Message from the director, Dr. Todd Golde

Dear Colleagues:

This summer we are celebrating the opening of the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health. We look forward to strengthening our collaborations with the teams at the Fixel Institute to find better treatments and cures for some of the most vexing neurological conditions. These are exciting times for neuroscience research at UF as we continue to expand the breadth and depth of our knowledge and resources.

We launched our new and improved website this summer, which includes our online MBI Faculty Membership Directory — sign up to become a member and also follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

A great way to promote your science and expertise is through The Conversation. This summer, we’ve seen our researchers’ articles published in The Washington Post, Chicago Tribune and other top publications. To get published, your topic must be timely and you must work quickly with a Conversation editor. Learn more in this newsletter and connect with our communications team for more information.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jada Lewis will serve as co-deputy director of the MBI alongside Dr. Steven DeKosky. She has spearheaded the MBI’s education and outreach efforts and the results have been phenomenal. Read more about Dr. Lewis’ new role in this newsletter.

Thank you for reading The Brainstorm, and for all your contributions to the MBI and neuroscience research at UF!

MBI Inter-institutional Meeting 2019

Expert neuroscientists who study age-related memory loss at all four McKnight Brain Institutes in the U.S. came together in Gainesville for 11th annual meeting.

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Dr. Jada Lewis named MBI co-deputy director

In her new role, Dr. Jada Lewis will continue her focus on the MBI’s education and outreach efforts.

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UF Health unveils new institute

The Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health will feature some of the foremost experts in Parkinson’s and other neurological conditions.

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World-renowned neurogeneticist to join UF Health

Dr. Matthew Farrer, recognized for his work on the genetics of Parkinson’s disease, will join UF Health on Sept. 1.

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Tyler Staab becomes Fixel Institute’s first patient

Tyler Staab was the first patient seen at the Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health.

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Addiction symposium focuses on opioid crisis

Experts from diverse fields united to share perspectives on the opioid crisis during the CARE symposium.

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New study reveals treatment pathway for neurofibromatosis

Dr. James Wymer and a team of researchers identified a novel pathway for potential treatment of the disfiguring condition, neurofibromatosis 1.

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Study investigates brain mechanisms critical for ability to delay gratification

In a new eLife article, UF neuroscientists examine brain mechanisms involved with the ability to delay gratification in older and younger adults.

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UF brain cancer researcher earns two grants

Dr. Catherine Flores will expand her research into a new use of stem cells to enhance the clinical effectiveness of adoptive T cell therapy against brain tumors.

READ ABOUT HER R01 GRANT »

READ ABOUT HER ALSF GRANT »
UF researchers earn Parkinson’s Foundation award

Collaborators from the Fixel Institute and MBI will pilot a novel, low-cost intervention to improve Parkinson’s symptoms.

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Tips for choosing a DBS device

In the journal JAMA Neurology, Dr. Michael Okun discusses the challenge of selecting an appropriate DBS system for an individual patient.

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Florida Legislature passes bill to improve stroke outcomes

Dr. W. Christopher Fox was among a select group of physicians who discussed the importance of improving stroke outcomes with Florida lawmakers.

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MBI member earns White House honor

Dr. Aysegul Gunduz was among four UF investigators to receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

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Dr. Lucia Notterpek named president-elect of association of neuroscience chairs

Dr. Lucia Notterpek will serve as 2019-2020 president of the Association of Medical School Neuroscience Department Chairpersons.
Dr. David Borchelt earns UF Basic Science Award

The UF College of Medicine honored Dr. David Borchelt for his research in the field of neurodegenerative diseases.

Seven MBI members named UF Research Foundation Professors

Seven McKnight Brain Institute members from four colleges were named UF Research Foundation Professors for 2019-2022.

Dr. Maryam Rahman earns Preuss Research Award

Dr. Maryam Rahman was named the 2019 Preuss Research Award winner during the American Association of Neurological Surgeons annual scientific meeting.

Highlight your work with MBI’s Research Snapshots

This feature highlights recent discoveries by pairing an impactful image from work in an MBI researcher’s laboratory — often associated with a newly published manuscript — with a brief description of what the image represents and how it has impacted the researcher’s field of study.
Check out these recent Conversation pieces written by MBI members:

- Katharina Busl, M.D., & Carolina Maciel, Ph.D. — Will they ever wake up? New study on consciousness after brain injury shows ‘maybe’
- Steven DeKosky, M.D. — Supplements for brain health show no benefit

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.

Researchers in the Spotlight

Journalists regularly reach out to our MBI members 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:

- Drs. Carol Mathews & Joseph McNamara (The New York Times) — Conquering more than the usual worries at summer camp
- Drs. Kelly Foote & Michael Okun (The Gainesville Sun) — UF Health opens neurology institute
- Dr. Duane Mitchell (Ponte Vedra Recorder) — Third annual Jamie Chapin Classic raises money for national brain cancer research
- Dr. Maryam Rahman (Orlando Sentinel) — Family faces two brain tumor diagnoses in four months

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.

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