



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

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February 26, 2018

Carol A. Barnes, Ph.D.
Director, Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute
Evelyn F. McKnight Chair for Learning and Memory in Aging
PO Box 245115
University of Arizona
Tucson, AZ 85724-5115

Dear Dr. Barnes,

At their meeting on February 20, 2018, the trustees of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation (MBRF) reviewed the 2017 annual report of the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute (EMBI) at the University of Arizona (UA). The trustees are pleased to note the progress in many areas of the research in cognitive aging and associated age-related memory loss.

The trustees congratulate you on the very attractive format and ease of review of the annual report. The report is comprehensive, the topics are displayed well and provide useful information.

The trustees recognize and commend your tremendous research productivity and the recognition of your work throughout the international research community. Although, some of the research funding of investigators at the EMBI at the UA is from the MBRF and the State of Arizona Alzheimer's Consortium, the trustees are pleased to observe there has been a significant increase in extramural funding from national funding agencies for investigators affiliated with the EMBI at the UA since the 2016 annual report

The trustees wish to emphasize the importance of the support from the MBRF for clinical translational research in leading to the understanding and alleviation of age related memory loss. With new leadership at the UA, establishment of the Center for Innovation in Brain Science, strong research programs in the Department of Psychology and assistance through the Office of Research, Discovery and Innovation, as well as an enhanced research linkage with relevant clinical departments, a more rapid and sustainable success in the clinical translation of cognitive aging research can be achieved.

The trustees are intrigued and interested in the concept of the establishment of a National Precision Aging Center at the University of Arizona. Although a very ambitious project, its success would have a potentially beneficial impact for the global population.

Although the success of fund development program which has been designed to target specific donors for support of the research programs at the EMBI at the UA is disappointing, it is hoped the foundation and infrastructure in place will ultimately lead to a successful outcome.

The trustees also express their strong appreciation for your leadership among and between the McKnight Brain Institutes within the leadership council.

Sincerely,

J. Lee Dockery, MD

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