

# Brain research is a central mission at Krembil

Your brain is what makes you... you! It defines you as a unique, complex human being with fears, dreams, goals and aspirations. Comprising billions of brain cells linked by trillions of synaptic connections, the brain is the most complicated structure on the planet. That's why disorders of the brain and spinal cord (i.e., the central nervous system) are so devastating and the most difficult to treat of all human diseases.

It's for this reason that Krembil Research Institute investigators are focused on better understanding how the brain and spine function. Krembil also has extensive programs investigating arthritis and disorders of vision, and research in these areas will be the subject of subsequent magazines in this series.

The Krembil Research Institute is one of the principal research institutes of University Health Network – the largest research hospital in Canada. Krembil is also one of the top research institutes in Canada focusing on neurological diseases from both a basic science and clinical research perspective. Research at Krembil is directed at the development of management strategies and treatments for neurodegenerative diseases (Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease), epilepsy, stroke, concussions, spinal cord injuries and disorders of the central nervous system. The Krembil magazine you hold in your hands today is one of three in a series that will be featured in *The Globe and Mail* this spring and highlights the cutting-edge research taking place at Krembil each and every day.



The need for pioneering curative therapies for these diseases is an immense medical, societal and economic priority worldwide. When a father suffers a major stroke or a mother with dementia loses cherished memories – and is unable to recognize her spouse or children – it is devastating for families and heart-wrenching for us. We, as a caring society, must address these life-robbing diseases. And we must take up this challenge sooner than later. Brain diseases are among the fastest-growing medical problems confronting society. As we age – and we now have more senior citizens than at any other time in human history – the burden of brain disease increases.

Curing brains is a lengthy, costly and exhausting pursuit. We thank the Krembil family and the many other patrons and donors who give so generously to support this important work. We also thank our patients for their trust and inspiration and for the privilege of working with them. Solving

the riddle of the human brain and these diseases is a puzzle that fascinates and motivates us.

Researchers at Krembil are working relentlessly to understand and cure various neurological diseases. There are many exciting stories of progress and success emerging from our laboratories. Some of these stories are told in this magazine. But there are many more on the road ahead. This is only a sampling of what we do and what we are capable of. To learn more, please visit us online at [DiscoverKrembil.ca](http://DiscoverKrembil.ca).

Thank you for letting us share our passions and passions with you.

Yours,

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# KREMBIL

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