



**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Donna E. Shalala, President  
**From:** Mary Coombs *MC*  
Chair, Faculty Senate  
**Date:** September 29, 2003  
**Subject:** Faculty Senate Legislation #2003-06(B) – Provisional establishment of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

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The Faculty Senate, at its September 24, 2003 meeting, voted unanimously to approve the provisional establishment of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss with the requirement that this approval lapses if the proposal for full approval of the Center, consistent with the usual procedures for such a proposal<sup>1</sup>, is not brought before the Senate within three years. The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

MC/kl

cc: Luis Glaser, Executive Vice President and Provost  
John Clarkson, Dean, School of Medicine  
Norman Altman, Vice Provost for Research


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<sup>1</sup> Visit <http://www.miami.edu/standing-committee-guidelines/> to view guidelines for submitting proposals

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CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2003-06(B) – Provisional establishment of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

**PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE**

APPROVED:  DATE: 10-1-03  
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: J Clarkson

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): \_\_\_\_\_

# ***The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss at the University of Miami***

## **Vision**

In its fifty short years, the University of Miami School of Medicine has established itself as a major center of basic science and translational research. Our motto is: “From the Bench to the Bedside.” In no field is this truer than in the Neurosciences, with the Cerebral Vascular Disease Center in the Department of Neurology, the Aging Center in the Department of Psychiatry, and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

Our vision is to have the nation’s foremost center of research into the causes and treatment of age-related disorders of the brain. This vision is close to realization with the neuroscience research programs in the Departments of Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychiatry and the basic science departments. To further this vision, the University of Miami School of Medicine requests a \$5 million grant over five years to establish the *Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss*. The Center will be focused on normal aging of the brain and be incorporated with our already existing programs in age-related, neurological disorders under the umbrella of the Neuroscience Center of the University, which was recently established with initial funding by the Provost and the University of Miami Board of Trustees. The integrated Neuroscience Center and the new \$40 million Lois Pope Life Center building will foster interdisciplinary clinical and basic neuroscience research into age-related changes in memory and brain function.

Our clarion call is that the nation’s fast-growing population is seniors, who can most benefit from advances in the understanding of the normal age-related changes of memory and brain function. South Florida is the region where the problem is especially acute, but is also a place that offers rich possibilities for work with seniors of different cultures.

## **The Challenge for Society**

The population of the United States is aging. With age there are subtle changes in memory and brain function that are clearly not understood. Though some of these changes are beneficial, others are detrimental. We are already facing an epidemic of age-related neuropsychiatric diseases such as stroke, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). In fact, over the age of 65, a significant proportion of the population has some degree of memory deterioration, and many have signs of neurological damage, which interferes with their day-to-day function. The mission of *Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss* will be to discover the causes of and ways to prevent age-related disorders of brain function and memory.

### **Library Collections:**

*The Calder Medical Library at the School of Medicine and the Neuroscience Library in the Lois Pope Life Sciences Center have extensive collections to support the Center.*

## **Budget**

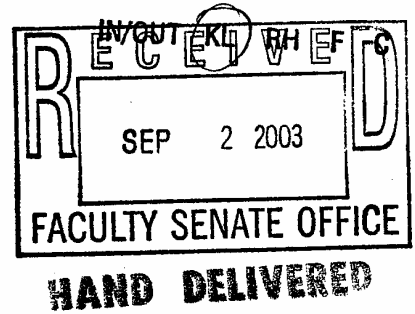
*This Center was established with a \$5 million donation from the McKnight Foundation. A detailed budget is not available since the center is in the planning stages.*

## **Faculty**

*A working group has been formed to recruit a Director for the center and to begin planning for the center's activities. The participants for this center will be initially drawn from over 200 current faculty in the basic and clinical sciences at the University. The new Center Director will make additional recruitments.*

- The working group will consist of Dr. Walter G. Bradley (Neurology); Dr. Carl Eisdorfer (Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences); Dr. Barth Green (Neurosurgery); Dr. Neil Schneiderman (Psychology); Dr. Bernard Roos (Center for Adult Development and Aging); Dr. Dalton Dietrich (Miami Project to Cure Paralysis); and Dr. John Bixby (Neuroscience Graduate Program).
- Launch an international search for, and recruit the Scientific Director of the *Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss*.

A memo is included signed by Provost Luis Glaser in support of this new center and faculty involvement.



Executive Vice President and Provost

September 2, 2003

Professor Mary I. Coombs  
Chair of the Faculty Senate  
University of Miami

Dear Mary:

It is my pleasure to endorse the establishment of the Evelyn T. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. This Center was established by a \$5 million grant and will involve faculty and students on the Medical and Coral Gables campuses in exciting research and education programs.

The Center is currently in the early formative stages, but I'm sure it will develop into a major activity at the University.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Luis Glaser".

Luis Glaser, Ph.D.  
Executive Vice President and Provost

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