Message from the director, Dr. Todd Golde

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year and I hope everyone was able to decompress and spend some quality time with family and friends over the holidays.

We enjoyed celebrating the MBI's 20th anniversary with you in 2018. In this newsletter you will find a video about our rich history and can access a photo gallery from our 20th anniversary celebration.

If you haven't yet, please complete our new online membership process that launched in the fall. Note that both new and existing MBI members need to complete this online process, which requires you to log in with your GatorLink credentials. Click here to create your new online membership profile.

I encourage you to regularly visit our website, which will receive exciting new improvements in 2019, and our Facebook and Twitter social media channels as we continue to expand the promotion of neuroscience and neuromedicine research across campus.

Thank you for your efforts to make the MBI one of the nation's most comprehensive and diverse neuromedicine research institutes. As you’ll see from this newsletter, which highlights some of our accomplishments over the past few months, we have a lot to be proud of. I can't wait to see what we accomplish in 2019!

MBI celebrates two decades of brain research

View a historical video that revisits the McKnight Brain Institute's beginnings and takes a glimpse at where it's headed in the future.

WATCH THE VIDEO »

MBI 20th Anniversary Celebration at the Cade

On Dec. 7, MBI faculty, staff and students came out to celebrate the MBI's 20th anniversary.
MBI ground-floor renovations underway

Renovations to the ground floor that began the week of Dec. 17, 2018 will continue over the next four to six months as part of an ongoing effort to improve and modernize the MBI.

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When less oxygen heals

Novel spinal cord injury therapy led by Gordon Mitchell, Ph.D., and Emily Fox, D.P.T., Ph.D., put to the test.

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Stem cells could clear path for immunotherapy in brain cancer

A new discovery led by Catherine Flores, Ph.D., used stem cells to overcome resistance to immunotherapy drugs and may open the door to more effective treatment for brain cancer.

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UF-led consortium aims to accelerate Alzheimer’s research and treatment
MBI and Florida ADRC Director Todd Golde, M.D., Ph.D., shines light on UF’s role in a nationwide initiative to combat the disease and expresses his hopes for the future.

Number of veterans with Alzheimer’s and other dementias on the rise

Steven T. DeKosky, M.D., left, and retired Col. Michael Jaffee, M.D., explain military-related risks of developing dementia that are detailed in a new paper in the journal Alzheimer’s & Dementia.

New study explores use of blood tests for concussion

Blood tests measuring physiologic changes could someday be a great tool for neurologists and sports doctors in managing concussion.

Ketogenic diet late in life may improve cognitive function

A new study led by Sara Burke, Ph.D., left, and Abbi Hernandez, Ph.D., showed that implementing a ketogenic diet even late in life may be beneficial for improving cognitive outcomes.
Study shows how fat fuels cells in brain tumors

A new study led by Loic Deleyrolle, Ph.D., has implications for advancing new metabolic therapies for glioblastoma, the deadliest form of brain cancer.

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Alzheimer's disease: The right drug, the right time

In the journal Science, MBI leaders Todd Golde, M.D., Ph.D., left, and Steven T. DeKosky, M.D., discuss the challenges of developing effective Alzheimer's therapies and the road ahead.

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Dr. William Friedman earns UF College of Medicine honor

William A. Friedman, M.D., chair emeritus of the Lillian S. Wells Department of Neurosurgery, was recently named to the UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame, the college's highest honor.

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MBI deputy director recognized for most-cited works

Steven T. DeKosky, M.D., was listed among the most influential authors in his field worldwide based on frequency of citations by peers.

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Dr. Lisa Merlo Greene named an American Psychological Association Citizen Psychologist

Lisa Merlo Greene, Ph.D., Pottash Florida Recovery Center Research Initiative director, earns honor for her efforts to improve the community and benefit society.

UF neurosurgery and neurology departments team up for interdisciplinary NIH grant

Five-year National Institutes of Health Research Education Program, or R25, grant supports residents’ research education activities and academic career development.

Town Hall encourages scientists to work with policymakers

MBI Director Todd Golde, M.D., Ph.D., facilitated a town hall panel including Research!America President Mary Woolley; retired U.S. Rep. John Edward Porter; Stephen Sugrue, Ph.D.; and David Norton, Ph.D.

Historic breakthrough

Thirty years ago, an invention by Frank Bova, Ph.D., left, and William A. Friedman, M.D., transformed the treatment of brain tumors and other disorders for patients around the world.
U.S. magistrate judge credits neurosurgery team

Learn how Brian Hoh, M.D., chair of the Lillian S. Wells Department of Neurosurgery, and his team are making an impact, from bench to bedside.

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Long-term study of brain development and child health completes enrollment

UF is among 21 sites across the country participating in a groundbreaking study under the leadership of Sara Jo Nixon, Ph.D., and Linda Cottler, Ph.D.

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World’s most comprehensive concussion study expanded

UF is among 30 universities and military service academies involved with an NCAA and Department of Defense concussion study.

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MBI Director Dr. Todd Golde discusses dementia

Following Sandra Day O'Connor's announcement of her diagnosis of dementia, and possibly Alzheimer's, MBI Director Todd Golde, M.D., Ph.D., explains a dementia diagnosis, current treatments and his hope for the future.

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Check out these recent Conversation pieces written by MBI members:

• Duane Mitchell, M.D., Ph.D. — *2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine: a turning point in the war on cancer*
• Melissa Armstrong, M.D. — *Ted Turner has Lewy body dementia, but what is that?*

More than 100 UF faculty members have contributed to this online magazine 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, often picked up by major outlets such as Scientific American, Smithsonian Magazine and the Chicago Tribune.

Contact science writer Michelle Koidin Jaffee or assistant director of communications Todd Taylor with your ideas for The Conversation.

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**MBI researchers in the spotlight**

Journalists regularly reach out to our faculty for their expertise on many subjects. If a reporter contacts you, please alert assistant director of communications Todd Taylor, science writer Michelle Koidin Jaffee or UF Health media relations coordinator Rossana Passaniti so we can assist with, archive and promote your media endeavors. Here are recent examples of MBI researchers in the news:

• Steven Munger, Ph.D. (Science Friday) — *The social power of smell*
• Adolfo Ramirez-Zamora, M.D. (MedPage Today) — *The evolution of deep brain stimulation*
• Jason Hunt, M.D. (Citrus County Chronicle) — *Drug addiction takes toll mentally, physically*
• Michael Jaffee, M.D. (The Boston Globe) — *Genes may affect the severity of CTE*

SEE MORE EXAMPLES OF MBI RESEARCHERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT»

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**Become an MBI member**

As the MBI continues its mission to create a broader umbrella for neuroscience and neuromedicine research at UF and beyond, we have developed an online membership process, which launched in the fall.

Please note that both new and existing MBI members need to complete this online process, which requires you to log in with your GatorLink credentials.

CLICK HERE TO CREATE YOUR NEW ONLINE MEMBERSHIP PROFILE»

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**Get a free professional headshot**
Any UF Health-affiliated faculty or staff member 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 or science writer Michelle Koidin Jaffee.