

COMMUNITY GATHERS AT 24TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CONFERENCE



Countdown to 2025: Progress on Ending Alzheimer's Disease

On Friday, September 20, 2013, over 500 researchers, health care professionals, and members of the community gathered at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa for the 24th Annual Southern California Alzheimer's Disease Research Conference, "Countdown to 2025: Progress on Ending Alzheimer's Disease."

Hosted by the UCI Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders (UCI MIND) and the Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter, the conference convened nationally and internationally recognized experts to address the progress our nation is making in the fight against Alzheimer's disease.

America's first National Plan to address Alzheimer's Disease sets forth the goal of effectively preventing and treating this progressive neurodegenerative disorder by 2025. In the U.S., over 5.4 million people are living with Alzheimer's disease and a new case is diagnosed every 68 seconds. Unless significant progress is made, at least 13.8 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease by 2050, with a new case diagnosed every 33 seconds.

This year's keynote speaker, Dr. Ron Petersen of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center opened the morning session with an overview of the National Plan to address Alzheimer's disease followed by an engaging question and answer period. Physicians, healthcare professionals,



and families in attendance learned new ways scientists and clinicians are approaching the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer's disease. From new nomenclature for cognitive disorders introduced in the recently released Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-V) and the application of amyloid imaging biomarkers to pioneering research investigating stem cell therapy and the first Alzheimer's prevention trial, this conference presented the advances critical to achieving our national goal.

Therapeutic approaches highlighted during the conference included (1) reducing production, limiting aggregation and/or increasing removal of amyloid, (2) controlling inflammation, and (3) stem cell therapies. Scientists believe application of new therapies pre-clinically is essential to effectively preventing Alzheimer's disease. Presented at the conference, the first Alzheimer's prevention trial is testing the ability of three drugs to halt the emergence of the disease in healthy individuals with genetic mutations that place them at high risk for developing early-onset Alzheimer's.

While pharmacological approaches to prevention are under study, lifestyle strategies currently represent the most effective way to reduce risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. Physicians, allied healthcare professionals and families will be empowered to promote and adopt lifestyle strategies to maintain brain health based on The 90+ Study. Finally, attendees had the opportunity to learn about the variety of community resources available to help manage the care of a loved one with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia through an exhibitor fair that showcased over 45 organizations from Orange County. A diverse mix of non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses presented products and services prior to the conference session as well as during breaks and lunch.

With the success of this year's conference, plans for the 25th Anniversary Conference are underway. Check for updates at:

www.mind.uci.edu

From the Director...

Frank LaFerla, Ph.D.

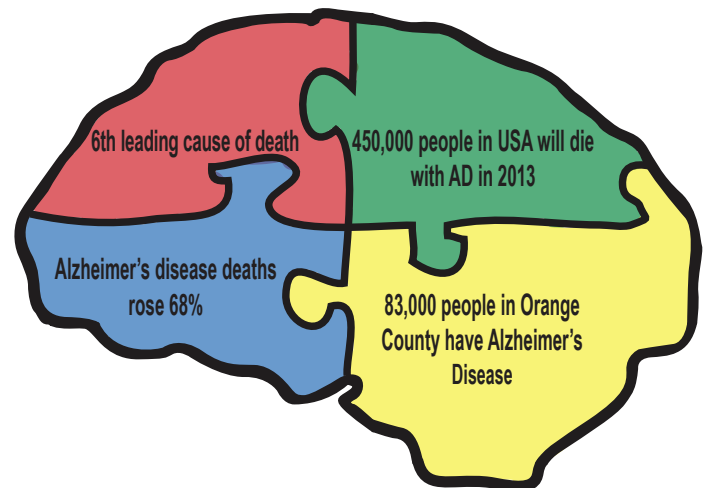


Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. In 1998, it was the 12th leading cause of death, and sadly rose to sixth place in 2007. This marked increase is due to the fact that between 2000 and 2010, deaths caused by Alzheimer's disease rose by 68%, far outpacing deaths due to other causes including kidney disease, suicide, and cancer. According to the Alzheimer's Association, approximately 450,000 Americans will die with Alzheimer's disease in 2013.

The table below shows the leading causes of death in the United States according to the Center for Disease Control.

Leading Causes of Death in the USA ¹	
1. Heart disease	6. Alzheimer's disease
2. Cancer	7. Diabetes
3. Respiratory diseases	8. Kidney Disease
4. Stroke	9. Influenza and pneumonia
5. Accidents	10. Suicide

In March, 2013, at the International Alzheimer's/Parkinson's Disease Conference in Florence Italy, researchers announced the 103rd clinical trial failure for Alzheimer's disease. Although this is not great news, it should reinforce the idea that we need more science not less. More science means that government and private individuals need to provide greater financial support to ensure that Alzheimer's disease becomes a memory. Too many lives are devastated by this horrible disease, and it is clear that we will never find a prevention, treatment or cure unless we engage more people in the fight.



Hoyert, D. L., and Xu, J. (2012). Deaths: Preliminary Data for 2011. CDC National Vital Statistics Reports 61(6).

UCI MIND AWARD



Linda and Burton Young were the recipients of the UCI MIND Award on June 22, 2013. This award represents the highest honor bestowed by UCI MIND, and is presented on an annual basis to those who contribute significantly to the mission of the Institute. The Youngs were active co-chairs for the annual Time of Your Life fundraiser. Linda has helped shape our past four fundraising events and Burton has joined her as one of our most dedicated advocates, hosting educational events for us in their home and reaching out to others about the mission of UCI MIND. They have given generously of their time and treasure.

Past recipients of the UCI MIND Award are: Dr. Malcolm Dick, Dr. Jacqueline DuPont and Tom Tierney, Trustee of the University.

2013

Time of your life

Holiday thoughts were in the minds of the 500 guests who enjoyed UCI MIND's fourth fundraising event on June 22, 2013. The Hangar at the Orange County Fairgrounds was transformed into a "Toast to the Holidays – Then and Now" themed event.

The memorable affair gave guests the opportunity to travel through time to celebrate cherished memories of holidays past, with video, lighting and staged entertainment experiences of Valentine's Day, Halloween and Thanksgiving, Winter Holidays at The Lodge, and a New Year's Eve Countdown in the Big Apple. Elite OC Productions partnered with UCI MIND to create the vibrant visual experiences showcased at the event.

The five co-chair couples who led the event were each touched personally by Alzheimer's in their own families. Dana and Tom Chou, Alice and Sean Cowell, Dr. Jacqueline DuPont and Marc Carlson, Rosemary and Rand Sperry, and Linda and Burton Young, provided underwriting support for research. Linda and Burton Young were presented the UCI MIND Award for their work with the Institute over the years. The Binnie Beaumont family was honored, with Beaumont's daughter Alison Hahn praising UCI MIND for the help her mother, Binnie, has received on her journey with Alzheimer's disease.

All of the nearly \$100,000 raised from this event will be used to support the efforts to battle Alzheimer's disease through the efforts of scientists at UCI MIND and their cutting-edge research focusing on finding a cure.

Dr. Frank LaFerla, Director of UCI MIND said, "We are, in reality, only our memories—we are, at the end, only what we can remember. Alzheimer's disease robs us of our memories and much more. At UCI MIND, we are researching ways to make your memories last a lifetime."

Time of your life Co-Chairs

Dr. Jacqueline DuPont and Marc Carlson
Dana and Tom Chou

Linda and Burton Young

Alice and Sean Cowell
Rosemary and Rand Sperry

Time of your life Volunteers

Tara Ackley
Collett Aguirre
Erwin and Kate Allado
Kathy Belmont
Maria Corrada
Robin Dier
Jaime DeMoss
Taylor Dunluevie
Mary Ehrlich
Michelle Fong
Kelly Francia
Stephanie Gavadi
Dana Greenia
Alison Hahn
Krista Hauk

Montez Hester
Dan Hoang
Danica Kassebaum
Maria Kauten
Peter Knaup
Gabi LaChapelle
Sandy Lassiter
Jessica Liu
Nancy Locke
Kristine Macabitas
Melodee Miller
Heba Mina
Angela Monroe
Chelly Moore
Judy Nicholls
OMICS Live Interns

Angela Rodriguez
Gary Roman
Ed Schrum
Shirley Sirivong
Zachary Staben
Jacque Stuard
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Andrew Tran
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Beatriz Yanez
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Thank you to our Food and Beverage Sponsors

Valentines's Day
 Chef Jackie, Villagio at Capriana Chocolate Truffles
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 Cake Pops

Thanksgiving Day
 Chef David Seaton, Atria at Woodbridge
 Fall's Savory Pies
 Chef Jackie, Villagio at Capriana
 Falls Dessert Pies

Holidays at the Lodge
 Chef Maria Torres, Meridian Senior Living, The Gardens Selection of Fine Cheeses and Crackers
 Chef Andrew Villarreal, Crown Cove Senior Living Selection of Fine Cheeses and Crackers

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 Frank and Susan Kavanaugh
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A YEAR'S WORTH OF HOLIDAYS IN ONE NIGHT



1) Ready to celebrate New Year's Eve, Emily Loftiss and Jay Carlington (R) encourage guests of Time of Your Life. 2) Binnie Beaumont, seated, with daughter, Alison Hahn. Standing, Catherine Beaumont with husband, David, and daughters Siena and Melia. 3) Our own Rockettes for the Holidays. 4) New Year's Eve.....in June! 5) Tracey and Anthony DiGiorgio in a Valentine's Mood. 6) Karyn Salman representing Wells Fargo. 7) Co-Chairs Tom and Dana Chou with Dr. Frank LaFerla. 8) Drs. Charles Pick and Rosalyn Laudati. 9) Dr. Frank LaFerla with Co-Chairs Dr. Jacqueline DuPont and Marc Carlson.



UCI MIND Director, Dr. Frank LaFerla, flanked by an impressive group of faculty and researchers from UCI MIND.

UCI MIND MATTERS CLUB

Are you eager to learn more about recent discoveries in Alzheimer's disease research at UCI MIND and elsewhere? Are you interested in meeting experts in the field of cognitive fitness? Are you interested in joining others who are committed to helping expand our understanding of Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders through research, education and service to the community?

You are invited to join the MIND Matters Club.

The MIND Matters Club members are committed to helping UCI MIND expand understanding of Alzheimer's while promoting their own cognitive health with such activities as quarterly news briefs, private receptions featuring noted experts and, if desired, a confidential annual memory screening and personalized brain health consultation, including a review of risk factors. Learn more about the benefits of membership in this donor support group for research at UCI MIND.

Call Linda Scheck, Director of Development and Donor Stewardship, 949-824-3251, for information about this and other opportunities to stay connected with UCI MIND. Thank you!



MEET THE TISSUE REPOSITORY COORDINATOR

Alex Rajic began working at UCI MIND in January of 2013. As the Tissue Repository Coordinator, he collaborates with researchers at UC Irvine and other academic institutions in order to allocate donated tissue samples for a wide range of innovative studies.

Alex Rajic graduated from UC Irvine in 2006 with a degree in cultural anthropology. While preparing to apply for a graduate program in anthropology, he began working as a long-term substitute teacher in Simi Valley, California teaching biology and chemistry. Discovering his passion for science and teaching, he went on to earn his California teaching credential at Chapman University.

During his student teaching, Alex worked to redesign biology curriculum to emphasize student literacy, medical topics and emerging biotechnologies. He also created his own biological and anatomical models to aid students' understanding of complex biological processes. After completing his credential program, he decided to enter Chapman University's Pre-Health Post-Baccalaureate Program in order to strengthen his own background in biology. In 2012, he completed his Pre-Health Program and began teaching general biology and molecular genetics laboratory courses at Chapman University. During this time, he also worked in a biochemistry lab where he helped develop new ways to simulate protein dynamics through computational modeling. These computer simulations demonstrated how small mutations lead to changes in protein structure and function. Both his coursework and teaching experiences paved the way towards his interest in medical research and Alzheimer's disease.

Alex is also an avid artist and illustrator. He has worked as a professional illustrator intermittently since 2002 and published an illustrated alphabet book in 2010. In his free time, he often sculpts and paints portraits in acrylic and oil paint.

