

February 22, 2017

Carol A. Barnes, Ph.D.  
Director, Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona

## The McKnight Brain Research Foundation®

*Preserving Memory,  
Enhancing Life*

*Established by  
Evelyn F. McKnight  
to Alleviate Memory Loss  
in the Aging.*

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Dear Dr. Barnes,

The trustees of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation (MBRF) reviewed the 2016 Annual report from the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute (EMBI) at the University of Arizona (UA) at their February, 2017, meeting. The 2016 Annual Report represents ten years since the beginning of the MBRF/UA partnership with the signing of the first Gift Agreement in 2006, establishing the EMBI and the Evelyn F. McKnight Chair for Learning and Memory in Aging.

The trustees have great admiration and respect for your leadership as the founding Director of the EMBI and the first, and only, occupant of the McKnight endowed chair. It is also noted the UA also recognized your academic qualifications by naming you a Regents' Professor in 2006. Your election as the first and ongoing chair of the leadership council composed of the directors and associate directors of the four McKnight Brain Institutes (MBIs) is also a testament to the respect and admiration in which you are held by your colleagues.

The hosting by the EMBI at UA of the first inter-institutional meeting which fosters research collaborations between the four MBIs has become an annual event for a decade. Your support of the establishment of a poster reception hosted by the MBRF in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience (of which you are a past president) has become an annual tradition.

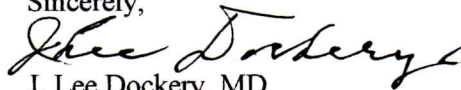
The trustees are aware and offer comment on events and circumstances at the UA which have retarded the success and achievements of the EMBI. At the first visit of the trustees to the UA in 2006, we were told by Dr. Keith Joiner, the Dean of the UA College of Medicine (COM) that college was reorganizing the neurosciences and the establishment of the EMBI would facilitate those discussions; and, could potentially result in allocation of additional space to the EMBI. **This did not occur.** Soon after the EMBI was established, Dr. Bruce McNaughton, a key individual in the operation of your laboratory, left the UA. The position remained vacant for a long time despite an additional substantial GIFT from MBRF for salary support.

Leadership vacancies throughout the UA have had a deleterious effect on the development of the EMBI. Each of the offices of the President of the UA, the President of the UA Foundation and the Senior Vice President for Research has been vacant periodically. These vacancies have had budgetary effects on the EMBI regarding recruitment of qualified faculty and fund raising efforts to meet the matching requirements defined in the 2014 Gift Agreement. Uncertainty exists regarding the value the UA places on the EMBI and accompanying budgetary constraints have compromised the EMBI. The trustees of the MBRF have not met any of the Deans of the COM since Dr. Joiner's departure. To develop a clinical translational research programs in cognitive aging and memory loss, research collaborations are necessary with clinical departments, such as the departments of neurology and psychiatry, within the COM as well as the Center on Aging. The trustees question how these liaisons can be established.

Finally, regarding the 2016 Annual report specifically, it is obvious your leadership is responsible for its success to date. None of the other limited number of faculty has been successful in securing competitive funding year after year from National funding organizations or in getting their work published in reputed peer reviewed journals compared to your frequent and repeated success. Therefore, it is understandable why the trustees are concerned regarding the future of the EMBI at UA should you be recruited away.

It is hoped the leadership of the UA will take these unsolicited comments and concerns of the trustees under consideration and take favorable action affecting future of the EMBI.

Sincerely,



J. Lee Dockery, MD

CC. Dr. Andrew C. Comrie

Dr. Kimberly Andrews Espy

Jenny Flynn

MBRF Trustees

Henry H. Raattama, Esquire

*Please address all correspondence to*