**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 [fiuembbrace.fiu.edu](http://fiuembbrace.fiu.edu) or call 305-348-5377 to speak with Nicole Atong, Director, FIU Embrace.

**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.
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

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  
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 magnetoelastic 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/.
# Contact ORED Senior Leadership

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