

RHODE ISLAND

brain 2019 week

CELEBRATING BRAIN SCIENCE AND BRAIN HEALTH



DISCOVER THE BRAIN ALL OVER AGAIN

2019 events report



Brain Week Rhode Island was created in 2016 by Cure Alliance for Mental Illness, a national advocacy organization promoting increased research on mental illness. After doubling in scope from 2016 to 2017, Brain Week RI 2018 boasted 2000 attendees and featured dozens of notable panelists, performers, and top experts in their respective fields – doctors, administrators, professors, dancers, artists, patients and patient advocates among others!

Our goal is to showcase the wealth of neuroscience activity and advocacy in Rhode Island. We are a small state but pack a hefty punch when it comes to our brainy contributions in the international arena. From basic research that aims to understand basic brain function, to cutting edge clinical work that restores lost function to people with neuromuscular disorders, most Rhode Islanders don't even realize we are on the map. Brain Week Rhode Island aims to promote a growing biomedical economic sector that holds great promise for Rhode Island's future. In the process, we aim to make brain science a household topic of conversation!

We are grateful to all of our sponsors, including our presenting sponsors, the Carney Institute for Brain Science at Brown University and the George & Anne Ryan Neuroscience Institute at the University of Rhode Island. We appreciate all those who worked to make Brain Week RI such a success and those who will continue those efforts for Brain Week RI 2019! We are also grateful to the Dana Foundation whose international Brain Awareness Week campaign inspired our venture and provides us with reading materials for the public. Finally, we are thankful to all of our attendees, whose curiosity about the brain fuels our efforts every year.

Sincerely,

Victoria Heimer-McGinn, PhD
Chair, Brain Week Rhode Island
Assistant Professor of Neuroscience
Psychology Department
Roger Williams University

Hakon Heimer
Chair, Cure Alliance for Mental Illness
Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences
Advisor to the Dean
University of Copenhagen

BRAINY School Visits Throughout February and March

HOSTED BY: Brain Week Rhode Island &
Brown University Department of Neuroscience

ATTENDANCE: 500

FORMAT: Free in-house field trips

AUDIENCE: K-12 classrooms

NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS:

Kaitlin Wilcoxon, Ph.D. candidate

John Stein, Ph.D.

Victoria Heimer-McGinn, Ph.D

Kristin Webster, Ph.D.

Now in its fourth successful year, Brain Week Rhode Island partnered with Brown University to bring a team of graduate and postdoctoral students from Brown University to visit schools in Rhode Island. Outreach to underserved student populations was a priority, although both public and private schools were accommodated. At the visits, researchers brought preserved human brains as a springboard for lively discussions to explain decision-making, memory, sleep, the five senses, injury, and disease from a neurological perspective. The students, ranging from pre kindergarten to seasoned high schoolers, got to hold and interact with the plasticized brains. Needless to say, they were thrilled with the opportunity. Even administrators and teachers from other disciplines stopped by to learn about the brain!

To discuss a visit to your school for next year, please email Claire Kokoska at Brain-WeekRI@gmail.com.





OPENING RECEPTION AND BRAIN ART FAIR SATURDAY, MARCH 09, 2019

HOSTED BY: Brain Week Rhode Island &
Neuroscience Graduate Program at Brown University

ATTENDANCE: 100

FORMAT: Reception and interactive art exhibit

AUDIENCE: All ages (activities for adults and kids)

NOTABLE SPEAKERS:

Congressman Jim Langevin
Diane Lipscombe, Ph.D.
Victoria Heimer-McGinn, Ph.D.
Alycia Mosley Austin, Ph.D.
Stephen Mernoff, M.D.
Stephen Salloway, M.D., M.S.

Brain Week Rhode Island celebrated its fourth annual year with an Opening Reception and fun networking hour for sponsors, organizers, participants, along with kids and adults of all ages that were curious about the brain. The event included wacky neuro-demonstrations featuring optical illusions and light / sound distortions, along with a Brain Art Fair that perspective is both malleable and captivating. A wonderful microcosm for the Brain Week Rhode Island to follow, the Opening Reception proceeded immediately after a keynote lecture (Opioids: Health, Policy & Neuroscience).



OPIOIDS: HEALTH, POLICY & NEUROSCIENCE SATURDAY, MARCH 09, 2019

HOSTED BY: Brain Week Rhode Island

ATTENDANCE: 50

FORMAT: Panel Discussion

AUDIENCE: Adults, young adults

NOTABLE SPEAKERS:

Pablo Rodriguez, M.D. (moderator)
Tom Coderre
Linda Mahoney
Andrew Mallon, Ph.D.

Join us for a discussion on the nationwide opioid epidemic. Our panelists are uniquely positioned to converse about the various aspects of the epidemic. What are the current health concerns and how do we address them? What does this mean for public policy? And in a special Brain Week edition, what is the biological basis of addiction and what does it mean for human behavior in general? Our panelists will speak about their respective specialties and will take audience questions for a general discussion. The panel will be followed by an opening reception at the Rhode Island Museum of Art and Science.

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S! SWAB PARTY AND PRESENTATION MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2019

HOSTED BY: Memory & Aging Program at Butler Hospital

ATTENDANCE: 30

FORMAT: Lecture and Data Collection

AUDIENCE: Adults, seniors, college students

NOTABLE SPEAKERS:

Stephen Salloway, M.D., M.S.



In the fight against Alzheimer's, Brain Week Rhode Island teamed with the Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital to host a joint lecture and swab party. As roughly one in five adults over 75 suffers from Alzheimer's, it is an incredibly prevalent disease that affects millions and their loved ones. Stephen Salloway, MD, MS, director of the Memory and Aging Program at Butler Hospital and Martin M. Zucker Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University presented an eye-opening lecture on Alzheimer's disease and the latest breakthrough research related to Alzheimer's prevention and screening. Following the talk, eligible attendees were invited to participate in the swab party portion of the evening, involving a GeneMatch cheek swab on site to enhance upcoming Alzheimer's research.



EXPLORING FEAR AND SOCIAL CONNECTION THROUGH THE SCIENCES TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

HOSTED BY: Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence

ATTENDANCE: 50

FORMAT: Panel, Posterboard Session

AUDIENCE: Adults, young adults, college students, seniors

NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS:

Adaner Usmani, Ph.D.

Mascha van 't Wout-Frank, Ph.D.

Amy Cameron, Ph.D.

This event explored fear, interpersonal conflict, and social connection through an interdisciplinary lens, giving attendees the tools to apply these concepts to minimize domestic violence with community awareness and support. The hosting partner, the Nonviolence Institute's mission is to teach, by word and example, the principles and practices of nonviolence, and to foster a community that addresses potentially violent situations with nonviolent solutions. It works to build Dr. King's ideal of the nonviolent Beloved Community.

Attendees were able to explore current research on the topic of domestic violence with experts using hands-on activities and poster boards. The evening ended with a series of short talks given by experts on neuropsychology, sociology, psychiatry, and psychology related to human decision-making.

UNDERSTANDING AND PREVENTING SUICIDE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

HOSTED BY: Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN) & Carney Institute for Brain Science at Brown University

ATTENDANCE: 60

FORMAT: Panel

AUDIENCE: Adults, young adults, college students, seniors

NOTABLE SPEAKERS:

Jennifer M. Primack, Ph.D.

Benjamin D. Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D.

Michael F. Armey, Ph.D

While suicide is 10th leading cause of death in the United states and rates of suicide have increased over the last 10 years, it still proves a difficult topic to broach. Our expert panel was comprised of three health professionals (one psychiatrist and two psychologists) and researchers, as well as a military veteran who personally experienced attempted suicide and suffers with chronic ideation. The panel addressed suicide, risk factors, prevention, warning signs, and cutting-edge treatments from the perspective of researchers, clinicians, and patients. With such high prevalence, our goal was to educate attendees about suicide and related behaviors, in order to further reduce stigma surrounding suicide by speaking openly about it.





STORY COLLIDER - BRAIN EDITION WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

HOSTED BY: The Story Collider & Brain Week Rhode Island

ATTENDANCE: 120

FORMAT: Storytelling

AUDIENCE: Adults, young adults, college students, seniors

NOTABLE SPEAKERS:

Danielle Newport Fancher (migraines)

Sam Smiley (left-right discrimination)

Jose Soria (traumatic brain injury)

Emily Winn (concussions, skull fractures)

Anusha Allawala (chronic pain: trigeminal neuralgia)

Brain Week Rhode Island was proud to bring a brain-themed Story Collider to adults of all ages. Whether we wear a white lab coat or haven't seen a test tube since the eighth grade, science affects and changes us. We were intrigued by the heartfelt and riveting personal stories of five incredible individuals that shared their brain triumphs and tribulations. From chronic, incurable pain, to life-altering brain injuries, each of the five storytellers .

DANCE FOR AGING AND MOVEMENT CHALLENGES THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

HOSTED BY: Artists and Scientists as Partners

ATTENDANCE: 35

FORMAT: Dance Class

AUDIENCE: Adults, kids, seniors

CONTRIBUTORS:

Rachel Balaban

Victoria Heimer-McGinn, Ph.D.

Taught by Rachel Balaban, co-founder and co-director of the Arts and Scientists as Partners (ASaP), this is based on the ongoing Dance for All People movement, designed to bring joy and movement to an aging population. The choreographies help participants increase coordination, strength, and flexibility, while releasing body tension, and improving balance and gait. An equal number of older adults and young adult volunteers promotes healthy intergenerational support and collaboration. A special Brain Week edition featured discussions about the physiological and cognitive benefits of exercise and social engagement.



SUPERFOODS FOR THE GUT AND BRAIN
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

HOSTED BY: URI George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience

ATTENDANCE: 60

FORMAT: Lecture

AUDIENCE: Interested kids and adults of all ages

NOTABLE SPEAKERS: Navindra Seeram, Ph.D.

The Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket and the RI Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RICART) welcomed community members of all ages to an art exhibition focused on the bond between humans and animals, by artists diagnosed with autism themselves. A lovely singer / songwriter with autism himself, brought joy to the artists, families, and kids in attendance. Curated by Hartford, CT based artist, Matthew Best, the goal of Through Our Eyes remains to highlight the creativity and talent of people with autism while having a unique opportunity to see the world through their eyes.





Trainspotting

MOVIE SCREENING: TRAINSPOTTING (1996)
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019

HOSTED BY: Brown University Film Forum (BUFF)

ATTENDANCE: 20

FORMAT: Movie Screening

Trainspotting is one of cinema's most compelling portrayals of the vicious cycle of addiction, recovery, and relapse. The Brown University Film Forum hosted the screening which shed light on the story of a young Edinburgh man constantly being pulled back into the throws of addiction in a heart wrenching portrayal of the very real barriers to sustained recovery that plague so many. In tandem with our keynote lecture earlier in the week (Opioids: Health, Policy & Neuroscience) centered on this topic, Brain Week Rhode Island aims to present a fuller picture of the various neurological, sociological, and economic struggles facing those struggling with addiction.

STRESS LESS
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

HOSTED BY: Active Minds

ATTENDANCE: 20

FORMAT: Workshop

AUDIENCE: Young Adults, Students, Adults

Attendees were treated to an afternoon of stress-relieving, hands-on activities and various stations at which to learn more about relieving the frequency and intensity of stress! Everyday life can be demanding, given the challenges and fast pace of modern life. The event's stations offered numerous ideas for coping strategies and gave attendees a chance to relax then and there by making stress balls, finger painting, and spending time with a therapy dog.



Laugh More.
STRESS LESS.



**NEURO-ADVOCACY FORUM: MAKING A DIFFERENCE
AND MAKING YOUR VOICE HEARD**
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019

HOSTED BY: Rhode Island Hospital

ATTENDANCE: 85

FORMAT: Public Forum and Panel

AUDIENCE: Adults, Young Adults

Notable Speakers::

Senator Sheldon Whitehouse

Senator Jack Reed

Kara Stavos, M.D.

Jerome Sands, Ph.D.

Missing name of representative from the Brain Injury Association .

The Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket and the RI Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RICART) welcomed community members of all ages to an art exhibition focused on the bond between humans and animals, by artists diagnosed with autism themselves. A lovely singer / songwriter with autism himself, brought joy to the artists, families, and kids in attendance. Curated by Hartford, CT based artist, Matthew Best, the goal of Through Our Eyes remains to highlight the creativity and talent of people with autism while having a unique opportunity to see the world through their eyes.

THROUGH OUR EYES ART OPENING: THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019

HOSTED BY: RI Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RICART)

ATTENDANCE: 50

FORMAT: Art exhibit, live music & brain workshop

AUDIENCE: All ages

The Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket and the RI Consortium for Autism Research and Treatment (RICART) welcomed community members of all ages to an art exhibition focused on the bond between humans and animals, by artists diagnosed with autism themselves. A lovely singer / songwriter with autism himself, brought joy to the artists, families, and kids in attendance. Curated by Hartford, CT based artist, Matthew Best, the goal of Through Our Eyes remains to highlight the creativity and talent of people with autism while having a unique opportunity to see the world through their eyes.



URI BRAIN FAIR
SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2019

HOSTED BY: URI George & Anne Ryan Institute for Neuroscience

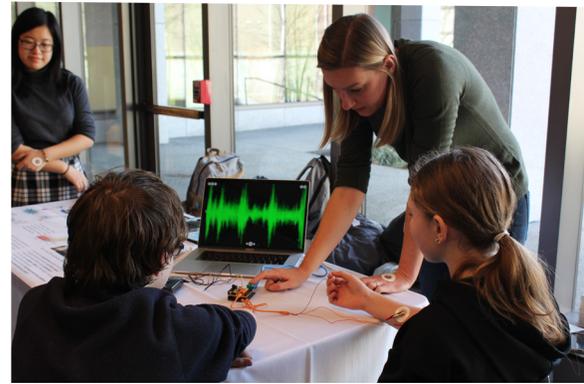
ATTENDANCE: 700

FORMAT: Interactive Fair

CONTRIBUTORS: Over 30 URI labs, organizations, and community partners were represented!

For the third year in a row, the URI Brain Fair brought the latest research on the brain to audiences of all ages! The event was a free, family-friendly event featuring creative, hands on demonstrations and activities to entertain, educate, and inspire. A wide ranging speaker series engaged the audience with research on the role of the brain in sleep and dreams, migraines, play, and more. Kids enjoyed live demonstrations like playing with artificial intelligence lab robots and larger than life neuron simulations, along with a fun performances, such as Marvelous Marvin's "Brain Circus," in which he demonstrates the importance of exercise and reading on brain health through dazzling skill in juggling, hula hoops, rhythm sticks, and more.





BROWN BRAIN FAIR 2019
SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 2019

HOSTED BY: Brown Bain Bee & Carney Institute for Brain Science at Brown University

ATTENDANCE: 700

FORMAT: Interactive Fair

AUDIENCE: All ages (activities for kids and adults)

CONTRIBUTORS: Over 30 Brown University labs, organizations, and community partners were represented!

For the third year in a row, and bigger than ever, the Brown Brain Fair, featured over 20 labs and organizations that showcased, through discussion and live demonstrations, the latest cutting edge brain science research. The attendees checked out “brains in a dish,” moved robotic arms with basic neuro ‘code,’ or tried their hand at an EEG recording. The experience of virtual reality, making original digital art using your own brain waves were well within reach! Younger kids enjoyed crafts, games, tasty treats, and face painting. The Brown Brain Fair won “Event of the Year” from the Brown Student Activities Office and was covered by several media outlets, including the Providence Journal and the Brown Daily Herald.



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SCIENCE**



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