

EVELYN F. AND WILLIAM L. MCKNIGHT BRAIN INSTITUTE



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Mission

The Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida, known as the MBI, is one of the nation’s most comprehensive and diverse neuroscience research centers. Our investigators and physician-scientists from across the UF campus hope to broaden the understanding of many neurological disorders and change them from untreatable to treatable, incurable to curable and inevitable to preventable.

Research

The MBI’s current strategic research areas of focus include:

BRAIN CANCER

Each year, more than 200,000 Americans are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor. Our researchers seek to increase survival rates and develop curative treatments.

BREATHING RESEARCH AND THERAPEUTICS

With most forms of neural injury or disease, people suffer from inadequate breathing, swallowing difficulties and the inability to prevent aspiration. Our researchers are developing new therapies to enhance breathing and swallowing ability for those with neurological disorders.

CHRONIC NEUROLOGICAL DISEASES

Millions of Americans battle neurodegenerative diseases — such as Parkinson’s, ALS, Alzheimer’s and dystonia — and our researchers seek new approaches to develop the next generation of therapies to combat them.

COGNITIVE AGING

Our researchers work to speed the progress in treating cognitive deficits associated with the normal aging process, specifically the progressive decline in memory function that affects virtually everyone who reaches advanced age.

MENTAL HEALTH, NEUROBEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND PSYCHIATRY

Our researchers are working to understand the causes of neuropsychiatric illness and addiction, and to improve the lives of those suffering from these brain disorders.

TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AND SPINAL CORD INJURY

Concussions can upend lives, and more severe traumatic brain injuries and spinal cord injuries can devastate them. Our researchers seek new therapies to restore function and improve quality of life for those suffering from these injuries.

200+

faculty involved with
the MBI from more than
50 academic departments

\$50M

active neuroscience- and
neuromedicine-based
NIH funding

100+

researchers received
NIH funding

No.3 &
No.8

rankings in neurology/
neuroscience and
neurosurgery for NIH funding
among public universities



Education

Across the UF campus, more than 200 faculty members work on multidisciplinary teams to better understand how the brain works and how various diseases alter brain function. Each year, more than 50 graduate students and several hundred undergraduates, dozens of medical residents, numerous postdoctoral fellows and hundreds of staff scientists participate in these efforts.

The MBI is leading the way in training the next generation of neuroscientists by complementing and enhancing existing training programs at UF. This includes supporting individualized laboratory training experiences and providing opportunities in areas of scientific enterprise outside the lab not commonly that are not always emphasized in traditional training programs, such as scientific communications and education.

To build our larger scientific community and increase the visibility of MBI research, the MBI hosts prominent scientists from collaborating institutions through the MBI Neuromedicine Scholars lecture series and supports the efforts of our own scientific leaders to organize events and conferences at UF.

Patient Care

The College of Medicine departments of neuroscience, neurology, neurosurgery and psychiatry, along with the Center for Smell and Taste, the Advanced Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy Facility and the Center for Cognitive Aging and Memory Clinical Translational Research are housed together in the MBI's state-of-the-art six-story building to create convenient collaborations and provide research support for faculty and staff.

The MBI supports the development of multidisciplinary teams and approaches that are focused on rapidly translating basic-science findings in the laboratory into clinical applications.

\$3M

from MBI to support programmatic research

10+

colleges at UF participate in MBI projects

400+

professional seminars and lectures presented at the MBI