Message from the director, Dr. Todd Golde

Dear Colleagues:

It was a busy spring and I’d like to thank you all for another successful Brain Awareness Week at the McKnight Brain Institute. I encourage you to scroll through this newsletter and read about our Brain Awareness Week activities and many other happenings and accomplishments led by our MBI colleagues.

This summer, we will be launching several new communications initiatives, including a new online membership process — which will include a searchable database for faculty and their interests — and MBI's own Facebook and Twitter accounts. Stay tuned for emails with more details.

In the fall, we'll celebrate the MBI's 20th anniversary. We will share details about events soon. In the meantime, if you have compelling photos to share from the past 20 years (especially from the MBI's early days), please contact assistant director of communications Todd Taylor, who will be collecting these.

I hope you have a rejuvenating summer, and thanks for your contributions to our neuroscience community!

Dr. Michela Gallagher delivers 2018 Luttge Lectureship

The Luttge Lectureship, established and sponsored by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation, honors the memory of Bill Luttge, Ph.D., founding director of the MBI.

Dr. Michela Gallagher delivers 2018 Luttge Lectureship

See highlights from the MBI's Brain Awareness Week Homeschool Day

Area homeschool students participated in the MBI's Brain Awareness Week activities — led by neuroscience graduate students and postdocs — which included brain tricks, taste tests and art projects.
Brain Awareness Week concludes with SfN Conference

Brain Awareness Week concluded with the North Central Florida Chapter of the Society for Neuroscience Conference, where John Morrison, Ph.D. (center), director of the California National Primate Research Center, was keynote speaker.

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Dr. Brian Hoh named chair of neurosurgery

Brian Hoh, M.D., an internationally known expert in the treatment of brain aneurysms, brain arteriovenous malformations, and ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, will lead the department of neurosurgery starting July 1.

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THE CONVERSATION
Put your work on the national stage

Check out these recent Conversation pieces written by MBI members:

• Michael Jaffee, M.D. – Why are we so sleep deprived, and why does it matter?
• Brian Hoh, M.D. – Aneurysm strikes baseball pitcher, but why?
• Doug Miller: HIV lies dormant in brain, increasing risk of dementia, but how?
• Yulia Orlova, M.D., Ph.D. – New migraine drug: A neurologist explains how it works
• Michael Shapiro, M.D. – Teenage depression: If a parent doesn’t get treatment for a child, is that abuse?

More than 100 UF faculty members have contributed and it’s a great opportunity to highlight your work. The Conversation reaches 5 million-plus unique readers monthly and then the articles go farther, picked up by major publications such as The Washington Post, CBS News and Discover Magazine.

Contact MBI assistant director of communications Todd Taylor with your ideas for The Conversation.
MBI researchers in the media

The media regularly reaches out to our faculty for their expertise on many subjects. If the media contact you, please alert assistant director of communications Todd Taylor so we can assist with, archive and promote your media endeavors. Here are recent examples of MBI experts in the news:

Sarah Burke, Ph.D. (WUFT) – Team-based science to change the way neurobiology research is done in Florida

Steven DeKosky, M.D. (USA Today) – NFL players could have a higher risk of death and brain disease, study indicates

Jason Hunt, M.D. (Gainesville Sun) – Experts discuss opioid treatments

Duane Mitchell, M.D., Ph.D. (Houston Chronicle) – The EndBrainCancer Initiative Brains Matter Dinner

Ramirez-Zamora, M.D. (Inside Science) – Brain activity alternates while walking

SEE MORE EXAMPLES OF MBI RESEARCHERS IN THE MEDIA»

MBI Education & Outreach award recipients

This year’s awardees extend over 16 laboratories, seven departments and four colleges at the University of Florida.

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Drs. Bizon, Krause and Setlow named UFRF Professors

(From left) Jennifer Bizon, Ph.D., a professor of neuroscience and psychiatry; Eric Krause, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacodynamics; and Barry Setlow, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry, were recently named University of Florida Research Foundation Professors for 2018-2021.

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Dr. Sara Jo Nixon earns multiple honors
Sara Jo Nixon, Ph.D., a professor of psychiatry and psychology, recently earned the Research Society on Alcoholism’s 2018 Henri Begleiter Award for Excellence in Research. Click here to learn more about the award.

Nixon was also elected to a second term as chair of the American Psychological Association Board of Scientific Affairs. Click here to learn more about her appointment.

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Dr. Jay Clugston named 2018 SEC Team Physician of the Year

UF Athletic Association team physician Jay Clugston, M.D., recently earned an award from the Southern Orthopaedic Association.

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MBI director honors Presurgical Anesthesia Center staff

The Perioperative Cognitive and Anesthesia Network program, led by Catherine Price, Ph.D., and Patrick Tighe, M.D., assesses brain functions of older patients before surgery.

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Dr. James Wymer discusses ALS

After Stephen Hawking’s death, neuromuscular neurologist James Wymer, M.D., Ph.D., C.P.I., FAAN, discussed this unforgiving disease and the importance of multidisciplinary care.

READ MORE AND SEE VIDEO »
Examining rising suicide rates

See a video and read a Gainesville Sun op-ed by chief of child and adolescent psychiatry Andres Pumariega, M.D., addressing the suicide epidemic.

READ MORE AND SEE VIDEO »

Research shows a genetic link between psychiatric disorders

UF was among hundreds of institutions involved in a new study published in Science. Carol Mathews, M.D., explains its findings and implications.

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Fixel Center earns designations

This spring, the Fixel Center for Neurological Diseases at UF Health earned two coveted designations.

Click here to learn more about its naming as a Lewy Body Dementia Association Research Center of Excellence.

Click here to learn more about its designation as a CurePSP Center of Care.

Peripheral Neuropathy Clinic named CMTA Center of Excellence

Led by director Nivedita Jerath, M.D., M.S., the clinic is also a center of excellence of the Hereditary Neuropathy Foundation.

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See photos from spring MBI Research Evening event

Twenty-four researchers from 12 departments showcased their favorite image from research being conducted at their respective labs during the MBI Research Evening event in the spring.
Dr. David Gozal kicks off MBI Neuromedicine Scholars lecture series

See photos from the new lecture series featuring visiting scholars who have made exceptional contributions to neuromedicine or “rising stars” pioneering new directions in neuroscience research.

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Jamie Chapin Classic raises funds for brain tumor research

This spring, the Jamie Chapin Classic golf fundraiser honored the memory of the former UF men’s lacrosse team captain who lost his battle against brain cancer. All proceeds benefited the UF Brain Tumor Immunotherapy Program.

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UF Health Shands Comprehensive Stroke Center awards ceremony

The annual Gold Plus and Target Stroke Honor Roll Award Ceremony recognized physicians, clinicians and EMS providers who have gone above and beyond in providing exceptional care for stroke patients.

SEE PHOTO GALLERY »
Inaugural Annual Southeastern Neurodegenerative Disease Conference set for Sept. 27-29

The conference will be held in Orlando on the Lake Nona campus and David Holtzman, M.D., Washington University department of neurology chair, will serve as plenary speaker.

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Tropical weather and emergency preparedness

Following last year’s close call with Hurricane Irma, the MBI has taken several measures to enhance emergency preparedness for the MBI building and its occupants.

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Get a free professional headshot

Any UF Health-affiliated faculty or staff who needs a new or updated headshot can have one made with no appointment at the Creative Services Production Studio in the Communicore. Click here and scroll to the bottom of the page for more information and open studio times.

MBI News to share?

Contact assistant director of communications Todd Taylor.