



A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER GALA HONOREE, MARIA SHRIVER



UCI MIND is pleased to announce A December to Remember gala honoree, Maria Shriver! Ms. Shriver, founder of the Women's Alzheimer's Movement, is a singular voice with 14 years of boots-on-the-ground activism, journalism, and advocacy about Alzheimer's disease and the future of the world's brains (womensalzheimersmovement.org). For the last two years, the Women's Alzheimer's Movement has hosted community events in Irvine that featured UCI MIND faculty. She'll be honored for her incredible advocacy work here in Orange County and nationwide. Ms. Shriver will attend the annual UCI MIND fundraiser on **December 2, 2017**, at the Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach. For sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales, please visit gala.mind.uci.edu or contact Linda Scheck at **949.824.3251** or lscheck@uci.edu.

Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London

Each year, researchers from around the globe gather to share ideas and present the latest findings in dementia research at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). The 2017 conference held in July in London, England, hosted 5,600 attendees from over 70 countries with a strong presence of UCI MIND investigators. Faculty members, Drs. Claudia Kawas, Maria Corrada, and S. Ahmad Sajjadi were invited to present findings from *The 90+ Study* and Dr. Andrea Tenner delivered a lecture on the biology of Alzheimer's disease risk genes. Six other UCI MIND investigators presented posters on topics ranging from basic science to clinical practice, including faculty members Drs. David Cribbs and Chuang-Kuo Wu, junior investigators Drs. Lindsay Hohsfield and Elizabeth Spangenberg (Green laboratory), and staff researchers Dr. David Baglietto-Vargas (LaFerla laboratory) and Chelsea Cox (Grill laboratory).



Among the many important studies presented at AAIC, Dr. Corrada's project made national headlines. The study looked at racial disparities in dementia among individuals older than 90. She and her colleagues found that African Americans had a 28% higher risk than Whites, suggesting inequities in dementia rates at younger ages continue throughout the lifespan. Dr. Hohsfield's poster on the role of microglia (immune cells of the brain) in Alzheimer's disease pathology received first place in the conference's post-doctoral poster competition. And most notably, Dr. Kawas received the AAIC Lifetime Achievement Award for her important and substantial contributions to the field of dementia research. To learn more about the presentations, visit our blog:

www.mind.uci.edu/blog.

FROM THE CO-DIRECTORS

Frank M. LaFerla, PhD & Joshua D. Grill, PhD



Dear Friends,

So far, 2017 has presented many exciting accomplishments and new collaborations for UCI MIND. Ten UCI MIND investigators presented lectures and posters at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London last month (page 1). There, Dr. Lindsay Hohsfield was selected as a future star in the field, while Dr. Claudia Kawas was honored for her substantial and outstanding body of work. Drs. Ronald Kim and Harry Vinters were also recognized this year, by the American Association of Neuropathologists, with the 2017 Award for Meritorious

Contributions to Neuropathology. We are proud and fortunate to have so many world-renowned leaders in neurodegenerative disease research right here in Orange County.

Research is the only path to developing improved treatments and preventions for Alzheimer's disease and related conditions, and our talented faculty and early career investigators are poised to bring us closer to that reality. Cutting-edge science (like that described on page 3) would not be possible without the philanthropic support of our community, and we are pleased to welcome Danny Harper to the UCI MIND team to aid in this effort (page 3). UCI MIND also strives to maintain relationships with community leaders such as Supervisor Bartlett (below) and Maria Shriver (page 1) to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease research. To learn more about how you can partner with us on this important mission, we invite you to attend upcoming annual events, the Alzheimer's Disease Research Conference in September (page 4), the HD-Care *Sounds of Broadway* fundraiser in October (page 3), and the annual *A December to Remember* gala, where we will honor Ms. Shriver for her tireless efforts to bring Alzheimer's disease to the public forefront through her Emmy Award-winning HBO documentaries and her recent activities in Orange County. We hope to see you soon.



Lindsay Hohsfield, PhD
Postdoctoral Fellow, Green Lab



Claudia Kawas, MD
Professor, Neurology



Ronald Kim, MD
Clinical Professor, Pathology



Harry Vinters, MD
Recall Professor, Pathology

Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett Visits UCI MIND



Dr. Joshua Grill &
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

On July 27, Supervisor Lisa Bartlett and her staff visited UCI MIND to learn about the cutting-edge science, clinical research, and community outreach taking place at OC's only state and federally funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Dr. Joshua Grill presented on the state of Alzheimer's disease research locally and nationally before Supervisor Bartlett and her team took a laboratory tour led by Chief Administrative Officer, Andrea Wasserman. UCI MIND thanks the Supervisor and her team for their commitment to Alzheimer's disease research and care for the over 84,000 affected OC residents. We look forward to future collaborations on efforts to raise community awareness.



Supervisor Bartlett & her staff toured UCI MIND
laboratories with Andrea Wasserman

MEET NEW TEAM MEMBER, DANNY HARPER

UCI MIND is pleased to introduce Danny Harper as the Institute's new Senior Development Director. Danny joins UCI MIND after a very successful tenure in UCI's undergraduate education division. Danny will work closely with Linda Scheck to advance UCI MIND's mission through philanthropy. Though grants from the National Institutes of Health provide the bulk of funding for UCI MIND research, private gifts from donors-both large and small-are essential to the larger research mission and create novel opportunities to conduct high risk/high reward science. To learn more about opportunities to support UCI MIND researchers through philanthropy, contact Danny (ddharper@uci.edu) or Linda (lscheck@uci.edu).



Human Skin Cells Used to Generate Brain Cells



UCI MIND investigators Dr. Mathew Blurton-Jones, Dr. Wayne Poon, and Edsel Abud have developed a method to generate brain cells called microglia using human skin cells donated from research participants, cutting-edge science that was originally made possible by a generous philanthropic donation to the Institute. Their seminal work was published in the prestigious scientific journal *Neuron*. In addition to demonstrating how to create human microglial cells from induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, the investigators showed that many of the genes associated with Alzheimer's disease risk are altered in microglia when exposed to toxic proteins amyloid beta and tau.

The study could have major implications to drug development for brain diseases like Alzheimer's, allowing screening of large numbers of compounds for their effects on these cells specifically, or even using cells to create more complete models of the Alzheimer's brain in the dish.

Making Strides in Huntington's Disease Research

Huntington's disease (HD) is an inherited, progressive neurodegenerative disorder for which there is currently no cure. And UCI MIND faculty members, Drs. Leslie Thompson and Joan Steffan and colleagues are making strides in better understanding the underlying mechanisms of the disease to develop treatments for those affected. Learn more about how you can support HD research and care at the annual HD-CARE fundraiser on **October 1, 2017**. HD-CARE is a volunteer-led partner organization aimed at advancing HD research and clinical care at UCI. For more information, contact Frances Saldana franceshdcare@gmail.com or visit hdcare.org.

HD-CARE presents

SOUNDS OF BROADWAY

a fundraiser to support
Huntington's disease Research

SUNDAY, OCT. 1ST 1:00-4:30pm
THE CENTER CLUB
650 TOWN CENTER DR. COSTA MESA
Contact: franceshdcare@gmail.com

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28th Annual Southern California Alzheimer's Disease Research Conference

UCI MIND Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders

Alzheimer's | ORANGE COUNTY

The Elephant in the Room

Sensitive Subjects in Dementia Care

End of Life

Driving Risk

Elder Abuse

Intimacy

Psychiatric Symptoms

Physician Aid in Dying

September 22, 2017 Irvine Marriott Hotel

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www.mind.uci.edu/events/conference

SAVE THE DATE

8TH ANNUAL
A DECEMBER
TO REMEMBER
December 2, 2017

Gala

Please join us for a memorable evening of fun and philanthropy benefiting Alzheimer's research with special guest Maria Shriver.

Balboa Bay Resort
Newport Beach

Event Information:
gala.mind.uci.edu

UCI MIND