



MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Stephen Sapp
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Sapp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Date: December 08, 2006

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2006-10(B) – Approval of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

On November 29, 2006, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the establishment of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders. This Center was provisionally approved by the Senate in September 2003 (Legislation #2003-06(B)). The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

SS/kl

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Pascal Goldschmidt, Dean, Miller School of Medicine
John Clarkson, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Ophthalmology

[Please contact the Senate office to view this proposal.]

Faculty Senate
1252 Memorial Drive, 325 Ashe Admin. Bldg.
Coral Gables, Florida 33146
Phone: (305) 284-3721 • Fax: (305) 284-5515
<http://www.miami.edu/FacultySenate>
email: facsen@miami.edu



MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Stephen Sapp
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Sapp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Date: December 08, 2006

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2006-10(B) – Approval of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

On November 29, 2006, the Faculty Senate unanimously approved the establishment of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders. This Center was provisionally approved by the Senate in September 2003 (Legislation #2003-06(B)). The proposal is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

SS/kl

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
Pascal Goldschmidt, Dean, Miller School of Medicine
John Clarkson, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Ophthalmology

Faculty Senate Legislation #2006-10(B) – Approval of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 1-17-07
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Dean, MSOM

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

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

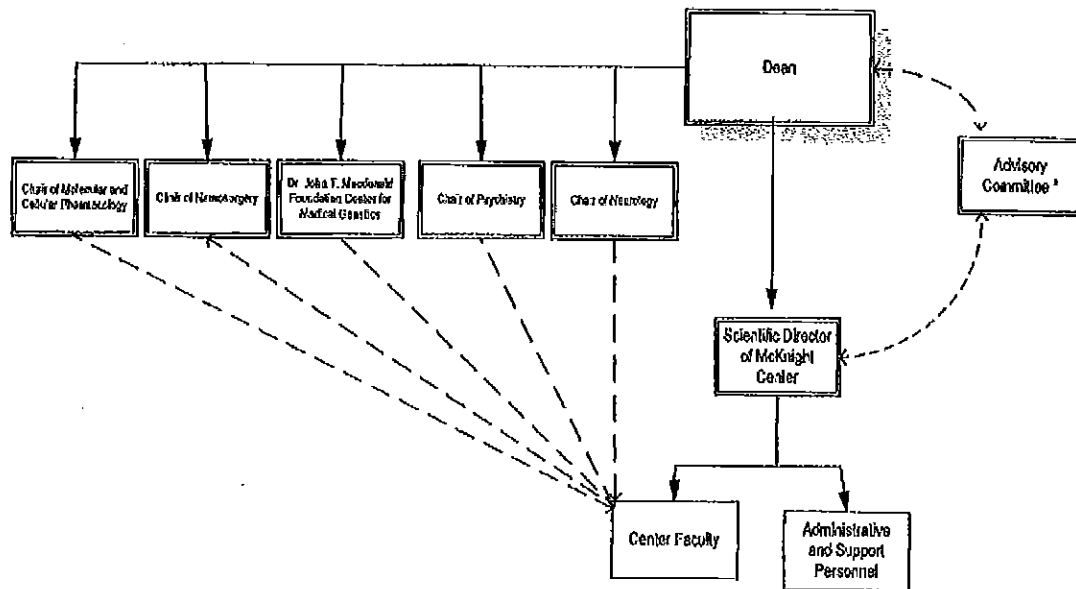
The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss
 Material for University of Miami Faculty Senate

This document responds to the request by the Secretary of the University of Miami Faculty Senate for updated information necessary to secure Faculty Senate approval for the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss.

1. Updated Funding Information:

	<u>Market Value</u>
Beginning Balance -- 6/1/06	\$ 4,102,395
Gift Payment -- 7/06	\$ 875,000
Total Investment Return -- 7/06 - 11/06	\$ 97,010
Ending Balance -- as of 11/1/06	<u>\$ 5,074,405</u> =====
University of Miami Endowment Matching Funds	\$ 1,000,000

2. Administration (including reporting relationships)



* The Advisory Committee will be composed of the department chairs from the departments listed above; two members of the McKnight Foundation board; and three members from outside institutions. Leaders of selected other departments and centers (e.g., Psychology, Aging) will be asked to serve on the advisory board.

3. Procedures for Ongoing Evaluation; Charter Amendment; Appointment and Review of Director:

a. Ongoing Evaluation and Appointment and Review of Director:

The Scientific Director will be recruited by a search committee of senior faculty appointed by the Dean. This committee will be assisted by an internal advisory group of neuroscience faculty from across the university as well as by an external advisor, appointed by the Dean, who is an eminent neuroscientist.

Once hired, the Center's Scientific Director will work with an advisory committee composed of senior leaders appointed by the Dean in collaboration with the Scientific Director drawn from the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychology, and Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology; members of the Foundation board; and scientists from outside institutions.

The Scientific Director will be responsible for all academic programs, as well as the fiscal soundness of the center, for securing philanthropic efforts for the center, and all recruitment efforts. Such recruitment efforts will involve chairs of multiple departments. The leaders of the various programs within the center will report to the scientific director and also to their respective department chairs.

The center director will meet with the Dean and the advisory committee on a quarterly basis to review academic productivity, recruitment, and philanthropic activities, as well as the fiscal soundness of the institute.

Over time, the philanthropic gifts that start the center will leverage many times their total in the form of other private as well as government support. Optimal use of precious resources will be the responsibility of the Scientific Director, and reviewed regularly by dean and the relevant department chairs.

The prime indicator of success for the center will be the creation of a research pipeline, which takes promising laboratory findings and purposefully moves them through a rigorous and defined process toward clinical application. Such a process has become a hallmark of Miller School of Medicine centers of excellence (e.g., the Diabetes Research Institute with its groundbreaking work in islet cell transplantation). Other measures to judge achievement of goals will be the number of publications in top peer-reviewed journals; presentations at national and international meetings; and amount of extramural funding.

- b. Charter Amendment: The charter of the Center will be amended by a simple majority vote of the advisory committee.

4. Memoranda of Support:

These are attached.

**The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders
at the University of Miami School of Medicine**

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 record is truly one of: "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 Neurotrauma Research Center in the Department of Neurological Surgery, the Aging Center in the Department of Psychiatry, and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

Our vision is to create 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 McKnight Center for Memory Disorders*. 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 the 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 not clearly 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 impairment, and may have signs of damage which interferes with their day-to-day function. The mission of *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will be to discover the causes of ways and means to prevent and treat age-related disorders of brain function and memory.

The Brain and Aging

There remains much to be discovered about how the brain changes in normal aging. Children have better memory function than do young adults. Older adults have better interpretive and decisional skills than do those who are younger. Memory capacity decreases with age. Many age-related brain diseases play a role in the deterioration in brain function and memory as seen in some elderly individuals, and our understanding of these diseases is rapidly increasing. However, we are still a long way from understanding the basis for normal aging of the brain.

Cognitive dysfunction that can affect the elderly ranges from minor memory and information processing deficits to clinically evident dementia associated with significant functional impairments that require ongoing care or even institutionalization. Our researchers are already studying deficits in neuropsychological ability to identify the cellular basis of dysfunction and the brain regions involved. Correlating abnormalities on neuropsychological testing with such pathophysiological analyses of the brain as provided by functional MRI scans and the new generation of PET scanners is now allowing us to understand the detailed features of normal aging of the brain.

A number of genetic, medical and age-related factors can cause strokes, Parkinson's disease, memory deterioration, and balance problems. Many of these conditions result in an inability to function independently. Recent studies have also implicated severe situational stress as contributing to the loss of neuronal (brain) tissue, opening up another important area of investigation.

Cognitive Neuroscience Research at the University of Miami

The field of Cognitive Neuroscience is relatively new, and no major academic medical center has yet established pre-eminence. The University of Miami School of Medicine's strategic plan identifies the Neurosciences as one of six areas of existing excellence, and as a target for expansion and strengthening. Research into normal aging of the brain and age related neuropsychiatric diseases demands the integrated approach that we have shown to be so successful, bringing together the basic neurosciences and clinical neuropsychiatry. *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will provide the setting needed to integrate, enhance and expand the University's efforts to identify the causes of age-related disorders of the brain. The leadership of the Medical School is committed to making *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* the premier center in the country for normal memory loss research.

The University of Miami is already internationally recognized for its "Bench to the Bedside" translational research programs involving neuropsychiatric disease and normal aging.

Evidence of this commitment is the multitude of resources already devoted to these efforts, including:

1. The new Lois Pope LIFE Center, an 118,000 sq. ft., \$40 million, state-of-the-art neurosciences research facility that focuses on research into spinal cord injury and regeneration; cerebrovascular disease; mitochondrial diseases and other neurological degeneration.
2. More than 200 clinical and basic research faculty who work on Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences, and Aging in a number of centers and programs, including:
 - a) The Memory Disorders Clinic (Dr. Steven Sevush and Dr. Rodrigo Kuljis)
 - b) The Center for Neurological Diseases (Dr. Walter Bradley)
 - c) The Neurotrauma Research Center (Dr. W. Dalton Dietrich)
 - d) The Cerebral Vascular Research Center (Dr. Myron Ginsberg)
 - e) The Parkinson Disease Center (Dr. Carlos Singer and Dr. Deborah Mash)
 - f) The Center for Adult Development & Aging (Dr. Carl Eisdorfer, Dr. Sara Czaja, and Dr. Bernard A. Roos)
 - g) The Kessenich Family MDA/ALS Center (Dr. Walter Bradley and Dr. Miguel Perez-Pinzon)
 - h) The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis (Dr. W. Dalton Dietrich and Dr. Barth Green)
 - i) The Center for Mitochondrial Disease Research (Dr. Carlos Moraes)
3. An integrated Neuroscience Center and the Neuroscience Graduate Program, both directed by Dr. John Bixby, which provides an integrated program of neuroscience research and education across all of the University's campuses.
4. Two Brain Endowed Banks (the adult one directed by Dr. Deborah Mash, and the pediatric one directed by Dr. Carol Petito) that are local and national resources for researchers requiring brain tissue from either normal subjects or those with neurological diseases.
5. A major commitment to research in molecular genetics in the form of a recent \$6.25 million grant by the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation to create the Dr. John T. MacDonald Center for Medical Genetics. This is located in the 147,000 sq. ft. Batchelor Children's Research Building. Since 2003 Dr. Elsas has recruited 11 faculty with \$9+ million dollars in external support. In addition, the MacDonald Foundation has granted an additional \$5 million for Gene Cure, a clinical laboratory for genetics testing, for a total of \$11.25 million from the MacDonald Foundation.

6. Current Neuroscience research areas at the University of Miami that will be integrated with and enhanced by *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* include:
- a) Studies of cell death and synaptic loss in the brain during normal aging and in neurodegenerative diseases.
 - b) Memory and cognitive changes after experimental brain injury.
 - c) Nerve growth factor research.
 - d) Stem cell research.
 - e) Studies of neuronal regeneration for brain and spinal cord injury
 - f) Studies of neuropsychology, artificial intelligence, and information processing that relate to circumventing the effects of normal aging and the dementias.
 - g) Programs to develop new medications to stabilize or minimize age-related memory loss.

The Plan for The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

A world-class neuroscientist in the field of aging of the brain and memory disorders will be recruited to be the Center's Scientific Director. Under the leadership of the Scientific Director, the many basic neuroscientists and clinical neuropsychiatrists at the University of Miami will expand collaborative research. The Scientific Director will recruit several new research groups that will bring exciting new perspectives and techniques from the basic sciences to apply to the problem of memory loss.

An Education Director, who will focus on enhancing public awareness and developing clinical and postgraduate research training fellowships, will assist the Scientific Director. Aiding the Scientific Director will also be an Executive Committee consisting of the directors of the Center's clinical research and educational programs. There will also be an Advisory Committee made up of the Chairs of Departments collaborating on the Center (initially Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychology), two representatives of the McKnight Brain Disorder Foundation Board, and three experts in memory disorders from other institutions in North America.

The Evelyn McKnight Center scientists and clinicians will develop peer-reviewed nationally funded research programs to add to the already active portfolio of research grants held by the participating individual scientists and the University of Miami. The goal is that, within five years, *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will be supported by federal and other grants to its research programs.

Years 2006-2007

This period will be devoted to initial planning for the Center, guided by the following objectives:

- Create a working group to implement and oversee the integration of the University clinicians and scientists working in Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences, and Aging. 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. W. Dalton Dietrich (The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis); and Dr. John Bixby (Neuroscience Graduate Program).
- Sponsor informational seminars and strategic retreats for faculty interested in Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences and Aging, to enhance interdepartmental integration in clinical, research and teaching programs. Develop a program of faculty enhancement to bring existing University faculty into the Center.
- Launch an international search for, and recruit the Scientific Director of *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders*.
- Identify the first two research areas for recruitment in the targeted strategic areas. These areas may include neuronal cell death, endogenous stem cell research, protein aggregation research, molecular neuro-psychiatric genomics, artificial intelligence, as well as clinical intervention programs.
- Initiate planning of outreach and public education programs.

Years 2006-2011

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders at the University of Miami would begin operation in 2006 in space that offers scientists the ability to collaborate. With the arrival of the Scientific Director, a systematic phase-in of research groups in the targeted strategic areas will be implemented (see Appendix A). The first group of clinical and basic research fellows will also begin work. A research pilot grant program will be created to stimulate interdepartmental collaborative studies. We expect that these projects will lead to NIH and other funding after the initial phase.

The Education Director will be recruited and begin developing curricula for medical student and resident education, clinical and graduate research fellowships in the fields of memory and age-related neuropsychiatric disorders. The Education Director will also be responsible for outreach and public awareness programs and the Center's faculty strategic retreats. In the second and subsequent years, the Education Director, together with the faculty and fellows, will organize annual international Clinical and Research workshops dealing with aging of the brain and memory and cognitive disorders.

Funding

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders will begin operation in 2007.

The \$5 million grant to establish the Center will serve to leverage new sources of funds from both the private and public sectors, drawing additional millions of dollars into the Center's research efforts.

The University of Miami is honored to name this important research initiative in memory of Mrs. Evelyn McKnight, whose generosity, along with that of her husband's, has played such a significant role in the growth of excellence that is now the hallmark of the University and its School of Medicine

APPENDIX

The following overview briefly sketches some of the major research areas that the Center will tackle:

Brain-directed Antibodies and Neurotransmitters in Human Neuropsychiatric Diseases:

Basic research into brain-reactive antibodies, and the cognitive aspects of neurotransmitter changes associated with certain mental and neurological illnesses provide insights into these neuropsychiatric diseases, as well as normal aging of the brain. Neurological diseases such as narcolepsy and the stiff person syndrome are proving to be due to auto antibodies. Disease of higher cognitive function ranging from schizophrenia to school dysfunction lend themselves to study and amelioration, which in turn informs us as to the brain mechanisms involved. Similarly, our focus on the HPA-1 axis can raise hypotheses concerning brain-behavior interactions. We will expand our current research into new drugs working on cognition to the treatment of normal aging of the brain.

Intracellular Signaling, Synaptic Turnover and Cell Death in Neurons:

Death of neurons is the final process producing symptoms in neurological diseases like ALS and Parkinson's disease, and is a feature of normal aging of the brain. Synaptic loss appears to be the major feature correlating with memory loss in age-related memory disorder and dementia. We know much about the cascade of genes, proteins and enzymes and about the intracellular signaling that control the process of programmed cell death, or apoptosis. New understanding of intracellular signaling, synaptic turnover and apoptosis offer opportunities to arrest or delay the progression of the neuropsychiatric diseases. Collaboration between the basic science and clinical research groups working on each of the neuropsychiatric diseases is the quickest way to bring patients new treatment modalities.

The Biology of Precipitated Intraneuronal Proteins:

Recently, researchers have found intraneuronal inclusions in Parkinson's disease, ALS, the spinocerebellar ataxias, and other neurological diseases. Research indicates that these intraneuronal inclusions form by aggregation (precipitation) of abnormal proteins that are "sticky", and that these abnormal proteins bind to intraneuronal macromolecules in the nucleus or cytoplasm of the neurons, thereby interfering with their normal function. We will investigate how aggregated proteins accumulate in the nerve cells in these human diseases, and how they block normal macromolecular function. The final step will be to develop drugs to block protein aggregation.

The Molecular Neurogenomics of Age-related Neuropsychiatric Diseases:

The Human Genome Project has sequenced almost all of the DNA of our chromosomes and identified most of the genes. One-quarter of the human genes is devoted to the structure and function of the nervous system. Understanding the function of the proteins derived from these genes, and the effects of mutations of these genes, has advanced our knowledge of human neurological diseases. However, there is a rich field of future research to discover the many unknown genes responsible for neurological macromolecules, and to determine their functions. The recent \$6.25 million grant from the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation to develop molecular genetics at the University of Miami will greatly enhance our research into molecular neurogenomics. Also, the new DNA Chip Group of the University of Miami School of Medicine offers rapid characterization of genetic polymorphisms that are responsible for neurological dysfunction in patients with non-inherited neurological diseases.

Research on Endogenous Stem Cells: Stem cells can produce new cells in the adult and have a seemingly unlimited capacity to do so. These cells are present in a number of organs and tissues, such as bone marrow and the liver, and in the developing organs of the embryo. They can be harvested to produce new cells, such as neurons, in tissue culture. Such neurons grown *in vitro* have been used with encouraging results to replace lost neurons in Parkinson's disease patients. There is an already impressive body of knowledge about the growth factors and differentiation signals that allow these stem cells to proliferate and grow into new neurons. Recent evidence indicates that the adult human brain contains endogenous stem cells in small numbers in many regions. One of the *Evelyn McKnight Center's* goals will be to determine the location of these stem cells, how to stimulate their proliferation *in situ*, how to induce them to form new neurons, and how to make the new neurons integrate into the neuronal networks to restore neuropsychiatric function.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

John G. Clarkson, M.D.
*Dean Emeritus and
Professor of Ophthalmology*

November 2, 2006

Kimberly Litman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
325 Ashe Administration Building
Coral Gables Campus 4634

Re: Proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight
Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Dear Kim:

Dr. John G. Clarkson, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the Proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss to the Academic Deans' Policy Council at its meeting on November 2, 2006. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Council.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



Betty Dufour
Administrative Assistant

FACSENATE:MCKNIGHT



LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Post Office Box 016099 (R-699) • Miami, Florida 33101
Location: 1150 N.W. 14th Street, PAC 301 • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-7878 • Fax: 305-243-3244

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Pascal Goldschmidt, M.D.
Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean

DATE:

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss is precisely the type of interdisciplinary research and treatment effort that I want to build and strengthen across the medical campus. The Center will bring together and highlight major strengths of the Miller School of Medicine in neurosciences, aging, and basic science research. I urge the Faculty Senate to approve its creation.

We are now recruiting a scientific director to lead the center. Given the institutional transitions in my coming onboard, as well as in the leadership of the departments of psychiatry and neurology, the process of launching the center has been slowed. With the assistance of the new chair of psychiatry, Dr. Licinio, and, when one is named, the new chair of neurology, the Evelyn McKnight Center will have the full attention of the leadership of this school and will become an outstanding resource for age-related memory loss.

As you know, the Evelyn F. McKnight Foundation made a \$5 million 1:1 challenge grant to create the center. We are not submitting a pro-forma budget at this time because costs for the center cannot now be meaningfully determined. A preliminary budget will be formalized once a scientific director for the center is recruited and begins to outline his vision.

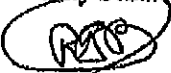
cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Richard J. Bookman, Ph.D.
Executive Dean for Research and Research Training

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Richard J. Bookman, Ph.D., 
Vice Provost for Research and Executive Dean for Research
& Research Training

DATE: September 1, 2006

RE: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

The awarding of a \$5 million grant from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to establish the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss represents a major achievement by the Miller School of Medicine. This type of philanthropic commitment to our institution is an important vote of confidence and signals to the outside world that the University is an important actor in the field of neuroscience and aging research.

I give my full endorsement to this enterprise and will help any way I can to foster the center's beginnings and growth.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.



LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
1600 NW 10th Avenue, RMSB 6056 • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-4487 • Fax: 305-243-9593



THE MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS
AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D.
Scientific Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chairman for Research,
Department of Neurological Surgery;
Scientific Director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis *W. Dalton Dietrich*

DATE: September 1, 2006

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

This memo is to express my wholehearted support for the creation of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. This new center will be an outstanding resource in the struggle to find the causes of and better treatments for normal age-related changes of memory and brain function.

The Department of Neurological Surgery will play an important role in this interdisciplinary effort; it is in such settings as this new center that our faculty can best explore emerging research questions with colleagues from other disciplines. The mixing together of diverse perspectives stimulates new insights and lines of attack on difficult medical challenges.

I also happily agree to serve on the center's advisory board. This structured presence will make sure faculty leaders from departments most concerned with the center are involved in an ongoing and systematic way in its management and evaluation.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

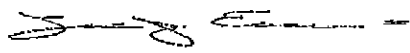
MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Lois Pope LIFE Center
Post Office Box 016960 (R-48) • Miami, Florida 33101
Location: 1095 NW 14th Terrace • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-2297 • Fax: 305-243-6017 • www.themiamiproject.org

Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation
CENTER FOR MEDICAL GENETICS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate
Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Center for Medical Genetics

FROM: Louis J. Elsas, M.D., Director 

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2006

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

This memo is to enthusiastically support the effort to start the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. I endorse this center and request that the Faculty Senate approve its creation. The School of Medicine has made major strides in genetics. The Center for Medical Genetics has a robust and excellent team of researchers whom will interact effectively with the Evelyn McKnight Center. Together we hope to prevent age related memory loss by identifying sensitivity genes and intervening.

As the leader of the Center for Medical Genetics that established with philanthropic effort, I know how important it is for the University to put this type of support in the service of only its highest priorities.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE


MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Julio Licinio, M.D., Chair
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

DATE: September 19, 2006

RE: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss



I want to offer my enthusiastic endorsement for the establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. With its wide array of neurosciences resources, the University of Miami is well suited to host such a center. As our country's population ages, the focus of the center's work will be vitally important; discoveries made there will help people in South Florida and throughout the world.

My department will be a strong member of this team effort. My own research focus on pharmacogenomics gives me a particular interest in seeing to it that the center thrives. I will do all I can to elicit and promote my faculty's participation. Finally, I also look forward to serving on the center's advisory committee.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.



Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences • Office of the Chairman
Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
Post Office Box 016960 (D-28) • Miami, Florida 33101
305-355-9105 • Fax: 305-355-9099



James D. Potter, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor and Chairman

September 7, 2006

Mrs. Kimberly Litman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
University of Miami
325 Ashe Administration Building
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

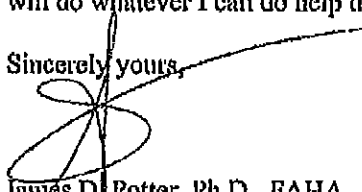
Dear Mrs. Litman,

Re: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Members of my department and I are very excited at the prospect of working with new and current faculty who will be part of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss, and I give my full endorsement to this enterprise. The new McKnight Center will have a strong Basic Science component, and its presence at the Miller School of Medicine will spark creativity and synergy across the Basic Science and Clinical Departments.

I am very pleased to serve on the Advisory Committee for the McKnight Center, and I will do whatever I can do help the new Center and its Scientific Director.

Sincerely yours,



James D. Potter, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor and Chairman

JDP:el

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology (R-189)
P.O. Box 016189
1600 N.W. 10th Avenue, Room 6085A
Miami, Florida 33101
305-243-5874
Fax: 305-243-6233
Email: jdpotter@miami.edu

INTRODUCTION OF JOE NATOLI, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FOR BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Joe Natoli, Senior Vice President for Business and Finance shared information on his personal background, noting that prior to this position he spent 30 years in the newspaper business; the Philadelphia Inquirer, San Jose Mercury News, and the Miami Herald. He stated that he is eager to be involved with this institution and to help support its mission. Among other things, he is involved in the strategic planning effort and he is committed to making sure that resources are fully aligned and are supportive of that effort. He entertained questions from the floor.

FINAL APPROVAL OF THE EVELYN MCKNIGHT CENTER FOR MEMORY AND COGNITIVE DISORDERS

The Chair stated that the Senate provisionally approved the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders in September 2003 and it was being brought forward for final approval. He noted that the General Welfare Committee unanimously recommended final approval. John Clarkson, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the proposal. *The Senate voted unanimously* to approve the Center.

RENAMING OF THE CENTER FOR ADVANCEMENT OF MODERN MEDIA

The Chair stated that the General Welfare Committee unanimously recommended the name change of the School of Communication's Center for the Advancement of Modern Media to the Knight Center for International Media. Sanjeev Chatterjee, Director of the Center, presented the proposal noting that the following amendment be made to the proposal: On page 6, paragraph two, strike the first sentence and replace the remaining paragraph with the following: It is intended that the Chairs will be appointed for terms of 5 to 7 years, after which time the individual appointees will return to their faculty positions with the University and maintain an emeritus relationship with the Center. This process will allow the Knight Chairs to be reviewed and renewed as the future agenda and focus of the Center is also reviewed and developed. *A motion was made* to approve the proposal with the suggested modification. *The motion passed unanimously.*

UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Provost LeBlanc gave a presentation on the Strategic Plan update noting that the University of Miami's goal is to exhibit the educational and research characteristics of private universities in the Association of American Universities (AAU) within the next decade. The presentation included information on comparison of UM & AAU University on strategic indicators; comparison of UM & AAU Private Universities on strategic indicators; strategic objectives and associated strategic performance indicators; mean official SAT for entering first-time students; % of new freshmen in top decile of their high school class; 6-year graduate rate; full-time new freshmen retention rate; number of faculty in national academies; number of faculty awards; number of programs in top half of NRC rankings; number of doctorates granted; number of post-docs; rank of total federally financed R&D expenditures; rank of National Institutes of Health Extramural Awards; rank of endowment value; enhancing the undergraduate experience; new faculty recruits (Colin McGinn, Professor of Philosophy; Kathryn Tosney, Professor and Chair, Biology; William Scott Green, Senior Vice Provost and Professor of Religious Studies; Isaac Prilleltensky, Dean of the School of Education and Professor of Educational and Psychological Studies; Michelle Gonzalez Maldonado, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies; Manuel S. Santos, Professor and James L. Knight Chair of Economics; and Antonio Nanni, Chair and Professor of Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering); and Distinguished Professors (David Ellison, Chuck Carver, Howard Gordon, Susan Haack, Andrew Shally, and Elizabeth



Print this page | E-mail

UM Home > Faculty Senate Home page > **11-29-06-FS-Agenda****11-29-06-FS-Agenda****FACULTY SENATE MEETING**

Hurricane 100 room-BankUnited Center

November 29, 2006 - 3:30 P.M.

AGENDA#FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, [CLICK HERE](#) FOR A COMPLETE AGENDA PACKET (just click and print)

A.	<u>Introductory Matters</u>	Approx. Time
A1.	#Chair's remarks	3:30
A2.	President's remarks	3:35
A3.	Approval of today's agenda	3:50
A4.	# <u>Approval of minutes of October 18 , 2006</u>	3:55
A5.	Other announcements	4:00
B.	<u>General Matters</u>	
B1.	Introduction of Joe Natoli, Senior Vice President for Business and Finance	4:05
B2.	Update on Strategic Plan – T. LeBlanc	4:20
B3.	# <u>Final approval of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders</u> (was provisionally approved by the Senate in 2003)-J. Clarkson	4:30
B4.	# <u>Renaming of the Center for Advancement of Modern Media</u> – S. Chatterjee	4:40
B5.	# <u>Addition of a Richter Library representative on the University Curriculum Committee</u> – S. Ladner	4:50
B6.	# <u>Nominating Committee procedures and timing of officer elections</u>	4:55
B7.	# <u>Modification of the McLamore Award charge to modify timing of ceremony</u>	5:05
C.	<u>Other Business</u>	
D.	<u>Executive Session</u>	
D1.	Outstanding Teaching Award Recommendation – E. Clasby	5:15
E.	<u>Adjournment</u>	

related material linked in Adobe Acrobat format. You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer in order to access the material. [Click here](#) for installing instructions.

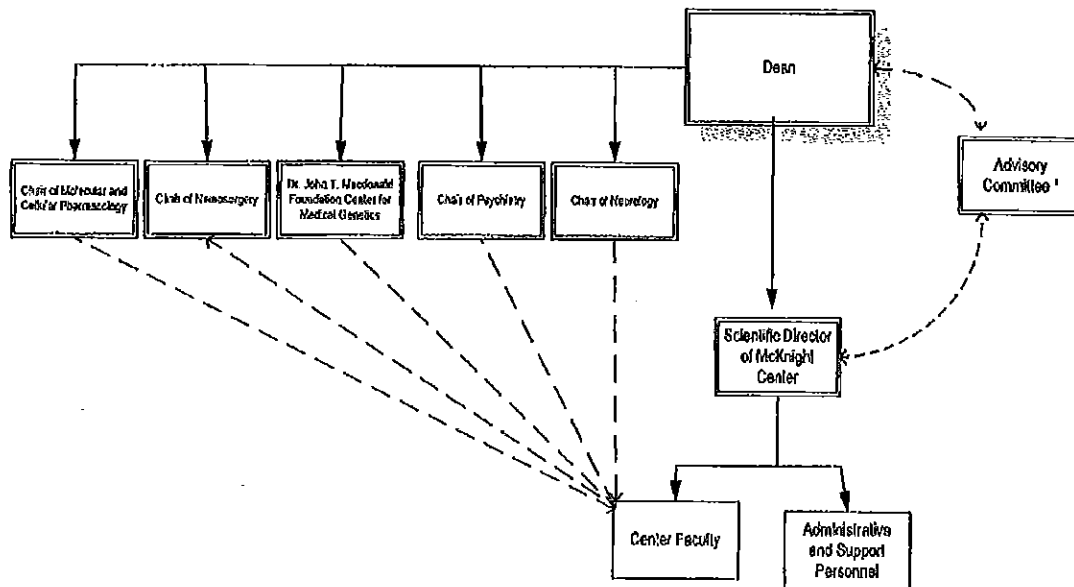
The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss
 Material for University of Miami Faculty Senate

This document responds to the request by the Secretary of the University of Miami Faculty Senate for updated information necessary to secure Faculty Senate approval for the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss.

1. Updated Funding Information:

	<u>Market Value</u>
Beginning Balance – 6/1/06	\$ 4,102,395
Gift Payment – 7/06	\$ 875,000
Total Investment Return – 7/06 - 11/06	\$ 97,010
Ending Balance -- as of 11/1/06	\$ 5,074,405 =====
University of Miami Endowment Matching Funds	\$ 1,000,000

2. Administration (including reporting relationships)



* The Advisory Committee will be composed of the department chairs from the departments listed above; two members of the McKnight Foundation board; and three members from outside institutions. Leaders of selected other departments and centers (e.g., Psychology, Aging) will be asked to serve on the advisory board.

3. Procedures for Ongoing Evaluation: Charter Amendment; Appointment and Review of Director

ii. Ongoing Evaluation and Appointment and Review of Director:

The Scientific Director will be recruited by a search committee of senior faculty appointed by the Dean. This committee will be assisted by an internal advisory group of neuroscience faculty from across the university as well as by an external advisor, appointed by the Dean, who is an eminent neuroscientist.

Once hired, the Center's Scientific Director will work with an advisory committee composed of senior leaders appointed by the Dean in collaboration with the Scientific Director drawn from the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychology, and Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology; members of the Foundation board; and scientists from outside institutions.

The Scientific Director will be responsible for all academic programs, as well as the fiscal soundness of the center, for securing philanthropic efforts for the center, and all recruitment efforts. Such recruitment efforts will involve chairs of multiple departments. The leaders of the various programs within the center will report to the scientific director and also to their respective department chairs.

The center director will meet with the Dean and the advisory committee on a quarterly basis to review academic productivity, recruitment, and philanthropic activities, as well as the fiscal soundness of the institute.

Over time, the philanthropic gifts that start the center will leverage many times their total in the form of other private as well as government support. Optimal use of precious resources will be the responsibility of the Scientific Director, and reviewed regularly by dean and the relevant department chairs.

The prime indicator of success for the center will be the creation of a research pipeline, which takes promising laboratory findings and purposefully moves them through a rigorous and defined process toward clinical application. Such a process has become a hallmark of Miller School of Medicine centers of excellence (e.g., the Diabetes Research Institute with its groundbreaking work in islet cell transplantation). Other measures to judge achievement of goals will be the number of publications in top peer-reviewed journals; presentations at national and international meetings; and amount of extramural funding.

- b. Charter Amendment: The charter of the Center will be amended by a simple majority vote of the advisory committee.

4. Memoranda of Support:

These are attached.

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders at the University of Miami School of Medicine

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 record is truly one of: "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 Neurotrauma Research Center in the Department of Neurological Surgery, the Aging Center in the Department of Psychiatry, and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

Our vision is to create 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 McKnight Center for Memory Disorders*. 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 the 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 not clearly 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 impairment, and may have signs of damage which interferes with their day-to-day function. The mission of *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will be to discover the causes of ways and means to prevent and treat age-related disorders of brain function and memory.

The Brain and Aging

There remains much to be discovered about how the brain changes in normal aging. Children have better memory function than do young adults. Older adults have better interpretive and decisional skills than do those who are younger. Memory capacity decreases with age. Many age-related brain diseases play a role in the deterioration in brain function and memory as seen in some elderly individuals, and our understanding of these diseases is rapidly increasing. However, we are still a long way from understanding the basis for normal aging of the brain.

Cognitive dysfunction that can affect the elderly ranges from minor memory and information processing deficits to clinically evident dementia associated with significant functional impairments that require ongoing care or even institutionalization. Our researchers are already studying deficits in neuropsychological ability to identify the cellular basis of dysfunction and the brain regions involved. Correlating abnormalities on neuropsychological testing with such pathophysiological analyses of the brain as provided by functional MRI scans and the new generation of PET scanners is now allowing us to understand the detailed features of normal aging of the brain.

A number of genetic, medical and age-related factors can cause strokes, Parkinson's disease, memory deterioration, and balance problems. Many of these conditions result in an inability to function independently. Recent studies have also implicated severe situational stress as contributing to the loss of neuronal (brain) tissue, opening up another important area of investigation.

Cognitive Neuroscience Research at the University of Miami

The field of Cognitive Neuroscience is relatively new, and no major academic medical center has yet established pre-eminence. The University of Miami School of Medicine's strategic plan identifies the Neurosciences as one of six areas of existing excellence, and as a target for expansion and strengthening. Research into normal aging of the brain and age related neuropsychiatric diseases demands the integrated approach that we have shown to be so successful, bringing together the basic neurosciences and clinical neuropsychiatry. *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will provide the setting needed to integrate, enhance and expand the University's efforts to identify the causes of age-related disorders of the brain. The leadership of the Medical School is committed to making *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* the premier center in the country for normal memory loss research.

The University of Miami is already internationally recognized for its "Bench to the Bedside" translational research programs involving neuropsychiatric disease and normal aging.

Evidence of this commitment is the multitude of resources already devoted to these efforts, including:

1. The new Lois Pope LIFE Center, an 118,000 sq. ft., \$40 million, state-of-the-art neurosciences research facility that focuses on research into spinal cord injury and regeneration; cerebrovascular disease; mitochondrial diseases and other neurological degeneration.
2. More than 200 clinical and basic research faculty who work on Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences, and Aging in a number of centers and programs, including:
 - a) The Memory Disorders Clinic (Dr. Steven Sevush and Dr. Rodrigo Kuljis)
 - b) The Center for Neurological Diseases (Dr. Walter Bradley)
 - c) The Neurotrauma Research Center (Dr. W. Dalton Dietrich)
 - d) The Cerebral Vascular Research Center (Dr. Myron Ginsberg)
 - e) The Parkinson Disease Center (Dr. Carlos Singer and Dr. Deborah Mash)
 - f) The Center for Adult Development & Aging (Dr. Carl Eisdorfer, Dr. Sara Czaja, and Dr. Bernard A. Roos)
 - g) The Kessenich Family MDA/ALS Center (Dr. Walter Bradley and Dr. Miguel Perez-Pinzon)
 - h) The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis (Dr. W. Dalton Dietrich and Dr. Barth Green)
 - i) The Center for Mitochondrial Disease Research (Dr. Carlos Moraes)
3. An integrated Neuroscience Center and the Neuroscience Graduate Program, both directed by Dr. John Bixby, which provides an integrated program of neuroscience research and education across all of the University's campuses.
4. Two Brain Endowed Banks (the adult one directed by Dr. Deborah Mash, and the pediatric one directed by Dr. Carol Petit) that are local and national resources for researchers requiring brain tissue from either normal subjects or those with neurological diseases.
5. A major commitment to research in molecular genetics in the form of a recent \$6.25 million grant by the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation to create the Dr. John T. MacDonald Center for Medical Genetics. This is located in the 147,000 sq. ft. Batchelor Children's Research Building. Since 2003 Dr. Elsas has recruited 11 faculty with \$9+ million dollars in external support. In addition, the MacDonald Foundation has granted an additional \$5 million for Gene Cure, a clinical laboratory for genetics testing, for a total of \$11.25 million from the MacDonald Foundation.

6. Current Neuroscience research areas at the University of Miami that will be integrated with and enhanced by *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* include:

- a) Studies of cell death and synaptic loss in the brain during normal aging and in neurodegenerative diseases.
- b) Memory and cognitive changes after experimental brain injury.
- c) Nerve growth factor research.
- d) Stem cell research.
- e) Studies of neuronal regeneration for brain and spinal cord injury
- f) Studies of neuropsychology, artificial intelligence, and information processing that relate to circumventing the effects of normal aging and the dementias.
- g) Programs to develop new medications to stabilize or minimize age-related memory loss.

The Plan for The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

A world-class neuroscientist in the field of aging of the brain and memory disorders will be recruited to be the Center's Scientific Director. Under the leadership of the Scientific Director, the many basic neuroscientists and clinical neuropsychiatrists at the University of Miami will expand collaborative research. The Scientific Director will recruit several new research groups that will bring exciting new perspectives and techniques from the basic sciences to apply to the problem of memory loss.

An Education Director, who will focus on enhancing public awareness and developing clinical and postgraduate research training fellowships, will assist the Scientific Director. Aiding the Scientific Director will also be an Executive Committee consisting of the directors of the Center's clinical research and educational programs. There will also be an Advisory Committee made up of the Chairs of Departments collaborating on the Center (initially Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychology), two representatives of the McKnight Brain Disorder Foundation Board, and three experts in memory disorders from other institutions in North America.

The Evelyn McKnight Center scientists and clinicians will develop peer-reviewed nationally funded research programs to add to the already active portfolio of research grants held by the participating individual scientists and the University of Miami. The goal is that, within five years, *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will be supported by federal and other grants to its research programs.

Years 2006-2007

This period will be devoted to initial planning for the Center, guided by the following objectives:

- Create a working group to implement and oversee the integration of the University clinicians and scientists working in Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences, and Aging. 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. W. Dalton Dietrich (The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis); and Dr. John Bixby (Neuroscience Graduate Program).
- Sponsor informational seminars and strategic retreats for faculty interested in Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences and Aging, to enhance interdepartmental integration in clinical, research and teaching programs. Develop a program of faculty enhancement to bring existing University faculty into the Center.
- Launch an international search for, and recruit the Scientific Director of *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders*.
- Identify the first two research areas for recruitment in the targeted strategic areas. These areas may include neuronal cell death, endogenous stem cell research, protein aggregation research, molecular neuro-psychiatric genomics, artificial intelligence, as well as clinical intervention programs.
- Initiate planning of outreach and public education programs.

Years 2006-2011

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders at the University of Miami would begin operation in 2006 in space that offers scientists the ability to collaborate. With the arrival of the Scientific Director, a systematic phase-in of research groups in the targeted strategic areas will be implemented (see Appendix A). The first group of clinical and basic research fellows will also begin work. A research pilot grant program will be created to stimulate interdepartmental collaborative studies. We expect that these projects will lead to NIH and other funding after the initial phase.

The Education Director will be recruited and begin developing curricula for medical student and resident education, clinical and graduate research fellowships in the fields of memory and age-related neuropsychiatric disorders. The Education Director will also be responsible for outreach and public awareness programs and the Center's faculty strategic retreats. In the second and subsequent years, the Education Director, together with the faculty and fellows, will organize annual international Clinical and Research workshops dealing with aging of the brain and memory and cognitive disorders.

Funding

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders will begin operation in 2007.

The \$5 million grant to establish the Center will serve to leverage new sources of funds from both the private and public sectors, drawing additional millions of dollars into the Center's research efforts.

The University of Miami is honored to name this important research initiative in memory of Mrs. Evelyn McKnight, whose generosity, along with that of her husband's, has played such a significant role in the growth of excellence that is now the hallmark of the University and its School of Medicine

APPENDIX

The following overview briefly sketches some of the major research areas that the Center will tackle:

Brain-directed Antibodies and Neurotransmitters in Human Neuropsychiatric Diseases:

Basic research into brain-reactive antibodies, and the cognitive aspects of neurotransmitter changes associated with certain mental and neurological illnesses provide insights into these neuropsychiatric diseases, as well as normal aging of the brain. Neurological diseases such as narcolepsy and the stiff person syndrome are proving to be due to auto antibodies. Disease of higher cognitive function ranging from schizophrenia to school dysfunction lend themselves to study and amelioration, which in turn informs us as to the brain mechanisms involved. Similarly, our focus on the HPA-1 axis can raise hypotheses concerning brain-behavior interactions. We will expand our current research into new drugs working on cognition to the treatment of normal aging of the brain.

Intracellular Signaling, Synaptic Turnover and Cell Death in Neurons:

Death of neurons is the final process producing symptoms in neurological diseases like ALS and Parkinson's disease, and is a feature of normal aging of the brain. Synaptic loss appears to be the major feature correlating with memory loss in age-related memory disorder and dementia. We know much about the cascade of genes, proteins and enzymes and about the intracellular signaling that control the process of programmed cell death, or apoptosis. New understanding of intracellular signaling, synaptic turnover and apoptosis offer opportunities to arrest or delay the progression of the neuropsychiatric diseases. Collaboration between the basic science and clinical research groups working on each of the neuropsychiatric diseases is the quickest way to bring patients new treatment modalities.

The Biology of Precipitated Intraneuronal Proteins:

Recently, researchers have found intraneuronal inclusions in Parkinson's disease, ALS, the spinocerebellar ataxias, and other neurological diseases. Research indicates that these intraneuronal inclusions form by aggregation (precipitation) of abnormal proteins that are "sticky", and that these abnormal proteins bind to intraneuronal macromolecules in the nucleus or cytoplasm of the neurons, thereby interfering with their normal function. We will investigate how aggregated proteins accumulate in the nerve cells in these human diseases, and how they block normal macromolecular function. The final step will be to develop drugs to block protein aggregation.

The Molecular Neurogenomics of Age-related Neuropsychiatric Diseases:

The Human Genome Project has sequenced almost all of the DNA of our chromosomes and identified most of the genes. One-quarter of the human genes is devoted to the structure and function of the nervous system. Understanding the function of the proteins derived from these genes, and the effects of mutations of these genes, has advanced our knowledge of human neurological diseases. However, there is a rich field of future research to discover the many unknown genes responsible for neurological macromolecules, and to determine their functions. The recent \$6.25 million grant from the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation to develop molecular genetics at the University of Miami will greatly enhance our research into molecular neurogenomics. Also, the new DNA Chip Group of the University of Miami School of Medicine offers rapid characterization of genetic polymorphisms that are responsible for neurological dysfunction in patients with non-inherited neurological diseases.

Research on Endogenous Stem Cells: Stem cells can produce new cells in the adult and have a seemingly unlimited capacity to do so. These cells are present in a number of organs and tissues, such as bone marrow and the liver, and in the developing organs of the embryo. They can be harvested to produce new cells, such as neurons, in tissue culture. Such neurons grown *in vitro* have been used with encouraging results to replace lost neurons in Parkinson's disease patients. There is an already impressive body of knowledge about the growth factors and differentiation signals that allow these stem cells to proliferate and grow into new neurons. Recent evidence indicates that the adult human brain contains endogenous stem cells in small numbers in many regions. One of the *Evelyn McKnight Center's* goals will be to determine the location of these stem cells, how to stimulate their proliferation *in situ*, how to induce them to form new neurons, and how to make the new neurons integrate into the neuronal networks to restore neuropsychiatric function.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

John G. Clarkson, M.D.
*Dean Emeritus and
Professor of Ophthalmology*

November 2, 2006

Kimberly Litman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
325 Ashe Administration Building
Coral Gables Campus 4634

Re: Proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight
Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Dear Kim:

Dr. John G. Clarkson, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the Proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss to the Academic Deans' Policy Council at its meeting on November 2, 2006. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Council.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


Betty Dufour
Administrative Assistant

FACSENATE:MCKNIGHT



LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Post Office Box 016099 (R-699) • Miami, Florida 33101
Location: 1150 N.W. 14th Street, PAC 301 • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-7878 • Fax: 305-243-3244

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Pascal Goldschmidt, M.D.
Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean

DATE:

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss is precisely the type of interdisciplinary research and treatment effort that I want to build and strengthen across the medical campus. The Center will bring together and highlight major strengths of the Miller School of Medicine in neurosciences, aging, and basic science research. I urge the Faculty Senate to approve its creation.

We are now recruiting a scientific director to lead the center. Given the institutional transitions in my coming onboard, as well as in the leadership of the departments of psychiatry and neurology, the process of launching the center has been slowed. With the assistance of the new chair of psychiatry, Dr. Licinio, and, when one is named, the new chair of neurology, the Evelyn McKnight Center will have the full attention of the leadership of this school and will become an outstanding resource for age-related memory loss.

As you know, the Evelyn F. McKnight Foundation made a \$5 million 1:1 challenge grant to create the center. We are not submitting a pro-forma budget at this time because costs for the center cannot now be meaningfully determined. A preliminary budget will be formalized once a scientific director for the center is recruited and begins to outline his vision.

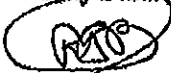
cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Richard J. Bookman, Ph.D.
Executive Dean for Research and Research Training

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Richard J. Bookman, Ph.D., 
Vice Provost for Research and Executive Dean for Research
& Research Training

DATE: September 1, 2006

RE: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

The awarding of a \$5 million grant from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to establish the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss represents a major achievement by the Miller School of Medicine. This type of philanthropic commitment to our institution is an important vote of confidence and signals to the outside world that the University is an important actor in the field of neuroscience and aging research.

I give my full endorsement to this enterprise and will help any way I can to foster the center's beginnings and growth.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.



LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
1600 NW 10th Avenue, RMSB 6056 • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-4487 • Fax: 305-243-9593



THE MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS
AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D.
Scientific Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chairman for Research,
Department of Neurological Surgery;
Scientific Director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis *W. Dalton Dietrich*

DATE: September 1, 2006

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

This memo is to express my wholehearted support for the creation of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. This new center will be an outstanding resource in the struggle to find the causes of and better treatments for normal age-related changes of memory and brain function.

The Department of Neurological Surgery will play an important role in this interdisciplinary effort; it is in such settings as this new center that our faculty can best explore emerging research questions with colleagues from other disciplines. The mixing together of diverse perspectives stimulates new insights and lines of attack on difficult medical challenges.

I also happily agree to serve on the center's advisory board. This structured presence will make sure faculty leaders from departments most concerned with the center are involved in an ongoing and systematic way in its management and evaluation.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

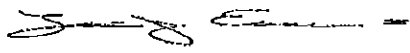
MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Lois Pope LIFE Center
Post Office Box 016960 (R-48) • Miami, Florida 33101
Location: 1095 NW 14th Terrace • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-2297 • Fax: 305-243-6017 • www.themiamiproject.org

Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation
CENTER FOR MEDICAL GENETICS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate
Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Center for Medical Genetics

FROM: Louis J. Elsas, M.D., Director 

DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2006

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

This memo is to enthusiastically support the effort to start the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. I endorse this center and request that the Faculty Senate approve its creation. The School of Medicine has made major strides in genetics. The Center for Medical Genetics has a robust and excellent team of researchers whom will interact effectively with the Evelyn McKnight Center. Together we hope to prevent age related memory loss by identifying sensitivity genes and intervening.

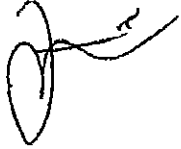
As the leader of the Center for Medical Genetics that established with philanthropic effort, I know how important it is for the University to put this type of support in the service of only its highest priorities.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Julio Licinio, M.D., Chair
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences 

DATE: September 19, 2006

RE: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

I want to offer my enthusiastic endorsement for the establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. With its wide array of neurosciences resources, the University of Miami is well suited to host such a center. As our country's population ages, the focus of the center's work will be vitally important; discoveries made there will help people in South Florida and throughout the world.

My department will be a strong member of this team effort. My own research focus on pharmacogenomics gives me a particular interest in seeing to it that the center thrives. I will do all I can to elicit and promote my faculty's participation. Finally, I also look forward to serving on the center's advisory committee.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.



Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences • Office of the Chairman
Leonard M. Miller School of Medicine
Post Office Box 016960 (D-28) • Miami, Florida 33101
305-355-9105 • Fax: 305-355-9099



James D. Potter, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor and Chairman

September 7, 2006

Mrs. Kimberly Litman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
University of Miami
325 Ashe Administration Building
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

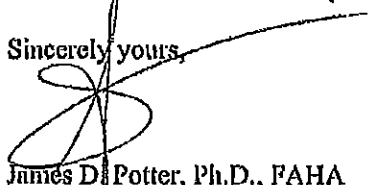
Dear Mrs. Litman,

Re: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Members of my department and I are very excited at the prospect of working with new and current faculty who will be part of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss, and I give my full endorsement to this enterprise. The new McKnight Center will have a strong Basic Science component, and its presence at the Miller School of Medicine will spark creativity and synergy across the Basic Science and Clinical Departments.

I am very pleased to serve on the Advisory Committee for the McKnight Center, and I will do whatever I can do help the new Center and its Scientific Director.

Sincerely yours,



James D. Potter, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor and Chairman

JDP:el

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology (R-189)
P.O. Box 016189
1600 N.W. 10th Avenue, Room 6085A
Miami, Florida 33101
305-243-5874
Fax: 305-243-6233
Email: jdpotter@miami.edu

General Welfare Committee
November 15, 2006
3:30 p.m.
Law Library Conference room, 4th floor

1. Chair's remarks (3:30)
2. #Final approval of the Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders (was provisionally approved by the Senate in 2003) – J. Clarkson (3:40)
3. #General Education clarification – A. Gomez (3:55)
4. Outstanding Teaching Award recommendation – E. Clasby (4:10)
5. #Renaming of the Center for Advancement of Modern Media – S. Chatterjee (4:20)
6. #Addition of a Richter Library representative on the University Curriculum Committee – S. Ladner (4:30)
7. #Modification to the McLamore Award charge to modify timing of ceremony (4:40)
8. Faculty Senate meeting announcements on the University-wide listserv (faculty only) (4:45)

related material included

NOTE: Copied below are additional items that will be on the November 29, 2006 Senate agenda

- Nominating Committee procedures and timing of officer elections
(this was already discussed/approved at the September GWC meeting)
- Update on Strategic Plan – T. LeBlanc
- Introduction of:
 - o Joe Natoli, Senior Vice President for Business and Finance
 - o ?Aileen Ugalde, Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

**The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders
at the University of Miami School of Medicine**

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 record is truly one of: "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 Neurotrauma Research Center in the Department of Neurological Surgery, the Aging Center in the Department of Psychiatry, and the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis.

Our vision is to create 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 McKnight Center for Memory Disorders*. 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 the 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 not clearly 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 impairment, and may have signs of damage which interferes with their day-to-day function. The mission of *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will be to discover the causes of ways and means to prevent and treat age-related disorders of brain function and memory.

The Brain and Aging

There remains much to be discovered about how the brain changes in normal aging. Children have better memory function than do young adults. Older adults have better interpretive and decisional skills than do those who are younger. Memory capacity decreases with age. Many age-related brain diseases play a role in the deterioration in brain function and memory as seen in some elderly individuals, and our understanding of these diseases is rapidly increasing. However, we are still a long way from understanding the basis for normal aging of the brain.

Cognitive dysfunction that can affect the elderly ranges from minor memory and information processing deficits to clinically evident dementia associated with significant functional impairments that require ongoing care or even institutionalization. Our researchers are already studying deficits in neuropsychological ability to identify the cellular basis of dysfunction and the brain regions involved. Correlating abnormalities on neuropsychological testing with such pathophysiological analyses of the brain as provided by functional MRI scans and the new generation of PET scanners is now allowing us to understand the detailed features of normal aging of the brain.

A number of genetic, medical and age-related factors can cause strokes, Parkinson's disease, memory deterioration, and balance problems. Many of these conditions result in an inability to function independently. Recent studies have also implicated severe situational stress as contributing to the loss of neuronal (brain) tissue, opening up another important area of investigation.

Cognitive Neuroscience Research at the University of Miami

The field of Cognitive Neuroscience is relatively new, and no major academic medical center has yet established pre-eminence. The University of Miami School of Medicine's strategic plan identifies the Neurosciences as one of six areas of existing excellence, and as a target for expansion and strengthening. Research into normal aging of the brain and age related neuropsychiatric diseases demands the integrated approach that we have shown to be so successful, bringing together the basic neurosciences and clinical neuropsychiatry. *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will provide the setting needed to integrate, enhance and expand the University's efforts to identify the causes of age-related disorders of the brain. The leadership of the Medical School is committed to making *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* the premier center in the country for normal memory loss research.

The University of Miami is already internationally recognized for its "Bench to the Bedside" translational research programs involving neuropsychiatric disease and normal aging.

Evidence of this commitment is the multitude of resources already devoted to these efforts, including:

1. The new Lois Pope LIFE Center, an 118,000 sq. ft., \$40 million, state-of-the-art neurosciences research facility that focuses on research into spinal cord injury and regeneration; cerebrovascular disease; mitochondrial diseases and other neurological degeneration.
2. More than 200 clinical and basic research faculty who work on Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences, and Aging in a number of centers and programs, including:
 - a) The Memory Disorders Clinic (Dr. Steven Sevush and Dr. Rodrigo Kuljis)
 - b) The Center for Neurological Diseases (Dr. Walter Bradley)
 - c) The Neurotrauma Research Center (Dr. W. Dalton Dietrich)
 - d) The Cerebral Vascular Research Center (Dr. Myron Ginsberg)
 - e) The Parkinson Disease Center (Dr. Carlos Singer and Dr. Deborah Mash)
 - f) The Center for Adult Development & Aging (Dr. Carl Eisdorfer, Dr. Sara Czaja, and Dr. Bernard A. Roos)
 - g) The Kessenich Family MDA/ALS Center (Dr. Walter Bradley and Dr. Miguel Perez-Pinzon)
 - h) The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis (Dr. W. Dalton Dietrich and Dr. Barth Green)
 - i) The Center for Mitochondrial Disease Research (Dr. Carlos Moraes)
3. An integrated Neuroscience Center and the Neuroscience Graduate Program, both directed by Dr. John Bixby, which provides an integrated program of neuroscience research and education across all of the University's campuses.
4. Two Brain Endowed Banks (the adult one directed by Dr. Deborah Mash, and the pediatric one directed by Dr. Carol Petito) that are local and national resources for researchers requiring brain tissue from either normal subjects or those with neurological diseases.
5. A major commitment to research in molecular genetics in the form of a recent \$6.25 million grant by the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation to create the Dr. John T. MacDonald Center for Medical Genetics. This is located in the 147,000 sq. ft. Batchelor Children's Research Building. Since 2003 Dr. Elsas has recruited 11 faculty with \$9+ million dollars in external support. In addition, the MacDonald Foundation has granted an additional \$5 million for Gene Cure, a clinical laboratory for genetics testing, for a total of \$11.25 million from the MacDonald Foundation.

6. Current Neuroscience research areas at the University of Miami that will be integrated with and enhanced by *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* include:
- a) Studies of cell death and synaptic loss in the brain during normal aging and in neurodegenerative diseases.
 - b) Memory and cognitive changes after experimental brain injury.
 - c) Nerve growth factor research.
 - d) Stem cell research.
 - e) Studies of neuronal regeneration for brain and spinal cord injury
 - f) Studies of neuropsychology, artificial intelligence, and information processing that relate to circumventing the effects of normal aging and the dementias.
 - g) Programs to develop new medications to stabilize or minimize age-related memory loss.

The Plan for The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory and Cognitive Disorders

A world-class neuroscientist in the field of aging of the brain and memory disorders will be recruited to be the Center's Scientific Director. Under the leadership of the Scientific Director, the many basic neuroscientists and clinical neuropsychiatrists at the University of Miami will expand collaborative research. The Scientific Director will recruit several new research groups that will bring exciting new perspectives and techniques from the basic sciences to apply to the problem of memory loss.

An Education Director, who will focus on enhancing public awareness and developing clinical and postgraduate research training fellowships, will assist the Scientific Director. Aiding the Scientific Director will also be an Executive Committee consisting of the directors of the Center's clinical research and educational programs. There will also be an Advisory Committee made up of the Chairs of Departments collaborating on the Center (initially Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychology), two representatives of the McKnight Brain Disorder Foundation Board, and three experts in memory disorders from other institutions in North America.

The Evelyn McKnight Center scientists and clinicians will develop peer-reviewed nationally funded research programs to add to the already active portfolio of research grants held by the participating individual scientists and the University of Miami. The goal is that, within five years, *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders* will be supported by federal and other grants to its research programs.

Years 2006-2007

This period will be devoted to initial planning for the Center, guided by the following objectives:

- Create a working group to implement and oversee the integration of the University clinicians and scientists working in Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences, and Aging. 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. W. Dalton Dietrich (The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis); and Dr. John Bixby (Neuroscience Graduate Program).
- Sponsor informational seminars and strategic retreats for faculty interested in Memory Disorders, the Neurosciences and Aging, to enhance interdepartmental integration in clinical, research and teaching programs. Develop a program of faculty enhancement to bring existing University faculty into the Center.
- Launch an international search for, and recruit the Scientific Director of *The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders*.
- Identify the first two research areas for recruitment in the targeted strategic areas. These areas may include neuronal cell death, endogenous stem cell research, protein aggregation research, molecular neuro-psychiatric genomics, artificial intelligence, as well as clinical intervention programs.
- Initiate planning of outreach and public education programs.

Years 2006-2011

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders at the University of Miami would begin operation in 2006 in space that offers scientists the ability to collaborate. With the arrival of the Scientific Director, a systematic phase-in of research groups in the targeted strategic areas will be implemented (see Appendix A). The first group of clinical and basic research fellows will also begin work. A research pilot grant program will be created to stimulate interdepartmental collaborative studies. We expect that these projects will lead to NIH and other funding after the initial phase.

The Education Director will be recruited and begin developing curricula for medical student and resident education, clinical and graduate research fellowships in the fields of memory and age-related neuropsychiatric disorders. The Education Director will also be responsible for outreach and public awareness programs and the Center's faculty strategic retreats. In the second and subsequent years, the Education Director, together with the faculty and fellows, will organize annual international Clinical and Research workshops dealing with aging of the brain and memory and cognitive disorders.

Funding

The Evelyn McKnight Center for Memory Disorders will begin operation in 2007.

The \$5 million grant to establish the Center will serve to leverage new sources of funds from both the private and public sectors, drawing additional millions of dollars into the Center's research efforts.

The University of Miami is honored to name this important research initiative in memory of Mrs. Evelyn McKnight, whose generosity, along with that of her husband's, has played such a significant role in the growth of excellence that is now the hallmark of the University and its School of Medicine

APPENDIX

The following overview briefly sketches some of the major research areas that the Center will tackle:

Brain-directed Antibodies and Neurotransmitters in Human Neuropsychiatric Diseases:

Basic research into brain-reactive antibodies, and the cognitive aspects of neurotransmitter changes associated with certain mental and neurological illnesses provide insights into these neuropsychiatric diseases, as well as normal aging of the brain. Neurological diseases such as narcolepsy and the stiff person syndrome are proving to be due to auto antibodies. Disease of higher cognitive function ranging from schizophrenia to school dysfunction lend themselves to study and amelioration, which in turn informs us as to the brain mechanisms involved. Similarly, our focus on the HPA-1 axis can raise hypotheses concerning brain-behavior interactions. We will expand our current research into new drugs working on cognition to the treatment of normal aging of the brain.

Intracellular Signaling, Synaptic Turnover and Cell Death in Neurons:

Death of neurons is the final process producing symptoms in neurological diseases like ALS and Parkinson's disease, and is a feature of normal aging of the brain. Synaptic loss appears to be the major feature correlating with memory loss in age-related memory disorder and dementia. We know much about the cascade of genes, proteins and enzymes and about the intracellular signaling that control the process of programmed cell death, or apoptosis. New understanding of intracellular signaling, synaptic turnover and apoptosis offer opportunities to arrest or delay the progression of the neuropsychiatric diseases. Collaboration between the basic science and clinical research groups working on each of the neuropsychiatric diseases is the quickest way to bring patients new treatment modalities.

The Biology of Precipitated Intraneuronal Proteins:

Recently, researchers have found intraneuronal inclusions in Parkinson's disease, ALS, the spinocerebellar ataxias, and other neurological diseases. Research indicates that these intraneuronal inclusions form by aggregation (precipitation) of abnormal proteins that are "sticky", and that these abnormal proteins bind to intraneuronal macromolecules in the nucleus or cytoplasm of the neurons, thereby interfering with their normal function. We will investigate how aggregated proteins accumulate in the nerve cells in these human diseases, and how they block normal macromolecular function. The final step will be to develop drugs to block protein aggregation.

The Molecular Neurogenomics of Age-related Neuropsychiatric Diseases:

The Human Genome Project has sequenced almost all of the DNA of our chromosomes and identified most of the genes. One-quarter of the human genes is devoted to the structure and function of the nervous system. Understanding the function of the proteins derived from these genes, and the effects of mutations of these genes, has advanced our knowledge of human neurological diseases. However, there is a rich field of future research to discover the many unknown genes responsible for neurological macromolecules, and to determine their functions. The recent \$6.25 million grant from the Dr. John T. MacDonald Foundation to develop molecular genetics at the University of Miami will greatly enhance our research into molecular neurogenomics. Also, the new DNA Chip Group of the University of Miami School of Medicine offers rapid characterization of genetic polymorphisms that are responsible for neurological dysfunction in patients with non-inherited neurological diseases.

Research on Endogenous Stem Cells: Stem cells can produce new cells in the adult and have a seemingly unlimited capacity to do so. These cells are present in a number of organs and tissues, such as bone marrow and the liver, and in the developing organs of the embryo. They can be harvested to produce new cells, such as neurons, in tissue culture. Such neurons grown *in vitro* have been used with encouraging results to replace lost neurons in Parkinson's disease patients. There is an already impressive body of knowledge about the growth factors and differentiation signals that allow these stem cells to proliferate and grow into new neurons. Recent evidence indicates that the adult human brain contains endogenous stem cells in small numbers in many regions. One of the *Evelyn McKnight Center's* goals will be to determine the location of these stem cells, how to stimulate their proliferation *in situ*, how to induce them to form new neurons, and how to make the new neurons integrate into the neuronal networks to restore neuropsychiatric function.

The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

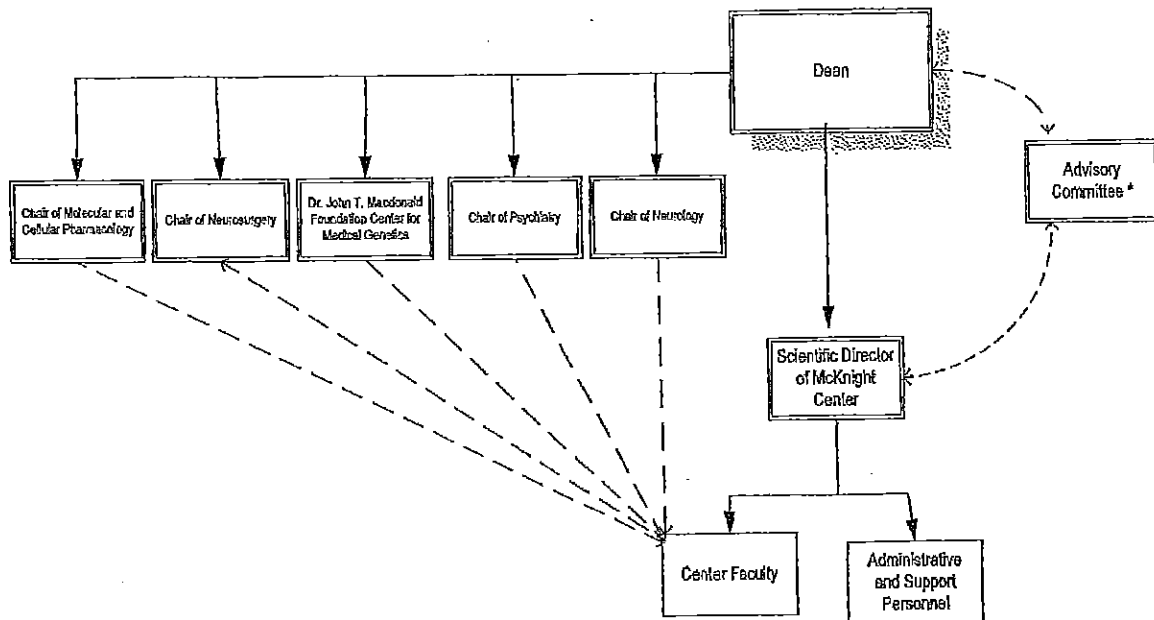
Material for University of Miami Faculty Senate

This document responds to the request by the Secretary of the University of Miami Faculty Senate for updated information necessary to secure Faculty Senate approval for the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss.

1. Updated Funding Information:

	<u>Market Value</u>
Beginning Balance – 6/1/06	\$ 4,102,395
Gift Payment – 7/06	\$ 875,000
Total Investment Return – 7/06 - 11/06	\$ 97,010
Ending Balance – as of 11/1/06	<u>\$ 5,074,405</u>
University of Miami Endowment Matching Funds	\$ 1,000,000

2. Administration (including reporting relationships)



* The Advisory Committee will be composed of the department chairs from the departments listed above; two members of the McKnight Foundation board; and three members from outside institutions. Leaders of selected other departments and centers (e.g., Psychology, Aging) will be asked to serve on the advisory board.

3. Procedures for Ongoing Evaluation: Charter Amendment; Appointment and Review of Director

a. Ongoing Evaluation and Appointment and Review of Director:

The Scientific Director will be recruited by a search committee of senior faculty that includes the Dean. This committee will be assisted by an internal advisory group of senior neurosciences faculty from across the university as well as by an external advisor who is an eminent neuroscientist.

Once hired, the Center's Scientific Director will work with an advisory committee composed of senior leaders drawn from the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Psychology, and Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology; members of the Foundation board; and scientists from outside institutions.

The Scientific Director will be responsible for all academic programs, as well as the fiscal soundness of the center, for securing philanthropic efforts for the

center, and all recruitment efforts. Such recruitment efforts will involve chairs of multiple departments. The leaders of the various programs within the center will report to the scientific director and also to their respective department chairs.

The center director will meet with the Dean and the advisory committee on a quarterly basis to review academic productivity, recruitment, and philanthropic activities, as well as the fiscal soundness of the institute.

Over time, the philanthropic gifts that start the center will leverage many times their total in the form of other private as well as government support. Optimal use of precious resources will be the responsibility of the Scientific Director, and reviewed regularly by dean and the relevant department chairs.

The prime indicator of success for the center will be the creation of a research pipeline, which takes promising laboratory findings and purposefully moves them through a rigorous and defined process toward clinical application. Such a process has become a hallmark of Miller School of Medicine centers of excellence (e.g., the Diabetes Research Institute with its groundbreaking work in islet cell transplantation). Other measures to judge achievement of goals will be the number of publications in top peer-reviewed journals; presentations at national and international meetings; and amount of extramural funding.

- b. Charter Amendment: The charter of the Center will be amended by a simple majority vote of the advisory committee.

4. Memoranda of Support:

These are attached.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

John G. Clarkson, M.D.
*Dean Emeritus and
Professor of Ophthalmology*

November 2, 2006

Kimberly Litman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
325 Ashe Administration Building
Coral Gables Campus 4634

Re: Proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight
Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Dear Kim:

Dr. John G. Clarkson, Dean Emeritus and Professor of Ophthalmology, presented the Proposal for the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss to the Academic Deans' Policy Council at its meeting on November 2, 2006. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Council.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,


Betty Dufour
Administrative Assistant

FACSENATE:MCKNIGHT



LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
Post Office Box 016099 (R-699) • Miami, Florida 33101
Location: 1150 N.W. 14th Street, PAC 301 • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-7878 • Fax: 305-243-3244

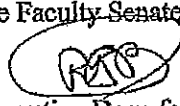
MILLER

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Richard J. Bookman, Ph.D.
Executive Dean for Research and Research Training

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Richard J. Bookman, Ph.D., 
Vice Provost for Research and Executive Dean for Research
& Research Training

DATE: September 1, 2006

RE: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

The awarding of a \$5 million grant from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to establish the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss represents a major achievement by the Miller School of Medicine. This type of philanthropic commitment to our institution is an important vote of confidence and signals to the outside world that the University is an important actor in the field of neuroscience and aging research.

I give my full endorsement to this enterprise and will help any way I can to foster the center's beginnings and growth.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.



LEONARD M. MILLER SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
1600 NW 10th Avenue, RMSB 6056 • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-4487 • Fax: 305-243-3593

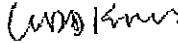


THE MIAMI PROJECT TO CURE PARALYSIS
AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH

W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D.
Scientific Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: W. Dalton Dietrich, Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chairman for Research,
Department of Neurological Surgery;
Scientific Director, The Miami Project to Cure Paralysis 

DATE: September 1, 2006

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

This memo is to express my wholehearted support for the creation of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. This new center will be an outstanding resource in the struggle to find the causes of and better treatments for normal age-related changes of memory and brain function.

The Department of Neurological Surgery will play an important role in this interdisciplinary effort; it is in such settings as this new center that our faculty can best explore emerging research questions with colleagues from other disciplines. The mixing together of diverse perspectives stimulates new insights and lines of attack on difficult medical challenges.

I also happily agree to serve on the center's advisory board. This structured presence will make sure faculty leaders from departments most concerned with the center are involved in an ongoing and systematic way in its management and evaluation.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI


Lois Pope LIFE Center
Post Office Box 016960 (R-48) • Miami, Florida 33101
Location: 1095 NW 14th Terrace • Miami, Florida 33136
305-243-2297 • Fax: 305-243-6017 • www.themiamiproject.org

Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation
CENTER FOR MEDICAL GENETICS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate
Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Center for Medical Genetics

FROM: Louis J. Elsas, M.D., Director



DATE: Tuesday, September 5, 2006

RE: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

This memo is to enthusiastically support the effort to start the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. I endorse this center and request that the Faculty Senate approve its creation. The School of Medicine has made major strides in genetics. The Center for Medical Genetics has a robust and excellent team of researchers whom will interact effectively with the Evelyn McKnight Center. Together we hope to prevent age related memory loss by identifying sensitivity genes and intervening.

As the leader of the Center for Medical Genetics that established with philanthropic effort, I know how important it is for the University to put this type of support in the service of only its highest priorities.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

MILLER
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE


MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Julio Licinio, M.D., Chair
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences

DATE: September 19, 2006

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**



I want to offer my enthusiastic endorsement for the establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss. With its wide array of neurosciences resources, the University of Miami is well suited to host such a center. As our country's population ages, the focus of the center's work will be vitally important; discoveries made there will help people in South Florida and throughout the world.

My department will be a strong member of this team effort. My own research focus on pharmacogenomics gives me a particular interest in seeing to it that the center thrives. I will do all I can to elicit and promote my faculty's participation. Finally, I also look forward to serving on the center's advisory committee.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.





James D. Potter, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor and Chairman

September 7, 2006

Mrs. Kimberly Litman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate
University of Miami
325 Ashe Administration Building
1252 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables, Florida 33146

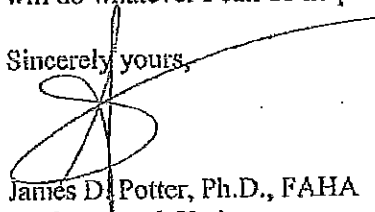
Dear Mrs. Litman,

Re: Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Members of my department and I are very excited at the prospect of working with new and current faculty who will be part of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss, and I give my full endorsement to this enterprise. The new McKnight Center will have a strong Basic Science component, and its presence at the Miller School of Medicine will spark creativity and synergy across the Basic Science and Clinical Departments.

I am very pleased to serve on the Advisory Committee for the McKnight Center, and I will do whatever I can do help the new Center and its Scientific Director.

Sincerely yours,



James D. Potter, Ph.D., FAHA
Professor and Chairman

JDP:el

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

Department of Molecular and Cellular Pharmacology (R-189)
P.O. Box 016189
1600 N.W. 10th Avenue, Room 6085A
Miami, Florida 33101
305-243-5874
Fax: 305-243-6233
E-mail: jdpotter@miami.edu

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kimberly Litman, Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FROM: Pascal Goldschmidt, M.D.
Vice President for Medical Affairs and Dean

DATE:

RE: **Support for Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**

The Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss is precisely the type of interdisciplinary research and treatment effort that I want to build and strengthen across the medical campus. The Center will bring together and highlight major strengths of the Miller School of Medicine in neurosciences, aging, and basic science research. I urge the Faculty Senate to approve its creation.

We are now recruiting a scientific director to lead the center. Given the institutional transitions in my coming onboard, as well as in the leadership of the departments of psychiatry and neurology, the process of launching the center has been slowed. With the assistance of the new chair of psychiatry, Dr. Licinio, and, when one is named, the new chair of neurology, the Evelyn McKnight Center will have the full attention of the leadership of this school and will become an outstanding resource for age-related memory loss.

As you know, the Evelyn F. McKnight Foundation made a \$5 million 1:1 challenge grant to create the center. We are not submitting a pro-forma budget at this time because costs for the center cannot now be meaningfully determined. A preliminary budget will be formalized once a scientific director for the center is recruited and begins to outline his vision.

cc: John G. Clarkson, M.D.

Tracking Sheet

KL

Subject: **Establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss**
Page 1 of 3

History of action taken

DATE	ACTION TAKEN
04-23-03	Noticed a press release from the Office of Communication announcing the creation of this center.
04-23-03	Advised J. Connolly that this center did not go through proper procedures to gain Senate approval.
04-29-03	J. Connolly e-mailed L. Glaser pointing out that the creation of this center without Senate approval is in violation of the Faculty Manual procedures B6.5 and B6.6
05-25-03	New officers met with L. Glaser and determined that this indeed should have come before the Senate and will be instructed to do so.
06-26-03	Asked M. Coombs if O.K. for me to contact Dean Clarkson and give him instructions for submitting proposal to Faculty Senate. She agreed.
06-26-03	Sent Dean Clarkson with a c.c. to M. Robitaille an e-mail indicating that the center needed to be approved by Faculty Senate and gave instructions for doing so. Gave time frame of 8/11 for preparation of GWC agenda.
07-02-03	Received response from M. Robitaille, indicating that she would advise who will be presenting to GWC that it is her office that will be handling this.
07-30-03	Sent a follow-up e-mail to M. Robitaille advising her that I was going on vacation and reminding her that the proposal will need to be submitted to the FS office by 8/11/03.
08-08-03	Received e-mail from Richard Iacino with proposal attached. He asked that I review it and provide feedback. I suggested the following before I send it to M. Coombs for her comments: 1) remove request for fundraising; 2) remove reference to the new Neuroscience Center (per Richard Iacino there is no such center); 3) add a detailed budget; 4) add approval memos. Per Richard Iacino, the proposal that he submitted for my review was referenced above and it was presented when requesting funding. He indicated that per our discussion, he will modify the proposal.
08-11-03(1)	Received a call from Dr. Altman who said that he has just been given the task of creating a proposal for the Center. He asked that I forward him any information. Re: guidelines, and samples of past proposals. I told him that this information was included in my original e-mail to Maggie and Dean Clarkson on 6/26/03 (as logged above). I forward him a copy of that e-mail.
08-11-03(2)	Dr. Altman advised that he was not going to be able to have all of the required material ready in time for deadline. I told him that I could ask M. Coombs if a delay to the

September 10 th meeting would be OK. M. Coombs agreed to the delay. I advised Dr.
Altman (via e-mail) that the proposal will need to be in the Senate office no later than

Tracking Sheet

Subject: Establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss

Page 2 of 3

History of action taken

DATE	ACTION TAKEN
08-11-03(2) Cont.	3:00 p.m. on September 2 nd so that I can be prepared for the Officers meeting that same day at 4:30 p.m.
08-30-03	Dr. Altman e-mailed his proposal to the Faculty Senate and I forwarded to M. Coombs.
09-02-03	M. Coombs e-mailed the Senate office, asking if Dr. Altman had received copy of the guidelines for submitting proposals. She felt that the proposal was very thin.
09-03-03(1)	M. Coombs spoke with Dr. Altman and sent a summary of that conversation to R. Thurer and S. Sapp as follows: "After a conversation with Norm Altman, the current plan is as follows: 1. Norm will present this, in its current state, I September, asking for provisional approval, and explaining why it is not ready for final approval. 2) Norm or his designee will report to the Senate office on a regular basis, on the status of the Center, and it will not go into operation prior to full approval. 3. When a Director is hired and the operation and budget are fleshed out, they will go through the series of approvals as laid out in the guidelines and bring to Faculty Senate. Note that this is an independent center, so the name will be changed slightly to "The University of Miami Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss"
09-03-03(2)	M. Coombs spoke with L. Glaser re: this issue and they agreed that it would be better at this point to present to GWC/Faculty Senate as an information item, with voting to occur later.
09-05-03	Dr. Altman called me to check in GWC agenda time since he will be presenting and verified M. Coombs discussion with L. Glaser that voting will occur later and he will keep the Senate apprised of Center activities as positions are filled and Center becomes active!
09-10-03	Dr. Altman presented proposal to GWC will be brought forward to Senate as recommended from GWC to approve the creation of a center provisionally once we receive notice that School of Medicine faculty has approved and discussed the title since there is name confusion.
09-11-03	I spoke with Norm Altman and reminded him that Faculty Senate approval was needed and that the naming should be reviewed.
09-12-03	Norm Altman advised me via e-mail that the name change issue would not be discussed until a Director is named.
??	N. Altman called and informed me that a Faculty vote had been taken and approved. He said that he would advise the Senate of this approval.

Tracking Sheet

Subject: Establishment of the Evelyn F. McKnight Center for Age-Related Memory Loss Page 3 of 3

History of action taken

DATE	ACTION TAKEN
09-24-03	N. Altman presented proposal to the Faculty Senate. Faculty Senate provisionally approved the establishment with the understanding that it will be brought to the Faculty Senate for final approval or it will lapse.
09-30-03	Legislature sent to the President #2003-06(B)
10-07-03	Received legislature signed and approved by the President 10-01-03 Proposal to be brought back to the Senate within 3 years. Tickler set for 8-2-06
08-04-06	Emailed N. Altman and Dean Goldschmidt ext: 2469 asking for the status of an updated proposal SS was cc'd on this email as well. (Included guidelines for submitting proposals.)
08-05-06	N. Altman replied that he originally handled this at the request of Richard Iacino and he forwarded him (RI) a copy of my email dated 08/04/06.
08-08-06	Dean Goldschmidt (via Maggie) emailed John Clarkson asking for requirements for coming before the senate.
08-09-06	J. Clarkson emailed me asking for requirements. I sent him the link to the guidelines.
08-10-06	J. Clarkson sent me a memo asking for what is required for center to make provisional to full establishment. I sent him my understanding of what was missing and/or needed to be updated and summarized the approval process once we receive the updated proposal. <Note: Name changed from when it was provisional approved.>
09-18-06	Sent Dr. Clarkson email with cc to Betty asking if report would be ready for October meeting or would be better to move to November.
09-20-06	Spoke with Betty and she said that the (MSOM) School Council is not meeting until 10/24/06 so it will not be ready in time for October meeting. We will shoot for November. She is going to work with Liz to get this on the November 2 nd ADPC agenda prior to it coming forward at GWC meeting on 11/15/06.
11/15/06	J. Clarkson presented proposal to the GWC and the GWC approved the proposal with the following amendments: State who appoints the members of the Advisory Committee that are not automatic by position (pg. 4) and similarly state re: the on going evaluation and appt and review of director who appoints the search committee or senior faculty.
11-29-06	J. Clarkson presented proposal to the FS where it was approved unanimously.
12-08-06	Sent legislation to the President # 2006-10. File Closed