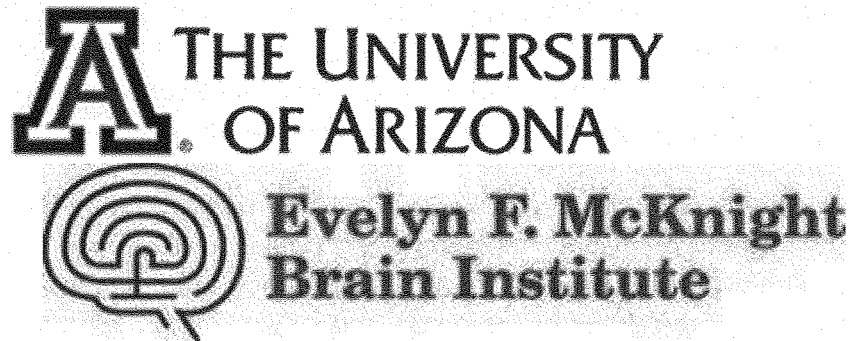


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**Subject:** FW: [UAHEALTHNET] McKnight Brain Research Foundation Announces Support for Proposed National Brain Study

**Importance:** High



**McKnight Brain Research Foundation Announces Support for Proposed National Brain Study**

*University of Arizona's Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute one of only four in the United States*

*established by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to promote research*

*of fundamental brain mechanisms that underlie memory and aging*

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TUCSON, Ariz. – The University of Arizona announced today that the McKnight Brain Research Foundation\* and its four McKnight Brain Institutes – including one at the UA – have voiced strong support for President Barack Obama's plan for a decade-long scientific effort to examine the workings of the human brain through a national study.

“The McKnight Brain Research Foundation and its four McKnight Brain Institutes are very excited to merge our complementary goals and objectives with the National Brain study,” said Dr. Robert Wah, trustee of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation. “We pledge individual and collective dedication to any collaborative research that has the potential of preventing, retarding, or ameliorating cognitive decline associated with the aging process”.

Cognitive decline and dementia associated with aging are major components of the brain diseases in the aging population, and the costs of this group alone are projected to be \$47.3 billion in 2012 in the United States. The decline in cognitive aging abilities resulting from the aging process is of universal concern. Older adults make up the fastest-growing age group worldwide. Currently, 700 million people are over 60 and it is projected to be two billion by 2050.

According to a report published by PricewaterhouseCoopers in May 2012, total costs of all diseases of the brain in the United States will reach \$515 billion and are expected to be 19 percent of the total national health expenditures in 2012. People with diseases of the brain also have a shortened life expectancy and their quality of life is diminished.

“The opportunity to connect our ongoing, significant research on aging and memory with the impact of President Obama’s national study is extraordinary, said **Carol Barnes, PhD**, director and endowed chair of the UA’s Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute, Regents Professor of psychology and neurology, director of the ARL Division of Neural Systems, Memory and Aging, and associate director of the UA’s BIO5 Institute.

“Researchers in the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute are focused on gaining scientific knowledge that will help reduce the epidemic of cognitive decline, while increasing the ability for people to age healthfully and successfully,” Dr. Barnes said. “We are hopeful there will be many common objectives in the national study that will produce practical applications for optimizing cognitive health span.”

Since its inception in 1999, the McKnight Brain Research Foundation and the host institutions of the four McKnight Brain Institutes have invested more than \$70 million in support of research in cognitive aging and memory loss associated with the aging process. The foundation promotes research of the brain with the goal of preventing or delaying age-related memory loss, and strives to develop therapeutic interventions.

The McKnight Brain Research Foundation has established Brain Institutes at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Arizona, the University of Florida and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The research scientists in each of the McKnight Brain Institutes investigate the fundamental mechanisms that underlie the neurobiology of memory and combine their findings with clinical relevance to the problems of age related memory loss.

The Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the UA is one of four McKnight Brain Institutes established by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to promote research and investigation of fundamental brain mechanisms responsible for memory loss during aging. Investigators are working to uncover the neurobiological changes in the brain that cause memory to decline as we age, and to understand what characterizes "normal" from pathological aging, so that therapies can be developed to help optimize brain and mental health function throughout life.

\*The McKnight Brain Research Foundation® is a tax-exempt organization organized exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes.

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