

## 'It takes a world': Initiative urges global collaboration to help us understand the human brain

First envisioned in 2016 through a series of discussions on the “grand challenges” in neuroscience at Johns Hopkins University, [the International Brain Initiative \(IBI\)](#) “came out” [January 22] in a [forward-looking paper](#) in Neuron.

Rather than each country formulating their own [brain](#) projects independently, the project argues, it's high time for the world to come together and share their findings, resources, and expertise across borders. By uniting efforts, the IBI can help shape the future of [neuroscience](#) research at a global scale—for promoting brain and mental health, for stimulating international collaboration, for ethical neuroscience practices, and for crafting future generations of scientists.

“It takes a world to understand the brain,” [said](#) Caroline Montojo of [the Kavli Foundation](#), which offered support to the project. “When we have the best brains and the best minds working together, sharing information and research that could benefit us all.”

The initiative, at the time of writing, includes Japan's [Brain/Minds](#), [Australian Brain Alliance](#), the [EU's Human Brain Project \(HBP\)](#), [Canadian Brain Research Strategy](#), the [US' BRAIN Initiative](#) (BRAINI), the [Korea Brain Initiative](#), and the [China Brain Project](#).

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Integrating multiple goals of various brain projects together, the IBI serves as meta-middleman to promote coordination, share resources, and help unite different ideas on the future of neuroscience.

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