



Leigh Hochberg, MD, PhD, Director of the VA RR&D Center for Neurorestoration and Neurotechnology (CfNN), has announced his intent to step down as the Center's director on March 6, 2024. Ben Greenberg, MD, PhD, CfNN's Associate Director, will become Director.

"It has been a tremendous privilege to lead CfNN. CfNN's incredible researchers and administrative team are dedicated to restoring Veterans Health and function, and to creating technologies that will restore communication, mobility, mental health, and limb and sensory function. With CfNN's strategic plan in place, and the recent renewal of our Center, it's the right time to hand over the directorship to Ben, who has brilliantly co-led this Center for years. I look forward to continuing my VA research, and to helping CfNN, VA Providence, and Veterans Health in the years ahead", Hochberg said.

Dr. Hochberg has been CfNN's Director since 2018, and will return to the role of Associate Director of CfNN, a role he held from the Center's founding in 2012 through 2018. He is also L. Herbert Ballou University Professor of Engineering and Professor of Brain Science at Brown University, Director of the Center for Neurotechnology and Neurorecovery at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Senior Lecturer on Neurology at Harvard Medical School. As Director of the [BrainGate](#) clinical trials and consortium, Dr. Hochberg's research is focused on the development and testing of intracortical brain-computer interfaces for Veterans and others with paralysis resulting from ALS, spinal cord injury, stroke, and other neurologic disorders. Dr. Hochberg was also the recipient of the 2022 Paul B. Magnuson Award for outstanding achievement in VA Rehabilitation Research.

Dr. Greenberg became the founding leader of CfNN's Mental Health Focus Area in 2012, and has been CfNN's Associate Director since 2018. He is also Professor of Psychiatry and Human Behavior at Brown University, and directs the COBRE Center for Neuromodulation at Butler Hospital. Dr. Greenberg's main research is on development of brain circuit-focused therapies, including non-invasive and invasive neuromodulation methods for conditions representing major burdens for Veterans and others including PTSD, depression, and OCD. He treats patients at the VA Providence Healthcare system in Trauma Recovery Services and in the Neuromodulation Clinic.

Dr. Greenberg commented, "I'm looking forward to continuing the great tradition of service-based leadership that Leigh has exemplified since CfNN was launched in 2012. Our mission to support Veterans Health is central to all of our research, and to our recruiting and training the next generation of researchers dedicated to improving the health and function of our nation's Veterans. I am proud to say that, across our fields of research, CfNN has made a real difference in interventions available to Veterans. Thanks to the groundwork Leigh has laid, and our dedicated, multidisciplinary team, we are poised to do even more in the future."

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Patricia A. Dorn, PhD, Director of VA's Rehabilitation R&D Service, Office of Research and Development, said, "Leigh's bold vision for restoring function for Veterans with paralysis, his commitment to VHA research of the highest quality, and his skill in building and managing teams with diverse expertise and experience, bring credit not only to CfNN and VA Providence, but to all of VA research. We're grateful for his continued contributions to CfNN and VA research, and I know that CfNN is in great hands with Dr. Greenberg's becoming Director.

Gaurav Choudhary, MD, PhD, Associate Chief of Staff, Research, VA Providence Healthcare, said: "CfNN is an incredible research center, and we thank Leigh for both his trusted leadership, and his commitment to supporting the very best teams of researchers focusing on improving the health, rehabilitation, and function of Veterans. We look forward to Leigh's internationally respected leadership in the rapidly advancing field of implanted brain-computer interfaces, and we're excited for Ben to lead the next chapter of CfNN's many breakthroughs in VA Research and Development.

Lawrence Connell, Director, VA Providence Healthcare, said, "Leigh's research, the BrainGate team, and CfNN are all sources of pride for us at VA Providence. We thank Leigh for his dedication to CfNN, and we look forward to working closely with Ben to further expand CfNN's amazing contributions to our Veteran community."

