



McKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Preserving memory, enhancing life

March 1, 2023

David R. Nelson, MD
Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, University of Florida (UF)
President, UF Health

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

Dear Dr. Nelson,

At the February 16, 2023, meeting of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation (MBRF), the trustees reviewed the 2022 annual report submitted by the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute (MBI) of the University of Florida (UF).

The report is a comprehensive overview of the productivity and impressive accomplishments of the MBI in 2022. The trustees are grateful for the prioritization of the MBI's infrastructure needs. The consolidation of the Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research Programs (CAM) in expanded space in the Cumminicore – and the expected effort to house the labs of Drs. Foster, Bizon, Setlow, Burke and Maurer within the UF MBI – will support the research advancements and collaborations that are critical to the success of the broader MBI mission.

The summary information provided in the reports by Drs. Bizon, Burke, Cohen, and Foster reflects many achievements in the past year. It is impressive to see that, after several pandemic years, the research productivity, funding portfolio, mentorship of junior investigators, and interdisciplinary collaboration continues to grow at an exponential rate. The publication of 79 peer-review manuscripts and \$10M in new awards is remarkable, as are the many awards and promotions received by CAM members, including Dr. Woods, Dr. Burke, and Dr. Bizon.

The efforts to recruit and train many high-caliber early career scientists are commendable. The trustees are pleased to learn of Dr. Burke's recently awarded NIH/NIA R25 grant to support research opportunities for diverse undergraduate students. It is notable that the work of Dr. Woods has extended to UF Jacksonville and that collaborative clinical research may develop with UF Scripps. The range of clinical trials at the MBI exploring the link between cognitive function and diabetes, bariatric surgery, the microbiome, nutritional supplementation, and mindfulness training is outstanding.

As a follow-up to this letter, the trustees request some additional information, including an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the MBI and its relationship to the Fixel Institute. It would also be helpful to see how the organizational charts reflect the different geographic locations of the Center for Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research. Looking to the future, we request that your annual reports will incorporate reports from the Deans of the College of Medicine and of the College of Public Health and Health Professions, and that the report follows the structure of the annual report template.

The trustees send their collective appreciation to you for your leadership and the tremendous efforts in continuing to advance the research initiatives of the MBRF, leading to the understanding and alleviation of age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

Sincerely,

Angelika Schlanger

Angelika Schlanger, PhD

CC. MBRF Trustees; Colleen G. Koch, MD, MS, MBA; Beth A. Virnig, PhD, MPH;
Steven T. DeKosky, MD; Jada Lewis, PhD; Ron A. Cohen, PhD, ABPP; Jennifer L. Bizon, PhD;
Thomas C. Foster, PhD; Adam J. Woods, PhD; Sarah N. Burke, PhD; Joe Mandernach, JD

Please address all postal correspondence to:

Melanie Cianciotto ♦ Trust ♦ Post Office Box 620005 ♦ Orlando, Florida 32862 ♦ 407--237-4485

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR

Michael L. Dockery, MD
Charlotte, North Carolina

VICE CHAIR

Madhav Thambisetty, MD, PhD
Ellicott City, Maryland

TRUSTEES

Patricia A. Boyle, PhD
LaGrange, Illinois

John E. Brady, MD
Newport News, VA

Allison Brashear, MD, MBA
Buffalo, New York

Richard S. Isaacson, MD
Boca Raton, Florida

Susan L. Pekarske, MD
Tucson, Arizona

CHAIR EMERITUS

J. Lee Dockery, MD
Gainesville, Florida

CORPORATE TRUSTEE

Melanie A. Cianciotto
Orlando, Florida

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Angelika Schlanger, PhD
Parkland, Florida

Website:

www.mcknightbrain.org