



# McKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

*Preserving memory, enhancing life*

February 22, 2022

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

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Ralph L. Sacco, MD, MS; Executive Director, Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute  
Tatjana Rundek, MD, PhD; Scientific Director, Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute  
Evelyn F. McKnight Chair for Learning and Memory in Aging  
Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine  
Miami, FL 33101

Dear Drs. Sacco and Rundek,

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. McKnight Brain Institute (MBI) at the University of Miami (UM). The report is an attractive and well-organized synopsis of the MBI's activity.

As in previous years, the trustees were pleased to note the quality of the report and its thoughtful organization which adhered closely to the newly-revised annual report template. It is gratifying to the trustees that the leadership of the MBI at UM values the importance of the annual reports and devotes the time and effort to produce such an excellent product reflective of the quality of the research, educational programs, and community outreach dedicated to advancing the understanding of cognitive aging and age-related cognitive decline. The continued implementation of the strategic plan appears to be effective in the efforts to consolidate the cognitive clinical and translational research in all divisions in the Department of Neurology under the MBI umbrella. Dr. Sacco and his team are to be commended and congratulated on the Department of Neurology's ranking of #35 by US News and World Report among departments of Neurology and neurosurgery specialties and #15 in funding from the National Institutes of Health.

The trustees are pleased to note the efforts to enhance the integrative and collaborative programs within the Cognitive Division and Memory Programs. The increased focus within the division and collaboration with the Comprehensive Center for Brain Health at Boca Raton, under the leadership of Dr. James Galvin, support successful expansion of the Cognitive Aging and Memory programs. The establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Neurocognitive Clinical Scholar in Brain Health and Aging postdoctoral training program adds to anticipated growth and development of the Cognitive Division. The intended recruitment to fill the Schoninger Chair will provide a stronger infrastructure for the comprehensive program in cognition and memory.

Despite the many challenges presented by the pandemic, the educational programs continued and adapted to restrictions and inconveniences. The trustees were impressed with the remarkable success of the 12<sup>th</sup> inter-institutional meeting held virtually and hosted by the MBI at the UM. The trustees join the chorus of praise for the success of the meeting, from planning, to communication, and execution.

The trustees congratulate Dr. Sacco on yet additional honors in being named the Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious journal **Stroke** and receiving the World Hypertension League Daniel Lackland Excellence Award for Population Hypertension Risk Reduction. The trustees also congratulate Dr. Rundek upon her election as President of the Intersocietal Accreditation Commission (IAC) Vascular Testing Board and acknowledge her leadership across the various disciplines using vascular testing.

The trustees send their collective appreciation to you on your continuing efforts 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: Susan Fox-Rosellini; Stacy Merritt; MBRF Trustees

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