The dream of founding director Dr. William Luttge came to fruition when UF’s brain institute opened in 1998. A year later, a gift from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation resulted in a new name: the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida.

Today, the MBI is one of the nation’s most comprehensive and diverse neuroscience research centers and houses the UF College of Medicine’s four “neuro” departments: neurology, neurosurgery, neuroscience and psychiatry. Our mission, however, extends beyond our building’s physical walls. The MBI is a “transparent umbrella” that connects and supports faculty members from other departments, centers and programs with concentrations in neuroscience research throughout UF’s 16 colleges.

Across campus, more than 200 faculty members work on multidisciplinary teams to better understand how the brain works and how various diseases alter brain function. Each year, more than 50 graduate and several hundred undergraduate students, dozens of medical residents, numerous postdoctoral fellows and hundreds of staff scientists participate in these efforts.

The MBI vigorously promotes education and outreach activities through training enhancement opportunities, hosting visiting preeminent scientists and new communications platforms that increase the visibility of our research.

Our investigators and physician-scientists hope to broaden the understanding of many neurological disorders and change them from untreatable to treatable, incurable to curable and inevitable to preventable.
RESEARCH FOCUS AREAS

The brain is an incredibly complex organ best studied from multiple angles. The McKnight Brain Institute is one of the nation’s most comprehensive and diverse neuroscience research institutes.

**Brain Cancer**
Each year, more than 200,000 Americans are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. Our researchers seek to increase survival rates and develop curative treatments.

**Breathing Research and Therapeutics**
With most forms of neural injury or disease, people suffer from inadequate breathing, swallowing difficulties and the inability to prevent aspiration. Our researchers are developing new therapies to enhance breathing and swallowing ability for those with neurological disorders.

**Chronic Neurological Diseases**
Millions of Americans battle neurodegenerative diseases — such as Parkinson’s, ALS and Alzheimer’s — and our researchers seek new approaches to develop the next generation of therapies to combat them.

**Cognitive Aging**
Our researchers work to speed the progress in treating cognitive deficits associated with the normal aging process, specifically the progressive decline in memory function that affects virtually everyone who reaches advanced age.

**Mental Health, Neurobehavioral Sciences and Psychiatry**
Our researchers are working to understand the causes of neuropsychiatric illness and addiction, and to improve the lives of those suffering from these brain disorders.

**Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury**
Concussions can upend lives, and more severe traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries can devastate them. Our researchers seek new therapies to restore function and improve quality of life for those suffering from these injuries.
NIH funding for neuroscience and neuromedicine research at UF is increasing, with current funding at approximately $50 million per year.

In 2017, UF ranked No. 3 in neurology/neuroscience and No. 8 in neurosurgery for National Institutes of Health funding among public universities, according to the Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research.