

Experts on Neurodegenerative Diseases Bring a Wealth of Knowledge to the Team



Dr. Patricia Izbicki



Dr. Julie G. Pilitsis



Dr. Jennifer R. Buczyner



Dr. Randy D. Blakely



Dr. Juyoung Park

The **Mind, Music and Movement Foundation** for Neurological Disorders (M3F) announced the addition of five esteemed members to its Board of Directors and medical and research advisory committees. **Dr. Patricia Izbicki** has joined the Board of Directors; **Dr. Julie G. Pilitsis** and **Dr. Jennifer R. Buczyner** have joined the Medical Advisory Committee; **Dr. Randy D. Blakely** and **Dr. Juyoung Park** have joined the Research Advisory Committee.

“We are honored and excited to share this announcement of our newest Board and Advisory Board members,” said **Beth Elgort**, CSW, Founder and CEO of M3F. “These five individuals bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the field of neuroscience, specifically neurodegenerative disease, to our board and advisory committees. With their guidance, M3F will continue to help people and their families living with a neurodegenerative disease.”

Patricia Izbicki, Ph.D., Jupiter, is an Affiliate Assistant Professor of Medical Education for Florida Atlantic University’s Population Health & Social Medicine department. She is also a neuroscientist and medical science liaison for Octave in the therapeutic area of multiple sclerosis. Dr. Izbicki’s line of research focuses on understanding the brain mechanisms of complementary therapies, such as music training, in aging adults and persons with Parkinson’s disease.

M3F’s Medical Advisory Committee plays an integral part in linking medicine to alternative therapies that can help guide and develop M3F programming to serve the needs of the community to delay the progression of neurodegenerative diseases.

Julie Pilitsis, MD, Ph.D., MBA, Boca Raton, is Dean of the Charles E. Schmidt College of

Medicine and Vice President for Medical Affairs at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). In her role as dean, she oversees the college’s innovative medical student and graduate medical education programs in partnership with a consortium of five regional hospitals. She serves as specialty editor of *Neuromodulatory Interventions for Frontiers in Pain Research*, is section editor of functional neurosurgery in *Operative Neurosurgery*, is on the editorial board of *Neuromodulation and Journal of Neurosurgery* and sits on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panels.

Jennifer R. Buczyner, MD, Jupiter, has also joined M3F’s Medical Advisory Committee. She has built an innovative patient-driven care neurology practice. Dr. Buczyner diagnoses and treats a wide variety of neurological conditions and has subspecialty training and a special interest in neurophysiology and neuromuscular disorders including migraine headache, neuropathy, nerve and muscle disorders such as ALS and myasthenia gravis, seizures, strokes, tremor, Parkinson’s disease, dementia, and multiple sclerosis.

M3F’s Research Advisory Committee educates the Foundation with the latest research related to neurodegenerative diseases to help support the mission of the Mind, Music and Movement Foundation.

Randy D. Blakely, PhD, Palm Beach Gardens, Executive Director of FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute and Professor of Biomedical Science has joined M3F’s Research Advisory Committee. He received his B.A. in Philosophy summa cum laude from Emory University, followed by a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where he pursued studies of brain peptides with Dr. Joseph T. Coyle. Following his graduate work,

Dr. Blakely pursued postdoctoral training at the Yale/HHMI Center for Molecular Neuroscience with Dr. Susan Amara, research that identified the genes encoding targets of widely used antidepressant medications and psychostimulants, including cocaine and amphetamines. In 2021, Blakely was awarded the David J.S. Nicholson Distinguished Professorship in Neuroscience at Florida Atlantic University.

Juyoung Park, PhD, MSW, Boca Raton, is a professor and Chair of the Healthy Aging Academy in the Phyllis and Harvey Sandler School of Social Work at Florida Atlantic University. She has also joined M3F’s Research Advisory Committee. Her research focuses on nonpharmacological pain management for older adults with chronic conditions and she has conducted mind-body interventions for managing chronic pain, functional limitations and psychosocial symptoms in older adults.

M3F is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that supports comprehensive integrative programming that addresses movement, mobility, balance, speech, nutrition and mental well-being for people and their families living with a neurodegenerative disease. The main objective of the foundation is to instill hope, confidence, strength, wellness, friendship and commitment in class participants and their families. The foundation’s team is a passionate group of health and fitness professionals that is an integral part of the M3F family. M3F programming is available in person and virtually. They offer classes in two locations: Palm Beach Gardens at Tropical Sands Christian Church on Mondays and Wednesdays and Jupiter at the FAU Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute on Thursdays and Saturdays.

For more information on Mind, Music and Movement Foundation for Neurological Disorders’ ongoing programming visit www.m3f.org, call 561.510.8611 or email info@m3f.org.