

NCE funding for
KIDS BRAIN HEALTH NETWORK (KBHN)*
\$39.1 million for 2009-19

TREATING AND PREVENTING CHILDHOOD BRAIN DISORDERS

The opportunity

With one in six children affected by neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy, autism and fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), there is an enormous need to improve diagnostic capabilities, develop new interventions, introduce new clinical practices, and better support affected children and their families. Already known globally for its excellence in neuroscience and brain-related research, Canada's next step was to create a national network to enable researchers, neurological institutes and children's hospitals across the country to collaborate on new ways to treat, cure or prevent brain dysfunction in unborn children, and help children and their families overcome the challenges of neurodevelopmental disorders.

KBHN at a glance

NCE program

Network of Centres of Excellence

Number of partners

177

Partner contributions

\$19.1 million

Headquarters

University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, British Columbia

Scientific Director



Daniel Goldowitz

Board chair



Sheila Laredo
Chief of staff, Women's College
Hospital



How KBHN is seizing the opportunity

Kids Brain Health Network (KBHN) researchers from multiple scientific disciplines collaborate with community, industry, government and non-profit partners to understand the genetic and environmental causes of cerebral palsy, autism and FASD. The network supports high-impact, transformative research and its translation into tangible benefits, and provides innovative training opportunities to seed a new generation of highly skilled Canadian researchers. This collaborative effort is providing health care professionals, policy makers, caregivers and families with tools and information to promote earlier diagnosis, better treatment and optimal outcomes for children today and in the future.

Among the results

- KBHN has led the development of a national Cerebral Palsy Registry with information on more than 1,400 children. This invaluable data promotes better understanding of treatment options and supports critical new research.
- KBHN's FASD researchers have shown that eye-tracking technology from SR Research Inc. is a promising screening tool for FASD and ADHD, based on an algorithm developed by Laurent Itti and Doug Munoz, who are pursuing a patent for their work.
- The Social ABCs early behavioural intervention program targets 18-30 month olds diagnosed with or showing early signs of autism. In partnership with Humber College, KBHN turned it into a train-the-teacher program for early childhood educators (ECEs). Following their training, four ECEs observed improvement in verbal capacity, social initiation and engagement with peers among the children supported with the program.
- Drawing on KBHN research, the Ottawa-based Fetal-Alcohol Resource Program (FARP) supports individuals and families affected by FASD. Three FARP system navigators facilitate access to regional services, offer training for professionals and agency staff in multiple sectors, and provide evidence-based education to the justice community to promote constructive engagement with people with FASD.

Learn more about KBHN:
www.neurodevnet.ca



* (formerly known as NeuroDevNet)



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