



## VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank

*Veterans Affairs-Boston University-Concussion Legacy Foundation Brain Bank*

<http://www.bu.edu/cte/our-research/brain-bank/>

**Objectives:** VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank researchers are dedicated to improving the understanding of CTE and the long-term effects of repetitive head trauma through neuropathological examination. Work in pathogenesis, developing *in vivo* biomarkers for CTE, understanding risk factors, characterizing the clinical syndrome associated with the neuropathology, and eventually discovering treatments is ongoing. Populations of interest include contact sport athletes, veterans, and victims of domestic violence.

**Primary Investigator: Dr. Ann C. McKee, MD**

Professor of Neurology and Pathology, Boston University School of Medicine  
Neuropathologist, National PTSD Brain Bank, National VA ALS Brain Bank

Director, Boston University CTE Center and Program, VA-BU-CLF Brain Bank  
Associate Director, Boston University Alzheimer's Disease Center

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**IRB Approval:** The Boston Medical Center and Boston University Medical Campus Institutional Review Board

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**Inclusion Criteria for ALL Cases:** At least 1 intact hemisphere; preferably whole, uncut brain; fragments or sections adding up to 1 complete hemisphere; fixed within 4 days post-mortem with the body in refrigeration; no life support in the last month (unless ALS); meets at least 1 of the following for head trauma exposure:

- Military: any age, with and without athletic history, with and without combat
- Age 36 and older: at least 2 years of college-level contact sport or higher level
- Age 35 and younger: any level of contact sport
- ALS: any age, must have some contact sport history
- Domestic violence: any age, with and without athletic history
- Second Impact Syndrome (SIS): any age, with and without athletic history
- **Optional Tissue Donation:** Spinal cord, blood, CSF

**Autopsy:** Brain in 10% formalin with brainstem and pituitary fixed for 2 or more weeks, blood and CSF refrigerated in 50mL centrifuge tubes

**Consent:** Call 24/hour line to coordinate donation. Consent form is emailed to family, with next-of-kin signature required; returned via email or fax

**Resources for Families:** Written neuropathology report provided 1-year post-donation, conference call with the case neuropathologist, opportunities to share their loved one's story through work with the Concussion Legacy Foundation

**Resources for Forensic Pathologists:** Written neuropathology report provided 1-year post-donation