

# WHY SUPPORT RESEARCH AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH?

## FOR STARTERS, TO FINANCE A BRAIN BANK.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) funds research that holds the promise of improving human health and saving lives. Boston University receives approximately \$212 million annually in competitively awarded research grants from NIH.

### ■ UNDERSTANDING BRAIN TRAUMA BY PUTTING OUR HEADS TOGETHER.

By studying the brains of deceased National Football League players, scientists at Boston University's Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) Center have raised awareness about the effects of repetitive brain trauma. A \$6 million grant from NIH will help identify ways to diagnose CTE in living patients and enable the team to share their results with scientists from around the world through a national tissue bank and database. With everyone putting their heads together, we'll understand the long-term effects of brain trauma and improve diagnosis that much sooner.

### ■ MAKING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE A MEMORY.

More than five million people in the United States suffer from Alzheimer's disease, devastating families and communities. BU is working to change that as part of an unprecedented nationwide effort to analyze the entire DNA sequence of hundreds of impacted people, as well as portions of the genome of thousands more. As a leader in the Alzheimer's Disease Sequencing Project, BU receives NIH support to study how genetic variations may contribute to our risk of Alzheimer's or protect against it. Just think, if we know who's susceptible, we can delay the disease's onset and slow its progression. Hopefully, someday we can make Alzheimer's a footnote in medical history books.

### ■ HELPING BLACK WOMEN LIVE LONGER AND HEALTHIER.

Since 1995, the Slone Epidemiology Center at Boston University has studied the health of 59,000 black women through the Black Women's Health Study. It is the largest follow-up study of African American women's health ever conducted and it's funded by the NIH. The study has evaluated causes of breast cancer in black women, including how reproductive factors influence the most aggressive types of breast cancer. It has also addressed numerous other diseases, with recent findings showing a link between depression and asthma onset in black women, as well as a link between experiences of racism and obesity. The study continues to give women and their doctors the knowledge to make lives not just longer, but better.

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We hope you'll  
give strong  
consideration  
to supporting  
funding for the  
NIH. If you have  
any questions  
or would like to  
discuss further  
the role the  
NIH plays in  
our daily lives,  
please visit  
[bu.edu/federal](https://bu.edu/federal).



WITH HELP FROM NIH, **BOSTON UNIVERSITY** IS CONDUCTING THE LARGEST FOLLOW-UP STUDY EVER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HEALTH.