

MINUTES
MCKNIGHT BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Via Zoom
February 20, 2024

The Trustees' meeting of the McKnight Brain Research Foundation (MBRF) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. ET on February 20, 2024.

The following members were present:

Dr. Michael Dockery, Chair
Dr. Madhav Thambisetty, Vice Chair
Dr. Patricia A. Boyle, Trustee
Dr. Allison Brashear, Trustee
Dr. John Brady, Trustee
Dr. Sharon Brangman, Trustee
Dr. Roy Hamilton, Trustee
Dr. Susan Pekarske, Trustee
Dr. J. Lee Dockery, Chair Emeritus
Ms. Melanie Cianciotto, Corporate Trustee,
Truist Foundations and Endowments Specialty Practice

Others attending:

Dr. Angelika Schlanger, Executive Director
Ms. Valerie Patmintra, Senior Communications Advisor
Mr. Shannon McDaniel, BRG Communications
Ms. Kate Worthy, BRG Communications
Ms. Nicole Grady, BRG Communications

1. Review of the Annual Reports of the McKnight Brain Institutes

a. University of Alabama at Birmingham

The trustees reviewed the annual report concerning the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (Attachment 1). The report was well organized and provided a good summary of the progress made over the last year. The trustees were pleased to learn that enrollment in the Brain Health Advocacy Mission (BHAM) met the initial pilot project goal and that the BHAM team is conducting an impressive amount of community outreach as part of the project. Although the EMBI's membership fell to the lowest level since 2017, the recruitment efforts that resulted in 13 new faculty members in 2024 are reassuring, and their backgrounds impressive.

As a follow-up to the report, the trustees request some information, including:

- an updated organizational chart of the administrative structure of the EMBI and further explanation as to why EMBI membership fell so dramatically;
- more information concerning the training program for graduate students and post-docs, including the areas of focus and structure;
- an update on the advisory committee for the EMBI.

Action Item 1: Send thank you letter to Dr. Ron Lazar and Mr. Tom Brannon expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting the organizational chart of the administrative structure of the EMBI and other items, as noted above.

b. University of Arizona

The trustees reviewed the annual report concerning the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Arizona (Attachment 2). The report was well organized and the trustees were impressed with the many achievements of the EMBI during the year. The UA EMBI continues to thrive under Dr. Barnes' leadership, and her international presence and oversight of many exciting initiatives, including the Precision Aging Network (PAN) and the Resiliency and Reserve Collaboratory, which held its final workshop this year. The trustees are impressed by the great progress made with the MindCrowd participants surpassing 447,000 test takers. The Trustees raised questions about the structure of the mentorship program for trainees and the success plan for the EMBI's leadership. The trustees also noted the significant progress made this past year to meet the balance of the match requirement for the EMBI's endowment, which is approximately \$174,061.

As a follow-up to the report, the trustees request some information, including:

- an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the EMBI and the university's administration;
- an update from the associate director of the EMBI;
- clarification on who oversees the trainees and K awards;
- a description of the EMBI's leadership structure supporting the Director and any pathways or opportunities for leadership development for more senior members of the EMBI;
- a description of the plans to meet the balance of the match requirement.

Action Item 2: Send thank you letter to Dr. Carol Barnes expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the EMBI and the university's administration, an update on the associate director of the EMBI, and clarification on who oversees the trainees and K awards as well as other items, as noted above.

c. University of Florida

The trustees reviewed the annual report concerning the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Florida (Attachment 3). The report is a comprehensive overview of the productivity and impressive accomplishments of the UF MBI during 2023. The trustees noted that significant leadership transitions have taken place this year that pave the way for an exciting next chapter for the UF MBI. A remarkable level of productivity, collaboration, and mentorship of trainees has continued to take place.

As a follow-up to the report, the trustees request some information, including:

- information about what CAM Center trainees (e.g. R25 and T32 scholars) have accomplished, a better understanding of the outreach plan, and whether programs designed to enhance the diversity of the field have been effective;
- about Dr. Woods' findings related to the impact of non-invasive brain stimulation on iADL's and the consequences for the onset of dementia;
- ask UF to respond to the following statement from last year's letter, "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";
- information from Dr. Hunt and Dr. Nelson concerning Dr. Cohen's transition to Professor Emeritus status and that the recruitment process for the new occupant of the Evelyn F. McKnight Chair for Clinical Translation in Cognitive Aging be returned to a clinical department in the College of Medicine;
- request an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the UF MBI.

Action Item 3: Send thank you letter to Dr. Jen Bizon expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the UF MBI and responses to the other follow up items.

d. University of Miami

The trustees reviewed the annual report concerning the Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Miami (Attachment 4). The report is very well written and serves as a tribute to Dr. Ralph Sacco and his impact on the EMBI. Carrying on his legacy, significant leadership transitions have taken place this year that pave the way for an exciting next chapter for the EMBI. The trustees noted the tremendous depth and breadth of mentorship and training opportunities for early career clinicians and scientists. The trustees request that the EMBI team please share any recordings, handouts, or resources that have been developed for the purpose of community outreach and education.

Action Item 4: Send thank you letter to Dr. Tatjana Rundek expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting additional information.

e. MBRF Trustee Review Form for the MBI Annual Report and Annual Report Template

The Trustees discussed the MBRF Trustee Review Form for the MBI Annual Report as well as the Annual Report Template. The overall feeling is the MBRF Trustee Review Form is helpful for reviewing by subsections but the use of quantitative scales is challenging because there is no understanding for what it means to meet expectations. Instead, an overall score to compare to the prior year was suggested by one of the Trustees. Several suggestions for changes to the Annual Report Template were made including asking for an organizational chart, and populating a table with information about publications and grants, that would be laid out in a consistent format with pertinent information being sought by the MBRF. Dr. Schlanger will compile the suggestions and add review of the annual report template to the upcoming Research Committee agenda.

2. Leadership Council Proposal to Relaunch the Cognitive Aging and Memory Intervention (CAMI) Core Pilot Grant Program

Dr. Thambisetty provided the trustees with an overview of the revised proposal to relaunch the Cognitive Aging and Memory Intervention Core Pilot Grant Program (Attachment 5). Dr. Lee Dockery shared edits that help strengthen the specifications of the communications strategy for the CAMI Core to solicit high quality inter-institutional collaborative proposals. After discussion, the trustees approved the revised proposal, to include Dr. Lee Dockery's edits, at a funding level of \$75,000 per year for two years, per award. Dr. Schlanger will inform the Leadership Council of the trustees' decision as well as provide them with a clean version of the document.

Action Item 5: The trustees approved the revised proposal, to include Dr. Lee Dockery's edits, at a funding level of \$75,000 per year for two years, per award.

Action Item 6: Dr. Schlanger will inform the Leadership Council of the trustees' decision as well as provide them with a clean version of the document.

3. Evelyn F. McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholars Dinner at the 2024 AAN Annual Meeting

Dr. Brashear shared the proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholars Dinner to be held at the 2024 AAN Annual Meeting with the trustees. The Finance Committee recommends funding the dinner at the proposed cost of \$4,400. The trustees approved funding the dinner at the proposed cost of \$4,400. The expected MBRF Trustees who will attend the Scholars Dinner on behalf of the MBRF are Dr. Brashear, Dr. Hamilton and Dr. Thambisetty.

Action Item 7: The trustees approved funding the Evelyn F. McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholars Dinner to be held at the 2024 AAN Annual Meeting at the proposed cost of \$4,400.

4. Comprehensive Campaign Update

Ms. Nicole Grady, BRG Communications, shared a preview of the BrainWorks microsite with the trustees and asked for feedback. Dr. Brangman shared that the language is at the college level and should be at a different level of education. Dr. Lee Dockery shared the font is too small and needs to be easier for older eyes to read. The use of contrast should be considered. Dr. Mike Dockery suggested adding a footnote to the survey to add credibility. The icons should be changed to make it clearer that they need to be clicked on to continue to the information. Ms. Grady shared BRG is reviewing accessibility and comprehension level as well as vision friendly fonts. They are also considering contrast but are trying to keep the colors in line with the colors of the MBRF.

5. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. ET.

Summary of Action Items:

Action Item 1: Send thank you letter to Dr. Ron Lazar and Mr. Tom Brannon expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting the organizational chart of the administrative structure of the EMBI and other items, as noted above.

Action Item 2: Send thank you letter to Dr. Carol Barnes expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the EMBI and the university's administration, an update on the associate director of the EMBI, and clarification on who oversees the trainees and K awards as well as other items, as noted above.

Action Item 3: Send thank you letter to Dr. Jen Bizon expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting an organizational chart of the administrative structure of the UF MBI and responses to the other follow up items.

Action Item 4: Send thank you letter to Dr. Tatjana Rundek expressing the trustees' appreciation for the report and requesting additional information.

Action Item 5: The trustees approved the revised proposal, to include Dr. Lee Dockery's edits, at a funding level of \$75,000 per year for two years, per award.

Action Item 6: Dr. Schlanger will inform the Leadership Council of the trustees' decision as well as provide them with a clean version of the document.

Action Item 7: The trustees approved funding the Evelyn F. McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholars Dinner to be held at the 2024 AAN Annual Meeting at the proposed cost of \$4,400.

Respectfully submitted,



Melanie A. Cianciotto
Truist Bank, Corporate Trustee