

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
25TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

CO-CHAIR,
DEMOCRATIC STEERING & POLICY
COMMITTEE

DEMOCRATIC DEAN & CO-CHAIR,
FLORIDA DELEGATION



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED
AGENCIES
RANKING MEMBER

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE
WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 10, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the NeuroInnovate Center in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Florida Atlantic University (FAU), located at 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431.

The funding would be used for FAU to purchase and install the focused ultrasound technology in its NeuroInnovate Center, which is a Center for Advanced Research and Treatment of Brain Disorders. The Center will house magnetic resonance guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS) technology, which is utilized to improve drug delivery to the brains of patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease, brain cancers, addiction, and other related chronic diseases. FAU, in collaboration with Delray Medical Center, is currently using MRgFUS technology to treat Alzheimer's disease patients, and plans to collaborate with the West Palm Beach VA Hospital to provide access to veterans for this care.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because delivery of drugs to the brain is usually highly inefficient due to the blood-brain barrier (BBB). MRgFUS technology allows for selective and reversible opening of the BBB to enhance drug delivery. MRgFUS represents a breakthrough approach for treatment of a variety of brain disorders. Brain disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease and addiction, are unfortunately prominent in Florida, and disproportionately impact veterans. Initial studies with a limited patient population have shown MRgFUS technology to greatly improve drug delivery and clinical outcomes for (a) Alzheimer's disease patients treated with aducanumab and (b) breast cancer patients with metastasis to the brain treated with trastuzumab.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by NIST's mission and aligned with one or more of the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Wasserman Schultz".

Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress

WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ.HOUSE.GOV

270 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0923
(202) 225-7931

2600 HOLLYWOOD BLVD.
HOLLYWOOD, FL 35020
(954) 845-1179

777 SAWGRASS CORPORATE PARKWAY
SUNRISE, FL 33325
(954) 845-1179