

The Tropical Brain and Mind Foundation presents:

A Proposal to establish a Centre for Brain Health in the Tropics

Background

By 2050 half of the world's population will live in the Tropics. In the global Tropics the burden caused by the lack of brain health has almost doubled in the last 30 years, whereas the burden caused directly by tropical infectious diseases has in fact decreased. Lack of brain health likely costs over US\$10 trillion annually for the global Tropics. Yet, there is no institute or centre anywhere in the world specifically dedicated to the promotion of brain health in the global Tropics.

Townsville is well-placed and uniquely positioned with JCU's outreach to the Tropics, to promote brain health in our region and worldwide. We have advanced, world-leading research programs in tropical infectious diseases, chronic diseases disproportionately affecting people in this region and First Nations people health, both physical and mental. Most importantly, pioneering work at JCU and AITHM is aimed to understand the complex interactions between infectious agents and chronic diseases as they relate to the health of the body and the brain. We have the proven ability to harness natural resources of the Tropics to restore and maintain brain health.

Proposal

To establish the first Centre for Brain Health in the Tropics with outreach across tropical regions of Australia and the global tropics. The Centre will be designed to advance **innovative research** and practice on epidemiology, neurobiology and **treatment of diseases of the brain and mind associated with toxicity within biological, social and ecological environments**. Research will also focus on circumstances that create optimal brain function contributing to overall wellness and productive and vibrant societies.

Stakeholders

Currently, the centre is planned to be located within TropiQ Precinct with collaborations and partnerships to be forged with TUH, Mater Hospital, JCU, AITHM and local clinicians. As a community driven project, it is essential that the wider community benefits from the development of the centre through education, community involvement and clinical outcomes.

The Foundation welcomes feedback and suggestions from Clinicians and other hospital staff with an interest in the important work.

There is no health without brain health.

Centre for Brain Health in the Tropics



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