

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Michael L. Dockery, MD

Chair, McKnight Brain Research Foundation



McKNIGHT BRAIN
RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Preserving memory, enhancing life

The McKnight Brain Research Foundation's 26 Year Impact



\$200,000,000

Funding more than \$200 million in research specifically targeting cognitive aging, age-related cognitive decline and memory loss through direct contributions and strategic initiatives in partnership with the four **McKnight Brain Institutes** and the **National Institute on Aging (NIA)** through the **Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH)**



400+

Researchers supported across the four McKnight Brain Institutes



\$15M

Awarded to the **Foundation for the National Institutes of Health** resulting in 20 grant awards and four funding opportunities co-sponsored with the **NIA**



23 research awards

Partnering with the **American Academy of Neurology** via the **American Brain Foundation** and with the **American Federation for Aging Research** to fund talented cognitive aging investigators



4 institutes

Established **McKnight Brain Institutes** at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of Arizona, the University of Miami and the University of Florida



4 summits

Hosted four successful **Cognitive Aging Summits** in partnership with the **NIA** through the **FNIH**, capturing national and international attention



1 report

Developed the **Cognitive Aging Report** in partnership with the **National Academy of Medicine** to promote cognitive health



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Welcome Alice Luo Clayton, PhD, CEO of the MBRF



As a neuroscientist with more than 15 years programmatic leadership and advising experience in government and private philanthropy, Dr. Luo Clayton's understands the importance of studying cognitive aging and we're thrilled to welcome her as the Foundation's first CEO.



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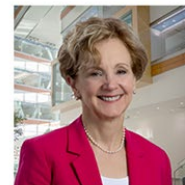
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The Current Research Landscape's Challenges and Opportunities



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The Future...??

- Much National Anxiety about the Uncertainty of Future Funding
 - Secondary concerns around how funding reforms will affect the careers of research scientists
- The MBRF may also be adversely affected by forces influencing the financial market
- Within the limited resources and impact of market forces, the MBRF does not anticipate any reduction in the support currently provided
- The MBRF is pleased that the current established endowments, in partnership with each of the McKnight Brain Institutes will remain intact, except for any potential negative impact from the financial market



Working Together



- Maintain communications throughout the year with each other and the MBRF via:
 - The Leadership Council
 - Informal efforts
 - The Inter-Institutional and other shared meetings
- Communicate the value of U.S. science and medicine to the public and elected officials by:
 - Continuing to advocate on behalf of the NIH (they can't, but you can!)
 - Taking full advantage of the MBRF's research awards and grants opportunities
 - Sharing content and ideas for the Brain Works Campaign

Research Awards and Opportunities

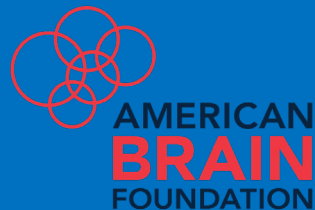


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McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarships

- Launched in 2018, the McKnight Clinical Translational Research Scholarships in Cognitive Aging and Age-Related Memory Loss support early career clinician scientists
- Up to two McKnight Clinical and Translational Research Scholarships of \$150,000 are awarded annually through the American Brain Foundation and American Academy of Neurology
- Eight award cycles completed to date with 15 scholarships awarded
- **Application Period:** June 2, 2025 to September 9, 2025

Visit McKnightBrain.org/For-Researchers to learn more



2025 Recipients



Giovanni Pilonieta, PhD, UAB



Deborah Rose, MD, National Institutes of Health

Innovator Awards in Cognitive Aging and Memory Loss

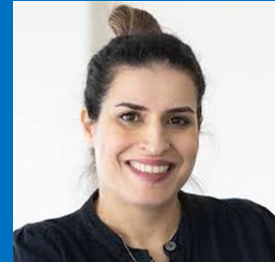
- Launched in 2021, the Innovator Awards program supports full-time independent investigators with established research programs who have already demonstrated a firm commitment to cognitive aging research
- Up to two 3-year awards of \$750,000 are provided annually for advanced Assistant Professors and recently appointed Associate Professors
- Four award cycles completed to date with 8 Innovator Awards distributed
- **Application Period:** July 1, 2025 to August 12, 2025

Visit McKnightBrain.org/For-Researchers to learn more

2024 Recipients



Janine Kwapis, PhD, Penn State University



Sanaz Sedaghat, PhD,
University of Minnesota

CAMI Core Pilot Grants

- Pilot grants funded across the four MBIs to initiate promising new medical research projects exploring the brain
- Revitalized CAMI-Core Pilot Grant Program launched in 2024
- Ten Letters of Intent submitted in the first year of the renewed program involving 28 faculty from the four MBIs
- Funding approved for three pilot grants in 2025
- **Timeline:**
 - Call for Applications opens May 14, 2025
 - Letters of Intent due July 1, 2025

Visit McKnightBrain.org/For-Researchers to learn more

2025 Recipients



Ashley Huggins, PhD, University of Arizona
Caesar Hernandez, PhD, UAB



Teddy Salan, PhD, University of Miami
Eric Porges, PhD, University of Florida



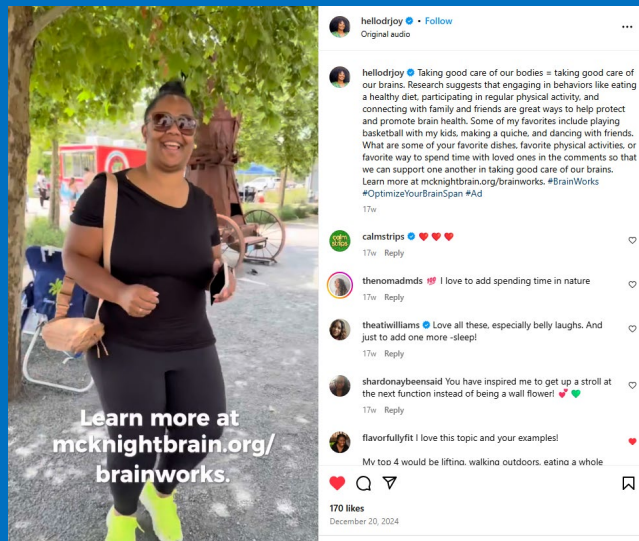
Arne Ekstrom, PhD, University of Arizona
Steve Weisberg, PhD, University of Florida



Brain Works Campaign

Brain Works – Optimize Your Brain Span – Launched on March 22, 2024

- National awareness campaign aiming to **educate the public about cognitive aging** and the steps people can take to help maintain brain health with age
- Campaign features a **microsite and online resource hub of tools and resources** from the MBRF and other leading aging and brain health organizations
- Visit mcknightbrain.org/brainworks to learn more about the campaign



Learn more at:
mcknightbrain.org/brainworks



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Thank You



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