

2026 NINDS NONPROFIT FORUM AGENDA

August 14, 2026 ~ 10:00 am - 4:00 pm ET
Registration and check-in opens at 9:00AM

Co-hosted by: National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) & American Brain Coalition (ABC)

9:30 AM **Coffee and Connection**
Posters and Networking

10:00 AM **Welcome**
Amy Bany Adams, PhD, Acting Director, NINDS
Jennifer French, American Brain Coalition

10:15 AM **Fireside Chat: Stories to Solutions - How Lived Experience Shapes Research**
Erin "Stroke Mama" Adekun, Stroke Survivor, American Stroke Association Volunteer
Maria Kefalas, PhD, Cure MLD
Moderator: Lisa Volenec, This is Parkinson's

11:00 AM **Behind the Study: How Clinical Research Comes Together**
Lyric Jorgenson, PhD, NIH ENGAGE
Joyce Trost, PT, PhD, Cerebral Palsy Research Network
Christin Veasley, Chronic Pain Research Alliance
Amanda Wagner Gee, ENRICH-CT Coalition, FasterCures
Moderator: Jennifer French, Neuroteck Network & American Brain Coalition

12:00 PM **Lunch and Learn**
In-person attendees will have the option to meet 1:1 with program officers on-site
Posters and Networking

1:15 PM **Navigating a Changing Funding Landscape: Expanding Impact through Strategic Partnerships**
Kira Gillett, Foundation for NIH - *invited*
Annie Kennedy, EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Ian Kremer, JD, LEAD Coalition
Jenny Luray, Research!America
Caroline Montojo, PhD, Dana Foundation
Katie Sale, American Brain Coalition
Clare Stroud, PhD, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine - *invited*

2:30 PM **Engaging Across Federal Agencies**
Andrea Beckel-Mitchener, PhD, NIH BRAIN Initiative, NIMH - *invited*
Cynthia Grossman, PhD, U.S. Food & Drug Administration
Minnkyong Lee, PhD, NIH All of Us Research Program
Moderator: Amy Bany Adams, PhD, NINDS

3:45 PM **Wrap-Up: From Conversation to Continued Collaboration**
Tish Hevel, The Brain Donor Project

4:00 PM **Forum Concludes**