

## Viewpoint: BRAIN 2.0 — US government pouring billions into understanding the genetics of the human brain. Rightwing Federalist society raises ‘dangerous’ spectre of government mind control

The U.S. government is pouring billions of dollars into understanding genetics and the human brain, and most consequentially, how to manipulate those systems.

[Recently,] the National Institutes of Health (NIH) [launched](#) its “[BRAIN 2.0](#)” initiative (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnology), ramping up an existing program started eight years ago. Comparable to the Human Genome Project in scope and scale, BRAIN 2.0 grants \$600 million to fully map our 86 billion neurons and their uncounted connections. The project is expected to reach a grand total cost of \$5 billion by 2026.

In theory, once scientists have created this detailed brain atlas [in silico](#), they can directly alter neural function using digital devices. The director of the BRAIN Initiative, John Ngai, exhibits a troubling fixation on this method.

In a recent [interview](#) with Stat News, Ngai noted two concrete results of his current neuro-mapping efforts. One is an advanced brain-computer interface — [implanted last year](#) at the University of California, San Francisco — that allows for astounding thought-to-text communication. The other is a major breakthrough in deep brain stimulation at Baylor University, where electrodes are implanted to alter mood and behavior, relieving [depression](#) and [obsessive-compulsive disorder](#).

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If successful, the atlas created by BRAIN 2.0 will be a crucial bridge across this “bio-electronic divide.” The neural territory will be mapped and ready to conquer.

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