

Harvard Medical School
Department of Psychiatry



McLean Hospital
*115 Mill Street
Belmont, Massachusetts 02478-9106*

JOSEPH T. COYLE, M.D.
Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry
and of Neuroscience

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Brain Institute, and
Professor, Department of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt Colleges of Medicine

November 11, 2020

Dear Randy,

Thank you for the opportunity to review a draft summary of your proposal to form a Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP) at Florida Atlantic University. It looks really terrific! As you know, I have extensive experience with neuroscience graduate education and firmly believe that a multidisciplinary program that engages basic and translational researchers is key to our future progress in combating the devastating brain disorders that plague so many of our citizens. I was part of the creation of the first such program at John Hopkins, now nearly 40 years ago. The program has trained many luminaries in the field, including our first graduate, now Executive Director of the FAU Brain Institute! Since that time,

Neuroscience graduate programs have become a key feature of every top-ranked university in the country. When I was President of the Society for Neuroscience, I had many conversations, then and since, with the leaders of these programs and most are structured much like the one that you propose. Yours reminds me a lot of the highly successful UC San Diego program, with its association with two premier research institutes – yours being Max Planck Florida and Scripps Research in Jupiter, Florida, and theirs being the Salk Institute and Scripps Research in La Jolla, California.

I think it is very important that your program is structured to engage faculty from different colleges and departments in education, research mentorships and governance. Additionally, it is clear that the neuroscientist of today needs to think across levels of analysis so that the results of our research can advance beyond the descriptive and have a more meaningful impact for Society. Someone with your career long immersion in multiple subfields of the discipline, from genetics and molecular neuroscience to the development of therapeutic agents for brain disorders, is just what the program needs. Students need to have role models. Having your example as the NGP Director should pay dividends in program execution and recruitment.

Thanks for allowing me to comment on the proposal. Get going!
Sincerely,

Joseph T. Coyle, MD
Eben S. Draper Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience
Harvard Medical School/McLean Hospital



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

National Institutes of Health
National Institute of Mental Health
35 Convent Drive GE400 MSC 3747
Bethesda, MD 20892

November 11, 2020

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Brain Institute, and
Professor, Department of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt Colleges of Medicine

Dear Randy,

It's always wonderful to hear from you! I am pleased that you reached out to me for input on your draft proposal for a Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP) at FAU. You bring so much experience to this effort, having developed, together with Elaine Sanders-Bush, the highly regarded Vanderbilt Neuroscience Graduate Program when you were the Director of the Vanderbilt Center for Molecular Neuroscience. The program you built there, which I see strong parallels to the FAU NGP, bridges molecular, systems and clinical neuroscience and has churned out extraordinary talent, many of whom now hold positions in academia, the pharmaceutical industry, government and other aligned career paths. The engagement of faculty from multiple colleges and departments is essential for the training of neuroscientists today, something I was proud to champion when I was Chair of the Neurobiology and Co-chair of the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh, and later as President of the Society for Neuroscience, the world's largest organization devoted to neuroscience research, education and public policy. I am very happy again to espouse these values as President-Elect of AAAS.

With respect to your proposal, I was struck by the strong governance structure you have in place and that it draws from faculty from all participating colleges and institutes. Faculty can sometimes see themselves as outsiders in the process; with the careful attention you have given to faculty representation in steering, recruitment and curriculum, you will undoubtedly foster an atmosphere of commitment, fairness and inclusion. There are outstanding scientists and educators at FAU and the NGP will give those interested in neuroscience and its collaborative disciplines many reasons to feel a part of the process. The coursework looks sound and flexible, allowing students significant opportunities to tailor their education to the changing landscape of neuroscience research. Also, we both know that technological advances are key to the success of our field and students, and the investments that FAU has made in neuroscience research infrastructure via the Brain Institute are substantial. The millions of dollars in research resources present at Scripps and Max Planck should provide even greater opportunities for your trainees. Ultimately, success will come down to the strength of the faculty trainers for the program and the mechanisms in place for them to train your students. Your ambition and passion to build a world class Brain Institute that works across departments, colleges and institutes is key to this effort.

Such a program is not only key to your efforts in education, but also for your ability to recruit research-intensive faculty to FAU and high-tech industry to the region. Access to bright, well-trained graduate students is crucial to attracting the best faculty from leading universities where interdisciplinary neuroscience graduate programs have been established for decades.

I have also followed closely your significant work in bridging the academy and the lay communities we ultimately serve. The fantastic "Journey Through the Human Brain" exhibit you helped craft at the South Florida Science Center is but one example of your tireless commitment to outreach. Exhibits of this kind make the mysteries of the brain accessible to all and are opportunities to engage the public and promote brain health for hundreds of thousands of local youth and adults, as well as visitors to the area. Such activities also will provide terrific opportunities for your trainees to practice their speaking and teaching skills and constantly remind them of a broader mission to impact the health of our citizens, so many of whom suffer from brain disorders. I look forward to seeing in person the results of these compelling outreach activities, which I know will serve as a model for neuroscience centers throughout the country.

Thanks again sharing your plans for the FAU NGP in its formative period. It looks truly remarkable and is the critical next step for FAU to advance as a leader in neuroscience education and research.

With all good wishes for the success of this exciting initiative,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan G. Amara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Susan G. Amara, PhD
Scientific Director, Intramural Research Program
National Institute of Mental Health



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Moses V. Chao
Molecular Neurobiology Program
Skirball Institute of Biomolecular Medicine
Department of Cell Biology
Department of Physiology and Neuroscience

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November 12, 2020

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Brain Institute, and
Professor, Department of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt Colleges of Medicine

Dear Randy,

I am very pleased to provide my strongest support for your **Neuroscience Graduate Program** application at FAU. I fondly recall my visit to the Brain Institute a year and a half ago when this proposal was in its early stages. I could clearly see your enthusiasm for the many opportunities for students and faculty inherent in the program and reading over your draft summary, I feel your vision has generated something of truly lasting value for your community, and for many of those in society who suffer from brain disorders.

As you know, I have held many positions in the field of neuroscience, including serving from 2011-2012 as president of the Society for Neuroscience, the nation's largest organization of neuroscience faculty and students. I have also had significant experience training and leading neuroscience educational initiatives, on campus and for the community. It is from that context that I can attest that the program you have generated is quite special. Your engagement of faculty from multiple colleges, departments and institutes is impressive. Clearly, your experience with the generation of the graduate program at Vanderbilt shines through the construction of the program. Also, your prior experience of teaching at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory is invaluable. The engagement with Scripps Florida and Max Planck Institutes adds intellectual and technological depth to the significant resources that FAU has committed to the program. You should be applauded for bringing these institutions together.

On my visit, I was not only impressed of your vision for the Brain Institute and the forthcoming program, but also by your commitment to community education. Public exposure to science is of great benefit to our society. In addition, this is quite an effective and impactful way to deliver training to graduate students,

encouraging them to hone their speaking skills and to tap that youthful creativity that leads to transformative experiences for kids just beginning to think about the paths for their future. The *Journey Through the Human Brain* exhibit your team helped develop at the South Florida Science Center is truly one of a kind. I know you worked hard to bring this to reality, even before you moved to FAU. That effort clearly shows your enthusiasm for community engagement and your ability to work with teams of students and faculty toward a common goal. I look forward to seeing a touring version of the exhibit come to NYC!

Your draft summary regarding the curriculum is meaningful and right on target. Students today need a broad, early training and an opportunity to share that learning experience via Core courses that they take together, followed by a flexible Elective curriculum that can be tailored to the needs of their research. We really cannot predict where the next advances in our field will come from and having this flexibility will ensure that the training of your students can take advantage of these swings in concepts and technologies. What is more, it is clear that you have embedded a substantial amount of time in the research experience itself. Your trainees will have many career choices, between academia, biotech, computational science, artificial intelligence and many other new fields.

The training at FAU will provide self-confidence that comes from probing the unknown and being fearless in tackling problems. Asking questions is key to an appreciation for what makes us human and to develop communication skills. Mentoring will be highly emphasized, which will lead to lasting career success. I suspect that you will recruit students, postdocs, and faculty from the top institutions. Having this program in place will be critical as many expect these kinds of initiatives are from the best universities. The publicity you generate from your integration of multiple institutes will enable the recruitment of top student talent and will increase the visibility of your institution as a center for advanced research and education.

Overall, this is a remarkable and timely program. I give my unequivocal support for your efforts. You bring a lot of energy and experience to the field of neuroscience and your higher administration is deeply committed to its success. I look forward to seeing the products of the program. Send your trainees to my lab!

With best wishes,



Moses V. Chao, PhD
Professor



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Ryohei Yasuda, Ph.D
Scientific Director

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2020 Nov 13th

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University

Dear Randy,

I am writing to provide strong support for your proposal to establish the Ph.D. granting Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP) at FAU. As you know, the leadership, faculty and trainees at the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience have worked in close partnership with FAU for over a decade to establish a world-class ecosystem for neuroscience research and education. It was exciting to see FAU's commitment to neuroscience research and education embodied by your recruitment as Executive Director of the FAU Brain Institute. Like you, I see the effort to establish the NGP as critical step for the growth of neuroscience education at FAU. The broad, cross-college curriculum you make available to these students, their access to the labs and facilities at FAU, Max Planck and Scripps, and the rotation opportunity they have to explore laboratory research options before matching with a mentor will no doubt be very attractive for applicants. I am also pleased that you have developed a path for the more advanced students of the International Max Planck Research School (IMPRS) for Brain and Behavior to join the NGP. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues at FAU to develop unique educational experiences for graduate students that can ensure them a bright future. Although the program looks exceptionally well-constructed, do not hesitate to contact me if I may further support this effort.

All the best,

Ryohei

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryohei Yasuda".

Ryohei Yasuda, PhD
Scientific Director
Head of education committee
Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience



Kirill A. Martemyanov, PhD

Professor and Chair
Department of Neuroscience
130 Scripps Way C347
Jupiter, Florida 33458-5284
Telephone: (561) 228-2770
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E-mail: kirill@scripps.edu

11-13-2020

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University
RE: Letter of support

Dear Randy,

I am pleased to support your proposal for a Neuroscience Graduate Program at FAU. As you know, Scripps Research here in Jupiter, FL has enjoyed a terrific partnership with the faculty and students at FAU since our arrival and the interactions fostered by our neuroscientists is particularly strong, including the co-mentorship of graduate students. Many FAU graduate and postdoctoral trainees already take advantage of our Core Facilities, join lab meetings and publish collaboratively with our faculty and I see these activities growing nicely as you launch your new program. Our annual SYNAPSE Retreat and its associated poster session, conducted in collaboration with the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience, has been quite a success and I am sure that many of the NGP trainees will attend, just as ours have joined your Neuroscience Retreat and outreach activities. All in all, I couldn't be more pleased with the formation of this training program, a feature of all top universities in the country. Please call on me and my faculty once you launch the program. You can count on our continued engagement.

Sincerely,

Kirill Martemyanov

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "Kirill Martemyanov", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.



The Florida State University

Department of Psychology
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Tallahassee, Florida 32306-4301

Lisa A. Eckel, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience
Director, Program in Neuroscience
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850 644-3480

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University
Jupiter, FL 33458

November 29, 2020

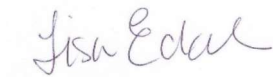
Dear Randy:

I have reviewed your proposal to develop the FAU Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP), a collaborative, multi-college and multi-institute doctoral training program in Neuroscience. As we have discussed, I believe the program is very well thought out. It will provide a broad array of training opportunities in state-of-the-art facilities, a flexible curriculum with an eye on professional development, opportunities to get involved in community outreach events, and ample funding for students. While this new graduate program will share the same CIP Code (26.1501) as our doctoral Program in Neuroscience at FSU, it differs from our program in several ways. Three key differences include (i) the scope of the program, with FAU having a greater number of participating faculty from a wider base of Colleges and Institutes and thus a more complex administration, (ii) the scope of research opportunities, with FAU offering training opportunities in biosensory engineering, machine learning and artificial intelligence, and cognitive robotics, and (iii) the process by which newly admitted students select an advisor/department, with FAU requiring three research rotations during the students' first year. In comparison, FSU offers a somewhat smaller program located on a single campus with the participating departments in very close proximity in adjacent buildings. We promote interdisciplinary basic and applied research into neural processes underlying behavior within five research areas, and we adopt a mentorship model in which entering students begin research in their home lab without delay. Thus, our respective programs will provide complimentary, but not overlapping, training in Neuroscience, and increase the breadth of research opportunities within the state for students who want to pursue graduate training in Neuroscience. The addition of a second doctoral training program in Neuroscience is also likely to increase the number of applicants from outside the state and serve to increase the stature of both of our programs.

As outlined in your proposal, the demand for PhD training programs in Neuroscience is very high and has consistently outpaced demand for training in closely related fields, including Molecular Biology, Biochemistry, and Health Sciences. Any concern about adding a second graduate training program operating under CIP 26.1500 is mitigated by the historical record of FSU's limited-access program, which receives many times the number of qualified applicants than students admitted yearly, as well as clear indicators that FAU will enjoy similar demand as FSU. Thus, the available data suggest there is sufficient interest in Neuroscience at the state level to yield a greater number of applicants than either program can accommodate.

I am very pleased to offer my support of your new graduate training program in Neuroscience, and I look forward to working with you in the future and sharing insights and new initiatives to facilitate training in both of our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Eckel". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Lisa A. Eckel, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience
Director, FSU Program in Neuroscience

November 16, 2020

Randy D. Blakely, PhD
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor, Department of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University (FAU)
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431

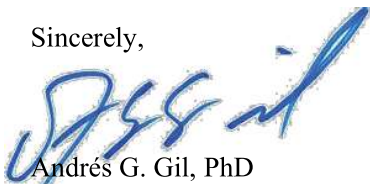
Dear Randy,

I am writing in support of your application for a new Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP) at FAU. I use FIU as an example of the statewide opportunities that exist for employment for those graduating with your planned degree. As you know, FIU is a site of significant research and education in neuroscience, nicely complementing the activities at FAU in this area. Indeed, there are many fruitful collaborations, past and ongoing, that have relied on talent produced by the other. Like FAU, our neuroscientists regularly hire Postdoctoral Research Associates who further develop their skills in preparation for independent careers. Given the depth of their training, I believe our neuroscience faculty will find the FAU NGP graduates as highly competitive candidates for employment as postdoctoral research staff. Some of your graduates may also compete well for adjunct faculty appointments to assist with our undergraduate teaching mission.

One sign of a healthy research enterprise is the presence of postdoctoral fellows in training, as this denotes a funded research base significant enough to support them. Hiring these graduates can in turn accelerate research given the specialized research training they will have received as graduate students. Both FIU and FAU have seen their research enterprises expand significantly in the past 5 years and our needs for PhD-trained associates, like yours, are growing rapidly. In addition to FIU, significant postdoctoral opportunities in neuroscience also exist at the University of Miami, University of Central Florida, the University of Florida and Florida State University. Moreover, these graduates will also identify many out-of-state sites for employment. I am sure your trainees will obtain excellent positions following graduate school.

I look forward to meeting your team at the Brain Institute and discussing how our two universities can further grow our research and educational collaborations. Best wishes with the new application.

Sincerely,



Andrés G. Gil, PhD
Vice President for Research & Economic Development
Dean, University Graduate School



Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences
& Department of Psychology
Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

Gary W. Perry, PhD
Behavioral Science (BS 12); Room 309
Email: perryg@fau.edu

MEMORANDUM

To: William Kalies, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science

From: Gary W. Perry, Director, Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences

Cc: Teresa Wilcox, Interim Dean, Charles E. Schmidt College of Science
Randy Blakely, Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Robin Vallacher, Interim Chair, Department of Psychology
Sarah Milton, Chair, Department of Biological Sciences

Date: January 29th, 2021

Re: Neuroscience PhD proposal

Dear Bill,

Following extensive discussions over the past 18 months, the faculty of the Center for Complex Systems and Brain Sciences has voted to support the proposal to create a new PhD program in Neuroscience at Florida Atlantic University.

The faculty look forward to actively participating in the success of this new PhD program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. W. Perry', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Gary W. Perry, PhD
Professor of Neuroscience & Director



PALM BEACH STATE
COLLEGE

ASSOCIATE DEAN,
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

3160 PGA BLVD, SC160
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

561.207-5416 Office
561-207-5415 Assistant

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University

November 10, 2020

Dear Dr. Blakely,

I am writing in support of creation of the Neuroscience Graduate Program (NGP) at Florida Atlantic University.

As Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, of STEM and Health Sciences at Palm Beach State College's Palm Beach Gardens Campus, I supervise our Biological and Physical Sciences Departments, as well as the Biotechnology Program, among others. Our College registers over 42,000 students (our campus over 10,000) and a significant number pursue STEM degrees, including professional (pre-medical, pre-dental) and allied health careers (Nursing, Respiratory Therapy, Ophthalmic, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, and Radiography Technician, the latter with advanced training in CT and MRI). These disciplines are in constant need of knowledgeable adjunct and full-time faculty able to provide high-quality instruction to our students. Specifically, PBSC is continuously looking for recent graduates in the hard sciences, particularly those with a doctoral degree, a history of teaching experience, and diverse backgrounds. We would look favorably upon applicants with a PhD. over a Master's degree for the additional training, knowledge, rigor, and experience (both classroom and research) that the doctoral degree encompasses. This experience can only serve to benefit PBSC students.

I welcome an opportunity to have your NPG graduates apply for teaching positions at PBSC.

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information regarding our programs. I look forward to the success of the program!

Sincerely,

Becky A. Mercer

Becky A. Mercer, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs
Palm Beach Gardens Campus
Palm Beach State College
mercerb@palmbeachstate.edu



November 12, 2020

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University

Dear Randy,

It was delightful meeting you a few weeks ago and learning of the exciting programs you have underway at the FAU Brain Institute, including your new proposal for a Neuroscience PhD program. Having held leadership positions at the University of Iowa prior to my arrival at Palm Beach Atlantic University, including the creation of the cross-campus Iowa Neuroscience Institute, I well know the impact of interdisciplinary research and education in neuroscience and think your program can have a transformative impact on neuroscience training that will lead to highly employable graduates. In particular, I am sure the academic leaders at Palm Beach Atlantic University would be quite excited to consider graduates of your program for postdoctoral, staff and faculty positions as we grow our academic enterprise. In contrast to most Master's degree level graduates, those who graduate with PhDs have had an experience of pursuing research projects of significant complexity with a variety of approaches over the course of a number of years, gaining maturity and independence. Additionally, programs such as yours, which feature significant opportunities to teach undergraduates, and speak to scientific and lay communities regarding their research, will have well-honed skills that should make them excellent communicators; this is a key skill we look for in hiring our faculty.

I look forward to the launch of your program and hope you will call on me and my faculty should we be able to assist you and your students in this marvelous pursuit. Best wishes.

Warm regards,

Debra A. Schwinn, MD
President
& *Professor of Health Sciences*
Palm Beach Atlantic University

Emeritus Professor, Dean Carver College of Medicine & Associate VP for Medical Affairs
University of Iowa



**Scripps
Research**



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Executive Vice President, Florida
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November 16, 2020

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University

Dear Randy,

Thanks for apprising me of your proposal for a new Neuroscience Ph.D. program at FAU. This sounds like a timely and important development in the growth of FAU in general, and with the growing FAU neuroscience presence in Jupiter, one that can promote further growth and collaborations between FAU and Scripps Research. You have requested that I specifically comment on the employability of the graduates from this program and I am happy to do so. Every year, research-intensive faculty in all disciplines hire Ph.D. graduates who continue their training, both accelerating the mentor's research programs and providing essential training that can lead to an independent career trajectory. Scripps Research is no exception to this. Annually, we hire hundreds of postdoctoral fellows across our Jupiter and La Jolla sites, many of whom go on to become top researchers in their field. Here in Jupiter, we have an outstanding Neuroscience department with many postdoctoral fellows present in the labs of each faculty member. In the past, we have been delighted to host postdoctoral fellows who have pursued their graduate studies at FAU, one of whom, Dr. Melissa Borgen, recently departed to take a faculty position at the Florida Institute of Technology. I am sure this pattern will accelerate in the future with the initiation of your program. Your students will have an advantage over others in competing for these positions as they will have many opportunities to interact and collaborate with our neuroscience faculty during their dissertation studies, raising their profile with our faculty. Many already engage in joint lab meetings and co-publish with our faculty. In summary, we welcome the creation of the new program and look forward to working with the talent you recruit to it, during and after their graduation.

Sincerely,

Doug Bingham, Executive Vice President
Scripps Research Institute, FL Campus



Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University

Jupiter, November 15, 2020

Dear Randy,

I am pleased to learn of your application for a Neuroscience Ph.D. program at Florida Atlantic University. We have trained a number of highly productive graduate students from FAU and know that your program will continue to pursue excellence in neuroscience at the doctoral level and bring additional visibility to FAU and the FAU-MPFI partnership. I am writing to acknowledge that trainees from your program should be of significant interest to our faculty when they finish their Ph.D.s and seek postdoctoral opportunities. As you know, MPFI currently hosts 10 research labs where postdoctoral fellows and research staff make key contributions to their research programs. Graduates with doctoral degrees from FAU have in the past filled a number of these positions, and with regular turnover of these fellows as they move on to other positions, or with the comings and goings of faculty, there is a continual need for Ph.D. level talent. I know that with your significant history in graduate training at Vanderbilt, you will establish a very successful program at FAU, preceded by the well-run GNTP program that has led to a number of graduate students pursuing their thesis work at MPFI.

Best of luck with your application!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Haury", with a red flourish underneath.

Matthias Haury, PhD
Chief Operating Officer
Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience

November 16, 2020

Randy D. Blakely, Ph.D.
Executive Director, FAU Brain Institute
Professor of Biomedical Science
Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine
Florida Atlantic University
Jupiter, FL 33458

Dear Randy,

It was very nice having you down last year for a seminar at the College of Pharmacy and discussing the many aspects of program building in an academic environment. Your Neuroscience Graduate Program sounds quite impressive and, based on your efforts in building the Neuroscience Graduate Program before coming to FAU and your commitment to research and education, I am sure it will be a success.

You have asked me to comment on whether your program's graduates would be one that would be competitive for postdoctoral positions in the College of Pharmacy, or more broadly in the labs of bioscientists at Nova Southeastern University (NSU). The answer is a resounding yes! Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows are the lifeblood of a modern biomedical research enterprise, and aspiring postdocs with the didactic and research training that your graduate program provides should be highly sought after upon graduation. The integration of multiple colleges, from Science to Medicine to Engineering, and the deep, technologically rich experience your students will obtain, is particularly appealing to me as we cannot well guess where the next breakthroughs in diagnosis and treatment of brain disorders will come from. Further, the ability of your students to work across traditional boundaries and utilize the latest in research tools be key to future advances. I know we agree that the questions being posed in today's research labs are far more complex than when we were aspiring young scientists. Programs that foster independence, creativity, and a mature understanding of both challenges and opportunities give the best chance of success. It is that "eyes wide open" approach to career-long learning that we all desire in our postdocs so that they can act as leaders in their own right. Your program seems designed to accomplish this. When our faculty hire postdocs, I would expect that they would pay attention to when they see an application from your program.

I hope we get the chance to get together again soon. Please let me know how I might help in any other way with your application. Best of luck!

Sincerely,



Peter M. Gannett
Professor and Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Education