



**Michael Okun, M.D.**

Executive Director, Norman Fixel Institute for  
Neurological Diseases at UF Health

Professor of Neurology,  
UF College of Medicine

**50+**

**clinical research trials**

**30+**

**multidisciplinary exam  
rooms and rehabilitation  
therapy rooms**

**15,000**

**square-foot imaging  
center on-site**

## Mission

The Norman Fixel Institute for Neurological Diseases at UF Health, known as the Fixel Institute, is one of the nation's most comprehensive and collaborative patient care and research centers. Our care team and researchers from across the University of Florida and UF Health campuses hope to optimize patient-centered care, accelerate scientific discovery and train future generations of health care professionals.

## Patient Care

The patient is the sun, and all care revolves around our patients and their families. The Fixel Institute believes the best health care is tailored to the specific needs of a patient, and our specialists and care teams work side by side to manage complex neurological disorders every day.

Patients receive comprehensive services from a variety of specialties, including neurology, neuropsychology, psychiatry, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, nutrition, genetic counseling and more. With more than 28 specialized exam rooms and five interdisciplinary clinics, the Fixel Institute is a one-stop location for all care and treatment needs for complex neurological disorders, including:

### **PARKINSON'S, DYSTONIA & MOVEMENT DISORDERS**

Even the simplest body movements require communication between the brain, nerves and muscles. Without proper communication, loss of movement and conditions like Parkinson's disease, dystonia or Tourette syndrome may occur.

### **ALZHEIMER'S, MEMORY & DEMENTIA**

A decline in memory and thinking is common with age, but when your ability is severely affected in everyday life, dementia may be the reason. Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for 60-80% of cases.

### **ALS, MS & NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDERS**

Nerves send and receive electrical messages to control muscle movements. When the nerves are affected by a neuromuscular disorder, communication breaks down, leading to muscle weakness, trouble swallowing or double vision.

### **TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**

When a sudden, external force rattles your brain, a traumatic brain injury, or TBI, can occur. Varying from mild concussions to severe injuries, TBIs disrupt normal brain function and can cause headaches, nausea, loss of consciousness, blurred vision, memory problems and more.

## Research

With more than \$41 million in research funding, research teams at the Fixel Institute search for discoveries that will improve lives of people living with complex neurological disorders. Rapid innovations and new therapies come from bringing together global thought leaders and experts. The Fixel Institute bridges these collaborations across the world through think tanks and annual conferences.

Every patient who enters the doors of the Fixel Institute has the opportunity to participate in research. With more than 50 clinical research trials, patients can make an impact on the future care and treatment of complex neurological disorders.

## Education

The Fixel Institute is transforming tomorrow's scientific and health care landscape by training current and future clinicians, neuroscientists and health care providers in an interdisciplinary training model.

More than 150 clinicians and researchers work on teams to understand the brain and to accelerate discoveries about complex neurological disorders. Each year, more than 50 graduate students, dozens of medical students and neurology residents, and more than 10 movement disorder, neuropsychology, brain injury, dementia and neuromuscular fellows participate in activities at the Fixel Institute. As of 2022, our programs have trained more than 100 fellows.



**20,000+**  
patient visits annually

**\$41 million +**  
total federal research funding

**#4**  
ranking in neurosurgery  
& No. 5 ranking for  
neurology and neuroscience  
for NIH funding among  
public universities

**150+**  
faculty involved with  
the Fixel Institute

**30+**  
departments across  
numerous colleges at UF  
and UF Health participate  
in Fixel Institute projects