

# THE BRAINSTORM

*The McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida e-newsletter*

Issue 23, Fall 2021

## Message from the Director, Dr. Todd Golde

Dear Colleagues:

It's been a busy and exciting fall for neuroscience and neuromedicine research at the University of Florida.

As you'll see in this newsletter, the generosity of several donors is spurring growth in many areas, including a robust expansion of the Norman Fixel Institute and the opening of the Adam Michael Rosen Neuro-Oncology Laboratories. We are incredibly thankful for all of our philanthropic partners and their dedication to our causes.

I'd also like to express gratitude to Dr. Regina Bussing, who recently stepped down as chair of psychiatry. She's been an amazing leader and key in our efforts to break down barriers and encourage team science. We are thrilled that she's staying at UF to continue her clinical and research efforts. We're also thrilled that Dr. Carol Mathews has taken on the role of interim chair of psychiatry. As a member of our executive committee, we know the leadership she'll bring and look forward to the department's continued growth.

Thank you all for your contributions and the important work you do. Stay safe and go Gators!



## Gift and new \$75 million initiative to expand Norman Fixel Institute

A \$25 million gift from the Lauren and Lee Fixel Family Foundation is aimed at improving the lives of patients across the globe.

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## UF launches new state-of-the-art neuro-oncology lab

New laboratory was made possible by a gift from The Harris Rosen Foundation that also spurred the launch of the UF Health-led ReMission Alliance Against Brain Tumors.

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## UF earns \$38 million grant to lead stroke prevention trial

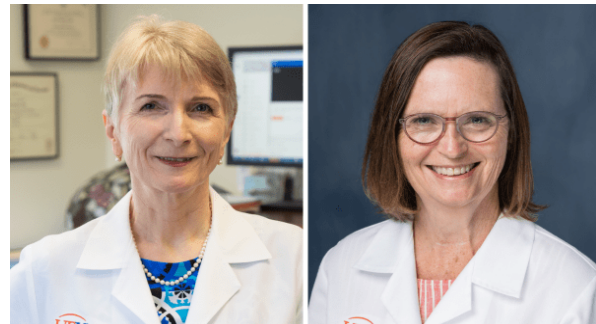
Dr. Brian Hoh will serve as co-principal investigator for a national trial including 1,683 participants.

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## Transition in leadership: UF Department of Psychiatry

Dr. Carol Mathews begins her new role as interim chair of UF's department of psychiatry, succeeding Dr. Regina Bussing who led the department for more than seven years.

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## Gift from Mangurian Foundation will launch neuroimaging facility

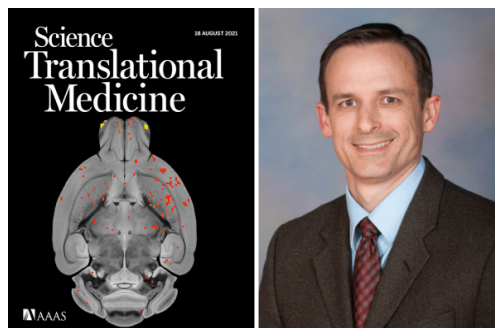
New brain imaging facility at the Norman Fixel Institute will expand clinical research efforts.

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## HIV drug shows potential to combat genetic form of dystonia in preclinical study

In a mouse-model research study, HIV medication restored brain abnormalities in DYT1 dystonia.

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## Pediatric cancer trial to test immunotherapy combination

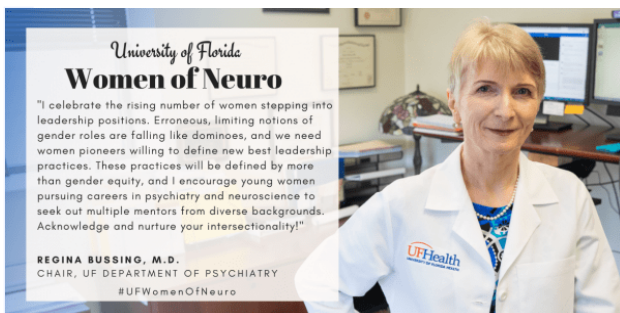
UF and Atrium Health Levine Children's are co-leading a new pediatric clinical trial to test prospective treatment for two forms of childhood cancer.

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## MBI Rising Stars: Dr. Sabhya Rana

Dr. Sabhya Rana is the latest investigator to be featured in the MBI Rising Stars video series.

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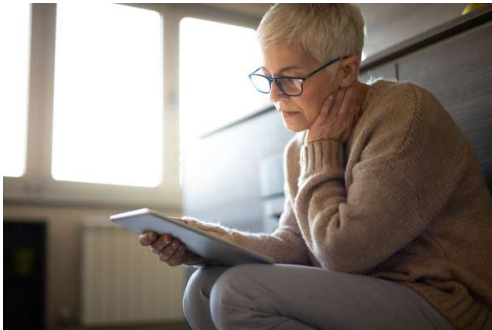
## UF Women of Neuro: Dr. Regina Bussing

We're highlighting women leading our neuro research efforts at UF. This issue, we're featuring Dr. Regina Bussing, who led the UF Department of Psychiatry for more than seven years.

## Alzheimer's researchers featured on UF podcast

Drs. Todd Golde, Malú Tansey and Adam Woods discuss Alzheimer's research for new UF podcast, "From Florida."

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## UF neurologist earns NIA Career Development Award

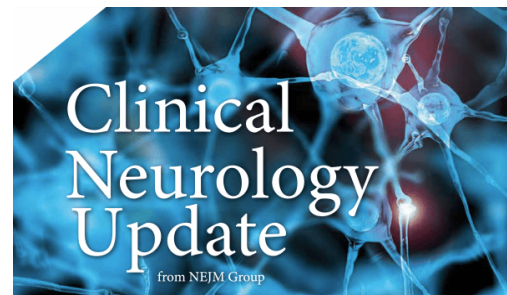
New grant will fund Dr. Bhavana Patel's research into an interdisciplinary telemedicine model for patients with Lewy body dementia.

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## UF neurologists featured in Clinical Neurology Update

Drs. Michael Okun and Michael Jaffee contributed to a recent edition of NEJM Group publication.

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## UF neuroscientists discover biomarker with potential to aid Parkinson's diagnosis

Findings lay groundwork for development of a blood test that could be used to help diagnose, treat Parkinson's disease.

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Tell us about your new grant!

We want to know about grants and awards you've received for a new feature in future editions of The Brainstorm. Use our form to share information with our communications team.



**Submit a recent grant**



## MBI 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 [Ken Garcia](#) so we can assist with, archive and promote your media endeavors. Here are recent examples of MBI researchers in the news:

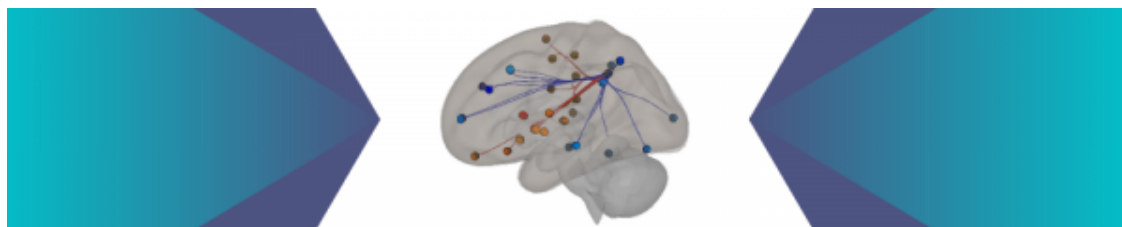
**Dr. Steven Munger (The Conversation)** — [The 2021 Nobel Prize for medicine helps unravel mysteries about how the body senses temperature and pressure](#)

**Dr. Irene Malaty (Naples Daily News)** — ['I can't accommodate everybody, and I don't want to': Naples tattoo artist destigmatizes tic disorder](#)

**Dr. Malú Gámez Tansey (NPR's All Things Considered)** — [Future Alzheimer's treatments aim to do more than clear plaques from the brain](#)

**Dr. Gordon Mitchell (New Scientist)** — [Thin-air therapy: The unexpected medical benefits of hypoxia](#)

[SEE MORE EXAMPLES OF MBI RESEARCHERS IN THE SPOTLIGHT»](#)



## Highlight your work with MBI's Research Snapshots

*Showcase your new discoveries by pairing an impactful image from work in your lab — and often associated with a newly published paper — with a brief description of what the image represents and how it has influenced your field of study.*

**Abeer Dagra & Dr. Habibeh Khoshbouei** provide insights into pathophysiology of Parkinson's disease prior to neuronal loss. [Read the Snapshot »](#)

**Drs. Min Lin & Phillip Mackie** demonstrate novel insight into the development of Parkinson's disease in stem cell study. [Read the Snapshot »](#)



## Reminders from the Communications Team

Please [become an MBI member](#) (if you haven't already), make sure you have [a professional headshot](#), update your [UF Health Directory profile](#) and let our [communications team](#) know early and often when you have big news or research coming out of your area. All of these efforts will help us shine an even brighter light on neuro research at UF.



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