Cianciotto.Melanie

From: Amy Porter <aporter@mcknightbrf.org>
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 10:58 AM
To: Cianciotto.Melanie
Cc: Valerie Patmintra
Subject: Today's calls (!!)
Attachments: CWG JANUARY 24 Conference Call Agenda.docx; ATT00001.htm; December 13 Communications WG Call Minutes_Draft.doc; ATT00002.htm; MBRF Brochure Content Draft_January 24,2020.docx; ATT00003.htm

So... Both groups are using the same phone number it just occurred to me ..Finance is going to have to finish up a few minutes before 1 pm today when the CWG members start calling in.

Melanie, here's the CWG meeting information for the secure site. Thank you both.

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Valerie Patmintra <valerie627@gmail.com>
> **Date:** January 22, 2020 at 2:08:37 PM EST
> **To:** "Bizon,Jennifer Lynn" <bizonj@ufl.edu>, "Taylor,Todd" <tmtaylor4@ufl.edu>, "Albert, Michelle L - (mjarrell)" <Michelle.Albert@nsma.arizona.edu>, "Snyder, Luann - (snyderlu)" <Luann@nsma.arizona.edu>, Vicki Hixon <VHixon@uab.edu>, "Camargo, Christian J" <ccamargo@med.miami.edu>, "Fox-Rosellini, Susan Eva" <sfoxrose@med.miami.edu>, Richard Isaacson <rii9004@med.cornell.edu>, J Lee Dockery <jld007@cox.net>, Robert Wah <1techdoc@gmail.com>, Amy Porter <aporter@mcknightbrf.org>
> **Subject: Agenda and Materials for the January 24 Communications Working Group Conference Call**
>
> Hello Members of the Communications Working Group,
> We're looking forward to catching up with all of you this Friday, January 24 at 1pm Eastern. An agenda for the call is attached here, as well as minutes from the December 13 call and drafted content for the new organizational brochure.
>
> As discussed, the content included on each of your MBIs was collected from the templates you shared over the summer and additional information gathered from each of your websites. We'll discuss the content together during the call and I'm hoping to get any edits or additional content you have to add to this draft by Friday, January 31, so the brochure content may be shared with the MBRF Trustees during their meeting on February 5.
>
> We'll also have new concepts for the joint MBRF/MBI logos to share and I'll send those by tomorrow so you all have a chance to review before the call.
>
> Thank you all for your participation in the communications working group! We're looking forward to catching up and finalizing plans for the communications panel as well as discussing the organizational brochure and logo concepts.

The dial-in number is included in the agenda and also below for easy access. Please let me know if you have any questions before Friday's call.

Thanks again!
Valerie

Communications Working Group Conference Call
Friday, January 24, 2020
1:00pm - 2:00pm Eastern
Dial-in Number: 877-934-2901
Passcode: 8630398

MCKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MBRF)
MCKNIGHT BRAIN INSTITUTES (MBI)
COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Conference Call
Friday, January 24, 2020
1:00 pm ET – 2:00 pm ET

877-934-2901 Call-in Number

8630398 Passcode

(Amy's cell 202-302-9849; Valerie's cell 202-320-6388)

AGENDA

1:00 pm	1.	Call to Order/Roll Call	Ms. Valerie Patmintra
1:05 pm	2.	Welcome	Ms. Patmintra/Trustees
1:10 pm	3.	Approval of Minutes, December 13, 2019 CWG Call	Dr. Isaacson
1:12 pm	4.	Review Updated Concepts for the MBRF/MBI Logo a. Select logo to recommend for MBRF Trustee approval at the February 5 meeting	Dr. Isaacson Ms. Patmintra
1:25 pm	5.	Review Brochure Content a. Feedback and images requested by Friday, January 31	Ms. Patmintra
1:35 pm	6.	Communications Panel at the Inter-Institutional Meeting a. Finalize topic, panelists and timing	Ms. Porter Ms. Fox-Rosellini
1:45 pm	7.	Leveraging Social Media Influencers a. Discuss idea of engaging with social media influencers to help build an online presence and generate media interest in MBI research and researchers	Ms. Porter Ms. Patmintra All
1:55 pm	8.	News from the MBIs	Ms. Patmintra All
2:00 pm	9.	Adjournment	Ms. Patmintra

MINUTES
MCKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION
COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP CONFERENCE CALL
December 13, 2019

The McKnight Brain Research Foundation's Communications Working Group conference call began at 2:00 p.m. Eastern on Friday, December 13, 2019.

The following working group members participated in the call:

Christian Camargo, MD, University of Miami
J. Lee Dockery, MD, Chair Emeritus, MBRF Trustee
Susan Fox-Rosellini, MBA, University of Miami
Vicki Hixon, University of Alabama Birmingham
Richard Isaacson, MD, Chair, Communications Committee, MBRF Trustee
Valerie Patmintra, Senior Communications Advisor
Amy Porter, MBRF Executive Director
Todd Taylor, University of Florida

1. Roll Call and Welcome

Ms. Patmintra opened the call, took roll and welcomed those in attendance. Ms. Patmintra thanked the group for being on the call and continuing to be involved with the working group. She then noted that Dr. Dockery and Dr. Isaacson were both on the call as Foundation Trustees and invited them to provide a welcome.

Dr. Isaacson asked if he could go off of the agenda for a minute and asked the group to give a round of applause for the new Foundation website, which launched on Thursday, December 12. He noted that the launch had been one of the smoothest he's been involved with and said he looks forward to seeing continued developments with the website. Dr. Dockery also thanked the group for their participation and offered complements for the new website. He then asked if an edit could be made to the October 10 to correctly refer to the "Cognitive Aging 3 Summit" under the section with Dr. Bizon's report from the NIA/NIH Reserve and Resilience Conference. Ms. Patmintra agreed to make that update to the minutes and Dr. Isaacson called for the minutes from the October 10 call to be approved. The CWG members then approved the October 10 meeting minutes.

2. Topic Discussion for the Communications Panel at the 2020 Inter-Institutional Meeting

Ms. Porter asked the group if they could take time to discuss the topic for the Communications Panel, which is scheduled to take place the evening of April 1, 2020, before the Inter-Institutional Meeting hosted by the University of Miami begins. She started the discussion by asking for feedback on the idea of using social media to market and share research as a potential panel topic. Ms. Fox-Rosellini noted that the University of Miami has done a lot of internal training on best uses of social media, noting she believes social media is effective if you become an expert and since there are social media experts within each MBI, she strongly believes in allowing each MBI to do their own social media outreach. Dr. Isaacson agreed with the importance of institutional level independence when it comes to social media – first, because each MBI needs to follow their own Institute-level guidelines and second, because social media is personal. He said it might be difficult to have a social media workshop when there are four different MBIs affiliated with the Foundation.

Dr. Camargo agreed that the University of Miami has offered helpful training where he's learned about tools and practices like using hashtags to help start building consistency across messages. Ms. Fox-Rosellini agreed with the

importance of consistency in message and establishing hashtags to refer back to the Foundation as the center point driving the research effort that looks into why age affects people's cognition differently. Mr. Taylor also noted that a training on social media best practices could be helpful to build the Foundation and MBI's social media presence. Dr. Dockery suggested the idea of having the panel focus on all the different aspects of social media, followed by a discussion around the components of each channel/medium. Ms. Hixon agreed that social media can be overwhelming to discuss all at once and a discussion breaking down the components of each channel and identifying which ones to focus on could be helpful.

Dr. Isaacson noted that while there are many different ways to deploy social media, just posting frequently isn't enough, and that a discussion around Facebook and Twitter ads would be important as well. Ms. Porter agreed with Dr. Isaacson, noting that if the goal is to establish the Foundation and MBIs as national experts in the field of cognitive aging, the panel should focus on how to reach those goals using social media and not just frequently posting Tweets and Facebook updates for the sake of posting them.

The group then turned to focus on timing for the panel with Ms. Porter asking if holding the Communications Panel at the same time as the Mentor/Mentee Workshop would be too much of a conflict. Dr. Isaacson suggested moving the Communications Panel to another time to avoid the conflict. Dr. Dockery suggested perhaps the Mentor/Mentee Workshop could move to a breakfast meeting for only the group involved in the program. Ms. Fox-Rosellini, noted the wide interest in and appeal of the mentor/mentee program and said the same suggestion could be made to move the Communications Panel to a breakfast meeting.

Ms. Porter said she likes the McKnight scholarship tie-in with the connections that can be made through the mentor/mentee program and noted that she knows Dr. Rundek is very passionate about the program, so it may be best to move the Communications Panel and avoid overlapping with the Mentor/Mentee Workshop. Ms. Porter and Ms. Fox-Rosellini agreed to take another look at the overall meeting schedule and have an offline discussion about the best timing for the Communications Panel. Ms. Porter said she would also work with Ms. Patmintra to build out the topic idea to focus on how to effectively market your research using social media outreach for the group to continue discussing as part of the January conference call.

3. Update on MBRF/MBI Logo Design

Ms. Patmintra thanked the group for the feedback that has been shared on the new combined MBRF/MBI logos. Based on that feedback and a better understanding of how the MBI and MBRF logos will be used together, Ms. Patmintra said she is now working with the logo designers to come up with new concepts that will incorporate each University's colors and replace the Foundation's brain logo mark with something distinct to the MBIs. Ms. Fox-Rosellini noted the importance of coming up with something that complements the University's branding. Ms. Patmintra said she would continue working with the designers to come up with a few new concepts to present for the CWG to review and discuss during the January conference call.

4. MBRF New Website

Ms. Patmintra thanked the CWG members for their positive reaction and feedback to the Foundation's new website and passed thanks along to the site developers who were great partners in bringing the site to life. She noted that the documents circulated with the meeting materials include the content used for each MBI's page on the new website and asked the MBI representatives to review their pages and please provide any feedback as soon as possible. She said one of the biggest benefits of the new site is that content updates can be made as they are received and asked each MBI to please send their feedback and anything they would like edited or added to their page. Ms. Patmintra let the CWG members know that the content on each MBI page was based on the information shared from each MBI this summer and will also be the basis for the organizational brochure that is being developed next.

Ms. Porter asked if the group could review and approve the brochure content during the January conference call in order for the MBRF Trustees to review the full content as part of their meeting on February 5, 2020. Ms. Patmintra agreed to have the brochure content ready for review by the next CWG call.

Dr. Dockery asked about the process to vet any new science or research before it's posted to the website and Ms. Porter assured him that any new science would be vetted by the MBRF Research Committee before being posted to the new website.

5. Next Steps and Adjournment

Ms. Patmintra thanked the group again for their participation and help with all the initiatives accomplished in 2019 and said she would be reaching out soon to schedule the January conference call.

As next steps on the Communications Panel discussion, Dr. Isaacson confirmed he would participate/moderate the panel discussion, Ms. Fox-Rosellini offered to ask the University of Miami's social media director to participate and Ms. Porter said she would take the lead on getting input from the MBRF Trustees and MBI Leadership on the ideal time to hold the Communications Panel.

Dr. Dockery then thanked the group for their continued participation, the CWG members exchanged best wishes for the holidays and the call was adjourned at 3:05pm.

McKnight Brain Research Foundation Organizational Brochure
Content Draft
January 24, 2020

Front Cover

- Feature new MBRF logo
- Crisp cover image – brain/science-oriented with scientists/doctors included

Text: The McKnight Brain Research Foundation

We strive to better understand and alleviate age-related cognitive decline and memory loss to help people age successfully and maintain their brain health.

Inside Front Cover

Text: About the McKnight Brain Research Foundation

The McKnight Brain Research Foundation is the only private foundation devoted exclusively to discovering the mysteries of the aging brain and helping people achieve a lifetime of cognitive health.

Founded in 1999 by Evelyn McKnight, the Foundation's specific goal is to better understand and alleviate age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

Cognitive changes due to the normal aging process affect 87 percent of people age 65 and older, impacting abilities like processing speed and decision-making and contributing to some types of memory loss. The McKnight Brain Research Foundation works to champion research to better understand age-related cognitive decline and memory loss and educate the public on the steps that can be taken to maintain cognitive and brain health and age successfully.

In its first 20 years, the Foundation established Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institutes at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Arizona, and the University of Miami, and the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Florida.

With the research led by the four McKnight Brain Institutes; a decade-long partnership with the Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, including co-sponsoring the Research Partnership in Cognitive Aging and three Cognitive Aging Summits with the National Institute on Aging; and the National Academy of Medicine Cognitive Aging Report, we have made great progress to better understand the effects of age-related cognitive decline and memory loss over the last two decades.

Sidebar Bullets:

- Leading Scientific Research in Age-Related Cognitive Decline and Memory Loss
- Inspiring Cognitive and Brain Health for Life
- Promoting Partnerships and Collaborations
- Nurturing Young Investigators and Clinicians

Callout Box with Photo of Mrs. McKnight:
*Evelyn F. McKnight, a nurse, established the **Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Research Foundation®** on May 26, 1999. Mrs. McKnight and her late husband, William M. McKnight were interested in the effects of aging on memory and this interest inspired Mrs. McKnight to establish the Foundation as a legacy of support for research of the brain to alleviate the specific influence of age related memory loss.*

Inside Panel One:

The McKnight Brain Institutes

An important goal of the Foundation is to foster cross-discipline, productive collaboration among top brain health scientists from across the country in order to better understand and alleviate age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

In commitment to that goal, the Foundation has established three Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institutes at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Arizona and the University of Miami and the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Florida.

Endowed Chairs in Learning and Memory in Aging have been established at each of the four McKnight Brain Institutes and an additional Chair for Clinical Translational Research in Cognitive Aging was established at the University of Florida.

The scientific research conducted at the McKnight Brain Institutes examines the fundamental mechanisms that underlie the neurobiology of learning and memory and the influences contributing to successful aging. Findings and discoveries are applied clinically to maintain cognitive health and to contribute to the management of age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

As leaders in cognitive aging research, the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and the McKnight Brain Institutes are committed to becoming a valued resource to the public by sharing their exciting research findings and practical suggestions for maintaining brain health, leading to the alleviation of age-related cognitive decline and memory loss.

Dedicated Panels for each MBI (listed in alphabetical order) will include:

- Highlights of the institute's unique contributions to the field of cognitive aging/decline
- Research focus areas and accomplishments
- Institute Leadership
- Visuals of the building, leadership, and scientists in action

The Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Alabama at Birmingham

The Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute (EMBI) at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) was established in 2004 by a gift from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to support research in cognitive aging and age related memory loss, excluding Alzheimer's Disease.

The Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at UAB brings together scholars and researchers working in the forefront of basic, translational and clinical neuroscience, with the overarching goals of discovering new biological principles in pre-clinical models and bringing them to bear on human cognitive concerns.

Utilizing state of the art laboratory facilities, brain imaging modalities, and clinical settings, the UAB EMBI faculty and students explore the mechanisms that underlie human and nonhuman cognitive neuroscience in an effort to develop new interventions for creating cognitive resilience as we age.

Leadership

Director, Ronald M. Lazar, Ph.D., FAHA, FAAN, is a graduate of New York University with a prize in Psychology and a PhD graduate in Psychology from Northeastern University. Dr. Lazar started at UAB in June of 2017, as the Evelyn F. McKnight Endowed Chair in the department of Neurology, Director of the UAB McKnight Brain Institute, and Director of the Neuropsychology division.

Since beginning his tenure with UAB, Dr. Lazar has worked to fulfill his vision of establishing new relationships with patient- oriented departments and clinical faculty to build upon the already-existing strengths in basic and translational neuroscience at UAB. He has expanded the total faculty membership from 30 to 55 investigators, spanning more than 15 departments.

Associate Director, Erik Roberson, M.D., Ph.D., is a neurologist and neuroscientist whose research is focused on age-related cognitive impairment. He received his A.B. with highest honors from Princeton University and earned his M.D. and Ph.D. in neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine where he studied molecular mechanisms of learning and memory.

A member of the UAB faculty since 2008, Dr. Roberson leads a lab along with Dr. Andrew West. The lab is part of the UAB Center for Neurodegeneration and Experimental Therapeutics (CNET). In the lab, Dr. Roberson and colleagues study the neurobiology of Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia (FTD), using mouse models to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms of these disorders and identify new therapeutic strategies, with a particular focus on tau and progranulin. Dr. Roberson also directs the UAB Alzheimer's Disease Center, leads clinical trials, and cares for patients with memory disorders and dementia at the Kirklin Clinic.

Specialized Research on Cognitive Aging

Research at the UAB Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute involves an interdisciplinary collaboration across departments and programs at the University of Alabama Birmingham, targeted at mitigating age-related cognitive decline.

McKnight Brain Aging Registry (MBAR)
The MBAR study is well underway with the tremendous investment in organization across sites to harmonize data acquisition of neuropsychological data, computerized behavioral data of several types, tissue of several types from blood draws, and seven different kinds of MRI data. The result to date is harmonized data collected from four different sites that has undergone quality control and is similar enough to be compared across sites. Study recruitment and data acquisition continue to be in progress.

Clinical and Population-based Research
Focused on healthy aging adults, adults with age-related memory and cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, stroke and other cerebrovascular conditions, among others. Areas of research include: cognitive resilience and recovery in aging; age-related cognitive function; quality of life for the aging through research, education and clinical care; functional activity, decisional capacity, and cognition in persons with cognitive impairment and more.

Center for Translational Research on Aging and Mobility
The Center for Translational Research on Aging and Mobility is a multisite study measuring cognitive testing and brain MRIs.

Sidebar Bullets:

- More than 55 faculty members spanning more than 15 academic departments
- 200+ peer reviewed publications in high impact journals annually
- Collaboration with institutes, centers, departments and programs across the UAB campus and with MBIs at the University of Arizona, University of Florida and University of Miami

Learn more about the UAB MBI: https://www.uab.edu/medicine/mbi/about

The Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Arizona

The mission of the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute is to discover the mysteries of the normally aging brain to achieve a lifetime of cognitive health. Founded in 2006 at the University of Arizona, the institute is one of only four McKnight Brain Institutes nationally.

Scientists used to view the aging brain as an inevitable story of decline. We now know that the brain continually adapts throughout life— a more hopeful outlook on the world's most condensed mystery.

Because of the inventive research of Dr. Carol Barnes and other affiliated faculty, along with the continual development of new technologies, the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute is poised to contribute to southern Arizona as a center for high-level neuroscience, while also improving cognitive understanding and health for the entire world.

Leadership

Director, Dr. Carol A. Barnes, Ph.D., is a Regents Professor in the Departments of Psychology, Neurology and Neuroscience, the Evelyn F. McKnight Endowed Chair for Learning and Memory in Aging, Director of the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute and Director of the Division of Neural Systems, Memory & Aging at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona. Dr. Barnes is past-president of the 42,000 member Society for Neuroscience, an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and an Elected Foreign Member of the Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters.

The central goal of Dr. Barnes' research program is to understand how the brain changes during the aging process as well as the functional consequences of these changes on information processing and memory. Her research program involves behavioral, electrophysiological and molecular biological approaches to the study of young and aged rodents and non-human primates. This work provides a basis for understanding the basic mechanisms of normal aging in the brain and sets a background against which it is possible to assess the effects of pathological changes such as Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Barnes' current work also includes an assessment of therapeutic agents that may be promising in the alleviation or delay of neural and cognitive changes that occur with age. Dr. Barnes has written over 252 articles in the area of memory changes during normal aging and their possible neurobiological correlations.

Specialized Research on Cognitive Aging

CLARITY Method

In the University of Arizona McKnight Brain Institute lab, researchers are learning how memory changes over time, recording live brain activity at a cellular level, and mapping cell activity across the entire brain with new molecular imaging methods.

They are also developing a method called CLARITY, which makes the brain translucent, and are building a novel microscope that can see deep inside an entire brain to identify relevant memory circuits.

Normal Brain Aging Research

Recognizing that we can't return a brain back to normal if we don't first understand what that normal is, our McKnight researchers are also focused on better understanding how the brain ages normally as a fundamental step to furthering treatments available for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and other neurological diseases.

Key Stats

- Need stats to include here, examples include # of faculty across # of departments, research funding/rankings, published articles from faculty, examples of collaboration, etc.

Learn more about the UA MBI: https://www.embi.arizona.edu

The Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Research Foundation of the University of Florida

With the start of the new millennium, the University of Florida Brain Institute, a world class $60 million building, was renamed the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida (UF MBI) to celebrate and commemorate a $15 million gift from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation.

The award was the largest cash gift in UF history and it was matched by the state of Florida to help create a more than $30 million permanent endowment devoted to fundamental research on the mechanisms underlying the formation, storage and retrieval of memories, the impairments in these processes associated with aging and the development of therapeutic strategies to help prevent and/or alleviate these impairments in humans.

Today, the UF MBI is one of the nation's **most diverse neuroscience research centers**. Its mission extends far beyond its physical walls and serves as a "transparent umbrella" connecting and supporting faculty members from other departments, centers and programs with concentrations in neuroscience research throughout UF's 16 colleges. Across campus, researchers collaborate with cognitive aging core faculty — supported by the gift from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation — on multidisciplinary teams to better understand how the brain works and how various diseases alter brain function.

Ultimately these researchers and physician-scientists hope to broaden the understanding of many neurological and psychiatric disorders and change them from untreatable to treatable, incurable to curable and inevitable to preventable.

Callout box with photo of Dr. Luttge:
The William G. Luttge Lectureship
In 2012, the McKnight Brain Research Foundation endowed the University of Florida with $300,000 to establish a permanent annual lectureship as a memorial tribute to the late William G. Luttge, Ph.D., the first director of the UF MBI. Each year, the William G. Luttge Lectureship in Neuroscience is awarded to explore inventive ideas and approaches to ensure healthy cognitive aging and to counter brain diseases.

Institute Leadership

Executive Director, Todd E. Golde, M.D., Ph.D., oversees, champions and facilitates neuroscience and neuromedicine research programs across the UF campus. A professor of neuroscience, Golde joined the UF faculty in 2009 and became founding director of the university's Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease (CTRND), which he led until taking the helm at the UF MBI in December 2016. He is also director of the 1Florida Alzheimer's Disease Research Center consortium of institutions. An internationally known expert in the scientific understanding of Alzheimer's disease, Golde has expanded his leading-edge research to include other neurodegenerative diseases, cancer and even malaria.

Deputy Director, Steven T. DeKosky, M.D., is also the Aerts-Cosper Professor of Alzheimer's Research at the University of Florida College of Medicine. His basic research centers on

structural and neurochemical changes in human brain in aging and dementia and effects of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Beginning trauma studies as a Principal Investigator in the University of Pittsburgh Brain Trauma Research Center in 1992, he studied similarities in the injury cascades of TBI and AD. Dr. DeKosky has served on and led numerous NIH review and advisory committees, and taught and mentored in clinical research training programs sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

Co-Deputy Director, Jada Lewis, Ph.D., is a professor of neuroscience and investigator at UF's Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease. She has co-led the UF MBI's Education and Outreach Committee with Jennifer Bizon, Ph.D., for the last two-plus years. Lewis' research is focused on developing a refined understanding of the pathology of neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, frontotemporal dementia and ALS.

Specialized Research on Cognitive Aging
Center for Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research (CAM Center)

With healthier lifestyles and advances in medical science, the human lifespan has almost doubled in the past century. These improvements in somatic health, however, are currently outpacing our ability to maintain cognitive functioning into advanced age. UF MBI researchers are working to speed progress towards identifying brain mechanisms that slow age-associated cognitive decline and those that can be harnessed to promote cognitive resilience.

These researchers come together in the CAM Center, a university center under the UF MBI umbrella and supported by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation, that brings together UF faculty and trainees with diverse expertise in the neurobiology of aging, neuroplasticity, systems and cellular neuroscience, physiology, neuroimaging and behavior. This center is specifically focused on discovery-based and translational research surrounding brain aging and cognition with the overall goal of developing strategies and interventions to promote successful cognitive aging.

Within the UF MBI's specialized research on cognitive aging, several methods are being developed to distinguish biological markers of brain aging, ranging from an examination of genes to brain imaging. Further, with scientists who specialize in interdisciplinary clinical neuroscience and translational research, UF scientists are aggressively pursuing avenues for effective interventions to promote cognitive health across the full lifespan.

Key Stats:

- 200+ faculty members from more than 50 academic departments
- No 3 ranking in neuroscience for NIH funding among public universities
- Collaboration with institutes, centers, departments and programs across the UF campus and beyond
- 50+ labs totaling 260,000 square feet of research space

Learn more about the UF MBI: https://mbi.ufl.edu.

The Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Miami

A gift from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation created the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute (EMBI) at the University of Miami, one of only four in the country. Ralph L. Sacco, MD, Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Executive Director of the Institute, and Tatjana Rundek, MD, PhD, Professor and Scientific Director of the Institute, lead a team of scientists, researchers and clinicians in exploring normal memory changes that happen with age, in addition to the cognitive defects produced by various brain-related diseases.

Research at the University of Miami McKnight Brain Institute is dedicated to advancing medical knowledge about memory loss and related neurological diseases. Researchers are studying ways to improve the lives of people with Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia, with a goal of developing new strategies to stop the disease process, minimize the impact on individuals, restore lost functions and eventually find the cause and cure for these devastating illnesses.

We approach our research with an inter-disciplinary collaboration across departments and programs, including neuroepidemiology, neuro-ophthalmology, neuropsychology, psychiatry, aging, physical therapy, sleep disorders, neurology and cell biology, radiology and human genetics. We also collaborate on research initiatives with the McKnight Brain Institutes at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Arizona and University of Florida.

Leadership

Executive Director, Ralph L. Sacco, M.D., M.S., is also the Chairman of Neurology, Olemberg Family Chair in Neurological Disorders, Miller Professor of Neurology, Public Health Sciences, Human Genetics, and Neurosurgery, and Chief of the Neurology Service at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Before taking his current position as Chairman of Neurology at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine, Dr. Sacco was previously Professor of Neurology, Chief of Stroke and Critical Care Division and Associate Chairman at Columbia University.

Dr. Sacco is the founding Principal Investigator of the 26-year NINDS-funded Northern Manhattan Study, the Florida Puerto Rico Collaboration to Reduce Stroke Disparities, and the Family Study of Stroke Risk and Carotid Atherosclerosis, as well as co-investigator of multiple other NIH grants. He has also been the Co-Chair of international stroke treatment and prevention trials. Dr. Sacco has published extensively with 726 articles (H-index of 115) in the areas of stroke prevention, treatment, epidemiology, risk factors, vascular cognitive impairment, brain health, human genetics and stroke recurrence. His research has also addressed health care disparities.

Scientific Director, Dr. Tatjana Rundek, is a Professor of Neurology, Epidemiology and Public Health with tenure, Vice Chair of Clinical Research, and Director of the Clinical Translational Research Division in the Department of Neurology of the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. She holds a secondary faculty appointment at the Department of Neurology at Columbia University in New York.

Dr. Rundek is a stroke neurologist, clinical researcher; and principal investigator of several NIH/NINDS funded R01 grants on genetic determinants of carotid atherosclerosis and stroke. She is a recipient of an NINDS K24 Midcareer development award and participates in large stroke genetic consortia including the NINDS Stroke Genetic Network and International Stroke Genetic Consortium.

Dr. Rundek was a Fulbright Scholar and the recipient of the research awards from the Hazel K. Goddess and the Dr. Gilbert Baum Funds. Dr. Rundek serves on the editorial boards of several scientific journals including Stroke, Neurology, Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine and Cerebrovascular Diseases and has published more than 210 scientific publications, editorials, reviews, and book chapters.

Cognitive Aging Research

The McKnight MRI Core and Neuropsychology Core Projects
Collaborative core projects with other McKnight Brain Institutes involving ongoing research and collection of standardized brain MRIs and neuropsychological assessment data in patients with memory and cognitive loss.

Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute Cognitive Disorders Clinical and Biorepository Registry Collection
A comprehensive longitudinal database registry for patients with age-related memory disorders and dementias. Participants are enrolled from the University of Miami Memory Disorders Clinic, a collaborative effort between Neurology and Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences. The databank collects information on patient demographics, clinical assessments, medical history, genetic risk factors, imaging data and treatment modalities.

Identification of Biomarkers for Early Diagnosis of Cognitive Impairment in the Elderly
Study aiming to identify new biomarkers that can be detected in participants who are at risk of developing dementia and/or who have cognitive impairment.

Evaluating Frailty as a Preventive Measure in Maintaining Quality of Life in Aging
Research focusing on a clinical and community cohort of aging adults and evaluating their propensity towards being determined non-frail, pre-frail and frail. The goal is early detection and prevention of frailty symptoms and clinical characteristics.

Analysis of Cognition in Patients with Memory Complaints
Research project examining questions related to the cognitive, psychological and biomedical variables associated with dementia and its subtypes including demographics and risk factors leading to the identification of predictive variables that will improve the understanding of dementia and other memory disorders and its comorbidities.

Key Stats

- Need stats to include here, examples include # of faculty across # of departments, research funding/rankings, published articles, examples of collaboration, etc.

Learn more about the UM EMBI: https://mbi-umiami.org

Back Cover

- Background visual with overlay of the MBRF Vision and Mission

The vision of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation is to: Improve quality of life by better understanding and alleviating age-related memory loss.

In commitment to our Vision, the McKnight Brain Research Foundation strives to:

- Lead in generating interest in and **support of scientific research** on age-related cognitive decline and memory loss;
- Inspire **commitment and shared vision** to promote cognitive and brain health for life;
- Promote **partnerships and collaborations** among research scientists, institutions, and organizations engaged in research on age-related memory loss; and
- **Nurture, recognize and reward** achievements of young investigators and clinicians dedicated to innovative research and discoveries leading to the better understanding and alleviation of age-related memory loss.