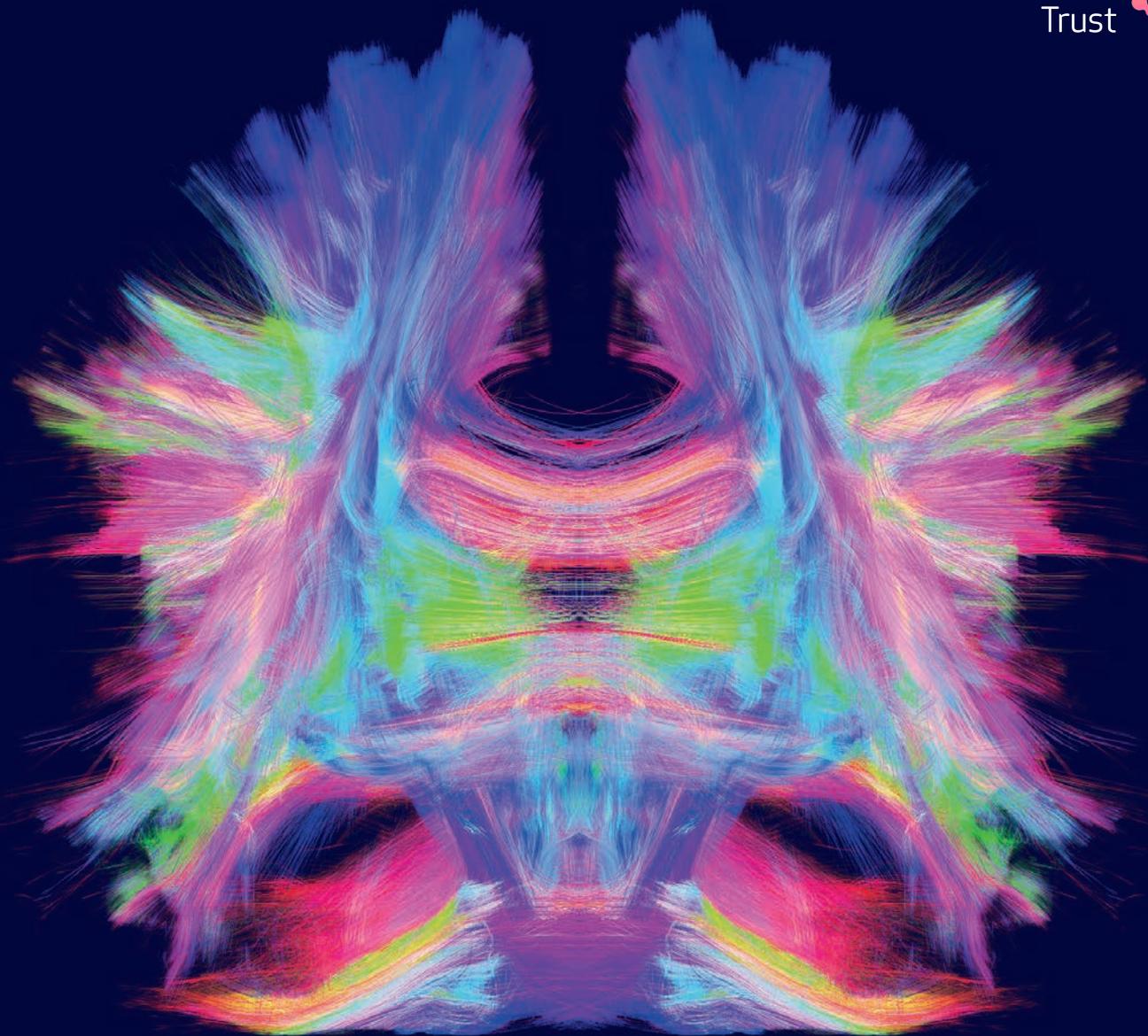


Inspiring progress, together



Brain Research Trust
Annual review 2015/16

Brain Research Trust

Inspiring progress, together

The brain is the most complex organ in our body. It weighs just 3lb, yet it controls our emotions, senses and actions. Every single one of them. It is how we process the world around us. So when it breaks down, we break down.

It doesn't have to be this way.

There are hundreds of neurological conditions, we fund research to help all those affected – to discover the causes, develop new treatments, and improve people's quality of life.

We inspire scientists and families to come together, side by side, stride by stride.

Help loved ones live better, longer.

Let's unite to accelerate the progress of brain research. Today.

Front cover – 3D image taken on a state-of-the-art diffusion MRI scan courtesy of: M Chamberland and M Descoteaux, Sherbrooke Connectivity Imaging Lab (scil.dinf.usherbrooke.ca)

Welcome to our annual review



Jonathan Kropman
Chair of Trustees

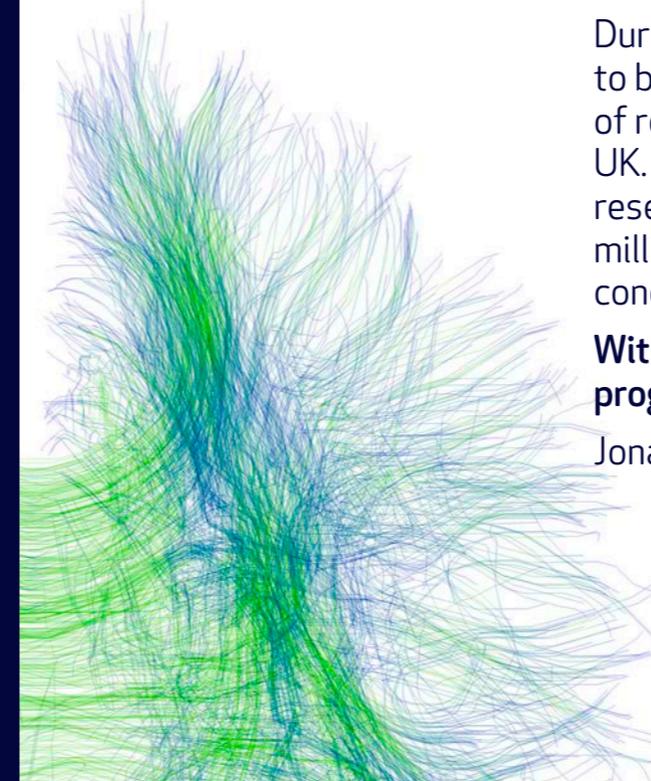
Brain Research Trust is determined to do as much as possible to support neurological research across the spectrum of over 250 neurological conditions, which affect one in five people in the UK.

It is only thanks to the kindness of our generous supporters that we are able to fund vital research into neurological conditions. In 2015/16 we awarded funding of £2.11 million towards such research at UCL Institute of Neurology.

During the year, we expanded our charitable objects to become a multi-site, rather than a single-site, funder of research at centres of excellence throughout the UK. This will enable us to fund the best, peer-reviewed research nationwide and help even more of the 12.5 million people currently living with a neurological condition.

With your help, we can continue to accelerate the progress of brain research.

Jonathan Kropman, Chair of Trustees.



Charitable objects



Professor Sir Doug Turnbull
University of Newcastle
upon Tyne and
Brain Research Trust Trustee

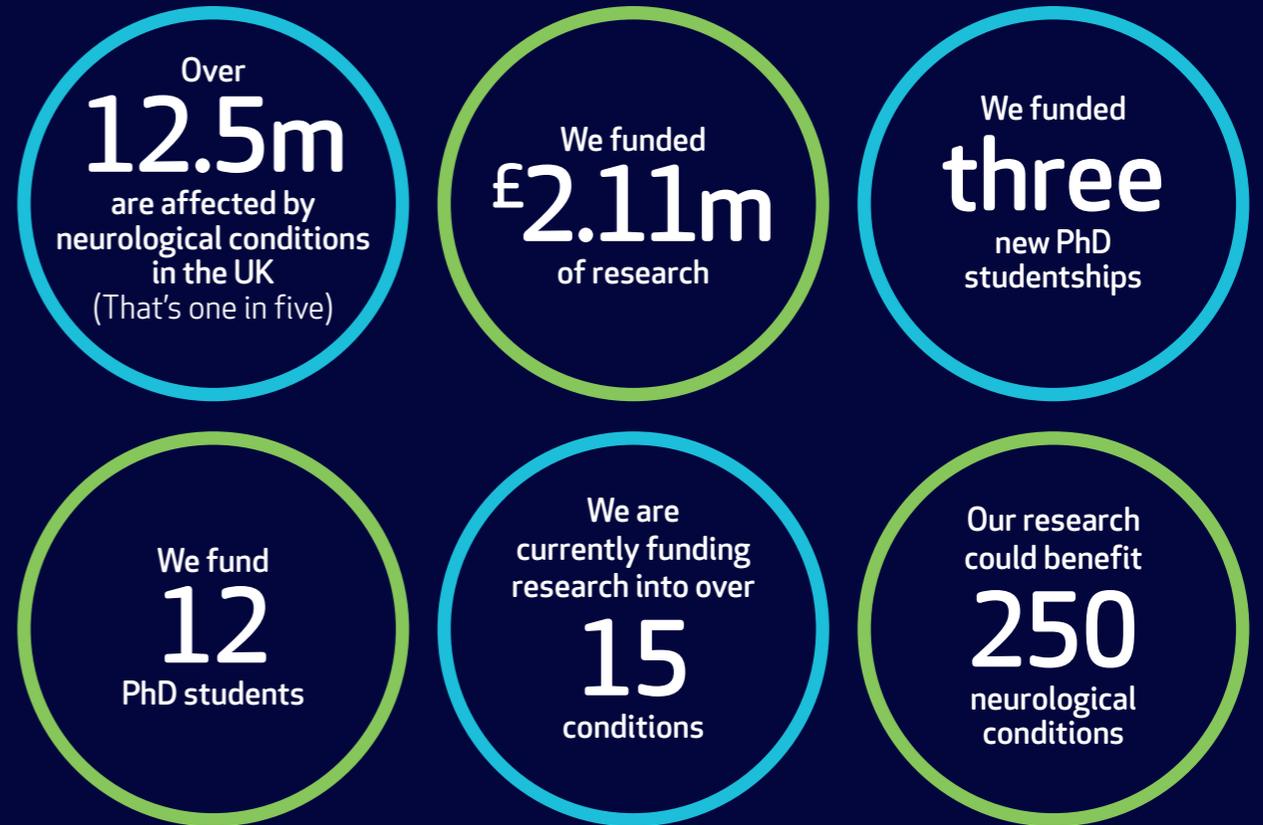
In 1971, Brain Research Trust was established to fund neurological research at UCL Institute of Neurology, London where we have since funded over £45 million of world-class research.

By broadening our charitable objects we are able to fund the best neurological research at centres of excellence throughout the UK.

“By broadening our charitable objects we have the opportunity to fund groundbreaking neurological research anywhere in the UK. This will have a greater impact on those affected by neurological disease. There are hundreds of different neurological conditions and discovering a breakthrough in one condition will inevitably benefit other areas.”

Professor Sir Doug Turnbull
University of Newcastle upon Tyne,
Brain Research Trust Trustee

Our impact 2015/16



“It is frightening to be constantly aware that there is something going on in your head that you have no control over.”



Liz's story

Liz Kirtley was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2015 after she suffered hearing loss. She was given radiotherapy that successfully stopped its growth. Liz ran the 2016 Virgin Money London Marathon for the charity.



“I support Brain Research Trust because I am aware of the devastating effects that neurological conditions can cause. It is frightening to be constantly aware that there is something going on in your head that you have no control over and that it could affect many other parts of your body and therefore areas of your life. Brain research funding covers many different conditions giving hope of cures.”

Liz Kirtley

Our Chair of Neurosurgery



Professor Rob Brownstone

In 2015, Brain Research Trust funded the creation of the post of Chair of Neurosurgery at UCL Institute of Neurology to support an exceptional neurosurgeon and his team to help accelerate surgical research into brain conditions.

Our Chair, Professor Brownstone, is a world-leading neurosurgeon with a strong background in research. Professor Brownstone's laboratory is at the forefront of investigating how movement is affected by neurological conditions with the aim of improving people's quality of life.

“My long-term goal is to understand how the brain and spinal cord work together to produce movement. By understanding this, we will be able to develop strategies to help people who have neurological disorders that affect movement.”

Professor Rob Brownstone



The Institute of Neurology at Queen Square House is set to be a state-of-the-art facility for neuroscience. This will create a world-leading UCL Dementia Research Institute that also includes all other major and rare neurological diseases.

Funding research



Dr Sarah Wiethoff

This year we awarded funding of £330,000 for three new PhD studentships in clinical neuroscience at UCL Institute of Neurology, funding Elia Benhamou, Mica Clarke and Martha McLaughlin.

In 2016 three of our funded students successfully completed their PhDs. These are: Dr Sarah Wiethoff, Dr Helen Crawford and Dr Jonathan Cornford.

While we are becoming more effective in detecting genetic variation that can lead to a neurological disease, for many patients there is no genetic diagnosis even after thorough investigation. Dr Sarah Wiethoff's research employed techniques and stem cell technology to identify causal genes, genetic risk factors and modifier genes and early pathogenic events in rare movement disorders and neurodegeneration. A number of results were achieved including identification of new disease genes, genetic risk factors and modifier genes, which have been well published in numerous journals.

We funded
£839,000
to support ongoing
projects at UCL
Institute of
Neurology

Our research strategy

There are more than 250 neurological conditions and we believe that research is key to treating and preventing them.

Research into one type of condition can often be used to better understand a range of other neurological diseases. We believe that this broad approach across many conditions will accelerate progress to find the answers we so desperately need.

The key points of our research strategy are:

1. To increase the impact of the research we fund.
2. To fund research into a wide range of diseases including some of the most common neurological conditions:
 - Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
 - Brain tumours
 - Epilepsy
 - Multiple sclerosis
 - Motor neurone disease
 - Parkinson's disease
 - StrokeIt also includes rarer diseases, to ensure that no one with a neurological condition is left behind.
3. Much of the research we fund should be working towards having a direct impact on the lives of patients within 5-10 years. However, some research, by its very nature, will take longer than this to produce results, but we aim to ensure that benefits reach patients as soon as possible.

Fundraising highlights

Atlantic castaways achieve Guinness World Record

Jack Galsworthy and Freddie Wright took 47 days, 14 hours and 46 minutes to row across the Atlantic Ocean, raising an incredible £46,000 for Brain Research Trust. Freddie and Jack rowed in the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, gaining the record for the youngest pair to row across an ocean.

Jack started fundraising for the charity in 2012 when his brother-in-law suffered a brain injury in a cycling accident. Jack, Freddie and friends have raised **£78,000**.

Swimming to glory

Kirsty Lawton took part in the Great Manchester Swim in July 2016 raising a wonderful **£1,000** for Brain Research Trust. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 15 years ago and battles severe fatigue on a daily basis. She decided to take on this challenge following surgery and started swimming for gentle exercise. Kirsty has two other motivations: her grandad suffered with motor neurone disease and she worked with people with neurological conditions. Kirsty also needed to conquer her fear of open water.



"I had no experience of such swimming and had never been able to put my head under water. The fear of open water is a genuine one, I hate the thought of something being underneath me that I cannot see."

Supporting us all around the world

- Roger Comish ran an incredible 130 miles in 38 hours, from Liverpool to Leeds, and raised **£4,232**.
- Duncan, Wilf and Sam cycled 1,650 miles from Plymouth to Lisbon in 30 days. They raised **£5,210** for us.
- Monica Dean cycled from London to Paris and held a Hollywood-themed fundraising night, raising **£985**.
- Ellie-Mae White held a James Bond-themed night in Saudi Arabia and ran the Venice Marathon, raising a total **£3,226**.
- Charlie Macklin only started running at the end of 2015 and, in April 2016, took part in the Brighton Marathon, raising **£1,500**.

Our amazing Virgin Money London Marathon team

In April 2016, the Brain Research Trust team of 39 runners took on this world-famous marathon and raised a staggering **£97,000** to help us accelerate the progress of brain research. On race day runners were met by our wonderful cheering volunteers at miles 18 and 25 and also enjoyed a post-race reception where they could recover from their gruelling challenge.

One runner, Jordan Watterson took part in memory of his Dad who sadly passed away from a brain tumour in 2009. Jordan raised an amazing **£6,500**.



"My Dad's death had a huge impact on my family and I am raising money for a cause close to my heart, to hopefully improve the treatment of all neurological conditions so other families don't have to go through the same thing as my family!"





"Whether it happens in my lifetime or not, my biggest hope for the future is that through research, we will find ways to slow down this terrible disease, or stop it completely. It's only through the work of Brain Research Trust, that we can rewrite the future for people like me."

Jack's story

Jack May, 21, was diagnosed with the genetic disorder Huntington's disease when he was 18. His dad was diagnosed when Jack was 12 and at 18 he took the test to see if he had the gene.

Jack is supporting us to fund more vital research to help change the lives of people in the future.

A big thank you

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us over the last year.

Whether you ran a marathon, took part in an event, volunteered your time, shared your story with us, generously donated or gave a gift. Thank you.

It's only with your support that we are able to accelerate the progress of brain research, helping more people with a neurological condition.

We'd like to especially thank the following major donors for their generous contribution:

CAF Foundation
Masonic Samaritan Fund
Risby Charitable Trust
Violet M Richards Charity
Welton Foundation

All of our wonderful volunteers, particularly:

James Capper
Laura Etherington
Nino Jgenti-Way
Caroline McLellan
Jo McLellan
Carla Stimson

Our Scientific Advisors
Our peer reviewers

Our future plans

Our ambitious objectives for 2016/17 are:

Research activities:

- To increase the amount of research and the impact of the research we fund
- To develop our research investment in centres of excellence throughout the UK
- To launch our first national research call for PhD studentships
- To launch our first national research call for project grants

Fundraising activities:

- To invest in growth of our regular supporter donor base to help ensure sustainable long-term income
- To diversify our fundraising streams
- To develop our fundraising activities from charitable trusts and foundations
- To develop and implement a major donor programme

Awareness raising activities:

- To review the effectiveness of our brand to ensure it reflects our national focus and so increases awareness of neurological conditions

Our finances

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Our income		
Individuals	824	613
Trusts, corporates and major donors	352	220
Income from events	229	157
Legacies	631	575
Donations	2,036	1,565
Investment income	574	587
Total income	2,610	2,152

	2016 £'000	2015 £'000
Our expenditure		
Raising funds	1,724	1,790
Charitable activities	2,456	1,451
Total expenditure	4,180	3,241

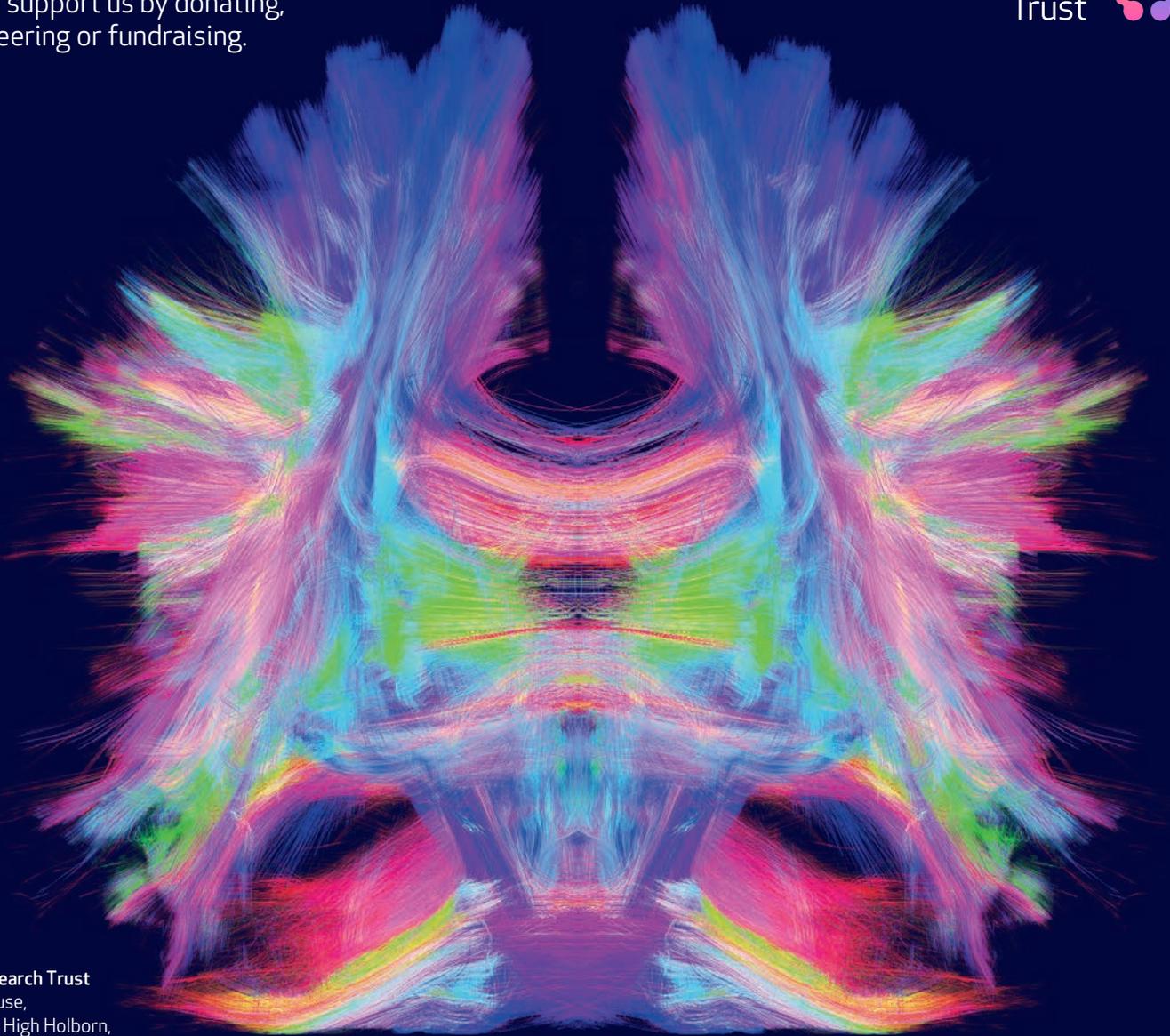
This summarised financial statement was extracted from the full trustees' annual report and financial statement which was approved by the trustees on 8 December 2016. The full financial statements, on which the auditors haysmcintyre gave an unqualified audit report was submitted to the Charity Commission and to the Registrar of Companies.

The auditors have confirmed that, in their opinion, this summarised statement is consistent with the full statement for the year ended 30 September 2016.

The full trustees' annual report and financial statement and auditors report may be obtained from Brain Research Trust, Dutch House, 307-308 High Holborn, London WC1V 7LL or brt.org.uk

Together we can accelerate
the progress of brain research

Please support us by donating,
volunteering or fundraising.



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Image courtesy of: M Chamberland,
Sherbrooke Connectivity Imaging Lab
(scil.dinf.usherbrooke.ca)