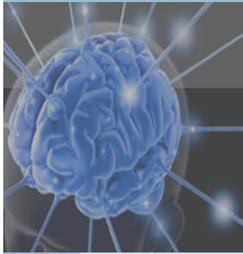


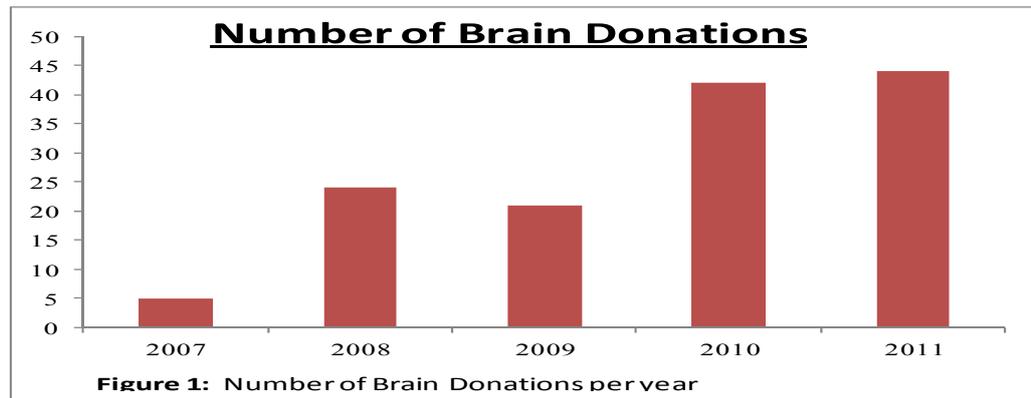
Dublin Brain Bank Newsletter



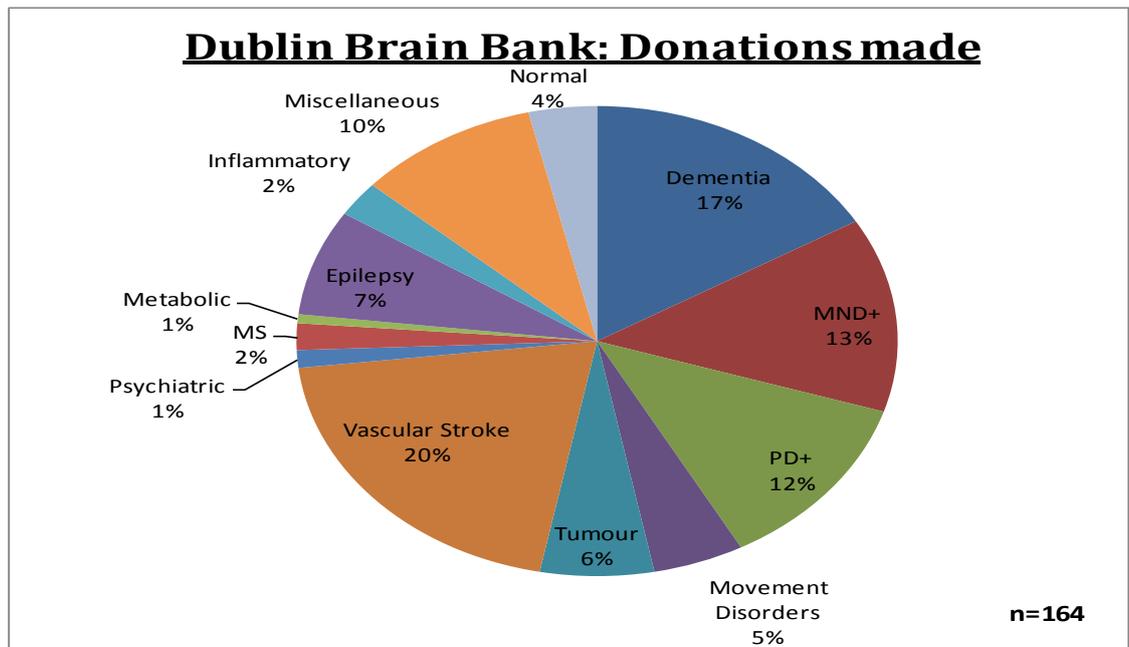
Welcome to the third issue of the Dublin Brain Bank Newsletter. Now in operation for 4 years the DBB has seen a hugely positive response since its launch in 2008. Donations have been increasing year on year. The DBB aims to facilitate brain donation and to provide brain tissue to ethically approved neuroscience research projects in Ireland.

Brain Donations to date

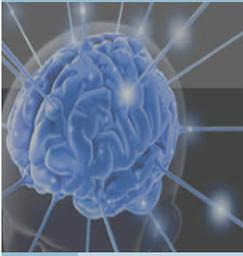
The brain bank has received over 160 donations in its first four years of operation, with an additional 100 living registered donors. Donations have been growing steadily with increased awareness as can be seen from Figure 1 below.



The Brain Bank archives post-mortem brain tissue for research into disorders of the central nervous system. The availability of donated tissue, along with recent advances, particularly in genetics, allow for more accurate and informative research to be carried out. To date brain tissue is available from an array of different neurological disorders as can be seen from the Figure 2 below.



Unfortunately we have only received a small number of brains from cognitively normal individuals. Lack of healthy normal brains is a problem faced by all brain banks. Increasing the supply of 'healthy' tissue is essential to clearly distinguish the effects of normal aging in patients with neurodegeneration. By encouraging post mortem brain donation, the Dublin Brain Bank provides an opportunity for the public to make a very tangible contribution to medical science.



Request for Tissues

All tissue requests to the Brain Bank are considered by our Tissue Advisory Board. The Dublin Brain Bank is committed to openness and transparency in its regulatory procedures and the research it supports. Investigators for tissue need to complete tissue requisition forms and provide proof of the research groups' ethical approval. The application will then be considered by the Dublin Brain Bank Advisory Board prior to approval.

The Brain Bank continuously strives to build a collection that will adequately provide to neuroscience research groups nationwide in the future.



Register to Donate

If you have any queries contact the Project Coordinator, Teresa Loftus. If requested you will be sent out an 'Intention to Donate' form and information. We encourage all potential donors to discuss donation with their family, Next-of-kin and their GP. When a registered donor passes away, the Brain Bank is notified by either the doctor caring for the donor, the Next-of-kin or the hospital the donor dies in. The donor's next-of-kin is then asked to complete a PM consent form. The tissue is removed at either Beaumont Hospital or a regional hospital where the donor passes away. All transfer costs incurred by a donation are covered by the Dublin Brain Bank. We have recently developed a website dedicated to providing vital information to those interested in the brain bank from both a donor and researchers perspective. www.brainbank.ie

Neuroscience Research In Ireland

Research into Neurodegenerative Disorders is currently being carried out in a number of Institutions across Ireland. Prof. Michael Rowan's group in Trinity College Dublin (TCD) are researching pharmacological methods which target β -Amyloid, to try to conserve neuronal function by reducing plaque formation. RNAi techniques are being employed to enhance the clearance of β -Amyloid, through the Blood Brain Barrier of AD patients by Dr. Matthew Campbell in TCD. Prof. Tim Lynch of the Dublin Neurological Institute at the Mater Misericordiae Hospital and colleagues throughout Europe and America have examined the genetic risk factors for developing Parkinson's disease and the population specific heterogeneity which exists. Prof. Orla Hardiman and her colleagues continue their internationally recognised and recently published seminal original work on the importance of *c9orf72* gene in Motor Neuron Disease. There is much more outstanding work taking place across the country within the myriad of neuroscience disciplines and institutions. The Brain Bank intends to support this research by providing access to human brain tissue. Your donation will make a difference.

The Brain Bank would like to thank the families of those who have generously donated and also to those who have taken the time to register in our donor scheme.

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