

Brain
Donor
Project

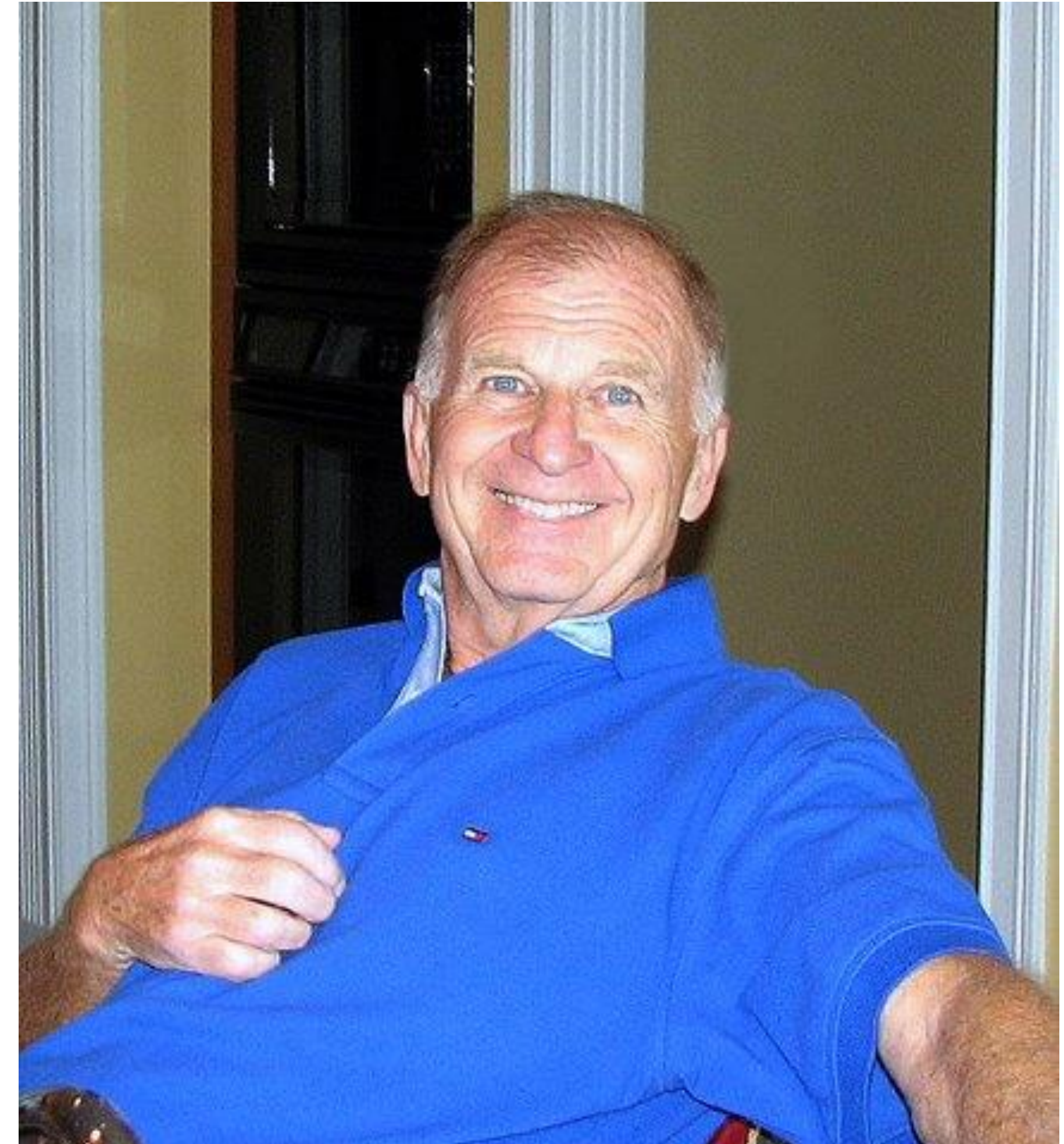
The problem is...

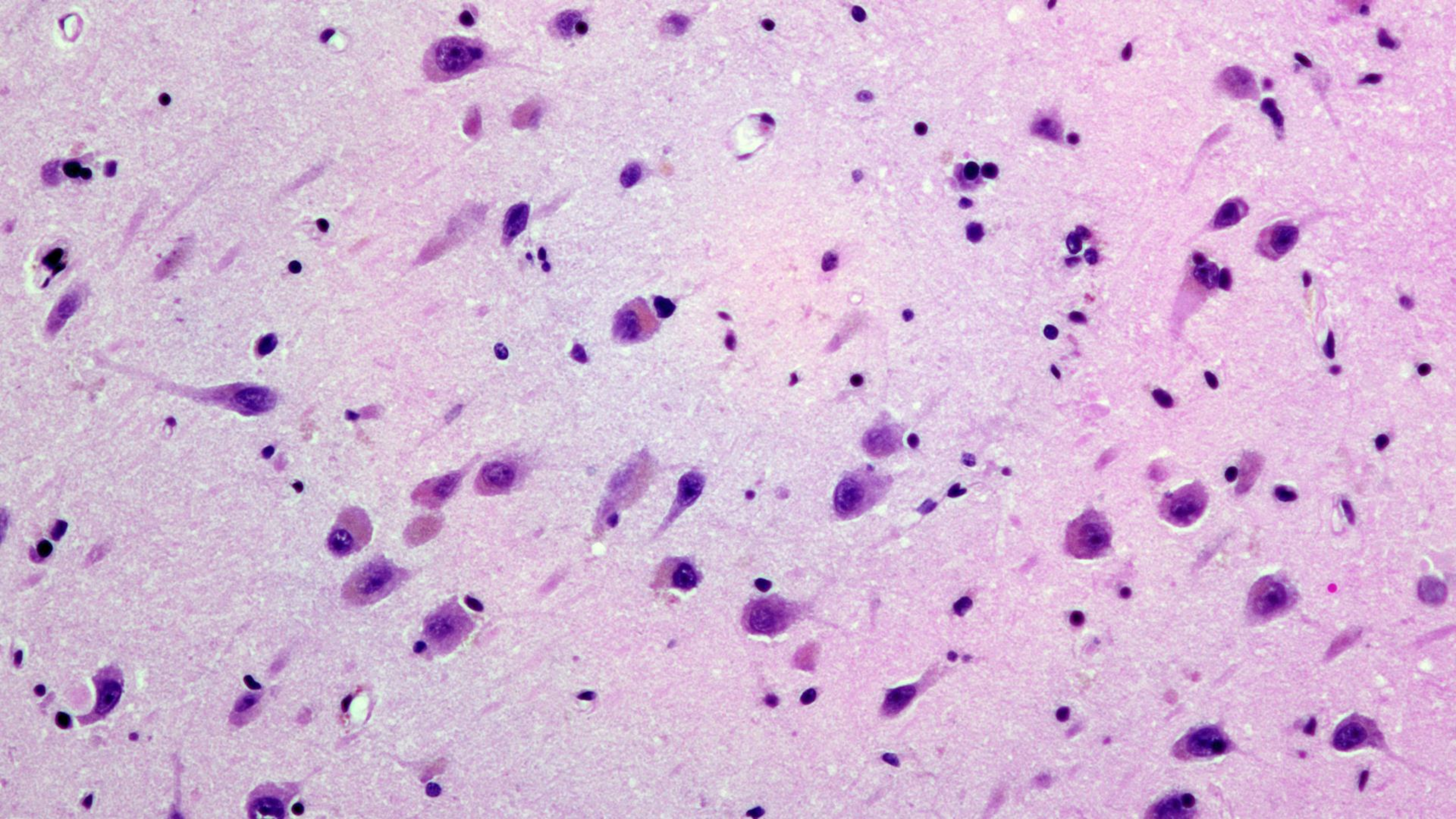


5 misconceptions about brain donation

- Organ donation includes brain donation. **It doesn't.** Separate arrangements need to be made
- Body donation is the same. **It isn't.**
- Only diseased brains needed. **Not so.**
- **Not** disfiguring
- **No additional cost** to family

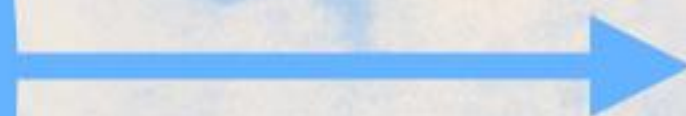
We learned
The hard way





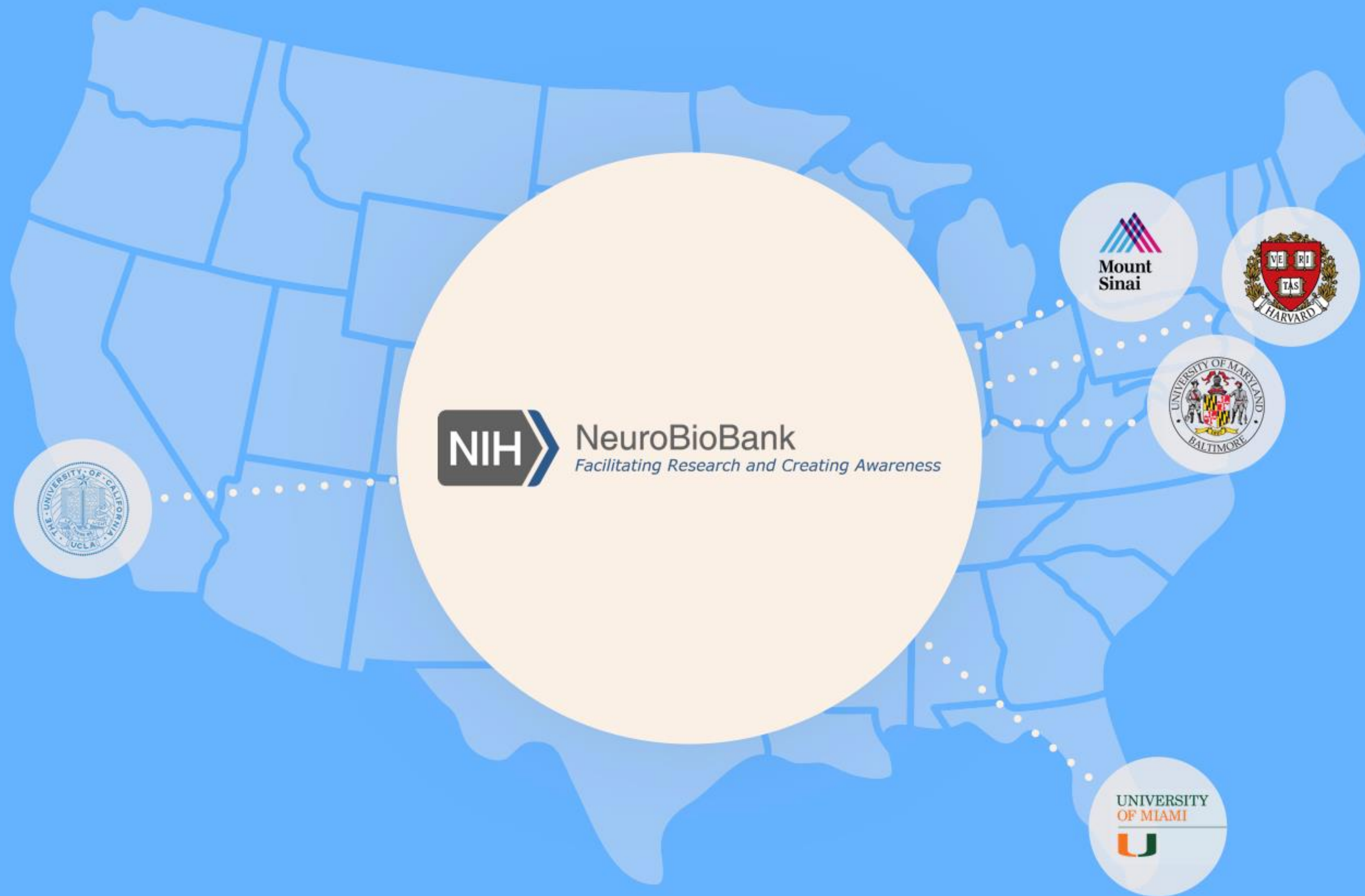


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NeuroBioBank

Facilitating Research and Creating Awareness

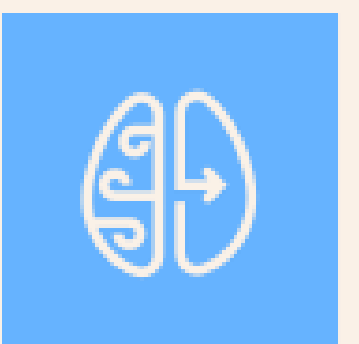
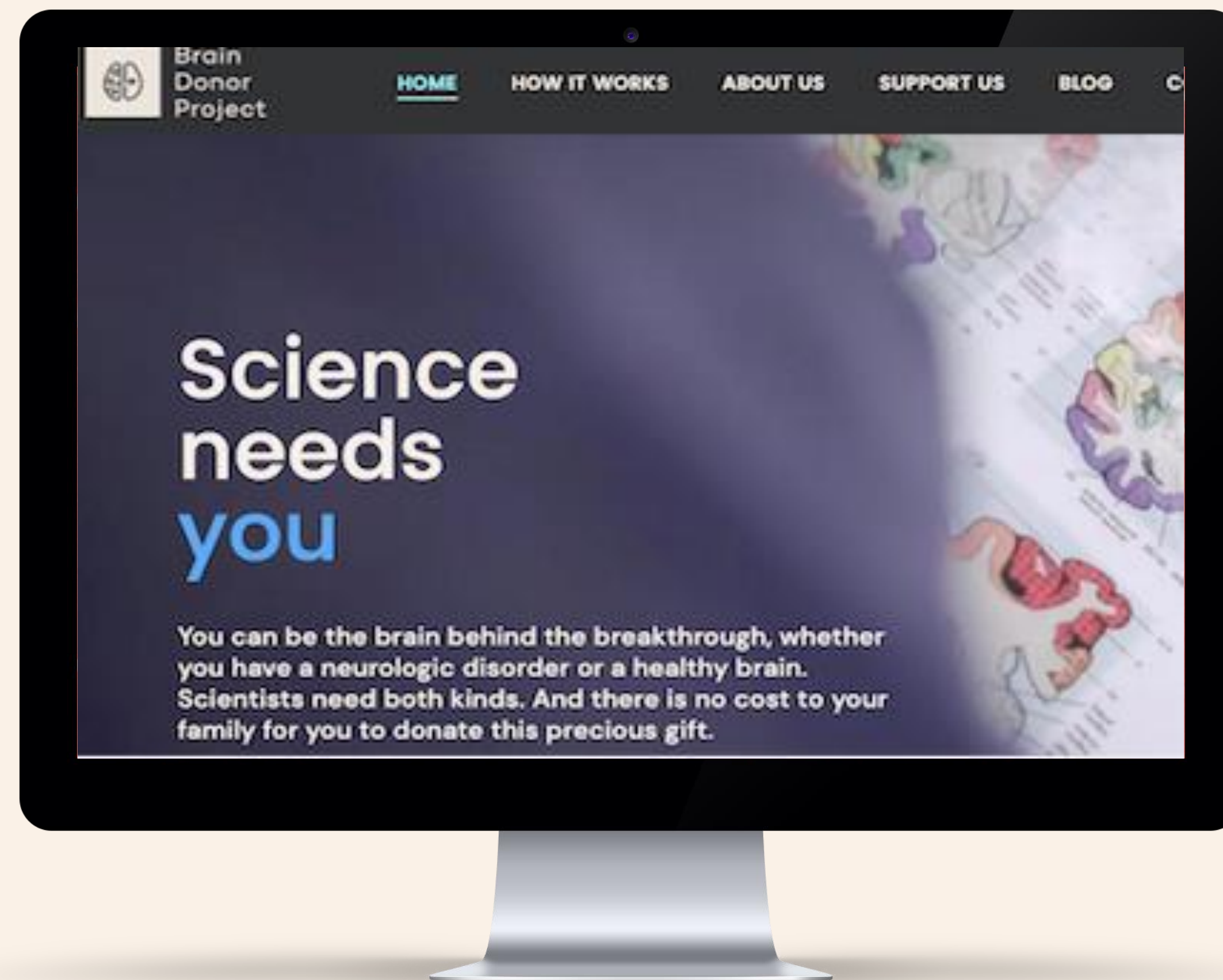


The NeuroBioBank

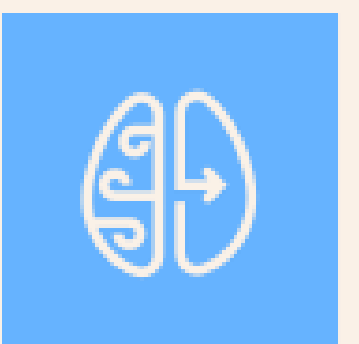
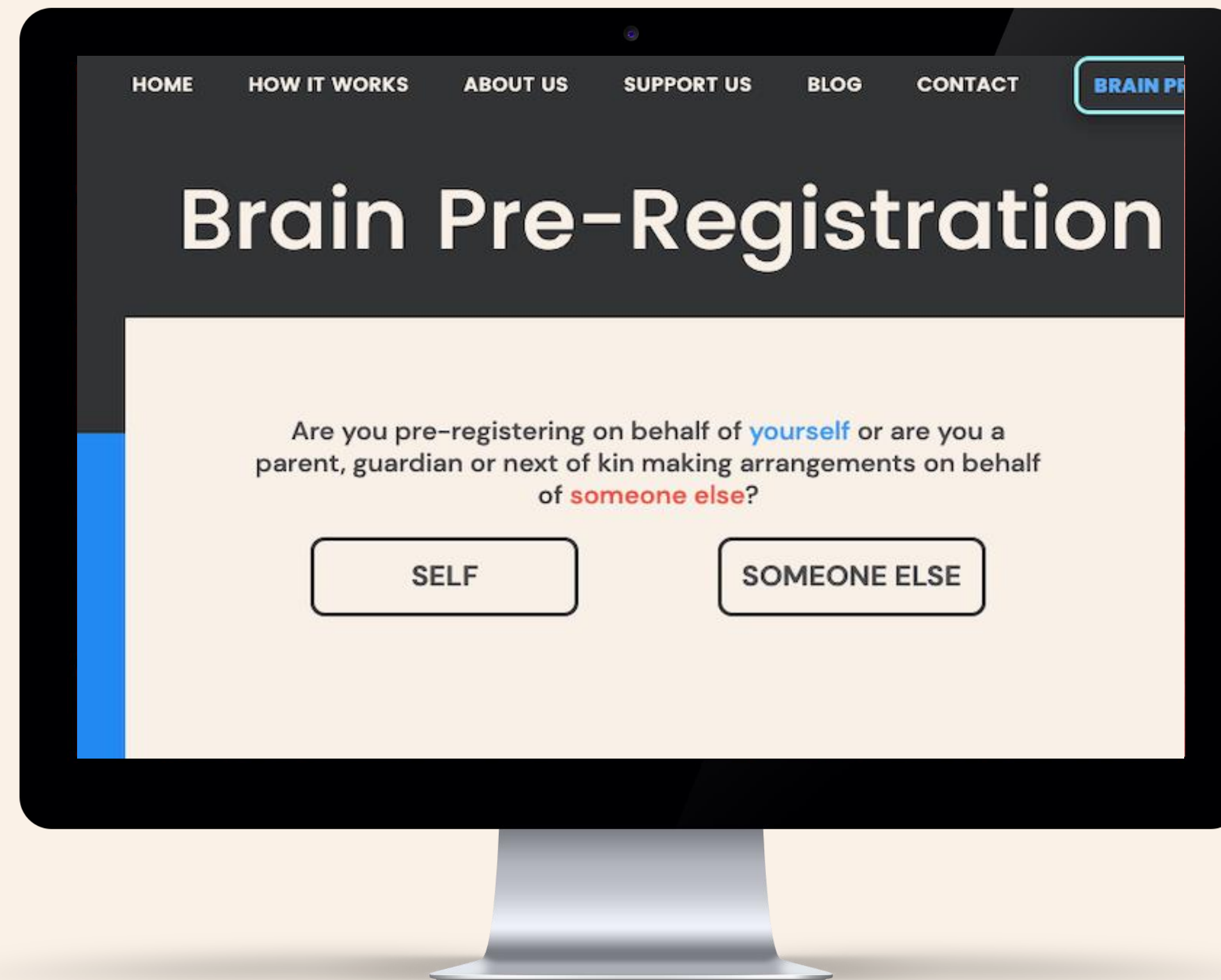


- Nation's only federated network of brain banks.
- Developed to provide better access to researchers
- Accepts diseased & control brains
- Open to researchers around the world in academia and industry
- More than 15,000 brains
- [NeuroBioBank.nih.gov](https://neurobiobank.nih.gov)

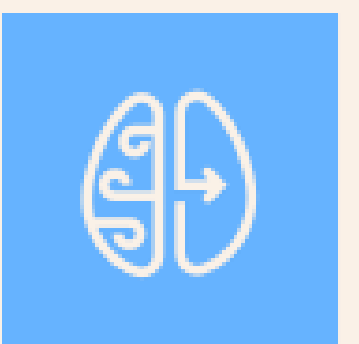
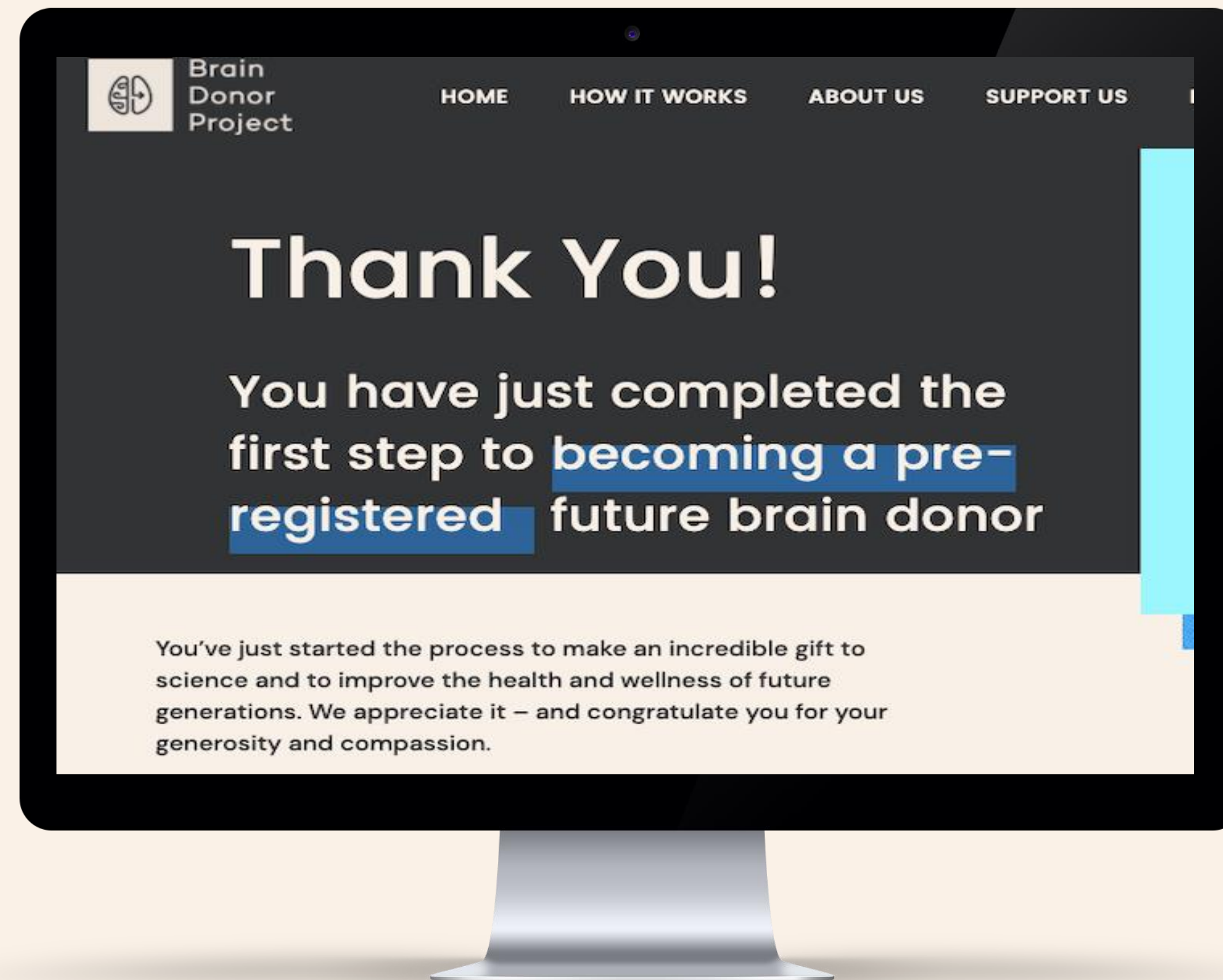
The Science of Supporting Science



Start the Process



Learn What's Next



How does it work upon death?

- Family member notifies the brain bank.
- Brain bank arranges to transport body to local facility where brain is removed.
- Brain bank sends pathologist to remove brain; ships it to brain bank.
- Body released to family for funeral or cremation

Who's signing up?

- Nearly 18,000 sign-ups
- About 40% are controls
- Ages from 4 mos to 104 yrs
- All 50 states
- More than 200 categories of neuro disorders

EMBARK

MORE BRAINS MAKE RESEARCH POSSIBLE

PHOTOGRAPH BY REBECCA HALE

BRAINS ARE in short supply. Neuroscientists need brain tissue of all types to study the diseases that affect more than 15 percent of people in the world. Enter Tish Hevel. In 2015, after Hevel's father died from Lewy body dementia, her family wanted to offer his brain for research—but knew that it would take much more than an organ donor card. The experience inspired Hevel to create the Brain Donor Project “to raise awareness of the critical need” and make enrolling easier for would-be donors. Nearly two years in, more than 2,000 people have signed up. —LORI CUTHBERT



This donated brain of a 101-year-old man is larger than a typical brain of someone his age. He's said to have been astute until the day he died.

MEDICINE
Busting Myths About Donating Your Brain
The organization that Tish Hevel created—online at braindonorproject.org—aims to simplify “the process of donating postmortem human brains for research,” she says, and dispel misconceptions about it. Here's what you need to know.

1. ORGAN DONOR

If your driver's license says you're an organ donor, then congrats. You've done a noble thing. But not all your organs are included. Your heart, corneas, and pancreas might go to a lucky person, but your brain will stay with you, unless you've made separate arrangements to donate it.

2. HEALTHY BRAINS

What state your brain will be in when it's donated may be a crapshoot, but the truth is, it matters only if certain conditions or infectious diseases are present. Science needs brains of all types, since a critical part of the research process is comparing diseased and healthy organs.

3. OPEN CASKET

You may fear that brain removal will cause disfiguring changes in appearance. It won't; the brain is removed through an incision in the back of the head, and “it's not disfiguring,” says Hevel.

4. THE COSTS

In the United States, if you donate your brain to one of six National Institutes of Health brain banks, there's no cost to the family for retrieving the brain after death, for the donation, or for storage.

5. THE TIMING

Time is of the essence if you've donated your brain to science. Pathologists need to collect the brain within 24 hours of death, and they prefer to harvest the tissue as soon as possible. So be sure to tell your family about the choice you've made and how your wishes should be carried out.

6. SIGNING UP

The donation process isn't complicated, and is outlined at braindonorproject.org. You'll fill out several forms to return via email or snail mail—and that's all it takes to arrange your contribution of what Hevel calls “the most precious resource.”

10.2018

MAPPING
DIVERSITY ACROSS
AMERICA

ANNE LAMOTT
ON THE POWER
OF HOPE

REVISITING THE
LESSONS OF JAPANESE
INTERMENT

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



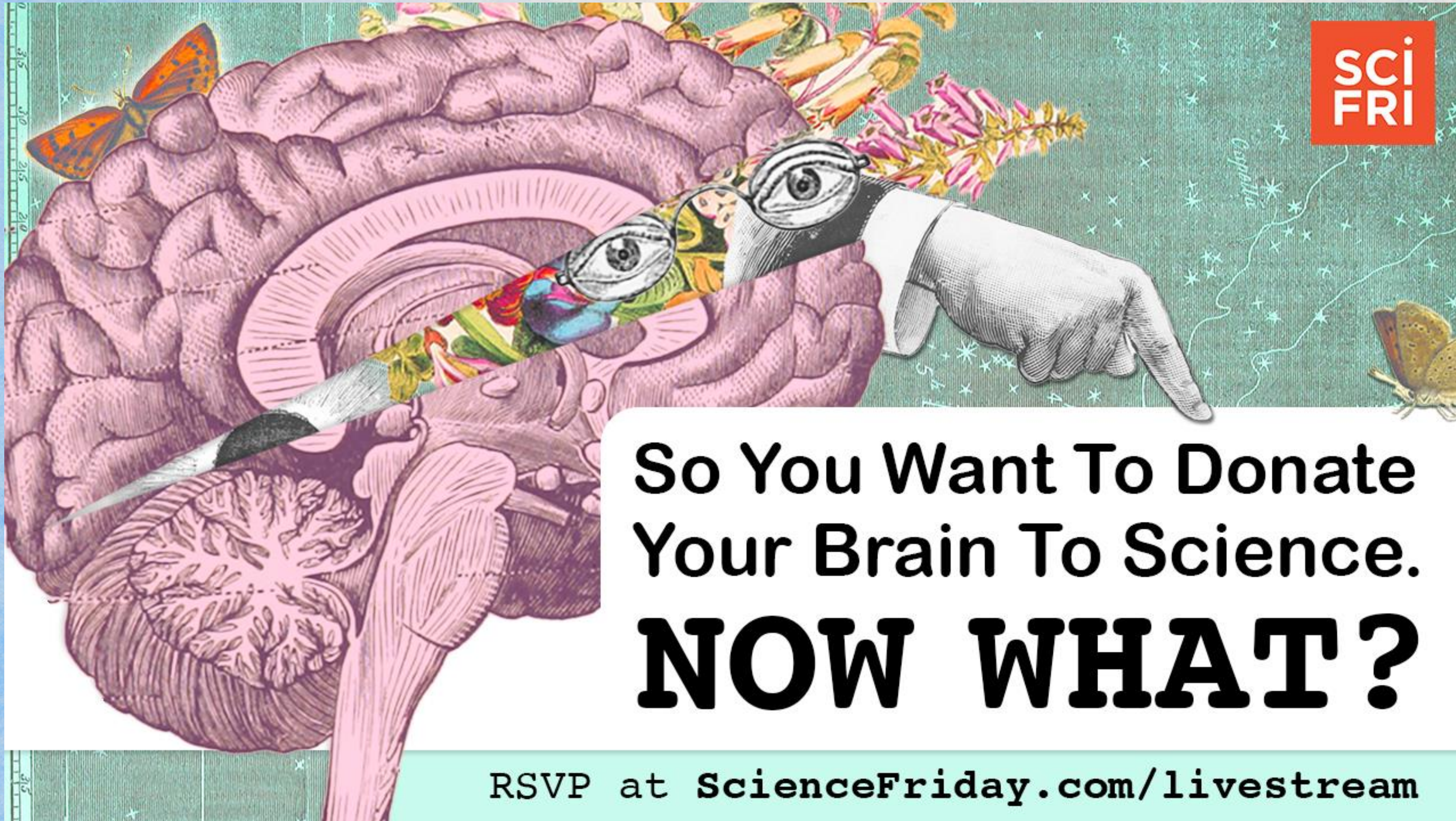
*“Who's going to fight
for the isolated ones,
if not us?”*

TAINAKY TENETEHAR
GUAJAJARA TRIBESMAN
AND FOREST GUARDIAN

LAST TRIBES OF THE AMAZON

Protecting Earth's most
threatened people





So You Want To Donate
Your Brain To Science.
NOW WHAT?

RSVP at ScienceFriday.com/livestream

NATIONAL BRAIN
DONATION
AWARENESS
DAY MAY 7TH

Think about your legacy

- Consider brain donation
- Register
- Tell your family

For more info:

www.braindonorproject.org

