

FIU Embrace Takes Shape

February 2017

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FIU Embrace is FIU's response to the needs of the adult *neurodiverse* population in Miami-Dade and beyond. Neurodiverse adults are individuals over 21 yrs of age, with neurodevelopmental conditions including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), intellectual disabilities, and other neurodevelopmental disorders. **FIU Embrace**, in collaboration with a coalition of actively engaged community stakeholders, aims to understand the needs of neurodiverse individuals and their caregivers, develop a strategic plan to address those needs, and most importantly, to implement research-based interventions that produce best practices and policies, bridging the gaps in medical care and support services for this population.

Medical Care

The most immediate need for adults with developmental disabilities is access to integrated, comprehensive medical care. FIU Embrace partners with the [Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine](#), leveraging an array of multidisciplinary practitioners to address commonly identified medical conditions in neurodiverse patients, as well as laboratory and other ancillary services. Centrally located to serve the Miami-Dade community, services, delivered by practitioners uniquely experienced in treating the specific needs of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders, are available at least 20 hours per week. **For more information or to make an appointment, call 305-FIU-DOCS or 305-348-3627.**



Education

FIU's Modesto A. Maidique campus now boasts a state of the art 3,500 square foot facility dedicated to the training and development of adults with developmental disabilities—*The Dan Marino Foundation at FIU*. This FIU Embrace partnership is located in Parking Garage 6 (PG 6), and the facility offers new and unprecedented opportunities to students

with unique abilities. Industry-level certification programs focused on hospitality and technology, as well as career advancement and independence training, are available to students 18 and older who have completed high school. These certification programs prepare students to apply for jobs that leverage their unique talents and create personal independence. Hands-on learning opportunities in working with neurodiverse adults are also available to FIU students.



Legal Services

There is a need for educating adults with developmental disabilities and their caregivers about their rights to necessary services and needed legal protections. The **FIU Embrace Legal Project** addresses these issues by providing direct legal services that protect individual autonomy and access to services. The first **Legal Needs-Assessment Day** was launched in October 2016, in collaboration with FIU College of Law professors and students. More than 60 families received on-the-spot legal counsel or scheduled appointments for more in-depth consultations. Additional events will be scheduled throughout 2017.

Looking Ahead: Research & Design

To meaningfully effect change in the lives of neurodiverse individuals, their families, caregivers and those who provide services, multidisciplinary research must drive and impact policy and transformative services while building evidence-based best practices. In an effort to build on existing research, FIU Embrace is collaborating with faculty from various colleges to begin conducting applied research and has partnered with the [Center for Children and Families \(CCF\)](#) to launch a search for a faculty member dedicated to research on autism spectrum disorder and other neurodevelopmental disorders. To learn more about FIU Embrace and opportunities for research funding and support, visit fiuembrace.fiu.edu or call 305-348-5377 to speak with Nicole Attong, Director, FIU Embrace.

Upcoming Events

February

- Feb 3, 11 to 12 noon, TBD, [*Different Mechanisms for Lesion Bypass by TLS DNA Polymerases*](#), presented by [Wei Wang](#) from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases
- Feb 10, 2 to 3 pm, ECS 241, [*Socially Interactive Robots for Pediatric Therapy*](#), presented by [Ayanna Howard](#)
- Feb 13, 10 to 11:30 am, Naples Botanical Garden, [*Why Plants in Glass Houses Matter—Art and Science of Diatoms, Microscopic Algae*](#)
- Feb 22 – 24, 8 am to 5 pm, Kovens Conference Center, [*Miami International Child and Adolescent Mental Health Conference \(MICAMH\)*](#), hosted by the Center for Children and Families—[registration required](#)

March

- Mar 1, 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, FIU in DC, *Health Disparities Symposium*—more details forthcoming
- Mar 3, 2 to 3 pm, ECS 241, [*Trillion Sensors Technology: Research, Commercialization and Education*](#), presented by [Albert Pisano](#)
- Mar 8, 1 to 3 pm, Naples Botanical Garden, [*Nature's Bounty: Exploring Plants as Food in History, Conservation and Our Future*](#), presented by FIU's Center for Tropical Botany
- Mar 30 & 31, 8:30 am to 5 pm, MARC Pavilion, *19th Annual Biomedical and Comparative Immunology Symposium*, [registration required](#)

April

- April 12, 10 to 11 am, Naples Botanical Garden, [*Eating Plants to Save Them*](#), presented by FIU's Center for Tropical Botany
- April 14, 2 to 3 pm, ECS 241, [*Terahertz Systems-On-Chip Based on Nanotechnologies*](#), presented by [Frank Chang](#)

Awards Received—December 2016

FIU researchers were awarded \$4,870,718 in December 2016. Below is a listing of awards received.

Alexander Agoulnik

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
Human and Molecular Genetics
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Initial

Relaxin receptor agonists in treatment of pulmonary hypertension

\$10,001

Berrin Tansel

College of Engineering and Computing
Civil and Environ Engineering
Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer
Initial

Water Use Efficiency and Leak Detection

\$68,933

Carlos Arturo Espinal Tejada

Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work
Health Promo and Disease Prevention
Novartis Latin America Services Inc.
Initial

Workshop on health access and policies in Latin American and Caribbean countries

\$38,006

Chunlei Wang

College of Engineering and Computing

Mechanical and Mat Engineering

North Carolina State University

Supplemental

Advanced Self-Powered Systems of Integrated Sensor Technologies (ASSIST)

\$60,000

Elizabeth Anderson

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

SEAS

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Found

Initial

Rios Vivos Andinos

\$300,000

Eric Bishop-Von Wettberg

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Biology

University of California Davis

Increase

A reverse-introgression and community genomics strategy

\$107,532

Heather Bracken-Grissom

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Biology

Nova Southeastern University

Increase

DEEPEND: Deep-Pelagic Nekton Dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico

\$207,138

Henry Briceno

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

SERC

Environmental Protection Agency

Initial

Water Quality Monitoring Project

\$450,000

Jacqueline B Sousa

College of Business

COB Deans Office

University of West Florida

Initial

SBDC FIU 2017

\$162,996

Jason Xiaowen Liu

College of Engineering and Computing

Computer Info Sciences

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Increase

Scalable Discrete Event Simulation for Performance Prediction

\$102,001

Jessy Devieux

Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work

Health Promo and Disease Prevention

University of Florida

Initial

Effects of experimentally-induced reductions in alcohol consumption on brain

\$157,953

Joongho Moon

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Chemistry

Korea Evaluation Inst of Industrial Tech

Supplemental

Development of 35% lightweight CCB module for automotive

\$34,200

Karen S Fuller

College of Communication, Architecture + The Arts

Music

Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs

Initial

FIU Music Concert Season 2016-2017

\$45,000

Kevin Boswell

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Biology

Nova Southeastern University

Increase

DEEPEND: Deep-Pelagic Nekton Dynamics of the Gulf of Mexico

\$168,206

Lakhdar Boukerrou

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Inst of Water and Environment

Battelle Memorial Institute

Increase

Environmental Governance Capacity Building Program

\$237,792

Leonel Lagos

Research & Economic Development

ARC Applied Research Center

Office of Environmental Management

Increase

FIU's Research Support to DOE OEM

\$600,000

Madhavan P Nair

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine

Immunology

FIU Foundation

Initial

Zika Virus Research

\$20,654

Miguel A Villalona Calero

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine
 Humanities Health and Society
 FIU Foundation
 Initial
 Baptist Lab Support – Villalona

\$887,100

Nelson Varas-Diaz

Steven J. Green School of International & Public Affairs
 Global and Sociocultural Studies
 National Institutes of Health
 Initial
 HIV/AIDS Stigma Behaviors in Clinical Encounters

\$115,533

Nezih Pala

College of Engineering and Computing
 Elec and Computer Engineering
 North Carolina State University
 Supplemental
 Advanced Self-Powered Systems of Integrated Sensor Technologies (ASSIST)

\$40,000

Niki J Pissinou

College of Engineering and Computing
 Computer Info Sciences
 Air Force Office of Scientific Research
 Increase
 Using Trajectory Sensor Data Stream Cleaning

\$151,304

Norman D Munroe

College of Engineering and Computing
 Mechanical and Mat Engineering
 National Action Council for Minorities
 Increase
 NACME Initiative at Florida International University

\$14,000

Osama A Mohammed

College of Engineering and Computing
 Elec and Computer Engineering
 University of Arkansas
 Initial
 An Interdisciplinary Approach to Integratable, Composable and Evolvable Cybersecurity

\$260,526

Osama A Mohammed

College of Engineering and Computing
 Elec and Computer Engineering
 University of Central Florida
 Initial
 2016-17 FSGC Hybrid Rocket Competition- 2 student teams

\$1,200

Raul Gonzalez Jr

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Psychology

National Institute on Drug Abuse

Increase

The Impact of Cannabis Use on the Neurocognitive Functioning of Individuals with HIV/AIDS \$182,071

Sakhrat Khizroev

College of Engineering and Computing

Elec and Computer Engineering

Neuroscience Centers of Florida Foundation

Initial

High specificity targeting with magnetoelectric nanoparticles to treat \$25,146

Shekhar Bhansali

College of Engineering and Computing

Elec and Computer Engineering

North Carolina State University

Supplemental

Advanced Self-Powered Systems of Integrated Sensor Technologies (ASSIST) \$220,116

Sonja S Montas-Hunter

Student Affairs

Student Access and Success

Florida Department of Education

Initial

FIU CROP 2016-2017 College Reach-Out Program South Florida Consortium \$55,325

Tiffany Troxler

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

SERC

South Florida Water Management District

Increase

Ecological Monitoring of Water and Habitat Quality Associated with the C-111 \$48,000

Todd Crowl

College of Arts, Sciences & Education

SERC

National Science Foundation

Supplemental

CREST: Center for Aquatic Chemistry and the Environment CACE \$99,985

Funding Opportunities

ORED has a new, improved and interactive webpage for funding opportunities. Please visit

<http://research.fiu.edu/funding/#current>.

Limited Submissions

Current limited submission opportunities are available at <http://research.fiu.edu/funding/limited-submissions/>.

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