



Leader of FAU Brain Institute Gives First Talk on Boca Campus

Boca Raton, Fla. (March 17, 2016) – Last Thursday, faculty, students and staff gathered in the Alumni Great Hall to hear Randy Blakely, Ph.D., FAU BRAIN institute director and professor of biomedical science at the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine, give his first lecture on the Boca Raton campus about his research on the molecular and genetic characteristics of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The talk included a reception beforehand; and for those on remote campuses and who couldn't attend, it was also available to live stream online.



Blakely outlined several of his research projects geared at understanding the role of the presynaptic dopamine transporter, a protein that is responsible for removing the neurotransmitter, dopamine, from the synapse, in ADHD pathology. Commonly prescribed ADHD medications act on this transporter.

His research has included genetic screening in humans, observations in vitro, and the development of a novel animal model for the disorder. Next, his group is beginning to search for biomarkers to aid physicians in diagnosing the ADHD in patients. He emphasized that while the disorder is likely caused by interactions between a variety of genetic and molecular factors, researchers and physicians have a lot to gain by understanding the behavior of the presynaptic dopamine transporter.

Blakely is expected to arrive on campus early in May to start in his new role. He's coming from Vanderbilt University where he's serving as the Director of the Vanderbilt/NIMH Silvio O. Conte Center for Neuroscience Research.

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