



BRAINTRUST BUDDIES

BrainTrust Buddies, a new program we're starting, is a social network that allows patients and survivors of brain tumors and brain injuries to interact with each other and students to share different perspectives in a supportive environment. Past events included a movie day, Sunday sundaes, and sailing in Boston Harbor. Upcoming events include a bake-off and a holiday dinner.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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MIT BrainTrust is student-run service organization, dealing with patients with any kind of brain-related conditions. We host events including panels, community parties, and an annual course 9 mixer. We also educate the community about the brain and brain-related disorders through Brain Injury Awareness booths, and classes during SPLASH.

We work closely with The Healing Exchange BRAIN TRUST, a Cambridge-based non-profit organization. T.H.E. BRAIN TRUST's essential mission is to make the experience of having a brain tumor or other neurological disorder less horrific by helping people communicate about support issues, medical topics and research.

GOAL

Our goal is to provide students and other members of the MIT community interested in such topics as cognitive science, medicine, assistive technology, cognitive or neurological prosthetics, or Internet sociology with real world opportunities to apply their knowledge. Members' efforts directly help people living with neurological abnormalities from aneurysm to xanthroastrocystoma. Participants expand their understanding of such disorders and new technologies being developed to help people who suffer from them.

PANEL AND LECTURES

We bring together researchers, clinicians and patients to present. The topic is anything related to the brain that we are interested in learning more about. We usually have them once or twice a semester. It's an excellent opportunity to get to know more about professors' research and see directly how the research affects the patients. At the last panel, David Louis of MGH's Center for Cancer Research, social worker Michele Lu-

cas of MGH, and Samantha Scollamiero discussed the challenges of brain tumors. Rolando del Maestro will be speaking on December 9th.



FUNDRAISING

To raise money to help fund our events, we are planning a bake sale at our booth during Brain Awareness Week. We also encourage members of the MIT community to donate to T.H.E. Brain Trust when shopping at Amazon.com.

CONFERENCES

Every IAP some of our members attend a brain tumor conference in Florida. We've also attended a conference in Newton, MA.

EDUCATION

Every year we teach brain-related classes to high school students during SPLASH. Last year we taught two classes: How to Get Smarter in 2 Hours and The Brain and Its Disorders. Presentations from The Brain and Its Disorders are here. We also have a booth every year during Brain Awareness Week and we hand out flyers and talk to people about brain-related disorders.

ONLINE RESOURCES

On top of our website (web.mit.edu/braintrust/www/index.html), we are creating an internet tutorial to help patients with neurological disorders learn how to use the internet and find information and support. An almost finished version is here. We are also planning to work with online support groups and possibly create a forum for buddies.