The Atlantic Philanthropies

The Atlantic Philanthropies is dedicated to advancing opportunity, equity and human dignity. Established in 1982, when Chuck Feeney quietly committed virtually all of his assets to the foundation, Atlantic has since made grants approaching $8 billion. In keeping with Mr. Feeney’s “Giving While Living,” big-bet philosophy, Atlantic invests in systemic change to accelerate improvements in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The foundation, which has operated in Australia, Bermuda, Cuba, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States, and Vietnam, will complete all grant making in 2016 and conclude operations shortly afterward.

Global Brain Health Institute

The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) will be led by the University of California, San Francisco, and Trinity College Dublin. The GBHI co-directors are Bruce Miller, MD, UCSF, and Ian Robertson, PhD, Trinity College Dublin.

Bruce Miller, MD, a neurologist, is the A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor in Neurology at UCSF. Over the past 15 years, he has built the UCSF Memory and Aging Center into a highly integrated, collaborative, and creative programme with 27 full-time faculty. His research into frontal lobes has explored the brain regions involved with altruism and prosocial behaviour, while his leadership in dementia research consortia has emphasised cross-disciplinary collaboration, sharing, and a sense of urgency around bringing therapies into the clinic.

Ian Robertson, PhD, is chair of psychology at Trinity College Dublin, founding director of the Trinity College Institute of Neuroscience, and co-director of the Neuro-Enhancement for Independent Lives (NEIL) Programme. Professor Robertson’s research on the brain’s attention systems has led to new ways of measuring how humans pay or fail to pay attention. He has developed new therapeutic methods that improve cognitive function in people with attention difficulties, and he has applied these studies in recent years to the challenges of cognitive ageing and in the search for methods to delay dementia.

GBHI Leadership

Funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Global Brain Health Institute is a ground-breaking initiative that will tackle dementia, which directly affects over 84 million people and affects countless millions more family members and caregivers globally. Without effective intervention, that number is expected to double every 20 years.

The Atlantic Philanthropies is dedicated to advancing opportunity, equity and human dignity. Established in 1982, when Chuck Feeney quietly committed virtually all of his assets to the foundation, Atlantic has since made grants approaching $8 billion. In keeping with Mr. Feeney’s “Giving While Living,” big-bet philosophy, Atlantic invests in systemic change to accelerate improvements in the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The foundation, which has operated in Australia, Bermuda, Cuba, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, South Africa, the United States, and Vietnam, will complete all grant making in 2016 and conclude operations shortly afterward.

For further information please visit www.gbhi.org or contact info@gbhi.org

Global Brain Health Institute

Founded with support from

The Atlantic Philanthropies

Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

UCSF
University of California San Francisco

Trinity College Dublin
The University of Dublin

UCSF
University of California San Francisco
The burden of dementia

Dementia is among the most devastating experiences that can befall an older person, and it is sharply on the rise around the world. More than 40 million people are already affected, and this number is expected to double every 20 years. The current global cost of dementia is estimated at well over $100 billion and may reach as much as $2 trillion in the next 15 years.

Since caring for those with dementia presents profound challenges to families and society, the true social burden is far greater than even these numbers suggest. There is currently no known prevention, cure or effective treatment for dementia.

A public health approach to dementia that addresses risk factors, like high blood pressure and cholesterol, as well as smoking, diet, sleep, exercise, depression and social and intellectual engagement, could prevent and cholesterol, as well as smoking, diet, exercise, depression and social and intellectual engagement, could prevent dementia, locally and globally.

The new Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) will train international health providers as leaders, advocates and key stakeholders in the shared fight against dementia. All will develop skills needed in communications, health economics and policy, built on a foundation of brain health science and evidence. The programme will graduate Fellows who will return to their home regions as exceptional and empowered ‘change agents’, with career-duration mentoring, access to pilot funds, and an international network of colleagues collaborating to drive a common mission.

An innovative Scholars programme will focus on providing brain health experiences to a broad array of promising leaders from several environments, among them business people, lawyers, journalists, filmmakers, artists and others. Trainees will have opportunities to work at UCSF, TCD, or both, or at emerging GBHI hubs around the world. At least one-half of Scholars and Fellows will come from outside the US and Ireland, with initial emphasis on Latin America and the Southern Mediterranean. All Fellows’ and Scholars’ work will emphasise the local and global health inequities to be addressed by practitioners and policymakers.

These individuals will experience personalised training in brain protection, dementia prevention, and public policy directed toward changing outcomes for underserved older people. Linking these exceptional Fellows and Scholars to a community of committed graduates and faculty working collaboratively will make worldwide improvements in the scale and trajectory of dementia and brain health both feasible and real.

To reduce the scale and impact of dementia across the world by building the human capital that is required to develop and translate research evidence and innovation into policy and practice

GBHI hopes to collaborate with organisations that are committed to addressing the world’s burden of non-communicable diseases by focusing on dementia, and to augment funding for this mission beyond the initial 15-year GBHI lifecycle.

• Dementia affects over 40 million individuals globally – the number is expected to double every 20 years
• The total estimated worldwide costs of dementia in 2016 will be $1.2 trillion (2010 was $604 billion) and will be $1 trillion by 2018 and $2 trillion by 2030
• University of California, San Francisco and Trinity College are leading the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI)
• Each institution will appoint 8 additional professors – experts in various aspects of brain health
• GBHI will train 600 leaders in dementia over 15 years in the US, Ireland and around the world
• The Atlantic Philanthropies is investing $177 million ($158.4 million) to launch GBHI; the portion allocated to Trinity is $177 million (€138.4 million) to launch GBHI; the portion allocated to Trinity College is $177 million ($138.4 million) to launch GBHI; the portion allocated to Trinity represents one of the largest single grants in Irish state history
• GBHI will train 600 leaders in dementia over 15 years in the US, Ireland and around the world
• The Atlantic Philanthropies is investing $177 million ($158.4 million) to launch GBHI; the portion allocated to Trinity represents one of the largest single grants in Irish state history
• It is the biggest non-capital grant that Atlantic has ever made and the second biggest grant in its total giving of over $1.42 billion ($1.14 billion)