

Establishment of the Douglas K. Anderson Facial Pain Research Program

In 2004 Dr. Albert Rhoton Jr. and Dr. Michael Pasternak, President of the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association (TNA) asked Dr. Doug Anderson, the Acting Director of the McKnight Brain Institute and Chairman of the UF Department of Neuroscience the question, "What research is necessary to cure trigeminal neuralgia and related neuropathic pain?"

Shortly after, Dr. Anderson presented his answer at the TNA National Conference and included the use of stem cells, differential gene expression, and gene therapy approaches to find the cures. This question and the need to find the cures prompted the formation of the Facial Pain Research Foundation with Dr. Anderson becoming a Trustee and Director of all of its research programs.

Since 2012 The Facial Pain Research Foundation (FPRF) has raised over \$4 million to fund six distinct research programs and aided in creating two venture capitalized research corporations. The \$4 million served in a multiplier capacity resulting in over \$30 million in venture capital, NIH, or other foundation fundings for research to find the cures for trigeminal neuralgia and related neuropathic pain. These include projects using stem cell replacement therapy, investigating peripheral nerve myelin, mapping signatures of pain in the brain, targeting pain with gene therapy, delivering compounds that can eliminate pain, and discovering genes related to trigeminal neuralgia and related neuropathic pain.

The University of Florida and the McKnight Brain Institute has received over \$1.7 million from the FPRF to fund three distinct research projects and participate in two more with plans to continue to receive funding from the Foundation for additional research toward ending neuropathic pain in the future. Researchers from UF's Neuroscience, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Engineering, and Dentistry programs are part of this FPRF scientist team. Dr.'s Ahn, Caudle, Ding, Febo, Golde, Levites, Neubert, and Notterpek have participated in this FPRF research along with numerous postdocs, technicians and student researchers.

From 2011 to present Dr. Doug Anderson has directed all of the Facial Pain Research Foundation's international consortium of scientists. Countries included are Israel, the UK, Canada, and centers located in eight states in the USA.

As a result of Dr. Anderson's leadership in the field of scientific research, The UF McKnight Brain Institute and The Facial Pain Research Foundation wish to establish The Douglas K. Anderson Facial Pain Research Program to fund future research to find cures for trigeminal neuralgia and neuropathic pain. We are honored to have experienced Dr. Anderson's leadership in the field of scientific research. We also feel lucky to know someone as inspiring as Doug Anderson.