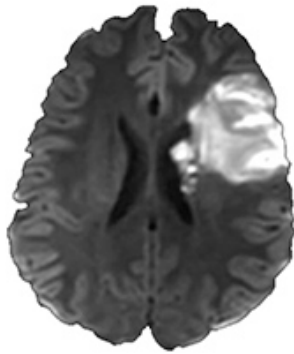


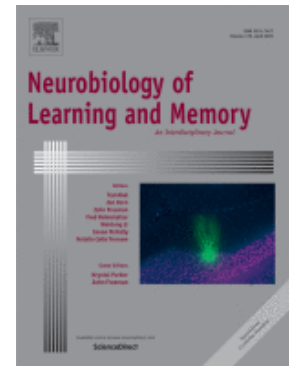
Supporting early-stage research with potential for high impact has been a focus of the INI since its founding. In establishing our Accelerator Grants, we sought to promote innovation, build collaboration, and increase diversity within our ranks. We can already point to success in all three areas.



to domain-general cognition.

Awarded in the [first round](#) of Accelerator funding, **Aaron Boes, MD, PhD**, extended work with a long history in the UI Department of Neurology—dating back to the Damasio era—by using modern imaging approaches to develop comprehensive lesion symptom “maps” of which brain regions are most highly associated with individual stroke symptoms. Within two years, Boes and his team had used their initial data to secure R01 funding from NINDS. Their [Journal of Neuroscience](#) paper last month used lesion mapping to provide converging behavioral and neuroanatomical evidence that working memory is a key mechanism contributing

The [Accelerator team](#) of **John Freeman, PhD** and **Krystal Parker, PhD**, embodies our unofficial INI motto “the best ideas come from collaboration” and demonstrates the importance of the physical space in the INI. Their labs are adjacent on the 2nd floor of PBDB, even though they are appointed in two different colleges, Freeman in College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Parker in Carver College of Medicine. Together they have advanced our understanding of the cerebellum, including identifying areas crucial for memory and executive function. Together they edited [a special issue for Neurobiology of Learning and Memory](#) on cerebellar function in March. They each have secured R01 funding and Parker, along with **Aislinn Williams, MD, PhD** and **Marie Gaine, PhD**, proposed and secured a [substantial grant from the Nellie Ball Trust](#) to extend their cerebellar studies. Working together, we are advancing more quickly than any one of us could accomplish in isolation.



Accelerator Grants also help to advance work by scientists who come from underrepresented backgrounds. **Saul Wilson, MD**, one of this year’s [awardees](#), is using intracranial EEG to elucidate the specific brain regions engaged in detection of novel sounds and the negative effects of seizures and anticonvulsant drugs on memory processes in children.

With each new round of Accelerator applications, my excitement about the future of the INI builds. I am eager to continue to follow all of our current projects and anticipate even more innovation, collaboration and diversity in the years ahead.

Ted