**FIU Embrace** is FIU’s response to the needs of the adult neurodiverse population in Miami-Dade and beyond. Neurodiverse adults are individuals over 21yrs 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.

**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 Environment 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

For updates, corrections, suggestions, and/or general comments, please email Mercedes.rodriguez@fiu.edu
| **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  
DEEEPEND: 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](http://research.fiu.edu/funding/#current).

**Limited Submissions**
Current limited submission opportunities are available at [http://research.fiu.edu/funding/limited-submissions/](http://research.fiu.edu/funding/limited-submissions/).
# Contact ORED Senior Leadership

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