The Netherlands Brain Bank Progress Report 2019

The Netherlands Brain Bank (NBB, www.brainbank.nl) is a non-profit organization that collects human brain tissue of donors with a variety of neurological and psychiatric disorders, but also of non-diseased donors. This brain tissue, together with an anonymized summary of a donor’s medical record, is sent to scientific researchers worldwide, with the ultimate aim of increasing our understanding of the human brain and to develop therapies for neurological and psychiatric diseases. The NBB is a department of the Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience (NIN), an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).

Donor Registrations

The NBB has a prospective donor program, registering donors during life via informed consent.

Registered donors on 1-1-2020, n=5082

AD: 135
Psy: 1439
PD/LBD: 229
Other dem.; 25
Other: 162
MS: 649
FTLD: 56
CO: 2387

New registrations in 2019, n=369

AD: 25
Psy: 55
PD/LBD: 36
Other dem.; 4
Other: 27
MS: 56
FTLD: 16
CO: 150

Public relations

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2 radio commercials
8 newspaper/magazine articles
12 online articles
4 appearances on events/lectures

Tissue supply

In 2019 the NBB supplied tissue to 79 new projects, to 80 supplementary projects which also received tissue in previous years, and 41 continuous projects that receive fresh tissue at each autopsy. Supplementary and continuous projects that received tissue more than once per year, are only counted once.

Disseminated tissue samples in 2019, total = 6006

Pathological report not yet ready; 1589
AD: 623
Psy: 82
PD/LBD: 438
Other dem.; 64
Other: 300
FTLD: 262
MS: 711
CO: 1277

Number of projects receiving NBB tissue in 2015-2019

Autopsies

Autopsies in 2019, total = 132
AD: 19
Psy: 16
PD/LBD: 28
Other dem.; 2
Other: 11
MS: 18
FTLD: 16
CO: 2

Autopsies in 2015-2019

Autopsies and post-mortem diagnostics are performed at Amsterdam UMC (AUMC), location Vumc, in cooperation with neuropathologists and mortuary assistants of AUMC, and the NBB autopsy team. The names of all NBB and involved AUMC personnel can be found on our website.

Autopsies are performed 24/7. The average post-mortem delay in 2019 is 6 hours, 32 minutes.

Publications

A list of all publications from 2019 that resulted from research using NBB tissue, a total of 120, can be found on our website.

Publications in 2019 with NBB as corporate co-author:


Financial contributions from researchers receiving tissue in 2015-2019

Finances

Besides the structural support the NBB receives as part of the NIN, the NBB is entirely dependent on grants, donations and the financial contributions from the researchers who apply for tissue. In 2019 the costs of the NBB were € 1,3 mlm.

Donor Registrations

New registrations in 2015-2019

Netherlands Institute for Neuroscience, an institute of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW)