

Dear CBRS community,

You are receiving this newsletter because you are either a Research Leader, Early Career Researcher, Stakeholder in CBRS, or you have recently taken part in CBRS events/ surveys and indicated an interest in being recontacted.

As we do not currently have a comprehensive list of all parties interested in engaging with the CBRS, we urge you to share this newsletter within your respective networks and encourage you and yours to subscribe to our mailing list.

As CBRS moves forwards, we wish to do so with Canadian voices at the forefront, so please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.



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Forward

CANADIAN BRAIN RESEARCH STRATEGY

STRATÉGIE CANADIENNE DE RECHERCHE SUR LE CERVEAU

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2021, No. #002

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KT & Communications Specialist

QUICK LINKS

CBRS Updates

[Appointment of Executive Director](#)

[Meeting with the PCNEC group](#)

A TURNING POINT FOR THE CBRS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ONBOARDED

The appointment of Dr. Jennie Z. Young as Executive Director of the Canadian Brain Research Strategy marks a new phase in the development of the CBRS that aims to link brain research initiatives and projects, public and private funders, patient organizations, and other stakeholders across Canada in this uniquely collaborative effort. Dr. Young will work to make brain research a national priority and help to push the frontiers of brain science for the benefit of all Canadians.

[Click here to read more about Dr. Young and her plans for the CBRS.](#)

UNE DIRECTRICE EXÉCUTIVE DE LA SCRC

La nomination de la Dre Jennie Z. Young au poste de directrice exécutive de la Stratégie canadienne de recherche sur le cerveau marque une nouvelle étape dans le développement de la SCRC. L'initiative qui vise à relier les initiatives et les projets de recherche sur le cerveau, les bailleurs de fonds publics et privés et les organisations de patients de tout le Canada dans un effort de collaboration unique. La Dre Young s'efforcera de faire de la recherche sur le cerveau une priorité nationale, et repoussera les frontières de la recherche sur le cerveau dans l'intérêt de tous les Canadiens.

[Cliquez ici pour en savoir plus sur Dre. Young et ses projets d'avenir pour la SCRC.](#)

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE HOLDERS GROUP

The Canada Brain Research Strategy is pleased to announce the establishment of an Indigenous Knowledge Holders Group (IKHG). The IKHG is composed of Indigenous scholars from nations across Canada. We gratefully welcome:

Dr. Malcom King: Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology, University of

[EDI meeting](#)

[ECR workshops](#)

[Leadership & NHCC council meeting](#)

[Meeting of the CBRS leaders](#)

[CIHR Grant](#)

Saskatchewan; Scientific Director, the Saskatchewan Centre for Patient Oriented Research; *Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation*

Dr. Chelsea Gabel: Associate Professor, Health, Aging & Society, McMaster University, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Well-Being, Community Engagement, and Innovation; *Métis*

Dr. Melissa Perrault: Preclinical Neuroscience Researcher, University of Guelph; *Métis*

Dr. Christopher Mushquash: Associate Professor, Psychology, Lakehead University, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, Associate Professor, Division of Human Sciences, Northern Ontario School of Medicine; *Ojibway and a member of Plays Plat First Nation*

Stay Connected

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This Advisory Group guides the CBRS on its priorities for Indigenous Canadians in neuroscience and Indigenous neuroscience research.

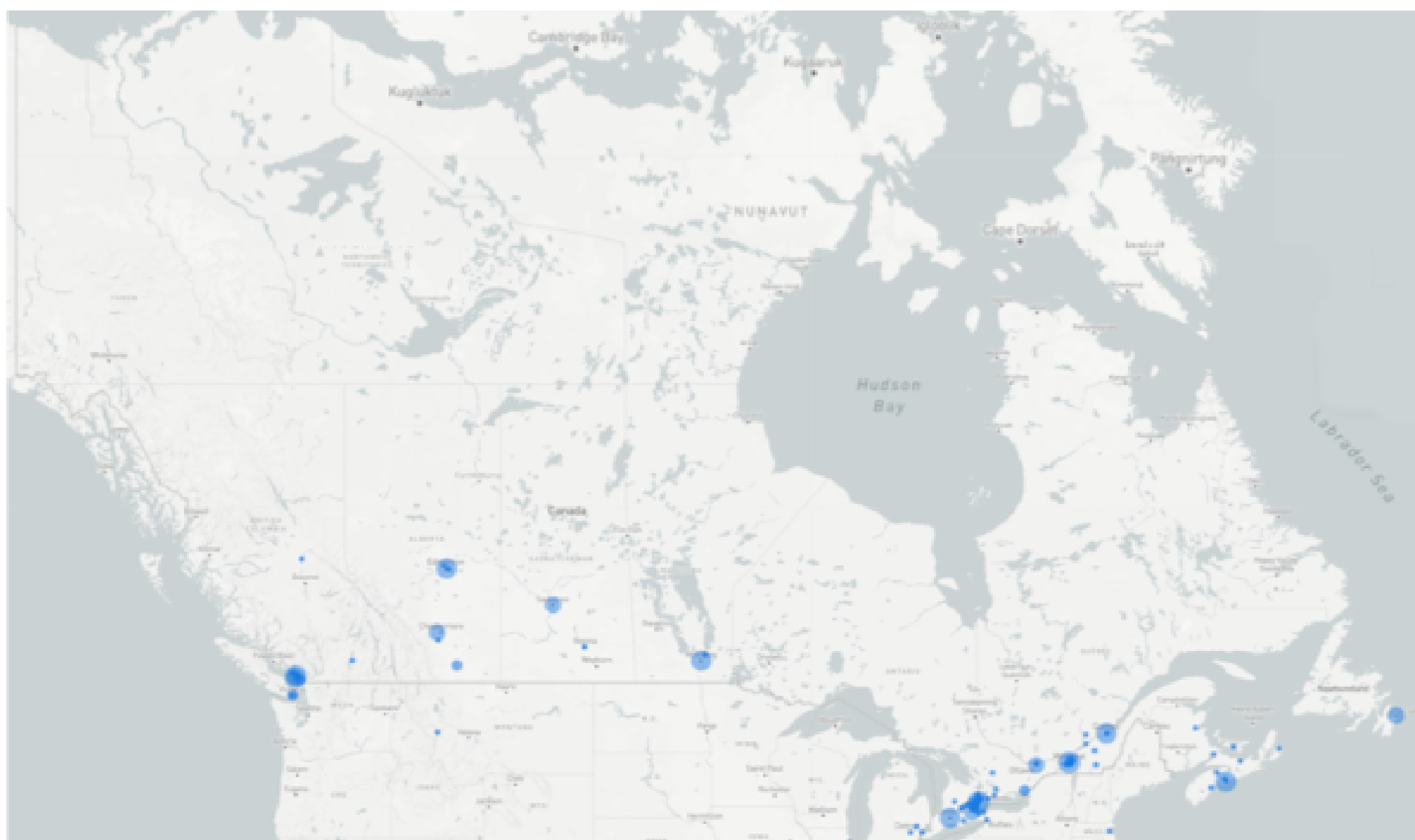
Researchers and interested stakeholders are invited to join us and participate in CBRS' first Indigenous Initiatives Workshop June 28th, 2021, 11am-2pm PDT/ 2-5pm EDT.

[Click here to RSVP](#)

We are also preparing a first-ever neuroscience-specific curriculum for Indigenous youth to promote early interest in neuroscience. The program will be rolled out virtually in collaboration with VISE, Cedar Camp, and Emerging Indigenous Scholars programs in July 2021. For more information, contact: info@canadianbrain.ca

EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION (EDI) UPDATES

Thank you to all who shared their information and insights through the CBRS EDI Survey launched earlier this year. Of the 800+ responses from across the country, more than 500 respondents submitted comments addressing CBRS priorities for EDI. This high level of participation affirms the importance of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity to Canadian neuroscientists and to the CBRS. The geographic spread of respondents to the survey is shown in the figure below. We received responses from every Canadian province, but none from northern communities. Much work still to be done to reach all. Change can only be achieved if it can be measured, and results from the survey represent an important benchmark which will be shared in a CBRS publication currently in preparation.



FINDINGS FROM EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECR)

Building capacity among Canada's next generation of neuroscience leaders and ensuring their representation in shaping the future of brain research is a core area of priority for CBRS. Under the leadership of Caroline Menard, the findings arising from our ECR workshop series in 2020 have recently been accepted for publication. The report highlights perspectives of



ECR identifying stand-out attributes of Canadian neuroscience and ways to best leverage and build on those Canadian strengths. Three hours of discussion from the workshops are summarized in a word cloud at left. Five prominent themes emerged around **collaboration, inclusiveness, access, transdisciplinarity, and training.**

Promoting the leadership potential of ECR will be key as CBRS moves forward to build a neuroscience-inspired nation.

Image reprinted with permission from the following publication:

Menard, C., Siddiqui, T., Sargin, D., Lawson, A., De Koninck, Y., & Illes, J. (2021). The Canadian Brain Research Strategy: A Focus on Early Career Researchers. *Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences / Journal Canadien des Sciences Neurologiques*, 1-10.
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PATENTS AND NEUROSCIENCE

Patents protect the intellectual property of innovators for the purpose of establishing unique rights to a novel product, and enabling widespread adoption and investments for financial gain. In health care, patents conventionally protect innovations involving methods and devices, but protections of naturally occurring products such as human tissue and brain regions have encroached on this domain over the past few years.

Alongside the inherent dubious ethical nature of this practice, the Open Science movement – an initiative of priority interest to the CBRS – is challenging such protections in terms of benefit to research and clinical care, return of value to investors from the public sector such as government agencies, and even opportunities for training new generations of neuroscience leaders and inventors.

Stay tuned for more news from the CBRS on this novel CIHR-funded project as it unfolds. Please direct any questions to judy.illes@canadianbrain.ca

INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES WORKSHOP

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021 11:00AM - 2:00PM PDT VIA ZOOM

Please join us for a roundtable to raise points of consideration for the Canadian Brain Research Strategy Indigenous Initiatives, and for a networking opportunity for Indigenous Researchers!

TO REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT, PLEASE VISIT WWW.BIT.LY/CBRSSWORKSHOP.

CONNECT WITH US

UPCOMING EVENTS

Here is a brief selection of events relevant to the Canadian neuroscience community. We would like to feature submissions from CBRS members in this section in the future, see "Connect with Us" to contribute.

CBRS Indigenous Initiatives Workshop (virtual). June 28th, 2021, register [here](#)

The 7th Annual BRAIN initiative Investigators Meeting (virtual). June 15-17th 2021, more info [here](#)

CBRS Strategic Planning Meeting (virtual). June 29th 2021

14th Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN-CAN) meeting (virtual). August 22-25th 2021, more info [here](#)

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

To contribute your publications for the newsletter, see "Connect with Us" for more information.

International Brain Initiative: An Innovative Framework for Coordinated Global Brain Research Efforts ([link](#))

Canada's Excellence in Neuroscience Research ([link](#))

Thank you for your support of the Canadian Brain Research Strategy. The CBRS welcomes your feedback and comments.

For **Events and Publications** to be featured in the next Newsletter, please send your submission directly to info@canadianbrain.ca for consideration. Articles with a high relevance to the community at large will be prioritized.

If you have any **highlights** to share, **questions**, or **suggestions** for the next newsletter please contact us at info@canadianbrain.ca. You can also reach out to us via our social media.

Please [subscribe](#) to receive future event invites, newsletters, and updates

The Canadian Brain Research Strategy:
A Focus on Early Career Researchers
([link](#))

DID YOU KNOW...

To contribute news of special or unusual interest, see "*Connect with Us*" for more information. Here is an example:

A Brain Capital Grand Strategy: toward economic reimagination ([link](#))



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