Unlocking the Science Behind OCD

A PANDAS-PANS Story

"My daughter was a healthy and cheerful toddler. One day, she stopped eating, and started washing her hands obsessively. It was clear something was wrong. Overnight, she developed severe OCD that was preventing her from regular living. Soon after she was diagnosed with a common case of strep, and we began to understand that physical illness could impact her brain."

— Susan Boaz,
IOCDF Board President

Scientists have found a clear connection between neuroinflammation — an inflammatory response within the brain or spinal cord — and the sudden onset obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD). **What can this mean for our understanding of OCD as a whole?**

Since 1995, donors like you have helped fund 14 research projects exploring this previously unknown connection, **but there is still much to learn.** The further we understand the science of neuroinflammation and OCD, the more we learn about the causes of OCD, and how best to treat it.

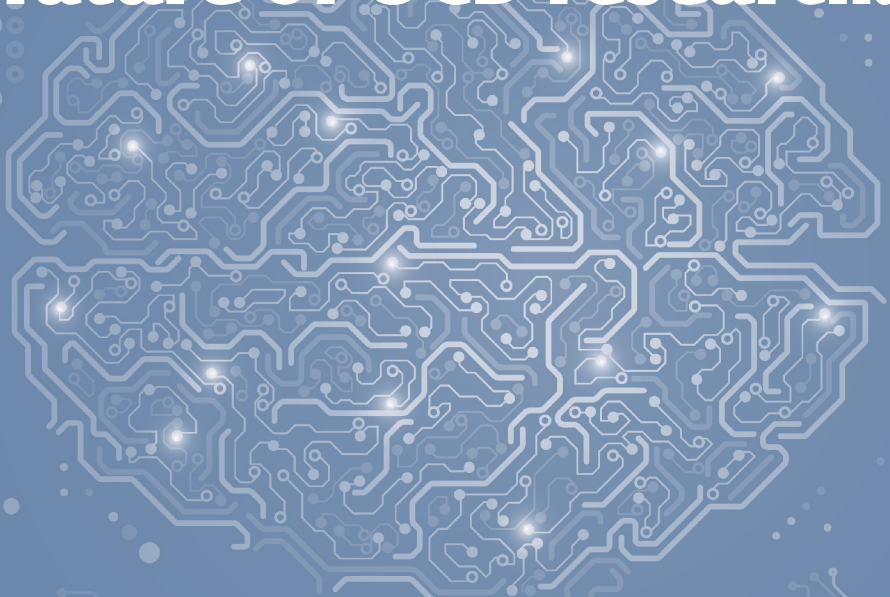
You can help unlock the science behind OCD.

Every dollar you donate to the IOCDF Research Grant Fund will support research studies furthering our understanding of the causes and treatments of OCD.

Make your gift today!

iocdf.org/donate-research

You've helped unlock the future of OCD research.



Flip over for key findings from IOCDF-funded research studies.

Key Findings from IOCDF-funded Studies

2015: Luciana Frick, PhD
Mice infused with blood from children with PANDAS saw increased disruptions with messenger neurons in the basal ganglia, negatively affecting behavior, movement, and emotion.

2019: Kyle Williams, MD, PhD
Children with PANDAS have less neural connectivity in the left caudate region of the brain, which is correlated with greater OCD severity.

2019: Clara Westwell-Roper, MD, PhD
Inflammation can affect the central nervous system, which can disrupt brain cell function and neuron communication.

What else can we discover?

International OCD Foundation

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Help us unlock the future of treatment.