeting HS3ST2, which is considered a vulnerability factor that promotes the onset and progression of adverse changes. The aim is to develop a strategy that could slow down, or even halt, the progression of the disease. The project has joined the NeurAL program, with initial funding of 150,000 euros, to further demonstrate the role of the target through new evidence of genetic validation—developed with the support of two teams from the Institute—in translational models, and to move forward with

the characterization and subsequent optimization of candidate molecules. At the same time, the NeurAL support program is preparing for the launch of a startup by 2027.

The Braincoder project, led by Brice Bathellier (Pasteur Institute), is developing a new medical device to restore hearing in people who are profoundly deaf—some 50 million people worldwide—without any loss of information, unlike current devices. The project's innovative approach is based on a combination of patented artificial intelligence technology—which has demonstrated its technical feasibility in mouse models—and a new-generation brain implant designed to stimulate the auditory cortex. The initial funding of 250,000 euros will cover the development of the final prototype and the formulation of the regulatory and clinical strategy. At the same time, the NeurAL program is helping to drive forward the creation of a startup, which is scheduled for the end of 2026. The Braincoder project was also awarded a grant from Fondation Béatrice Dénys (€100,000) and an ERC Proof of Concept grant (€150,000), while in 2025 Brice Bathellier was awarded the Greater Paris Region Innovator Prize (€50,000).



INSIGHT
BRAHIM NAIT OUMESMAR,
WINNER OF THE 3RD
NEURAL CALL
FOR PROJECTS

Brahim Nait Oumesmar (Inserm), Principal Investigator in the REGAIN-MS team, was recognized as part of the 2025 call for projects. His research focuses on the development of an innovative remyelinating treatment for multiple sclerosis (MS). The researcher receives personalized support and funding (up to €400,000) to carry out his research. This is a forward-looking project that could, in the long term, revolutionize the care of patients living with MS.

MediTwin: combining expertise to create virtual twins in healthcare

In 2025, MediTwin reached a decisive milestone in the development of digital twins, designed to transform the patient journey and accelerate the emergence of personalized therapies.

Launched in late 2023, this consortium now comprises 14 partners—Dassault Systèmes, Inria, seven University Hospital Institutes (IHU), Nantes University Hospital (CHU) and four startups, including two—Qairnel and Neurometers—that are spin-offs from the Paris Brain Institute. MediTwin develops personalized virtual twins of organs, metabolic processes and cancerous tumors in order to improve diagnosis and patient care in oncology, neurology and cardiology.

Since then, the project achieved many milestones with, in 2025, the completion of the epilepsy database and the establishment of three working groups focusing on dementia, epilepsy and multidisciplinary consultation meetings. Supported by the French Government as part of the France 2030 plan, the initiative forms part of a five-year program running until 2029.

INNOVATION UNITS

Translating research discoveries into commercial applications

Through its Business Development (BD) hub, the Innovation Department is implementing initiatives to promote collaborative research, involving research projects carried out by the Institute’s researchers and clinicians in partnership with industry players, ranging from SMEs to major corporations.

Collaborative research is a key driver for the commercial application of scientific and medical findings, helping to accelerate the development and market launch of innovative products. The Institute has been awarded the prestigious Institut Carnot label, which attests to its ability to collaborate effectively and sustainably with industry partners.

INNOVATION IN NUMBERS

42

new industry partnership contracts signed, including 1 Cifre thesis

3

clinical trials under way (in partnership with Neurotrials)

61

active patents, including 1 new patent request filed in 2025

1

consortium (MediTwin)

22

active therapeutic development projects

11

prototypes being developed

9

tools deployed in services

4

startups supported through the accelerator program

5

startups supported through the incubator

2

startup projects maturing through NeurAL

The neuroClues revolution: a multi-award-winning startup

In the space of a year, neuroClues has established itself as one of the key players in the French braintech sector. The startup won the 2025 Carnot Grand Prize, as well as the Santé Future award for collaboration between startups and hospitals. Tymothée Poitou, a Cifre PhD student (neuroClues/the Paris Brain Institute), has been awarded the Carnot Partnership Research Prize for Young Researchers.

Founded in 2020, neuroClues offers a unique eye-tracking solution that combines the simultaneous analysis of eye movements and other signals. Its aim is to identify non-invasive biomarkers to help neurologists improve diagnostic certainty and ensure comprehensive monitoring of the patient’s care pathway. As part of France’s largest Parkinson’s cohort at the Paris Brain Institute, the neuroClues solution has also been granted marketing authorization in Europe. “We are on the cusp of a braintech revolution,” says Antoine Pouppez, CEO and co-founder of neuroClues.



NEUROTRIALS AND THE RIHP SUPPORT UNIT IN NUMBERS

This unit manages clinical trials conducted on healthy volunteers or patients, focusing on two main areas: management on behalf of commercial sponsors (Neurotrials), and management of trials initiated by the Paris Brain Institute (research involving human participants [RIHP] support unit).

SPONSORED BY INDUSTRY

4

clinical studies, including 2 in progress, 1 in the closure phase and 1 in the set-up phase

SPONSORED BY THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

15

studies under way, including 10 RIHP 2, 4 RIHP 3 and 1 RIHP 1

4

advisory tasks

9

studies in preparation and 8 studies under discussion

7

initial submissions, 3 amendments, 23 monitoring visits and 3 studies concluded

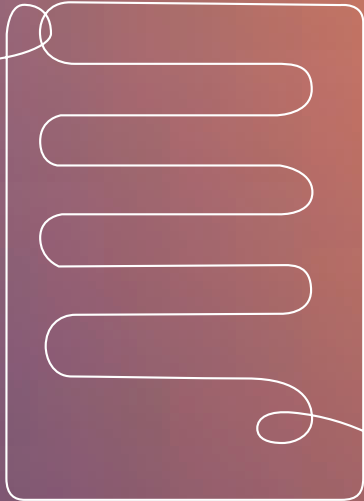


INSIGHT
OMAR EL KALAMOUNI,
LAWYER, RECRUITED
IN 2025

Intellectual property: successful insourcing of patent filing process

I joined the Institute in March 2025 and I mainly deal with intellectual property, alongside Étienne Blanc and Marie Micolon. The major development this year is the re-insourcing of legal expertise in patent law, which we had previously fully outsourced to external service providers. This change has allowed us to reduce costs on applications submitted to national, European and international patent authorities. A network of specialist firms is also on hand to assist us where necessary. We also ensure that the findings of the Institute’s researchers are not disclosed prematurely, to protect the future patentability of these discoveries. We carry out extensive training and awareness-raising on these issues in order to identify common and shared time frames. Without patents, there can be no industrial development or licensing arrangements, which ultimately benefit patients. The first two patent applications prepared entirely in-house were filed in December 2025.

“In 2025, the Institute reached a strategic milestone: regaining control of its patents in order to improve the process for transforming its discoveries into innovation.”



TRAINING AND OUTREACH

TRANSMITTING KNOWLEDGE, MAKING NEUROSCIENCE ACCESSIBLE TO EVERYONE

Transmitting knowledge and sharing it with as many people as possible are two of the Paris Brain Institute's core missions. Through its teaching activities, the Open Brain School trains research and healthcare professionals who wish to optimize their practices, but also offers training to external audiences. The Institute is also committed to making neuroscience accessible to everyone through extensive communication initiatives targeting patients, their caregivers, and the general public.

THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE: INSPIRING CAREER CHOICES

The ambition to train, share knowledge and inspire continues to motivate the teams at the Paris Brain Institute and its education hub, the Open Brain School. The momentum gained in previous years is very much alive in 2025 with the same high standards and enthusiasm, centered on three priorities all successfully achieved: encouraging young people to get involved in neuroscience research, developing students' skills with stimulating training programs that are broadly open to the wider world, and enhancing the expertise of professionals keen to broaden their knowledge.

Training students to achieve scientific excellence

The Paris Brain Institute is consolidating its range of programs for students through multidisciplinary study pathways. For the researchers of tomorrow, these programs represent opportunities to receive support in acquiring new skills and to develop within an international ecosystem.

The iMIND master's program: training built around cutting-edge research

Organized by Sorbonne University and the Paris Brain Institute, the iMIND international master's program trains students in the study of neurodegenerative diseases, through direct engagement with research teams and core facilities.

The Institute's is building on its partnership with the University of Heidelberg through exchanges of courses and work placements, providing students with an opportunity to learn in high-caliber scientific environments.

In July 2025, as a result of this partnership, the “Modeling Human Neuropathologies” Summer School was held for around 30 young European scientists in Germany. France will host the 2026 summer school.

INTERNATIONAL PHD GRANTS

Since 2022, in partnership with DIM C-BRAINS, the Institute has recruited 11 international PhD students from countries including Germany, Brazil, Spain, Greece and India, and they have been awarded PhD study grants. A tailored training program is set to be offered to these students in the future.

STARE PROGRAM

From April 7 to 11, 2025, this program—recognized as a teaching module at Sorbonne University—provided around 20 medical students with placements in 10 of the Institute's research teams and core facilities, where they were introduced to neuroscience research.

THE MOVE

The 2025 iteration of this innovative tournament, which uses mime to teach neurological semiology, took place on July 2 and 3 at Strasbourg University Hospitals. With the support of the Institute, the tournament involves a series of battles between seven international teams, each presenting neurological conditions before a panel of experts.

Fostering career interest from secondary school onwards

The aim of the International Brain Bee (IBB) is to inspire an interest in neuroscience and scientific careers. Coordinated by the Paris Brain Institute, the French version of the prestigious annual competition, the France Brain Bee, was held on March 22, 2025, with nearly 55 secondary school students participating.

“Neuroscience is a very broad discipline that has changed the way I view science.”

Céline Mallet, winner of France Brain Bee 2025

Supporting career development

The Paris Brain Institute offers multidisciplinary, flexible continuing education courses tailored to the needs of neuroscience professionals. Alongside this, programs focused on entrepreneurship and innovation prepare participants to transform research into tangible solutions.

CREATIVITY MASTERCLASS

On March 11 and 12, 2025, the third creativity masterclass involved 10 participants from a variety of backgrounds, including researchers, managers, paramedical staff, art schools and communications professionals. This year saw a new addition: the Creativity Mural educational tool.

BRAIN TO MARKET

The eleventh “Brain to Market” Summer School, held from September 8 to 12, 2025, explored autism in adults without an intellectual disability. A total of 50 international participants signed up for this intensive course combining scientific, medical and entrepreneurial expertise. Led by H  l  ne Vulser (Sorbonne University/AP-HP) and her team, the initiative encouraged students to devise practical projects that could improve the lives of people with autism and their families. These included a safe sensory space for learning at school, university or in the workplace, a virtual reality solution to practice social interactions, and a next-generation assessment platform to help doctors better identify and diagnose symptoms of depression, to name a few.



The French Brain Bee competition, with the winner Céline Mallet second from the right.

Attracting and developing international talent

The Paris Brain Institute is strengthening its international presence through targeted calls for projects. These calls are designed to attract researchers from around the world and to offer its teams opportunities for training abroad. These include the DIM C-BRAINS international PhD program, aimed at master's students from outside France; the Carnot Training program, dedicated to the acquisition of specific technical expertise; workshops, which encourage exchanges with international experts; iMIND grants for international master's students; and the Resident Exchange Fellowship, which facilitates exchanges of clinicians with departments abroad.



SUPPORTING, FOSTERING AND DISSEMINATING COMMUNICATION: WORKING TO RAISE THE INSTITUTE'S PROFILE

To celebrate the Paris Brain Institute's 15th anniversary, the Communication Department contributed to the year's key events by promoting some of the Institute's flagship projects, supporting the Institute's international profile and strengthening its science outreach activities.

Brain health takes center stage as the Paris Brain Institute celebrates its 15th anniversary

Much of the year was devoted to preparing for the 15th anniversary celebrations, a landmark moment that shone a spotlight on 15 years of research achievements and collective commitment. These flagship projects include the design of an illustrated book, due to be published in 2026 by Assouline, which traces the origins and creation of the Institute and its unique model, while exploring the current and future challenges of neuroscience.

As part of these celebrations, the team also handled logistics and communications for the World Brain Health Forum, a major international event held on January 14, 15 and 16, 2026, at the Paris Brain Institute, UNESCO House and the Academy of Sciences. (> see pp. 9 to 11). The Forum was attended by more than 1,000 participants, around 80 international speakers, and numerous representatives from public institutions, the political sphere, the research sector, academia and civil society. It provided a key opportunity for collective reflection on major scientific, societal and strategic issues relating to brain health, with a focus on scientific excellence and international cooperation.



Greater international visibility

In parallel, some actions have been made to raise the Institute's international profile, in line with the strategic direction set by the new Executive Committee, particularly through the press and social media.

The Communication Department has also stepped up its promotional and outreach activities with its partners in the European CURE-ND alliance, particularly in support of the CURE-ND4ALS initiative, which is being championed widely by the Paris Brain Institute's ambassador, Olivier Goy. (> see pp. 48-49). These initiatives have helped to raise the profile of collaborative projects and strengthen the Institute's position within international neuroscience research networks.

Becoming the leading authority on neuroscience

Finally, the Communication Department continued its public-facing activities, consolidating the Institute's position as a leading source of information and outreach on how the brain works, and on neurological and psychiatric disorders. The Institute's new website, which went live in September 2024, expanded its editorial content in 2025, with the development of content covering a wide range of medical conditions and research topics. Specific work was done to produce new audiovisual formats, notably through the launch of the NeuroFocus series of popular science videos, broadcast on the Institute's digital platforms.



NeuroFocus: research in motion

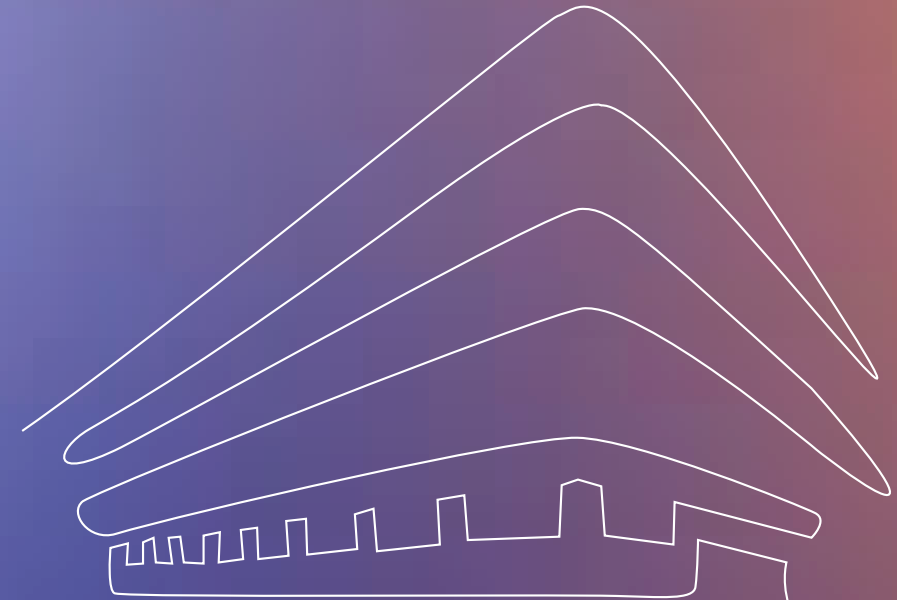
In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute launched the NeuroFocus series, a new format of popular science videos, produced entirely using motion design. This series is intended for the general public and seeks to make research projects funded by the French National Research Agency (ANR) and carried out within the Institute's laboratories accessible to a wider audience, by explaining their objectives, methods and scientific challenges in a clear and accessible way.

Broadcast on the Institute's digital platforms, these videos offer an engaging insight into complex topics, illustrating how basic and clinical research translates into new knowledge and understanding, as well as potential applications in the fight against brain diseases.

The first three episodes were produced in 2025:

- **the CRÉANET project**, which focuses on the brain mechanisms underlying creativity and how the brain generates new ideas;
- **the CADETS project**, which investigates the progression of Tourette's syndrome during adolescence and the neurobiological factors involved in the trajectory of the condition;
- **the SMARTinMS project**, which explores the role of inflammation in multiple sclerosis and ways of stimulating remyelination.

Designed to bridge the gap between research and society, NeuroFocus helps to showcase research that is often complex, while highlighting the excellence of the projects supported by the ANR. The series serves as a key tool for science communication and helps increase the visibility of the Paris Brain Institute's research teams.



GOVERNANCE

BUILDING A FRAMEWORK FOR EXCELLENCE THROUGH COMMITTED LEADERSHIP

The Paris Brain Institute is built around a private foundation with recognized charitable status—ICM Foundation and a strong partnership between a public joint research unit (CNRS, Inserm and Sorbonne University)—working with the Greater Paris University Hospitals (AP-HP). The board representation in the Institute's governing bodies—on the Board of Directors and management and other committees—reflects the strength of these links.

GOVERNING BODIES

FOUNDERS OF THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

- GÉRARD SAILLANT**, Honorary Professor of Orthopedic and Trauma Surgery, Honorary President of the Paris Brain Institute
- JEAN TODT**, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety, Vice-Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute
- YVES AGID**, Honorary Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience
- LUC BESSON**, Film Director
- LOUIS CAMILLERI**, Former CEO of Ferrari
- JEAN GLAVANY**, Former Minister
- MAURICE LÉVY**, Honorary President of Publicis Groupe, Co-Chair of the Paris Brain Institute Circle of Friends
- OLIVIER LYON-CAEN**, Professor of Neurology, former Director of the Nervous System Diseases Department at Pitié-Salpêtrière University Hospital
- JEAN-PIERRE MARTEL**, Attorney
- LINDSAY OWEN-JONES**, Honorary Chairman of L'Oréal and of the Paris Brain Institute Friends Committee
- DAVID DE ROTHSCHILD**, Honorary Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Rothschild & Co
- MICHAEL SCHUMACHER**, Former Formula 1 Driver
- SERGE WEINBERG**, Chairman of Weinberg Capital Partners and Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of 16 members divided into four colleges. The Board is responsible for the management of the Institute's activities and provides advice on the strategic vision designed by the Executive Committee. The board validates the annual budget and approves the Foundation's accounts.

COLLEGE OF FOUNDERS

- Honorary President**
Gérard Saillant, Honorary Professor of Orthopedic and Trauma Surgery
- Chairman**
Serge Weinberg, Chairman of Weinberg Capital Partners
- Vice-Chairman**
Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety
- Treasurer**
Eddie Misrahi, President and CEO of Altamir Gérance
- Jean Glavany**, Former Minister

COLLEGE OF QUALIFIED PERSONS

- Richard Frackowiak**, Emeritus Professor at University College London
- Philippe Menasché**, Professor of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at Université Paris-Cité
- Isabelle Ryl**, Vice-President for AI at PSL Research University and Director of PR[AI]E-PSAI

COLLEGE OF FULL MEMBERS

- Philippe Marin**, Deputy Scientific Director of CNRS Biologie
- Didier Samuel**, President and CEO of the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm)
- Bruno Riou**, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Sorbonne University
- Nicolas Revel**, CEO of Greater Paris University Hospitals (AP-HP)

COLLEGE OF FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION

- Martine Assouline**, Founder and Director of the Assouline publishing house
- Jean-Charles Decaux**, Co-CEO of JCDecaux
- Christian Schmidt de La Brélie**, CEO of Klesia

GOVERNMENT COMMISSIONER

- Jean-Marie Paulot**

Board committees

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

Including leading international neuroscience experts, the Scientific Advisory Board advises the Paris Brain Institute on all aspects of its development and implementation of its global strategy.

- President**
Prof. Paul Matthews, Department of Brain Sciences—Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- Prof. Adrienne Fairhall**, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Department of Physics and Department of Applied Mathematics, Washington University, USA
- Prof. Costantino Iadecola**, Feil Family Brain, Mind Research Institute, Weill Cornell Medical College, USA
- Prof. Troy Margrie**, Sainsbury Wellcome Centre, United Kingdom
- Prof. Erin Schuman**, Department of Synaptic Plasticity, Max Planck Institute for Brain Research, Germany
- Prof. Daphna Shohamy**, Zuckerman Institute, Kavli Institute for Brain Science, Columbia University, USA
- Prof. Cornelia Van Duijn**, Oxford Population Health, St Cross College, Oxford, United Kingdom

BUREAU OF THE BOARD

- Chairman**
Serge Weinberg, Chairman of Weinberg Capital Partners
- Vice-Chairman**
Jean Todt, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Road Safety
- Treasurer**
Eddie Misrahi, President and CEO of Altamir Gérance
- Secretary**
Jean Glavany, Former Minister

AUDIT COMMITTEE

- Chairman**
Serge Weinberg, Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute
- Eddie Misrahi**, President and CEO of Altamir Gérance
- Jean Glavany**, Former Minister
- Jean-Pierre Martel**, Attorney
- Karine Lanini**, Inserm Regional Representative for Greater Paris Region and the Central East

GENERAL AGREEMENT COORDINATION COMMITTEE

- Chairman**
Serge Weinberg, Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute
- Philippe Marin**, Deputy Scientific Director of CNRS Biologie
- Didier Samuel**, President and CEO of the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research (Inserm)
- Bruno Riou**, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Sorbonne University
- Erik Domain**, Director of Relations with Universities and Research Organisations—AP-HP

ETHICS AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT COMMITTEE

The mission of the Paris Brain Institute's Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee (Cometh) is to guide reflection on ethical and professional conduct issues raised by our scientific and medical research programs. It helps all those involved in research at the Paris Brain Institute to comply with the principles governing ethics and professional conduct by encouraging reflection on own practices and contributing to general thinking based on pioneering experiences. Cometh hosts monthly ethics and professional conduct training sessions for new recruits. It is chaired by **Pierre Pouget**, a CNRS researcher and team leader at the Institute.



Executive Committee (CODIR)

The Executive Committee implements the policy developed by the Paris Brain Institute's Board of Directors. The Executive Director, appointed by the Board of Directors, leads the eight-member Executive Committee.



PROF. STÉPHANIE DEBETTE
Executive Director of the Paris Brain Institute (the Paris Brain Institute Foundation and Joint Research Unit)



BRIAN LAU
Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Core Facilities and Deputy Director of the Joint Research Unit



CLAIRE WYART
Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Fundamental and Translational Science



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE CORVOL
Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Clinical Research



OLIVIER COLLIOT
Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science



GÉRALDINE FARJOT
Innovation Director



CORINNE FORTIN
Secretary General of the Paris Brain Institute and of the Joint Research Unit



JEAN-LOUIS DA COSTA
Communication and Development Director

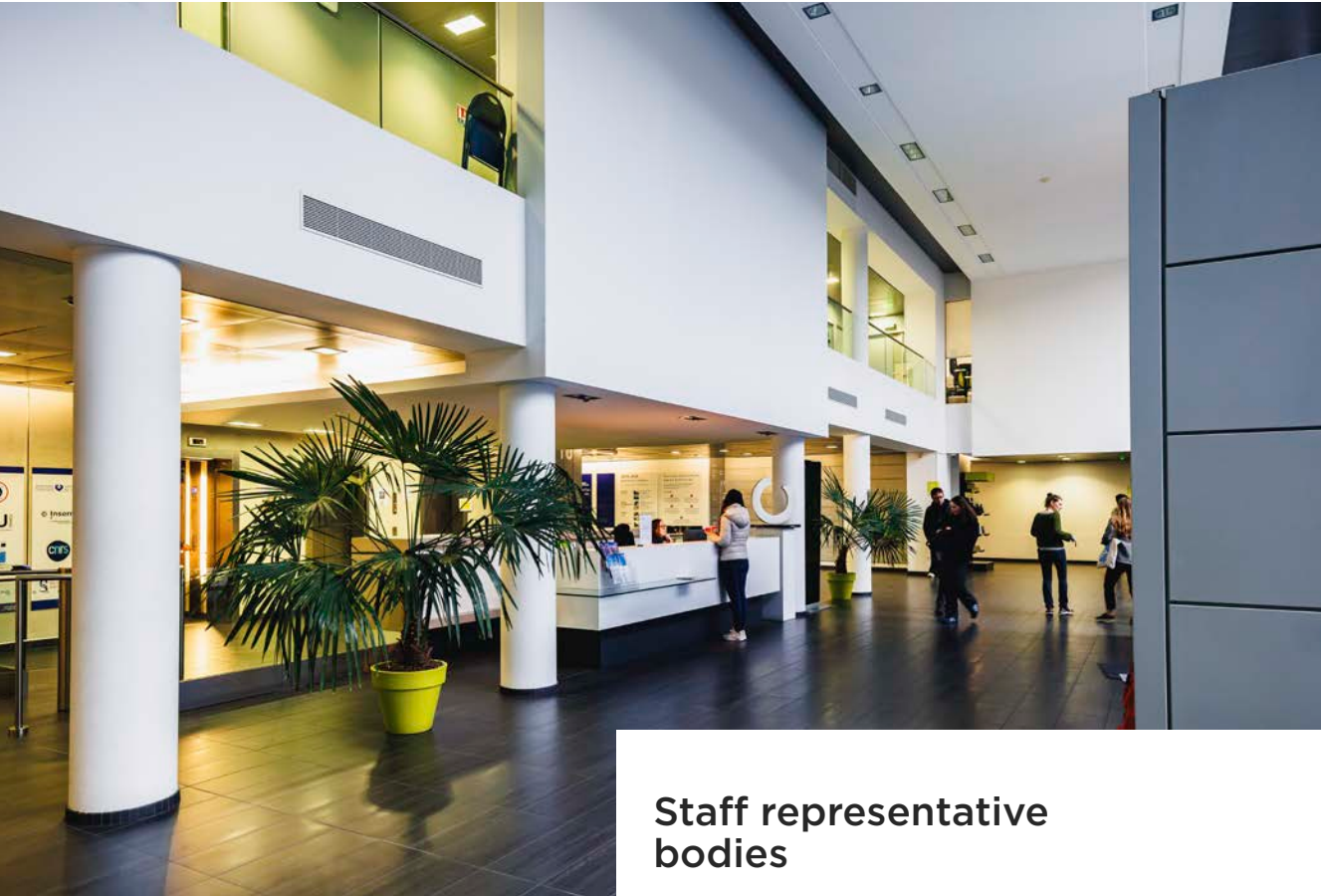
The **Support Function Executive Committee (CODIS)** also organizes and oversees support for the Institute's scientific activities, and comprises:

- Corinne Fortin**, Secretary General
- Pierre Couraud**, Deputy Secretary General
- Jean-Louis Da Costa**, Communication and Development Director
- Géraldine Farjot**, Innovation Director
- Pierre Georges-François**, RIHP Unit Manager
- Mathilde Gibert**, Legal Affairs Director
- Géraldine Gouzer**, Scientific Programming Director
- Sylvain Gugliermi**, Procurement, Equipment and Logistics Director
- Laurine Lenoir**, Organization, Quality & Risk Management Department Director
- Frédérique Lesaulnier**, Data Protection Officer
- Cécile Proust**, Human Resources Director
- Antoine Souquière**, Information Systems Director
- Olivier Stephan**, Director of International Alliances and Competitive Funding
- Marc Thévenot**, CFO

Strategic Scientific Committee (SSC)

To develop and steer the Paris Brain Institute's scientific policy, the new Executive Director set up a Strategic Scientific Committee (SSC) in 2025, comprising herself and four Deputy Scientific Directors:

- Brian Lau**, Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Core Facilities and Deputy Director of the Joint Research Unit
 - Claire Wyart**, Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Fundamental and Translational Science
 - Jean-Christophe Corvol**, Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Clinical Research
 - Olivier Colliot**, Deputy Scientific Director responsible for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- Each of the above scientific areas has a steering committee. The members of the SSC are also members of the steering committee.



Staff representative bodies

CODIR Committees

FACULTY COMMITTEE

The Faculty Committee includes the Executive Committee and all the team leaders, and meets once a month. It is consulted on scientific policy, budgetary matters, and resources to be allocated to the Joint Research Unit.

GENDER EQUITY COMMITTEE

The Gender Equity Committee (GEC) performs an advisory and monitoring role for the Paris Brain Institute's governing bodies, and takes action to promote gender equity. The work of the GEC is supported by the GEM (Gender Equity Movement) initiative, a collective of the Paris Brain Institute staff who have come together to raise awareness of gender bias and inequities and propose measures to address them.

Following the adoption of the Institute's gender equity charter in 2021, the GEC developed an action plan and continued its work on awareness raising, monitoring statistics and indicators measuring gender distribution at all professional levels, along with communication campaigns and initiatives. The Paris Brain Institute's workplace gender equity index has progressed in recent years, rising from 75 in 2020 to 99 in 2025, out of a maximum score of 100.

The GEM is organized into working groups for planning a biennial international workshop and developing a website, journal club, scientist mentoring program and broader educational activities.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The task of the Social and Economic Committee (CSE) is to represent the employees of ICM Foundation. It manages the workplace quality of life and relays any individual or collective complaints concerning the application of labor regulations (labor code, pay, working hours, health and safety, etc.).

The role of its Health, Safety and Working Conditions Committee (CSSCT) is to oversee compliance with legal and regulatory requirements. It helps protect the health and safety of staff and implements measures to improve their well-being, analyzes occupational risks, is available for consultation by the employer and assists in reviewing working conditions.

LABORATORY COMMITTEE

The Laboratory Committee is the representative body for staff of the Joint Research Unit (UMR). It advises the UMR's management on scientific, budgetary and human resources policy, and on all other matters related to UMR operations.

Members are elected by the Institute's public sector staff. They represent the various categories of staff: researchers and teacher-researchers, engineering, technical and administrative staff, doctoral students, and permanent and contracted civil servants.



SUPPORTING RESEARCH

EMPOWERING DISCOVERY AND INNOVATION

The research conducted at the Paris Brain Institute is underpinned by sound, diversified financial resources, and by support teams that collectively provide all the expertise needed to help researchers in the design and implementation of their scientific projects.

SUPPORT TEAMS: VITAL TO RESEARCH SUCCESS

Behind every scientific breakthrough there are teams of professionnels who ensure data are secure, the organization is well structured, and practices are rigorous.

In 2025, the Data Protection Officer (DPO), the Information Systems Department and the Organization, Quality & Risk Management (ROQ) Department continued their close cooperation to support the Institute's transformation.

We take a detailed look at the key drivers supporting research: data governance, digital infrastructure, certifications, and cross-disciplinary projects.

As research projects become more complex, support staff are taking on an increasingly strategic role within the Paris Brain Institute. They support the research teams and core facilities in an environment subject to increasingly stringent quality, safety, compliance and performance requirements. Their work is aligned with the Institute's new strategy, which is driven by a commitment to coordinate, harmonize and strengthen internal cooperation. *"We have done in-depth work to make our organizations more transparent and our tools more effective"*, says Laurine Lenoir, Organization, Quality & Risk Management Department Director.

"The goal is to simplify usage while ensuring the highest standards".

To achieve this, the support teams have worked in close collaboration. Their complementary expertise supports scientists at every stage of their projects, from conception to deployment. All of our initiatives in 2025 reflect our shared ambition to consolidate the Institute's organizational and digital foundations in order to create the conditions for increasingly excellent, responsible and open research.



DATA PROTECTION
OFFICER (DPO)

The delicate balance between access to and protection of personal data

At the interface between research, regulations and ethics, the Data Protection Officer (DPO) supports the Institute in managing an increasing volume of personal and sensitive data, whether relating to staff, donors, or participants in clinical studies. *"Compliance with the general data protection regulation (GDPR) is a factor contributing to legal certainty, something crucial for participation in international projects, but also a guarantee of quality and trust in the Institute and its researchers"*, explains Frédérique Lesaulnier, the Paris Brain Institute's Data Protection Officer. *"In 2025, this requirement has resulted in increased support for teams in developing their projects as early as the design phase"*.

The ProdroBrain study is a particularly good illustration of this. Developed from national data on reimbursements from the French health insurance system and other data from the Greater Paris University Hospitals (AP-HP), the study aims to better understand the early stages of four neurodegenerative diseases (multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis and Huntington's disease). Thanks to close collaboration between researchers, project managers and the DPO, regulatory and ethical approvals were secured in less than one week. *"The preparation of approvals paperwork relies on a methodical approach—ultimately very similar to that of scientific work—that involves identifying the right procedure, integrating regulatory constraints into the methodology, preparing rigorous applications that facilitate approvals within time frames aligned with scientific milestones, and which then create 'roadmaps' for the management of the projects"*, adds Frédérique Lesaulnier. *"This approach also promotes responsible, secure reuse of the data and biological samples collected, with complete transparency for participants"*.

An important academic voice

In addition to her internal duties, the DPO also plays an active role in national and European regulatory discussion. Working closely with researchers, the Institute took part in 2025 in France's Digital Health Delegation's consultations about the future European Health Data Space, as well as French Data Protection Authority (CNIL) working groups on the simplified compliance frameworks applicable to research. This work ensures that the voice of the Institute and of academic research is heard when standards are developed, to help guarantee a balanced regulatory framework that protects individuals and removes obstacles that could impede scientific innovation.

Creation of a research data warehouse

The DPO actively contributed to developing the research data warehouse. The aim is to make maximum use of existing data, encourage the production of new biomarkers, and position the Institute as a leading player in artificial intelligence and data science. The DPO therefore supports the teams with their governance, human rights and security compliance, in line with the strategic guidelines set out by the Executive Committee. To foster a shared culture of compliance and help staff integrate this into their practices, the DPO has continued to produce educational materials, including a guide to drafting GDPR-compliant information notices. In addition, the new transparency portal now allows volunteers who have participated in clinical trials to independently gain a better view of how their data are being used in research projects.

THE 2025 DPO IN NUMBERS

2 — **Preparation and coordination of the Institute's responses to consultations launched by regulatory authorities (DNS, CNIL),** contributing to the national discussion on regulatory barriers to research.

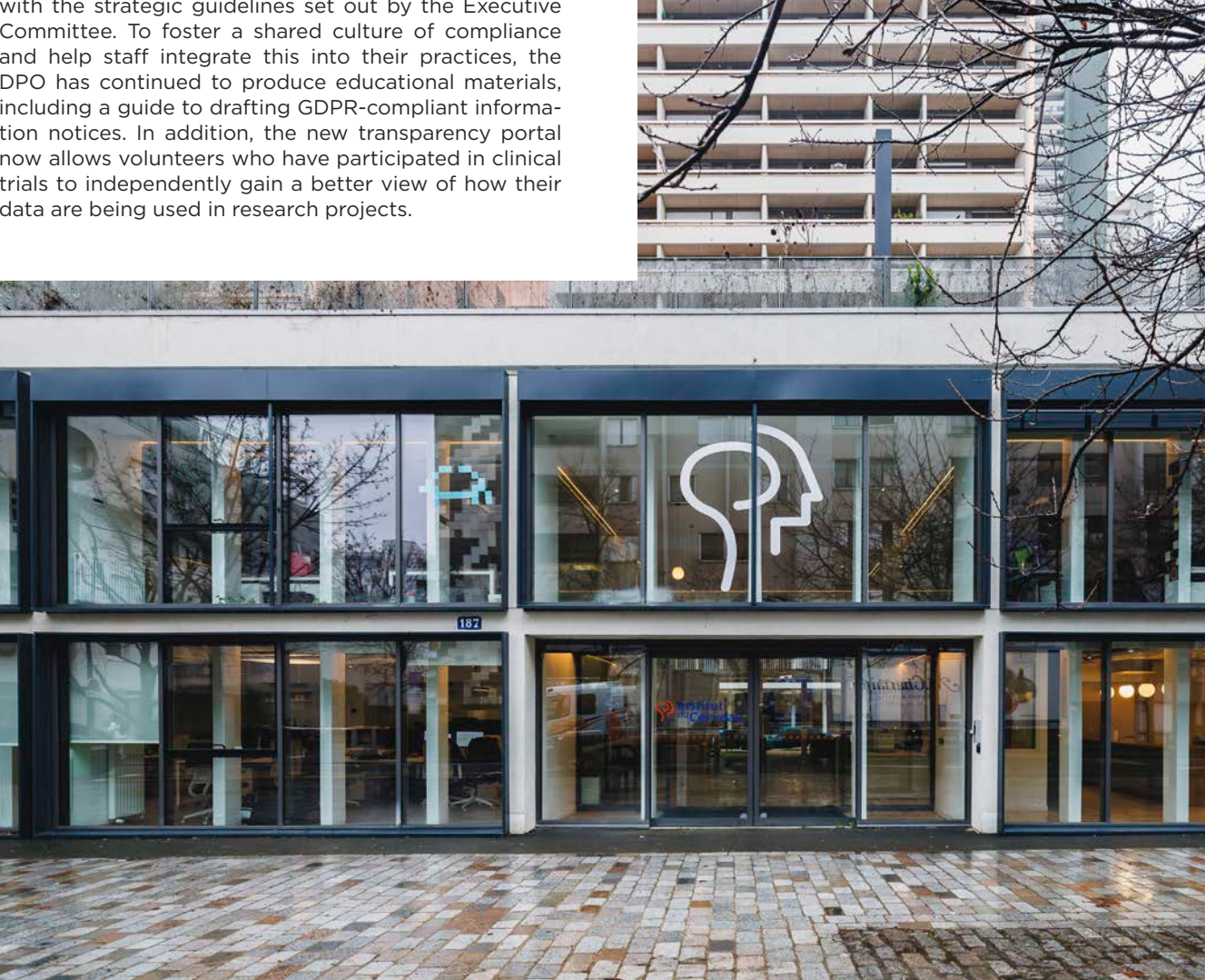
39 — **research projects** supported on a recurring basis

7 — **core facilities** actively supported for GDPR compliance, including **4** certified facilities

253 — **responses** to advisory requests

63 — **contracts** processed

71 — **requests** to exercise rights processed

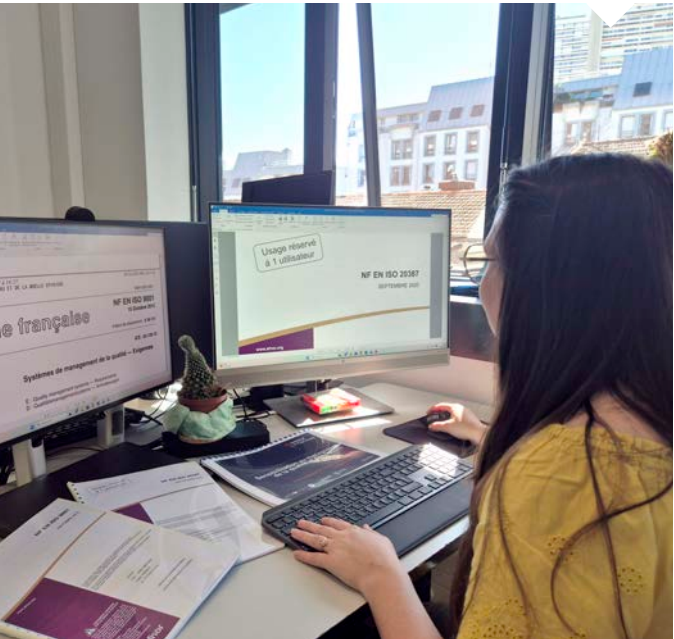


ORGANIZATION, QUALITY &
RISK MANAGEMENT (ROQ) DIVISION

A renewed commitment
to quality

In 2025, the new board emphasized the importance of a robust quality management system (QMS) that is aligned with the ISO 9001 and ISO 20387 standards and integrated into the Paris Brain Institute’s overall strategy. *“The aim is to continue developing a simple and robust management system while guaranteeing high standards”*, explains Laurine Lenoir, Director of the ROQ team.

This quality policy is implemented by all staff, with support and guidance from the ROQ team. It is based on six strategic pillars: strengthening scientific excellence, supporting innovation, developing knowledge transfer and dissemination, optimizing processes, ensuring activities are transparent, and implementing a quality, CSR and risk culture. It is also part of a flexible and rigorous governance approach that aims to balance adaptation to changes in the sector with maintaining the highest quality and compliance standards.



New certifications
awarded

The Institute was awarded two major initial certifications in 2025. The first was for ISO 9001 certification (2015 version) for the ICM.Quant core facility. In its first audit, this quantitative cellular and molecular imaging core facility was able to demonstrate the maturity of its quality management system and its in-house microscopy expertise.

The second is ISO 20387 certification for the DNA & Cell Bank. The latter, awarded after the June audit, confirms the core facility’s compliance with international biobanking standards. This certification confirmed the

Institute’s long-standing commitment to traceability, reliability, and the continuous improvement of the biological resources made available to researchers. It is a key lever in the Institute’s strategy to make full use of biological resources, spearheaded by the Executive Committee.

At the same time, the ROQ Department continued to support the facilities and entities that have already been certified as part of the ISO 9001 follow-up audits of the Neurotrials, iGenSeq and ICV-Vectorology core facilities. It also supports the process of obtaining new certifications.

The ROQ Department is also the operational arm for scientific integrity (SI) within the Institute. This policy focuses primarily on awareness and prevention. As such, cross-disciplinary discussions aim to develop good practices rooted in the principles of scientific integrity, which the ROQ Department drafts and disseminates. In 2025, the procedure for investigating reports of breaches of scientific integrity was revised and shared, to align it with the recent incorporation of regulatory texts relating to scientific integrity into the research code.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS (IS) DEPARTMENT

A strategic lever for
neuroscience research

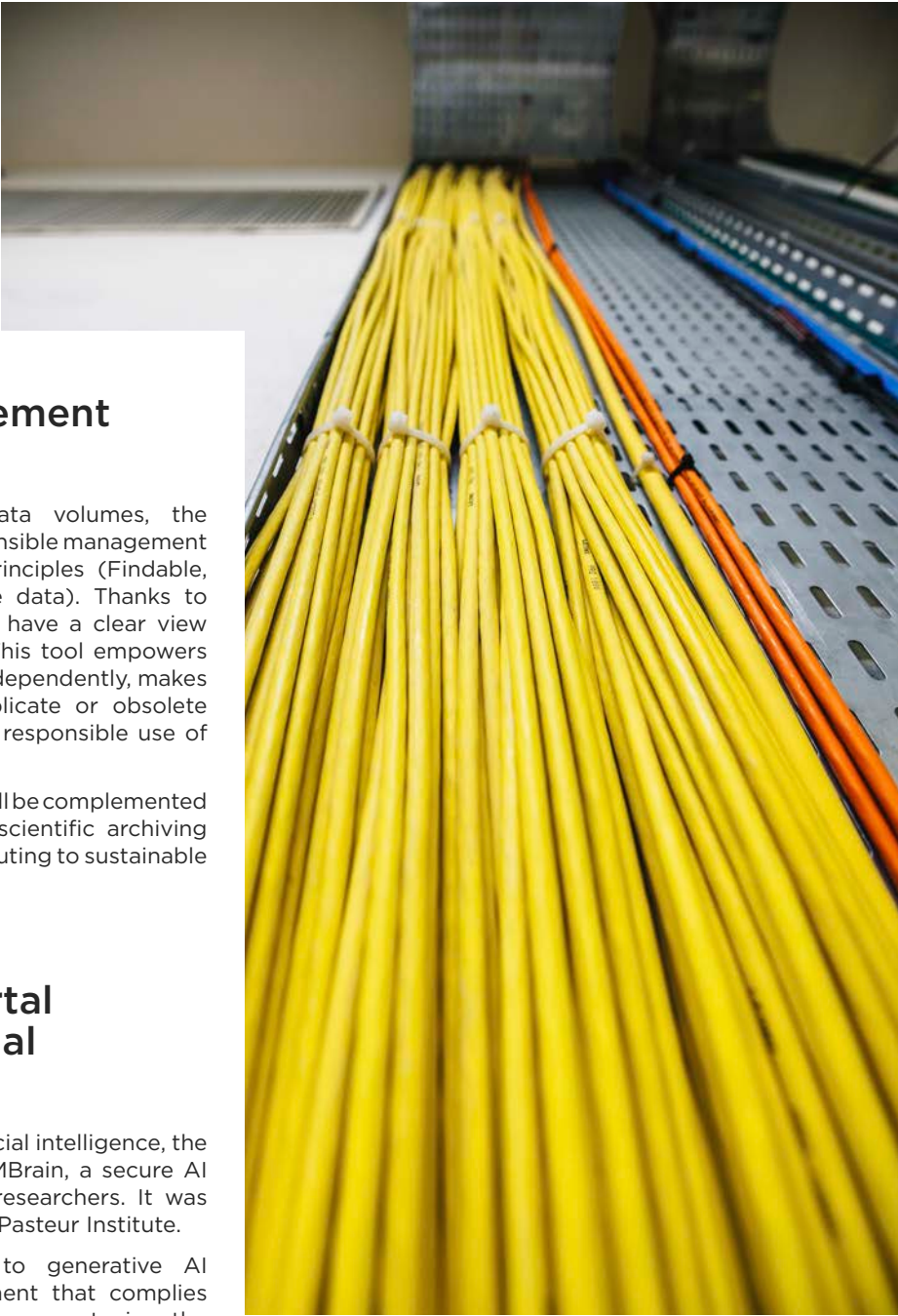
Within the Paris Brain Institute, the Information Systems (IS) Department, led by Antoine Souquière, plays a central role in the Institute’s scientific ecosystem. Beyond the management of digital infrastructure, it acts as a catalyst for research by providing the research teams with reliable, secure and high-performance technological environments for processing ever-increasing volumes of data.

In a world where neuroscience is fully entering the era of big data, artificial intelligence and collaborative research, IT infrastructure is now a determining factor in accelerating research discoveries.

Infrastructure for
the benefit of science

The primary mission of the IS Department is to ensure that research teams have continuous, secure and robust access to scientific data. In 2025, the Paris Brain institute established new high-performance scientific storage infrastructure designed to respond to rapid growth in data volumes, for example from brain imaging genomics and big data analysis.

In parallel, the Institute has strengthened its scientific computing capabilities by doubling the computing power of its high performance computational cluster. This more powerful infrastructure will accelerate complex analyses, the training of artificial intelligence models, and the processing of very large data sets.



Responsible management
of scientific storage

To address the explosion in data volumes, the IS Department has rolled out a responsible management strategy founded on FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable data). Thanks to team dashboards, researchers now have a clear view of their IT resource consumption. This tool empowers teams to manage their data more independently, makes it easier for them to identify duplicate or obsolete files, and therefore promotes more responsible use of scientific storage.

From 2026 onwards, this approach will be complemented by the introduction of lower-cost scientific archiving solutions for less active data, contributing to sustainable governance of research data.

MBrain, a secure portal
for the use of artificial
intelligence tools

To support the rapid growth of artificial intelligence, the Paris Brain Institute has launched MBrain, a secure AI Portal for employees, particularly researchers. It was developed in collaboration with the Pasteur Institute.

This portal offers easy access to generative AI technologies in a secure environment that complies with regulatory requirements while guaranteeing the confidentiality of data, including scientific data.

Antoine Souquière explains: *“Because the use of artificial intelligence in research is increasing rapidly, it is essential to provide an institutional framework that keeps data secure and offers employees simple and reliable access to AI technology.”*

Developing a shared
cybersecurity culture

In a world where cyber threats are increasing and regulatory requirements are becoming more stringent, the security of information systems has become a strategic issue for research institutes. At the Paris Brain Institute, this is managed at Board of Directors level as part of institutional risk mapping.

In 2025, the IS Department stepped up its cybersecurity awareness and training initiatives to develop a shared culture of digital security within the Institute. Several initiatives have been implemented, including communications campaigns during “Hacktober” international cybersecurity month, and phishing simulation campaigns.

Through these initiatives, the IS Department has helped make cybersecurity a vital cross-disciplinary component in protecting scientific data and guaranteeing the trust of partners and participants in the clinical research carried out at the Paris Brain Institute.

The IS Department has therefore established itself as a key player in the digital transformation of research, with one clear ambition: making digital technology an accelerator of scientific innovation for the benefit of research.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND INTERNAL COMMUNICATION

ENHANCING SKILLS, SHARING EXPERIENCES

With significant technological developments and increased international cooperation, the Human Resources Department at the Paris Brain Institute has multiplied the initiatives over the past year, targeting all teams across all disciplines. The goal is to offer new opportunities to develop skills and strengthen professional networks. All of this increases the Institute's appeal to talented people from all over the world, whether they are directly involved in research or providing essential support.

New mapping, new ambition

In 2025, the Institute celebrated a double milestone: exceeding more than 1,000 staff members and its 15th anniversary. With 29 research teams restructured after the 2024 evaluation by the HCERES, the new 2025-2029 Joint Research Unit (UMR) was established at the beginning of 2025, along with the arrival of a new Executive Committee.

The Human Resources Department supported this key achievement, with talented young scientists promoted to team leaders and continued gender equality efforts. For example, the proportion of women team leaders has risen to 39%, compared with 30% in the previous period.

Mentoring by everyone, for everyone

In November, the Paris Brain Institute launched its mentoring program via the Qooper platform. This program connects mentors and mentees according to their needs, for example technical skills and soft skills. "The support covers 60 very wide-ranging topics", explains Nathalie Elias, HR Development Manager. "This could involve, for example, practicing conversational English, learning the basics of photon microscopy, improving Excel skills or supporting a PHD student with a thesis viva".

Around 40 internal mentors have already signed up to pass on their expertise.

Informed AI usage

This year, the Human Resources Department took the strategic step of launching a huge AI learning program open to all of the Institute's employees. Through a masterclass and four webinars offered in French and English, participants gained a better understanding of the fundamentals of the usages and limitations of these tools, while raising awareness of best practices and ethical issues. Alongside this program, the secure Mbrain platform is available, designed in collaboration with the Pasteur Institute (> see p. 79).



Cultivating a welcoming and inclusive work environment

In June 2025, to mark the National Quality of Life and Working Conditions Week, the Paris Brain Institute offered three bilingual webinars for its teams. Entitled "Managing your time and priorities", "Preventing psychosocial risks", and "Disability: changing how we look at differences", these sessions provided practical tools to help people improve their day-to-day organization, identify warning signs and strengthen inclusive practices. Each of these initiatives demonstrates the Institute's long-term commitment to the well-being and quality of life of its employees.

First support staff seminar

In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute held its first seminar for support staff, under the aegis of the General Secretariat and organized by the internal communication team. This event brought all of the support departments together for discussion, collective reflection and experience-sharing. The goals of this seminar were to foster connections between team members, enable everyone to play an active role in the Institute's journey and future challenges, and to be part of a constructive and collaborative approach to addressing such challenges. The seminar also highlighted the pivotal role that support staff play in facilitating the Institute's evolution during a time of transformation and changing priorities. This was an opportunity for the Institute to reiterate how the work of the support teams is crucial to its success, its attractiveness, and its long-term backing of research projects.

The Paris Brain Institute alumni: a network for growing together

2025 saw the launch of the Paris Brain Institute alumni community. This network is designed to connect former students, researchers, clinicians and employees around one shared ambition: to stay connected. Like other institutes with formal alumni networks, the Paris Brain Institute set up this strategic initiative to increase its visibility and influence and, by extension, to foster international partnerships.

Embedded in an ecosystem of scientific, medical, and entrepreneurial excellence, this community maintains a lasting link between the Institute and the people who started their careers there. After building a database of contacts, a private group was set up on the LinkedIn social network. Other initiatives are planned for the future, to bring alumni closer together around an exclusive offering.





THREE QUESTIONS FOR
AÏCHA ADDA-REZIG
HEAD OF THE
INTERNATIONAL
OFFICE

66

Tell us about your background before you took up your current role.

AÏCHA ADDA-REZIG | My first degree was in law, in Orléans, before I moved into human resources with a work-study master's degree in HR. I began my career at AFS Vivre sans Frontière as an HR Assistant, before joining the Paris Brain Institute in 2017 in the same role. On the strength of that experience, I was recruited on a permanent contract as an HR Officer before being promoted in September 2024 to Head of the International Office.

Can you describe the goals of the welcome program you are running, and what the Institute hopes to achieve through this initiative?

A.A.-R. | The goal of the International Office is to support the Institute in onboarding international staff, assisting them with administrative, professional and personal aspects. Along with Assia Rahal, HR Manager, we work every day to help them get set up in France, by assisting them with their administrative processes and creating an environment that enables them to settle in and thrive within the Institute.

What do you think are the program's main successes?

A.A.-R. | The program has helped establish structured support for our international staff, along with simplified and streamlined administrative procedures, as well as enhancing the Institute's global appeal. Employees who have received this support have expressed positive feedback, specifically mentioning the quality of the support and feeling welcome from the moment they arrive.

99

THE MEN AND WOMEN
BEHIND THE INSTITUTE*

1,000 —

employees, including **534** the Paris Brain Institute Foundation staff and **466** employees of our public partners

50 —

nationalities represented, with **22.6%** of the Institute's staff being international employees

16.5% —

administrative and support staff

83.5% —

scientific personnel, core facilities and teams

99/100 —

2025 Gender Equality Index

61% women — 39% men

€159,099 —

amount invested in training in 2025 (excluding contributions)

640 —

staff trained in 2025, representing **4,603** hours of training

* As at September 30, 2025

Training talent in how to secure funding

The Institute has continued its policy of training researchers in bidding for calls for proposals from research funding bodies. This is an essential way of securing funding, supporting innovation, and improving the competitiveness of their scientific projects. "We have stepped up support for our teams through a masterclass series focused on preparing for national and European calls for tender, such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie postdoctoral fellowships, European Research Council funding, and other European collaborative projects", says Morgane Bourdonnais, Head of the Grants Office. These sessions aim to familiarize young researchers with the expectations of funders and to strengthen their skills for preparing effective applications.

Alongside this initiative, one of the year's internal Lunch & Learn events presented the Grants Office's duties, tools and best practices, as well as the internal database listing funding opportunities. This event format, which is open to all employees, is part of a collective approach to the monthly Lunch & Learns, during which the Institute's departments present their activities and projects, and the latest discoveries by their teams.

FINANCIAL REPORT

RIGOR AND TRANSPARENCY
CENTRAL TO OUR ACTION

Funding for research projects came from multiple sources, with a resolute focus on the long-term prospect of gaining knowledge and achieving major breakthroughs within the field of neuroscience. The balance sheet presented here covers the period from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025.

Income statement
by nature and function
(ISNF) and expenditure
statement (ES)

2025 INCOME BY NATURE

2025 income amounted to €115.7 M: this includes €85.4 M in revenue and €30.3 M carried forward from resources allocated and not used in previous years. Income for the fiscal year consisted of fundraising revenue (€45.7 M, or 53.5%), which includes donations (€18.9 M, or 22.1%), bequests and gifts (€6.5 M, or 7.6%), and sponsorship (€19.2 M, or 22.6%) and other income from public giving (€1 M, or 1.2%), including the share of financial income calculated according to the proportion of public giving in the total resources for the year.

It also includes:

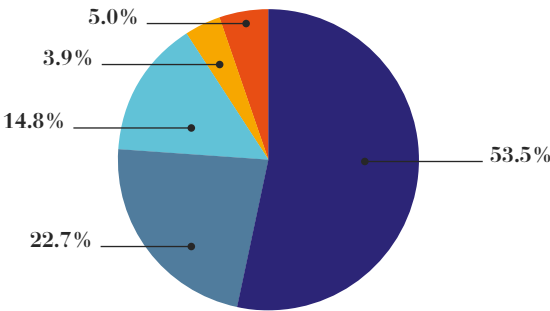
- income from core facility activities (€11.3 M, or 13.2%) and research collaborations with industry partners (€1.4 M, or 1.6%);
- public and private grants (€19.4 M, or 22.7%);
- funding of the "IHU Program" (€3.3 M, or 3.9%);
- miscellaneous income (rental income, re-invoicing of charges, financial income) (€4.3 M, or 5.0%).

2025 ALLOCATION BY FUNCTION

Overall expenses in 2025 amounted to €115.5 M: €75.4 M used in 2025, and €40.1 M carried forward as dedicated funds, to be used subsequently from the allocated resources. In 2025, the amount of expenditure allocated to **social missions** was **€65.4 M**, representing **86.8%** of total ISNF allocations.

As part of the dialogue with the Court of Auditors regarding its report on fiscal years 2020 to 2023, the Paris Brain Institute took the opportunity to clarify and refine the scope of its social missions around the following four core areas:

- research;
- creation and operation of advanced core facilities;
- health innovation through the promotion of research and technology transfer;
- the transfer and dissemination of knowledge.



INCOME BREAKDOWN

- Revenue from fundraising
- Public and private competitive funding
- Revenue from core facility activities and research collaborations with industry partners
- Financing of the IHU program
- Other revenue (rental income, re-invoicing of charges, financial income)

Refining this scope meant that the Foundation could report more clearly and precisely on the use of funds raised from its donors and partners, while enhancing consistency between its areas of strategic direction, funding model and long-term commitments.

The **86.8%** of jobs dedicated to social missions are therefore broken down as follows:

- research: **59.3%**
- creation and operation of advanced core facilities: **22.1%**
- health innovation through the promotion of research and technology transfer: **4.5%**
- the transfer and dissemination of knowledge: **0.9%**

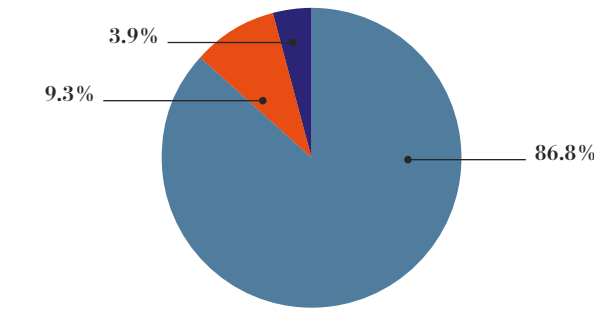
Fundraising costs are expenses incurred to raise funds from individuals (donations and bequests), companies and private foundations (corresponding to patronage

and sponsorship activities). This line item also includes payroll for the team responsible for supporting researchers in their applications for competitive grants. A share of the building costs is also included for all of these items (pro rata to the areas used by the relevant teams). These items represent a total of **€7 M**, or **9.3%** of total ISNF allocations.

Operating costs are expenditures incurred in the foundation's management and governance. They consist of:

- the direct costs of the General Secretariat;
- finance, human resources and IT team costs that have not been directly allocated to social missions;
- the costs of procurement, logistics, legal, internal communication and institutional communication services, from which a proportion required for conducting social missions is deducted from the operating costs and reallocated to the "social missions" item, pro rata to the number of employees;
- a proportion of the building costs, pro rata to the areas used by the relevant teams.

These account for **€3 M**, or **3.9%** of the total INSF allocations.

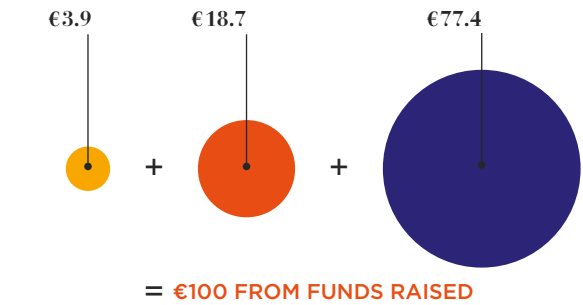


BREAKDOWN OF ALLOCATION

- Social missions
- Fundraising costs
- Operating costs

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES FROM PUBLIC GIVING

Resources from public fundraising used in 2025 amounted to **€45.7 M**. The share of social missions in expenses by function amounted to **84.9%**, including the item "transfer to dedicated funds for the year", which is fully linked to the social mission activities. To summarize, for every **€100** raised from public fundraising, **€77.4** was used to finance social missions and investments, **€18.7** was used to cover fundraising costs, and **€3.9** was used to cover the Paris Brain Institute operating costs.



- Operating costs
- Fundraising costs
- Financing of social missions and investments

Balance sheet for the fiscal year

ASSETS (M €)	2024	2025
Net fixed assets	77	77
Realizable and available assets	109	113
TOTAL	186	190

LIABILITIES (M €)	2024	2025
Equity	51	53
Fiscal year profit/loss	2.5	0.2
Dedicated funds	52	62
Debt	50	42
Deferred income	30	33
TOTAL	186	190

Total investments made by the Paris Brain Institute since its inception amount to €87.8 M, allocated primarily to the core facilities supporting research. Investments for the 2025 fiscal year amount to **€6.5 M**, including **€4.8 M** for investment in scientific equipment (including microscopes, genomics analyzers and automated systems), and **€1.2 M** for laboratory facilities and the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science.

Net fixed assets amount to **€77 M** at fiscal year end. As at September 30, 2025, cash holdings amount to **€57.4 M**, including **€40.9 M** allocated to earmarked funding. The Paris Brain Institute's **equity** stands at **€53.2 M** (including profit for the fiscal year of **€0.2 M**). This includes **€34.7 M** in net position, supplemented by investment grants of **€18.5 M**. The **non-expendable endowment** for the Paris Brain Institute is **€1.2 M**. At fiscal year-end, **allocated funds** (funds still to be invested in multi-year programs) amount to **€56.3 M**.

Voluntary in-kind contributions

VOLUNTEERING

The Paris Brain Institute was supported by volunteer hours during the 2025 fiscal year, primarily in connection with communications initiatives. The volume is estimated at 0.6 FTE or, based on an hourly minimum wage, a sum of €20 K.

IN-KIND AND SKILLS PATRONAGE

In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute Foundation was also supported by in-kind and skills patronage in connection with its communications and public fundraising activities. Specifically:

- Media space:**
- with tax receipt issued: Amaury Média, EDI TV, M6 GÉNÉRATION, MÉTROPOLE TÉLÉVISION M6, TUDO CERTO, PARIS PREMIÈRE;
 - with no tax receipt issued: Canal+, France TV, KLESIA, Mediavision, NRJ, Paramount, REGIS, RICHARD MILLE, RMC BFM, TF1.
- Donated products and services:**
- with tax receipt issued: Carine Pires Consulting, SPORT MARKET;
 - with no tax receipt issued: Anacofi, Art Basel Paris, Assouline, Balmain, Cheval Blanc Paris, Christie's, DataOnDemand, Drawing Hotels Collection, ETAM,

Fondation Air France, Fonds Amarcord, Francis Kurkdjian, Groupe Barrière, Groupe IDEC, Havas Play, JAÏS, Longines Paris Eiffel Jumping, Loulou Groupe, Orrick Rambaud Martel, Prose on Pixels, Publicis Cinémas, Publicis Groupe, Rolex, Théâtre de l'Espérance (Geneva), Veuve Clicquot, We Are Ona, WEARECLUB, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP, Yacht Club de Monaco.

The Paris Brain Institute is committed to maintaining its high standards of excellence and has internal and external control procedures in place to guarantee effective and efficient management. For example, it holds Trusted Donations Charter (Don en confiance) Committee certification and uses independent auditors.



Trusted donations

On November 3, 2010, the Paris Brain Institute received accreditation from the Trusted Donations Charter Committee. This was renewed in October 2022. For over 20 years, this committee has acted as professional regulator of public fundraising initiatives. The accreditation is based on three commitments: accredited organizations must respect ethical rules, must adhere to collective discipline vis-à-vis donors, and must agree to the continuous monitoring of commitments made.

The Trusted Donations Charter Committee's Board of Directors, meeting on October 16, 2025, approved the decision of its accreditation committee and renewed the Paris Brain Institute's accreditation for a further three-year period.

Reserve policy

as part of its commitments to transparency towards its donors, and in response to the recommendations of the Court of Auditors, the Paris Brain Institute has adopted a formal reserve policy. This policy was approved by its Board of Directors at its meeting on September 23, 2025.

The Paris Brain Institute relies on a mix of public and private funding sources to fulfil a mission that has a clear and long-term focus on advancing and promoting research into the brain and the spinal cord. As a foundation with recognized charitable status, the Paris Brain Institute must also hold and mature its endowment. This guarantees its capacity to carry out its pre-defined social missions over the long term. The annual resources of the Paris Brain Institute are therefore intended not only to cover the operating and financial costs for the fiscal year that arise from fulfilling its social missions, fundraising and operating costs, but also to generate surpluses that can finance investments and multi-year projects, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the Foundation. All or some of this surplus may therefore, by decision of the Board of Directors, supplement the endowment, with a balance being placed in reserve if necessary, to finance medium or long-term projects decided on by the Board of Directors.

INCOME STATEMENT BY NATURE AND FUNCTION

INCOME AND EXPENSES BY NATURE AND FUNCTION	FISCAL YEAR OCT. 2024-SEPT. 2025	
	TOTAL	INCLUDING PUBLIC SUPPORT
INCOME BY NATURE		
1. Resources collected from public support	45,694,877	45,694,877
1.1 Donations free of equivalent compensation		
1.2 Patronage, donations and bequests	44,609,713	44,609,713
Personal donations	18,933,785	18,933,785
Bequests, donations and life insurance policies	6,494,303	6,494,303
Patronage	19,181,625	19,181,625
1.3 Other revenue from public support	1,085,164	1,085,164
2. Resources unrelated to public support	20,365,249	
2.1 Donations free of equivalent compensation		
2.2 Corporate patronage		
2.3 Financial contributions free of equivalent compensation	3,324,768	
2.4 Other revenue unrelated to public support	17,040,581	
Services rendered	11,266,690	
Partnerships	1,423,194	
Other revenue	4,350,697	
3. Grants and other public funding	19,275,339	
4. Reversals of provisions and impairments	110,000	
5. Use of allocated resources from previous fiscal years	30,288,297	8,225,452
TOTAL	115,733,861	53,920,329
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION		
1. Social missions	65,378,361	27,820,391
1.1 Actions carried out in France	65,378,361	27,820,391
Actions directly carried out		
Research	44,690,246	18,636,900
Creation and operation of advanced core facilities	16,636,044	5,871,271
Health innovation through the promotion of research and technology transfer	3,377,790	2,758,827
Transfer and dissemination of knowledge	674,282	553,393
Payments to a central body or other bodies acting in France		
1.2 Actions carried out abroad		
Actions directly carried out		
Payments to a central body or other bodies acting in France		
2. Fundraising costs	7,032,569	6,734,667
2.1 Costs of public appeals	6,747,428	6,734,667
2.2 Costs related to canvassing	285,141	
3. Operating costs	2,936,275	1,395,819
4. Allocations for provisions and impairments	43,875	
5. Income tax		
6. Carryover of fiscal year allocated resources	40,122,312	17,969,452
TOTAL	115,513,393	53,920,329
SURPLUS OR DEFICIT	220,468	



EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

ALLOCATIONS BY FUNCTION	FISCAL YEAR OCT. 2024-SEPT. 2025	RESOURCES BY NATURE	FISCAL YEAR OCT. 2024-SEPT. 2025
ALLOCATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR		RESOURCES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR	
1. Social missions	27,820,391	1. Resources collected from public support	45,694,877
1.1 Actions carried out in France	27,820,391	1.1 Donations free of equivalent compensation	
Actions directly carried out		1.2 Patronage, donations and bequests	44,609,713
Research	18,636,900	Personal donations	18,933,785
Creation and operation of advanced core facilities	5,871,271	Bequests, donations and life insurance policies	6,494,303
Health innovation through the promotion of research and technology transfer	2,758,827	Patronage	19,181,625
Transfer and dissemination of knowledge	553,393		
Payments to a central body or other bodies acting in France		1.3 Other revenue from public support	1,085,164
1.2 Actions carried out abroad			
Actions directly carried out			
Payments to a central body or other bodies acting in France			
2. Fundraising costs	6,734,667		
2.1 Costs of public appeals	6,734,667		
2.2 Costs related to canvassing			
3. Operating costs	1,395,819		
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS IN THE INCOME STATEMENT	35,950,877	TOTAL RESOURCES	45,694,877
4. Allocations for provisions and impairments		2. Reversals of provisions and impairments	
5. Carryover of fiscal year allocated resources	17,969,452	3. Use of allocated resources from previous fiscal years	8,225,452
RESOURCE SURPLUS FOR FISCAL YEAR		PUBLIC SUPPORT DEFICIT FOR FISCAL YEAR	
TOTAL	53,920,329	TOTAL	53,920,329

PATRONAGE AND PHILANTHROPY

SUPPORTING THE INSTITUTE AND BEING A PARTNER IN ITS PROGRESS

Support from philanthropists, patrons, foundations and companies transforms research on brain diseases into hope for patients. In 2025, this essential support was once again international, interdisciplinary, and sustainable. This collective impetus is a powerful driver of scientific progress.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

The Circle of Friends offers its donor and patron members a unique opportunity to connect with the research teams they support. The members of the Paris Brain Institute's scientific and medical community would like to express their sincere gratitude to the philanthropists and patrons who continue to support the Institute for their unwavering trust and generosity.



Circle of Friends winter drinks reception, with the generous support of Cheval Blanc Paris.

A website designed for the Institute's major donors and patrons

The Circle of Friends website was launched in 2025 as a hub for the community of major donors and patrons of the Paris Brain Institute. Designed especially for members of the Circle of Friends, it offers a one-stop-shop for all the Institute's latest news: exclusive events, scientific advances, a focus on research projects supported and highlights from the life of the Circle. Serving as a hub for information and engagement, this website enables major donors and philanthropic partners to follow the tangible impact of their support for the Institute's researchers and scientific teams. This tool fosters a relationship based on transparency, sharing, and the recognition of this essential support for brain disease research.



OFFICE OF THE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

> Find out more

cercledesamis.institutducerveau.org

+33 (0)1 57 27 40 32

cercle@icm-institute.org

THE AMBASSADORS OF THE PARIS BRAIN INSTITUTE

Michelle Yeoh, actress

Jean Reno, actor

Guillaume de Tonquédec, actor

THE BRAIN CHALLENGE

Launch of the campaign and translating collective impetus into scientific and medical victories

The launch of the 2023-2028 Brain Challenge, the Paris Brain Institute's strategic fundraising campaign, was a milestone in 2025. The challenge aims to accelerate discoveries and spark a paradigm shift in the progress of research into brain diseases. Unveiled in 2025 at the Art Science Breakfast, this campaign has a clear ambition: to raise an additional €50 million by 2028 to improve the lives of patients and their families.



The Brain Challenge therefore aims to strengthen the Institute's model by providing teams with the scientific, human and technological resources needed to scale up.

This campaign relies on five pillars:

- creating an environment of excellence conducive to major breakthroughs;
- deepening our understanding of the brain in all its complexity;
- accelerating the development of therapeutic and preventive solutions;
- moving closer to personalized medicine through the use of data and AI;
- disseminating neuroscientific culture more widely.

These priorities translate into structural investments and specific projects. For example, the campaign has enabled the purchase of equipment such as the latest generation 7-Tesla MRI scanner, the MAGNETOM Terra.X (Siemens Healthineers). This was purchased in 2024 with the support of the Richard Mille Foundation. It has also enabled the Institute to purchase essential sequencing and microscopy technologies for exploring the brain at all scales.

The establishment of the Center for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (> see pp. 42-43), in tandem with the launch of the OneBrain cohort (> see p. 41), is also a strategic milestone. The center will make it possible to analyze massive volumes of clinical and biological data and to identify new biomarkers and predict disease progression.

The campaign also supports large-scale interdisciplinary projects. These include: NeuroPremis, supported by the Richard Mille Foundation and the Fondation Marie-Françoise Parayre Chauffour. This project aims to identify early markers common to neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory diseases before the onset of symptoms, to better understand their mechanisms and pave the way for early, personalized interventions.

The Brain Challenge Campaign Committee

The Brain Challenge Campaign Committee is a group of philanthropists* who are not just generous donors but are also committed to the development of the Paris Brain Institute.

PROF. GÉRARD SAILLANT,
Founding Member and Honorary
President of the Paris Brain Institute

JEAN TODT,
Founding Member and Vice-Chairman of
the Paris Brain Institute

LINDSAY OWEN-JONES,
Founding Member and Honorary
President of the Committee

MARTINE ASSOULINE AND MAURICE LÉVY,
Joint Presidents of the Committee

• Jean-Luc Allavena • Cédric de Baillencourt
• Frédéric Banzet • Alexandre Barrière
• François Barrault • Florence Courbit
• Stéphane Courbit • Jean-Charles Decaux
• Natacha Decaux • Véronique De Kepper
• François Henrot • Jean-Philippe Hottinguer
• Anne Jousse • Richard Mille • Eddie Misrahi
• Margaux Primat • Arnaud de Puyfontaine
• Christian Schmidt de La Brélie
• Serge Weinberg, Founding Member and
Chairman of the Paris Brain Institute

* As at September 30, 2025

Other major initiatives promote synergies between disciplines and accelerate the translation of discoveries into concrete applications. These include NeurAL (> see pp. 58-59), the Paris Brain Institute's neuroscience seed fund, supported by the Fondation Anne et Claude Berda and Indosuez, which supports researchers in the creation of innovative startups.

By appealing to patrons and philanthropists who are members of the Circle of Friends, the Brain Challenge offers an important opportunity to reduce time between discovery and treatment, and moves the Institute into a new phase of development.

Find out more >



INTERNATIONAL

Paris Brain Institute America: supporting transatlantic brain research

In 2025, Paris Brain Institute America took a decisive step by contributing more than €1 million to funding transatlantic research projects and directly supporting the Paris Brain Institute. This is the biggest contribution since Paris Brain Institute America was first set up in 2023, as a result of a project led by the Paris Brain Institute, by its New York ambassador Jean Reno, and by a Board of Directors consisting of the President and Founder of Paris Brain Institute America, Martine Assouline, along with Jean Todt, Richard Hsiao, Henry Gazay and Zofia Reno.

To tackle the major public health challenge posed by neurological and psychiatric brain diseases, research cannot progress without international scientific corporation and ambitious transatlantic funding. Paris Brain Institute America, a charitable organization in the US with 501(c)(3) tax status, acts as a link between French and US research by encouraging philanthropy in the United States for the benefit of research excellence.

The first projects supported focus on major research areas:

- severe head injuries, in partnership with Columbia University;
- glioblastomas, in collaboration with Harvard Medical School;
- a project focused on Alzheimer's disease.

Beyond funding, Paris Brain Institute America plays an essential role as a facilitator between scientists, patrons and opinion leaders by organizing numerous events that foster a better understanding of the scientific, medical and societal issues related to brain diseases.

The third annual Paris Brain Institute America dinner, held on October 14, 2025, in New York, chaired by Gildo Pallanca Pastor, brought together a committed philanthropic and scientific community. The dinner was



also attended by Prof. Gérard Saillant and Prof. Stéphanie Debette as well as Brian Lau, illustrating the potential for deeper scientific cooperation between France and the United States. Paris Brain Institute America also coordinated, with FrenchFounders, an interview at the Transatlantic Leaders Forum stage around the "courage of living" theme, with Olivier Goy, who also produced a series of New York portraits for La Fresque Gèneuse artistic and philanthropic initiative (> see p. 92).

Finally, several major patrons of Paris Brain Institute America opened up their doors for exclusive discussions with prominent researchers: Helena Skarstedt and Marianne Verbuyt on myelin and neurodegenerative diseases, with Brahim Nait-Oumesmar; François and Ketty Maisonrouge on brain tumors, with Prof. Gérard Saillant; Martine and Prosper Assouline on sleep and dreams, with Lionel Naccache; and Alexandra Curiel-Joffo, at a fundraising drinks reception at Petrossian in New York, with Mehdi Touat.

By bringing together scientists, philanthropists and members of civil society, Paris Brain Institute America is actively helping to build more collaborative, inclusive and ambitious brain research in the knowledge that significant breakthroughs in neuroscience emerge from the synergy of scientific inquiry, engagement, and international dialogue.



CORPORATE GIVING

Making progress in driving safety, with support from Fondation Vinci Autoroutes



Fondation Vinci Autoroutes is supporting a Paris Brain Institute research project about mind wandering and reduced vigilance while driving, which is a major road safety issue. Despite technological advances, road accidents still cause 1.3 million deaths and up to 50 million serious injuries worldwide every year, highlighting the need for a better understanding of the human factors behind driving errors.

The Foundation is supporting the work of Thomas Andriillon, a researcher at the Paris Brain Institute within the DreamTeam team. This two-year study explores the brain mechanisms of mind wandering and localized sleep intrusions in awake individuals. By observing slow waves, it aims to identify a neuronal biomarker able to predict the onset and nature of errors. This support helps to advance neuroscience research for the benefit of prevention and the safety of everyone.

FONDATION



Bien (se) conduire

fondation.vinci-autoroutes.com

TraumaCare: a commitment by Fondation OCIRP

The Fondation OCIRP is continuing its commitment to the Paris Brain Institute by supporting the TraumaCare project, which monitors post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As a major public health issue PTSD effects around 3%-4% of the population during their lifetime, and nearly 70% of individuals are exposed to at least one potentially traumatizing event. Developed by the Paris Brain Institute's Care Lab in collaboration with

the Paris Medical and Psychological Emergency Unit (CUMP), the TraumaCare app aims to better support, inform and equip people who are suffering from psychological trauma as a consequence of a violent incident. The support of the Fondation OCIRP makes it possible to improve the tool thanks to user feedback, so it can be tested in real conditions in preparation for being rolled out to specific audiences, including children. This partnership illustrates how digital innovation can support mental health, and the societal impact of neuroscience research.

Fondation
OCIRP
Engagés pour l'autonomie!
fondation-ocirp.fr



Mutuelles AXA insurance supports research into intellectual development disorders

Mutuelles AXA insurance is lending its support to the RNUSplice project at the Paris Brain Institute, focused on studying intellectual development disorders (IDD), a group of disorders that affect between 2% and 3% of the population and which impair cognitive functions and learning. These disorders, which are often genetic in origin, remain poorly understood, especially when they are caused by variations in the non-coding genome. Recently, pathogenic variants of a small non-coding nuclear RNA of the major spliceosome, RNU4-2, have been identified as a major cause of IDDs. RNUSplice, led by Caroline Nava from the MOSAIC team, aims to deepen our understanding of the conditions associated with these spliceosomal small nuclear RNAs (snRNAs), since they play a key role in the splicing of messenger RNA, and to explore the biological mechanisms associated with these IDDs by combining clinical, genetic and pathophysiological analyses.

The support from Mutuelles AXA will finance this research project over three years, as part of a call for projects covering several innovative health initiatives in France. This partnership illustrates the importance of corporate giving for advancing basic and translational research that is aimed at better diagnosing and understanding IDDs, for the benefit of patients and their families.



mutuelles-axa.fr

PHILANTHROPY

Olivier Goy, the Paris Brain Institute ambassador

In 2025, Olivier Goy’s commitment continued to grow with remarkable momentum. In just 12 months, he mobilised nearly 1,500 donors and raised €1.32 million. for research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS, or motor neurone disease), bringing the total value of his initiatives to nearly €3.2 million. Entrepreneur, Les Invincibles All United association patron and the Paris Brain Institute ambassador Olivier Goy has channeled his energy, connections and reputation into supporting the Institute’s research teams that work to understand and treat this disease, for which there is still no cure.

This momentum was highlighted by the organisation of the inaugural “Invincibles Ensemble” charity concert at The Olympia. The event, created by Nicolas Santi-Weil and the team at Les Invincibles, featured artists such as Aliocha Schneider, Eddy de Pretto and Zaho de Sagazan, who used their voices to raise awareness about ALS.

At the same time, Olivier Goy continued to pioneer innovative funding models, for example through the “Invincible Été” philanthropic fund, operated by the PAMS management company and aimed at supporting the CURE-ND4ALS European consortium (> see p. 23). With support from a group of companies and the artist Vahram Muratyan, in 2025 he also began La Fresque Généreuse, a collective work consisting of portraits of donors, researchers and staff at the Institute, as well as patients, photographed by Olivier himself.

Other organizations also deserve recognition for their strong commitments alongside Olivier Goy and therefore the Paris Brain Institute: Groupe Loulou, which held an annual charity dinner in aid of the Paris Brain Institute in 2025, and Havas Play, which created an awareness and engagement campaign about ALS, devised by Tristan Séguéla.



Growing support for brain tumor research

In 2025, the Paris Brain Institute saw an exceptional community grow and come together in support of brain tumor research, an area of focus for two research teams since January 2025. In just 12 months, two ambassadors, Alexandra Curiel-Joffo and Pauline Crucis-Mouline—who lost their husbands aged 51 and 39 respectively following brain tumors—successfully raised €265,000 in Europe and \$357,000 in the United States from their friends, relatives and professional networks, to support research into this disease. In Paris, donors who joined their cause were invited to a series of events, during which they met the researchers and doctors who work every day to develop therapeutic solutions. In London and New York, partners including Petrossian and Christie’s hosted high-profile campaigning events aimed at attracting international philanthropists.

The ongoing success of these events and campaigns has led to a surge in collaborative efforts with partners and ambassadors who are working alongside the Paris Brain Institute to increase public awareness of brain tumors and secure much-needed funding for research.

Image from the campaign created by Havas Play.



The Fondation Didier et Martine Primat becomes a benefactor of the Paris Brain Institute

In 2025, the Fondation Didier et Martine Primat committed to supporting the Paris Brain Institute through a unique three-year partnership, providing financial support for neuroscience research. This funding, deployed over the 2025-2028 period,

focuses on supporting a thesis project within the DecodALS team, led by Séverine Boillée. Through this important commitment, the Fondation Didier et Martine Primat is helping to advance knowledge about amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a severe neurodegenerative disease for which there is still no cure. By supporting training for a young researcher and an ambitious research program, the Foundation is actively contributing to the emergence of new scientific and therapeutic pathways, while making a lasting contribution to the research excellence ecosystem championed by the Paris Brain Institute.



THREE
QUESTIONS FOR
EDDIE MISRAHI

Expanding ways to support brain research

At the Paris Brain Institute, the generosity of our patrons plays a decisive role in advancing research and discovering new therapeutic solutions. Every day, donations make it possible to support scientific teams, finance innovative projects and assist researchers in their daily work to tackle neurological and psychiatric diseases. As part of this collective commitment, some patrons also choose to get involved by exploring pathways that complement traditional forms of philanthropy.

Eddie Misrahi is a perfect example of this. Eddie has been a member of the Paris Brain Institute Circle of Friends since 2020 and is now a member of the Brain Challenge Campaign Committee, as well as the Paris Brain Institute Treasurer. As a prominent investor, a graduate of École Polytechnique and Harvard Business School, and former president of the Seven2 private equity firm (formerly Apax Partners), he has made his expertise available to the Institute by creating The Brain Fund, a shared *private equity* fund intended to strengthen the funding capacities of neuroscience research conducted at the Paris Brain Institute over the long term.

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What led you to propose creating The Brain Fund?

EDDIE MISRAHI | Philanthropic support is essential to the Institute’s operations and future growth. The idea for The Brain Fund was to broaden the range of ways of getting involved and to offer certain patrons a different way to contribute by committing over the long term. Launched in 2022 and managed by Impact Partners, The Brain Fund I has raised 25 million euros from major donor families and institutional investors. The principle behind it is based on a mechanism for sharing capital gains: when investments made in unlisted European companies are sold, investors donate the majority of the profits back to the Paris Brain Institute.

How does this model work in practice?

E.M. | The fund invests with recognized management companies. As the value of the investments increases, the investors agree to allocate the bulk of it to the Paris Brain institute while retaining a share of the yield. The strategy is one of partnership

and trust, in pursuit of a shared scientific goal. Building on the success of this first fund, a second fund was launched in 2025 with a target of €30 million. Ultimately, these rounds of funding could create a financial base to supplement existing donations and corporate giving, to provide long-term support for research.

What is your ambition for the future?

E.M. | It’s less a question of replacing existing forms of giving, and more about strengthening them. If The Brain Fund can contribute additional resources to the Institute over time, it will have fulfilled its role completely.

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PUBLIC FUNDRAISING:
A CORNERSTONE
OF RESEARCH SUPPORT

Each year, more than 100,000 donors join forces with the Paris Brain Institute to support research into neurological and psychiatric diseases. This growing collective commitment has become a cornerstone of the Paris Brain Institute's mission. The fundraising finances ambitious projects in both basic and clinical research, and gives teams the means to carry out their work over the long term. By relying on a rigorously managed fundraising program and diversified forms of engagement, the Paris Brain Institute is sustainably strengthening the link between researchers and public support for the benefit of medical progress.

A structured and ongoing program

Throughout 2025, the Paris Brain Institute rolled out a program coordinated around more than 40 fundraising campaigns combining offline and online tools, as well as popular science events led by researchers. These campaigns include *Synapse*, a newsletter sent to donors four times a year with news of scientific advances and hopes in a particular field of research. In 2024-2025, the topics covered were Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, and rare neurological diseases, while a special issue was dedicated to the 15th anniversary of the Paris Brain Institute.

All of these campaigns have made it possible to share scientific advances, present current research projects, and strengthen the enduring link between researchers and the general public. The involvement of Guillaume de Tonquédec—patron of the Discoverers of Hope (Découvreurs d'Espoir) campaign and long-standing ambassador of the Institute—once again helped to drive the campaigns and raise awareness among a wide audience about the challenges of neuroscience research. the Paris Brain Institute wishes to thank him wholeheartedly.

In September 2025, the Institute also launched the national *Remember* campaign, kicking off a month of awareness around Alzheimer's disease. This initiative marks a commitment to establishing a key date on the calendar for raising awareness and fundraising around this condition, which currently affects more than 1 million people in France, a figure that is expected to increase in the coming years.



Celebrating research and support

The *Sound of Neurons* documentary film, directed in March 2024 by Alice Winocour and narrated by Vincent Lindon, takes you on a immersive journey with Carine Karachi (Sorbonne University/AP-HP) into the heart of the clinical research conducted at the Paris Brain Institute. The film was awarded first prize in the Deauville Green Awards in June 2025, and a Gold Dolphin at Cannes Corporate Media and TV awards in September 2025. These accolades recognize the Institute's ability to communicate scientific challenges with rigor and humanity to an increasingly diverse audience.

The Amour Amour Amour association also renewed its commitment to research into brain tumors, through events such as the gala dinner held during the Cabourg Film Festival in June 2025. During the dinner, at which the association was celebrated, Prof. Gérard Saillant was asked to present the Institute's mission to the guests and to remind them of the urgent need for action for brain health.



Expanding ways to support the institute

In 2024-2025, the Paris Brain Institute continued to expand its range of fundraising activities, to reach new audiences and offer new forms of support accessible to everyone. A micro-donations campaign was launched at Galeries Lafayette stores in France during the summer of 2025. In addition, 80 runners wore the race t-shirts available during the Paris half marathon and the adidas 10k Paris, to raise funds from their friends and family by running in aid of the Paris Brain Institute.

Les Foulées du Cortex: a growing movement

The second Foulées du Cortex challenge marked a new phase for this charitable sporting event. Under the sponsorship of Ophélie Meunier, more than 1,600 people took part and €100,000 was raised for research. The Paris Brain Institute received support from Sagemcom, the event's sponsor, illustrating the growing commitment by companies to supporting research.



Our generous donors make it possible

In the 2024-2025 fiscal year, public fundraising continued apace, increasing by 14.7% compared with the previous year. This figure is thanks to the commitment of more than 115,000 regular and new donors whose support is critical to the Paris Brain Institute's operations, along with support from patrons and major donors. Their generosity plays a key role in the Institute's ability to conduct its research over the long term. The Institute extends its sincerest thanks to everyone who, through their support, contributes each year to advancing the knowledge and treatment of brain diseases.

“Les Foulées du Cortex challenge embodies all the values that are important to us: combating a sedentary lifestyle, leveraging individual effort for the collective good, healthy competition, and a sense of solidarity. And all for the benefit of the scientists who are advancing research within the Paris Brain Institute, which was created around these same values. We are proud and excited to support this campaign.”

Sylvaine Couleur
Executive Vice-President
CSR & Communication, Sagemcom

BEQUESTS AND LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

LEAVING A LEGACY FOR THE FUTURE OF RESEARCH

More and more people are choosing to make a long-term commitment to the Paris Brain Institute through a bequest or life insurance policy. This support is essential for advancing neuroscience research and addressing the major public health challenge posed by brain diseases. In 2025, bequests and life insurance policies received by the Institute amounted to €4.6 million, making a decisive contribution to advances in research. This figure represents the commitment of more than 40 women and men who have chosen to continue their support and commitment beyond their own lifetimes, and the Institute wishes to pay tribute to them.

Leaving a legacy: an important plan that requires careful thought

The Paris Brain Institute organized the first “Rencontres de la Transmission” in October 2024, to answer questions for anyone considering leaving a legacy, with the theme “The legacy of scientific progress”. This event provided an opportunity to review the current state of knowledge in brain research and to discuss the Institute’s major research challenges, as well as future perspectives for unlocking the mysteries of the brain and developing new treatments for the diseases that affect it. In the second part of the event, participants learned more about how a bequest or life insurance policy can help advance scientific research.



CONTACT

To receive the brochure on bequests and life insurance policies and/or issues of the “Transmission & Patrimoine” legacies newsletter, or if you have any questions about giving to the Paris Brain Institute, please contact:

Carole Clément: +33 (0)1 57 27 41 41
or **carole.clement@icm-institute.org**.



A dedicated and attentive team

Carole Clément, Testator Relations Manager, and Marion Boulet, a specialized notary responsible for managing gifts and donations to the Institute, are available to discuss bequest plans and answer any questions.

Their role is to help people who are considering making a bequest with their decision, provide information about the Institute (how it is funded, its research teams, its major advances and challenges, etc.), or to introduce people to the Institute through a visit or a meeting with researchers.

They can also provide support with the process, for example by offering advice on drafting a will in complete confidence and with no obligation.

> Meet the team in this video

Resources available

Recognising that choosing to leave a legacy is a deeply personal and significant decision, the Paris Brain Institute team provides a comprehensive brochure outlining the process of making a bequest or donating through a life insurance policy. It also publishes a biannual newsletter called “Transmission & Patrimoine”. Attached to the *Synapse* newsletter sent to the Paris Brain Institute donors, the brochure explains the different aspects of leaving a legacy to support the Institute’s research. Topics covered include writing your will, organizing your estate, transferring life insurance policies, or making a bequest as a couple. Nine issues are now available.



Commitments that inspire hope

The Paris Brain Institute wishes to express its sincere gratitude to every donor who chooses to bequeath a gift to the organization. All the teams at the Institute are immensely grateful for this great gesture of humanity in support of a common cause: preventing and curing brain diseases.





INSIGHT
**ROSELYNE
AND PHILIPPE**

Leaving a bequest as a couple is a beautiful gesture of generosity together

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The end of our parents’ lives made us more aware of brain research. The research conducted at the Paris Brain Institute is helping to find solutions for these neurodegenerative diseases. We also needed to find reliable legatees for the proper management of our estate, and our dealings with the Paris Brain Institute have been so valuable. We now know what will happen to our shared assets. With this bequest, we are moving in the same direction. It is a way for us to look beyond our life together.

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