

What are Brain Banks and why do we need them?

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What is a Brain Bank?

- A collection of brains and related tissues obtained from individuals with particular disorders and from normal individuals
- Each brain is consented for removal, retention and use in research.
- Each requires a full clinical history and detailed pathological examination - and all information is anonymised.

Brain Bank

**Brain Disorders &
Control Cases**

Donations to Brain Banks

Donors

Individuals or
families



Brain Bank

Brain disorders &
control cases

Post Mortem Examination

- Two kinds of post mortem examination:
 - Hospital post mortems, consented by families
 - Medicolegal post mortems, instructed by Procurators Fiscal or Coroners
- Brain donation for research possible in both but with constraints on contact with families in medicolegal post mortems

Personnel involved in Brain Banks

Donors



**Brain
Bank
Staff**



(Procurators)



Clinicians

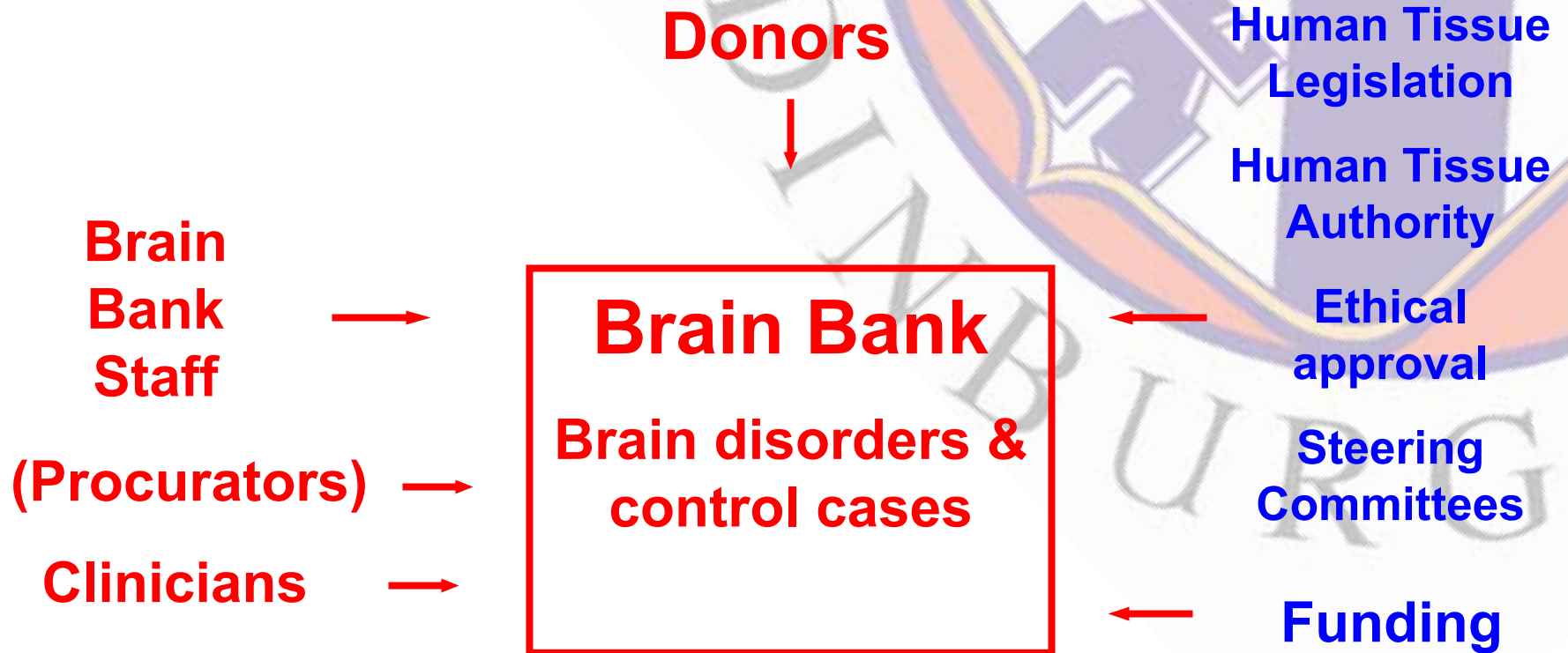


Brain Bank

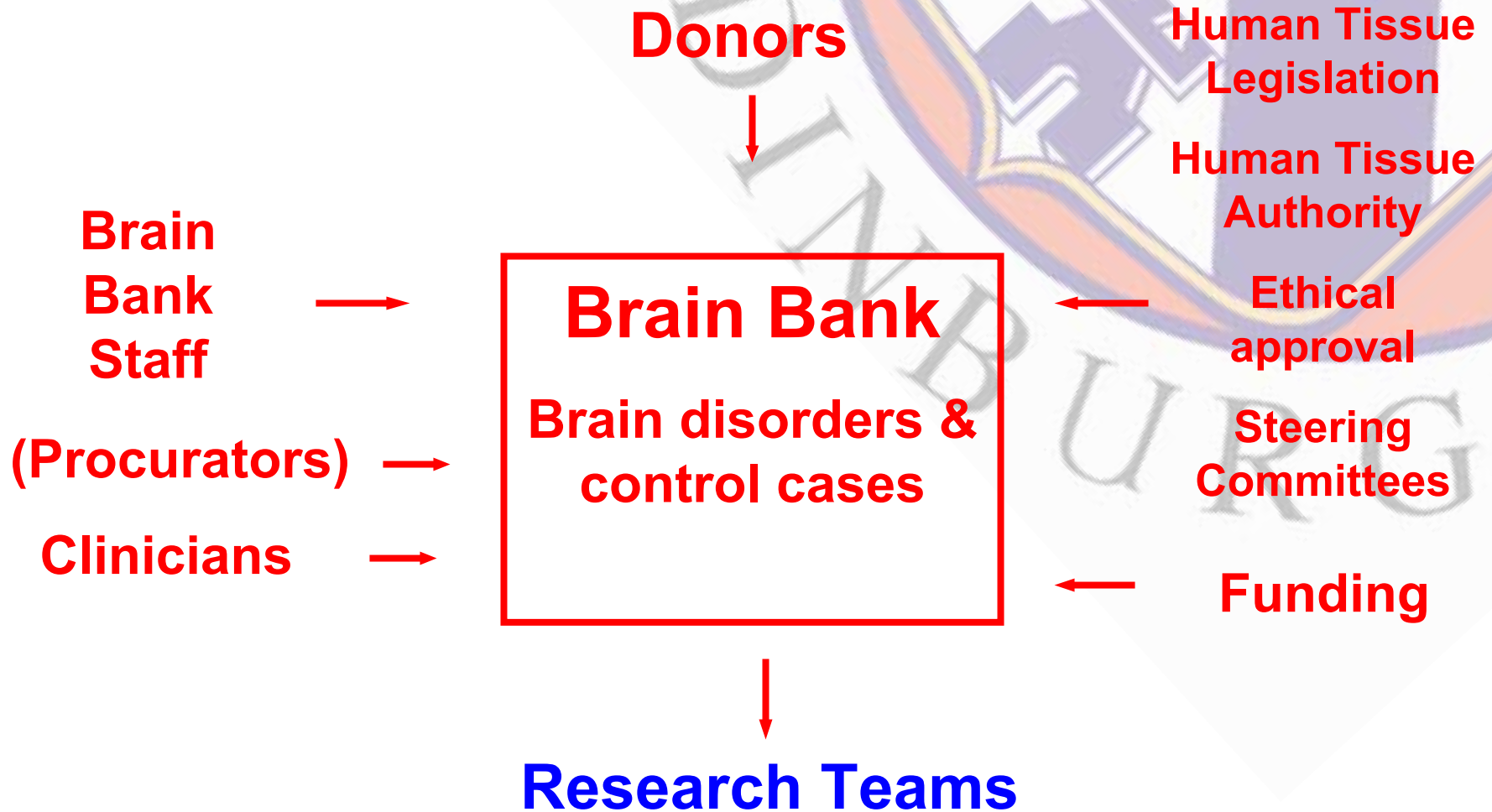
**Brain disorders &
control cases**



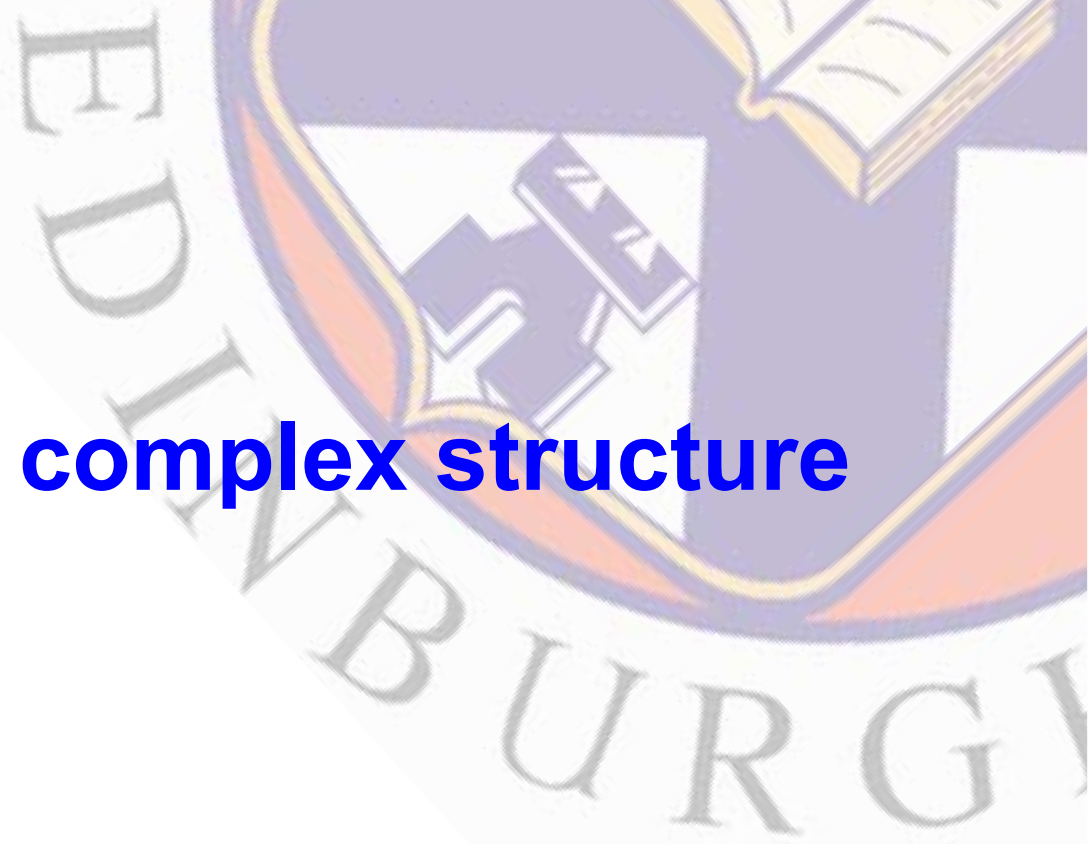
Regulation of Brain Banks



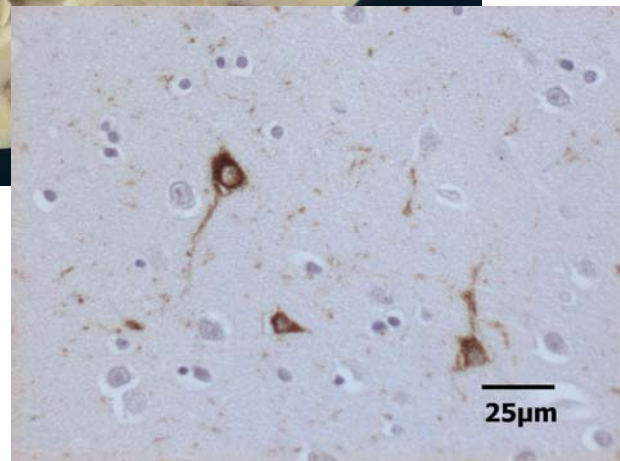
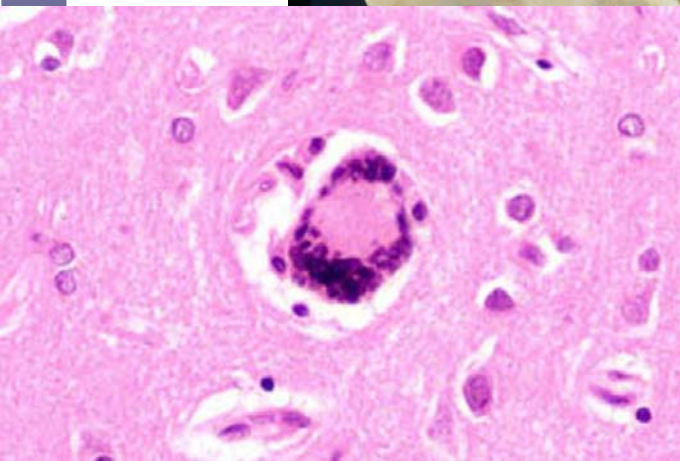
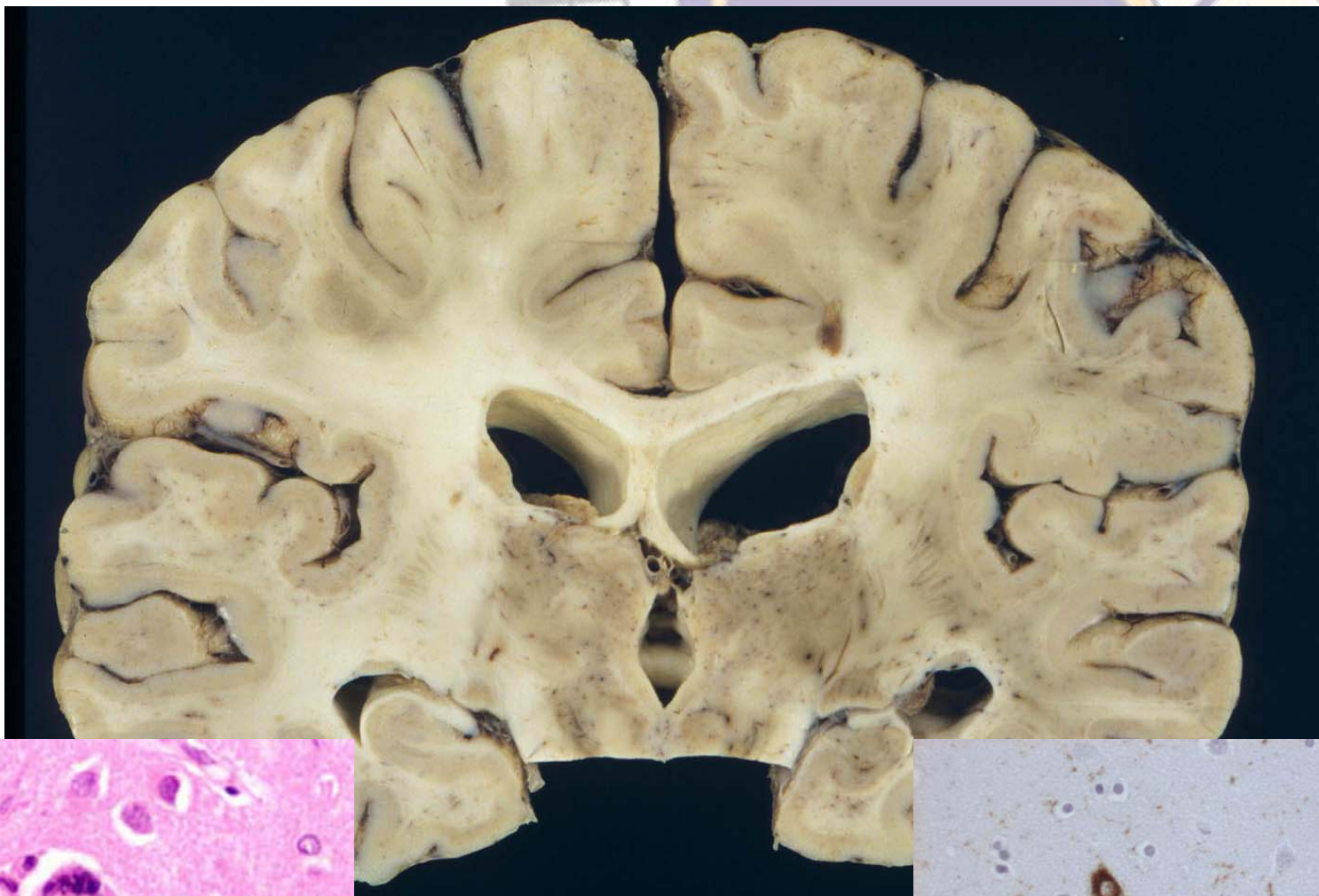
Purpose of Brain Banks



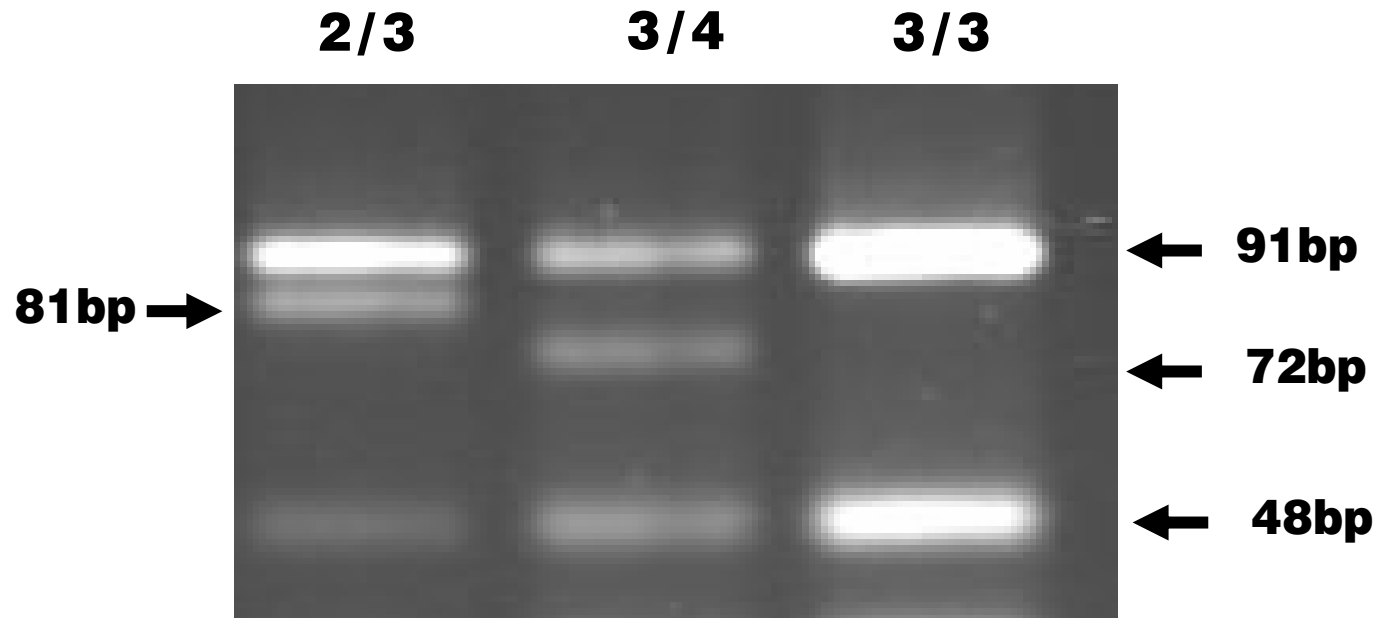
The brain is a complex structure



Examination of the brain- with the microscope



Apo E genotype influences the age of onset of Alzheimer's disease



IN CONCLUSION:

Brain Banks fulfil a vital function in supporting research in human brain disorders

Recent significant discoveries and developments in methodology (eg the presence of stem cells in the brain)

Donors can be confident that Brain Banks are properly run