BrainsCAN, Western University’s CFREF initiative, is transforming the way brain diseases and disorders are understood, diagnosed and treated by focusing on evidence-based assessments and interventions.

Key pillars

Elite Core Infrastructure

This innovative structure consists of five research cores that are essential for a world-leading neuroscience program.

- Computational Core
- Human Cognition & Sensorimotor Core
- Imaging Core
- Non-Human Primate Core
- Rodent Cognition Core

403 Core Supported Projects Engaging:

- 135 Faculty Members
- 544 Graduate and Postdoctoral Students
- 8 Faculties
- 34 Departments
- 114 External Collaborators
- 67 Institutes in 16 Countries
Funding, Training and Recruitment

BrainsCAN’s collaborative and innovative approach to its funding programs is transforming the way cognitive neuroscience research is conducted at Western.

Accelerator Internal Granting Program. The Accelerator program is designed to push the limits of cognitive neuroscience by supporting high-risk/high-reward research programs that could not be funded through traditional channels.

McGill-Western Collaboration Grant. The McGill-Western program supports impactful research that leverages the unique Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives (HBHL) and BrainsCAN collaboration.

Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Program. The PDF program is bringing the world’s most promising early career cognitive neuroscientists to Western.

Faculty Recruitment. Current faculty recruitment is bringing prestigious neuroscientists to Western to conduct collaborative, high-impact research under the research cores.

Impact Initiatives

BrainsCAN is developing key impact strategies to be a beacon for change at Western and beyond.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). EDI strategies are being implemented in all aspects of the programs by developing and promoting EDI policies for all and connecting research funding with EDI goals.

To develop an EDI strategy, a survey was sent to 133 faculty members and 287 undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students to benchmark these key areas: gender, sexual orientation, Indigenous persons status, persons with disabilities and members of racialized groups/visible minorities.

Knowledge Mobilization and Impact (KMbI). This innovative KMbI strategy embraces public engagement in the research process and amplifies transformative research to benefit all Canadians and encourage societal change. As part of the KMbI strategy, Project and Research Summaries make research accessible for the general public.

39 Project Summaries outlining the research problem and what will be examined

5 Research Summaries describing the research findings resulting from each project and next steps

$11,943,281 in funding released over 101 total grants and awards