Science AMA Series: I’m Michael S. Okun, M.D., chair of the University of Florida department of neurology and medical director of the Parkinson’s Foundation. I wrote a book “Parkinson's Treatment: 10 Secrets to a Happier Life” AMA!

MICHAEL_OKUN R/SCIENCE

Hello Reddit, I’m Michael S. Okun. I received my M.D. from the University of Florida and was also trained at Emory University, one of the world’s leading centers for movement disorders research. I am currently chairman of neurology, professor and co-director of the Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration at the University of Florida College of Medicine. The center, which is part of the Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases and the McKnight Brain Institute, is unique in that it is comprised of 40+ interdisciplinary faculty members from diverse areas of campus, all of whom are dedicated to care, outreach, education and research. I helped construct a one-stop, patient-centered clinical-research experience for national and international patients seen at the University of Florida.

In 2015, I was recognized at the White House for being a Champion of Change for Parkinson’s Disease. I serve as national medical director for the Parkinson’s Foundation and have been supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Smallwood Foundation, the Tourette Syndrome Association, the Parkinson Alliance, the Bachmann-Strauss Foundation, the Parkinson’s Foundation and the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

During my research career, I have explored non-motor basal ganglia brain features and I currently hold two NIH R01 grants on deep brain stimulation. I’ve been an integral part of pioneering studies exploring the cognitive, behavioral and mood effects of brain stimulation.

I hold the Adelaide Lackner Professorship in Neurology and have published over 350 peer-reviewed articles. I'm a poet ("Lessons From the Bedside," 1995) and my book “Parkinson's Treatment: 10 Secrets to a Happier Life” was translated into over 20 languages. My latest book, "Tourette Syndrome: 10 Secrets to a Happier Life" was recently published.

I'll be answering your questions about Parkinson’s disease and other movement disorders at 1 p.m. EST. Ask me anything!
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The AMA is still in progress

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