**Abstract**

The primary mission of the Biggs Brain Bank is to provide a definitive diagnosis to patients’ family members, as well as to collect and store brain tissue, CSF, DNA and RNA samples. These specimens will be shared with qualified investigators performing groundbreaking research in the field of neurodegeneration.

Goals:

- Provide definitive diagnoses
- Foster comprehensive innovative research and cultivate collaborations internally and externally
  - Sharing of specimens
    - Ex. - Bess Frost, Radek Dobrowolski, Sarah Hopp, Miranda Orr
    - Participation in consortial collaborations
    - Ex. - Jamie Walker is an investigator in the PART Working Group Study, Kevin Bieniek is an investigator in the CTE Consortium
- Offer educational opportunities to the faculty, trainees, staff and the public covering neuroanatomy, neuropathology, aging, dementia and neurodegenerative disorders
- Generate a culturally diverse brain bank with emphasis on the Hispanic population in San Antonio

**Introduction**

The Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Diseases is pleased to announce the opening of the Biggs Institute Brain Bank. The brain bank was established to receive brain donations from any individual, with or without dementia. Our team is available to enroll participants, provide information and receive donations 24 hours/day, 7 days/week through the brain bank phone line. There is no cost to the family for brain donation or neuropathologic diagnosis, and the process does not delay or alter funeral arrangements. In addition, there is no requirement for the individual to have been in a clinical trial or study (or to have been seen by a physician) at the Biggs Institute. We incorporate information gathered from family interviews, medical records, and neuropathologic tissue evaluation to provide a definitive diagnosis to families. In certain cases these diagnoses and genetic testing may allow the families to assess their risks for the development of dementia or other neurological disorders. All of the donations are processed in a specific manner which allows for the most accurate diagnosis and premier research to be conducted in order to ultimately discover mechanisms to prevent or treat neurodegenerative disorders.

**Materials and Methods**

**Future Directions**

Increase enrollment in the donation program and collect more cases
- Dementia, movement disorders, controls, CTE, SuperAgers
- Currently designing a web-based registry called PENSAR SanA
  - Program to Establish a Neurodegeneration & Study of Aging Registry in San Antonio (“think healthy”)
  - Antemortem enrollment, consent, correspondence

Utilize digital pathology to identify and quantify unique endophenotypes of neurodegenerative disorders
- Aperio slide scanner and ImageScope software

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