Florida is the new center for the life sciences in the United States, and Florida Atlantic University’s (FAU) Jupiter Campus is a hub of scientific inquiry, innovation and economic development. With world-renowned scientific neighbors that include The Scripps Research Institute and the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, the time is right for a building that will allow for the expansion of collaborative research in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), specifically the concentrations of neuroscience, biotechnology, bioengineering, bioinformatics/data science, and chemistry.

To capitalize on this convergence of intellectual prowess, the FAU Neuroscience Building will provide a state-of-the-art venue for facilitating inter-institute research opportunities. Under the directorship of Randy Blakely, Ph.D., Executive Director, FAU Brian Institute and Professor of Biomedical Science, this 54,000 square foot research space will add immeasurable depth to Florida’s life sciences core. Within its walls, cutting-edge basic science research will examine the underpinnings of a variety of brain disorders, including autism, Alzheimer’s disease, addiction, and neuroinflammation. It also will create and provide innovative research opportunities for STEM students alongside FAU’s internationally-recognized scientists.
SINCE 2007, THE LIFE SCIENCE INDUSTRY IN PALM BEACH COUNTY HAS RESULTED IN

3,674+ JOBS CREATED

$330M+ IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Achieving success starts with cultivating a pipeline of talented scholars and researchers. Dr. Blakely and a team of funded researchers have already been recruited to seed discovery in the new building. The FAU Neuroscience Building will also provide for increased enrollment of superior students in the fields of neurobiology, bioengineering, bioinformatics, chemistry, computational biology, genetics and engineering.

Job creation is another attractive outcome of this endeavor. Currently, we envision the new facility will allow FAU to house 20 principal investigators/faculty, a similar number of research faculty and postdoctoral students, and approximately 100 high school, undergraduate and graduate students per year, who will each engage in state-of-the-art and technologically advanced research training.

The anticipated increase in funding for research is another reason why the FAU Neuroscience Building is an important piece to the Jupiter campus. With expanded space for collaborative research, there is greater opportunity to capitalize on increased federal funding from entities such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF), along with private entities looking to provide research grants and gifts. Spaces within the building will utilize a centralized lab model that includes smaller research labs, creating clusters for research teams and promoting a collaborative environment.
KEY FEATURES

In A Strategic Plan for the Race to Excellence, 2015-2025, FAU President John Kelly named neuroscience as a pillar that will define the institution’s programs and create knowledge that benefits society. The FAU Neuroscience Building is a key facet in that endeavor.

The first floor will be home to the **Center for Comparative Medicine** which will model and study mechanisms of brain disorders, including Alzheimer’s, autism, addiction and immune dysfunction, and will double the current capacity for behavioral analysis. The Center will support a host of opportunities, including:

- Advanced behavioral research infrastructure
- Non-invasive recording and mapping of brain circuits
- Testing effects of early-stage medications
- Evaluation of impact of genetic and environmental changes on learning and memory, addiction, anxiety and social behavior.

The testing rooms of the Center for Comparative Medicine will allow for synergistic neurobehavioral research and education for undergraduate students, and a comprehensive neuroscience graduate program.

The first floor also features an **Interaction Lobby** that allows for a variety of configurations. From auditorium style to banquets to theater-in-the-round, the lobby will be a choice venue for STEM-related presentations, lectures, meetings and other events.

A key feature on the second floor is the **Center for Cellular Neuroimaging** where the visualization of brain cells will take place. It’s here where super-resolution, dynamic cellular and brain circuit visualization will merge with computational and virtual reality resources to allow researchers to peer deeply into the brain. This space will be enhanced by more than $1 million in already-acquired equipment and will house one of 24 Nikon Centers of Excellence worldwide.

Also slated for the second floor is approximately **4,400 square feet of open lab space** along with ample shared technology and office spaces. The open design will stimulate communication and collaboration, flexibility for future needs, and collaborative use of research resources among researchers.

The Center for Computational Neuroscience will house space for dry lab activity in addition to **supercomputing that examines large data sets from molecules to neural activity**. This, too, will be an active space for high school, undergraduate and graduate students studying computational biology, chemistry and neuroscience.
NAMING OPPORTUNITIES
BUILDING A FACILITY FROM THE GROUND UP PROVIDES MANY OPPORTUNITIES TO LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY.

The Neuroscience Building’s naming opportunities include:

Center for Comparative Medicine $2,000,000
Center for Advanced Cellular Neuroimaging $2,000,000
Center for Computational Neuroscience $2,000,000
Endowed Chair for Brain Institute Executive Director $3,500,000
Endowed Research Chairs (Alzheimer’s, Addiction, Autism) $1,500,000
Interaction Auditorium $1,000,000
Named Research Laboratory (Alzheimer’s, Addiction, Autism) $1,000,000
First Floor Reception and Corridor $500,000
Distinguished Neuroscience Lecture Series $250,000
Board Room / Conference Room $250,000
Outdoor Seating and Gathering Patio $250,000
Visiting Scholars Program for World Class Faculty $150,000
Summer Research Undergraduate Fellowships to Enhance Diversity $100,000

JOIN US.

An exciting neuroscience ecosystem has developed on Florida Atlantic University’s Jupiter Campus, and the FAU Neuroscience Building will usher in a new era of collaboration among the world’s titans of research. The synergy created by bringing together the Max Planck Florida Institute, which studies fundamental aspects of brain structure and function, with FAU and its research on mechanisms perturbed in brain chemistry and physiology that can lead to brain disorders, in conjunction with The Scripps Research Institute’s work on interventional strategies makes for a powerhouse hub of neuroscience discovery. It also fosters a phenomenal opportunity to attract the world’s brightest scientists and students to Palm Beach County.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kerry Kruckel
AVP for Development-FAU Jupiter
(561) 799-8505 // kkruckel@fau.edu

Mary Beth Mudrick
Assoc. Director for Development-FAU Jupiter
(561) 799-8665 // mmudric1@fau.edu

Mary Katherine Morales
Director, Foundation Relations
(561) 297-4253 // msabolmorales@health.fau.edu

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
fau.edu