



McKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Preserving memory, enhancing life

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

February 15, 2022
Todd E. Golde, MD, PhD
Executive Director
Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute
University of Florida

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Dear Dr. Golde,

At the February 9, 2022, meeting of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation (MBRF), the trustees reviewed the 2021 annual report submitted by the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute (MBI) at the University of Florida (UF). The report was well-organized and provided a favorable representation of the MBI. The trustees appreciated the submission of requested supplemental information in advance of the formal review.

The 2021 annual report provided a comprehensive summary and description of the MBI's many achievements. The trustees are pleased you share their opinion that the integration of the Age-Related Memory Loss (ARML) program and the Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research program (CAM-CTRP) into a unified Center has been successful in integrating the basic, translational, and clinical research in cognitive aging and age-related memory loss. This success can be directly attributed to your support and the commitment and collaboration between Drs. Cohen, Woods, Bizon, and Burke.

The summary information provided in the reports by Dr. Bizon, Burke, Cohen, Foster, and Woods reflects many achievements in the past year. The five-fold increase in extramural research support since 2010 is impressive and commendable. Further evidence of the success is the competitive ability to recruit outstanding graduate students to build and promote the expansion of the research potential in cognitive aging and age-related cognitive decline.

The trustees were pleased with the announcement that Dr. Bizon was named to the Chair of the Department of Neuroscience following her outstanding performance as interim chair. The impending promotions of Dr. Woods, Dr. Porges, and Dr. Burns reflect favorably upon the academic environment as junior faculty receive the encouragement and support to be successful and productive leading to promotion in their academic career. The update on the William G. Luttge Lecture Series with the scheduled speakers is appreciated, especially noting Dr. Peria Moreno Castilla, a rising star in the Neurocognitive Aging Section of the NIA intramural research program, is scheduled February 24, 2022.

The trustees specifically acknowledge Dr. Adam Woods' substantial support from NIH awards, leading to his recognition as the top funded investigator in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Dr. Woods' central role in the development of the UF Health Artificial Intelligence Initiative predicts substantial growth in 2022 featuring non-pharmacological interventions for remediating age-related cognitive decline.

Please address all correspondence to:

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Page Two

The integration of Scripps Florida into the University of Florida and the potential impact on the research activities support by the MBRF through the MBI at the University of Florida is of great interest to the trustees. Timely updates on the status of the integration of Scripps Florida and UF as the process progresses will be appreciated.

While, overall, the annual report offers a comprehensive, attractive and helpful guide to the flourishing research and educational activities of the MBI, a suggestion again for next year's report is to provide letters of transmittal and support from the leadership of the Health Center, the College of Medicine, and the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

The trustees express their collective appreciation for your support and efforts in continuing to advance the research initiatives of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation leading to the understanding and alleviation of age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

Sincerely,

Amy Porter
Executive Director

cc:
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