



STATE SENATOR JOHN MOORLACH VISITS UCI MIND

On July 17, UCI MIND welcomed California State Senator John Moorlach and his staff to campus to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's disease in California and the important progress being made in Alzheimer's disease research right here in Orange County.

Senator Moorlach currently represents the 37th District, including Irvine, Huntington Beach, Newport Beach, Tustin, and Orange. He is an advocate for Alzheimer's disease families, having participated in local events previously.

At the visit to UCI, Alberto Sandoval, Senior Director of UCI's Community and Government Relations, introduced Senator Moorlach and his team to UCI MIND Director, Dr. Joshua Grill, who shared the 30-year history of the Institute, the current state of research, and some of the exciting clinical trials and other translational research studies underway at UCI. UCI MIND Chief Administrative Officer, Andrea Wasserman, led a tour of one of UCI MIND's research



Senator John Moorlach



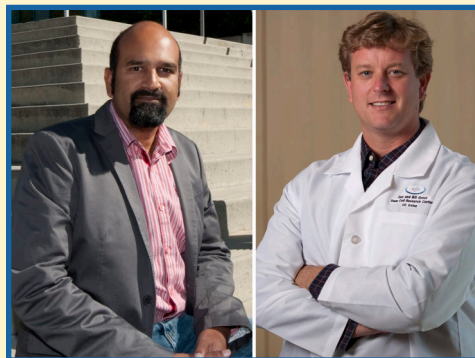
UCI MIND Chief Administrative Officer Andrea Wasserman (right) answers questions on brain health and Alzheimer's disease.

laboratories, including a hands-on demonstration of a human brain.

California is home to more people with Alzheimer's disease than any other state and while Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death nationally, it is the 3rd leading cause of death here in Orange County.

We thank Senator Moorlach for visiting UCI MIND and applaud his effort to learn more about cutting edge research to change the way we understand and treat Alzheimer's disease. We hope he will use his considerable influence to ensure continued investment by the State in Alzheimer's disease supportive services and research.

UCI MIND AND WAM GRANT AWARDED, LA TIMES AND OC BUSINESS JOURNAL REPORTS



Drs. Sunil Gandhi (left) and Mathew Blurton-Jones (right) will study sex-related differences in AD.
Photo Credit: Steve Zylius / UCI

Two-thirds of the 5.5 million Americans with Alzheimer's disease are women, and unless research discovers effective prevention and treatments, the impact of disease will grow in coming decades and continue to disproportionately affect women.

Now, thanks to UCI MIND benefactors who attended the 2017 *A December to Remember* Gala and the Women's Alzheimer's Movement (WAM), established by Maria Shriver, two UCI MIND researchers have been awarded \$100,000 to explore why such a gender disparity exists.

As seen recently in the Los Angeles Times and Orange County Business Journal, Drs. Sunil Gandhi and Mathew Blurton-Jones, both associate professors in the department of Neurobiology & Behavior, will examine how the brain's immune cells, called microglia, may differentially unleash the disorder in females and males. To donate to this initiative, go to <http://connect.uci.edu/alzwomen>

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Joshua D. Grill, PhD



Joshua Grill, PhD

Dear Friends of UCI MIND,

It has been a busy summer for UCI MIND. As always, our important work in the lab, in the clinic, and in the community continues (page 1). In July, several of our investigators attended the Alzheimer's Association International

Conference in Chicago. This included Dean Frank LaFerla, Professor Andrea Tenner, and other members of the NextGen Animal Model grant. As you can see on page 3, several other faculty and trainees presented their work at this important meeting. You can also see summaries and videos from the conference on our UCI MIND Blog (www.mind.uci.edu/blog). Also presented at the meeting were major findings from other studies around the world. This included presentation of the clinical trial results of the anti-amyloid antibody BAN2401, which drew major headlines. BAN2401 is now the fourth drug that has been shown to substantially reduce levels of beta-amyloid in the brain of people with Alzheimer's disease, and doing so may successfully slow disease progression. Though the results of the BAN2401 study require replication in Phase 3 clinical trials, it remains an exciting and optimistic time in the development of improved therapies for patients with Alzheimer's disease.

Also this summer, we saw some changes in our team. Most notably, we said goodbye to our outstanding neurologist, Dr. Aimee Pierce. Dr. Pierce has accepted an exciting position in her home state, at our sister center at Oregon Health & Science University. She will be joined there by research coordinator Huong Nguyen, who begins medical school this fall. Finally, Dr. Pinar Coskun will no longer be working in our Longitudinal Study; she will start her residency here at UCI. While we are sad to see these colleagues move on, we are happy for them as they begin their next chapters. We are also thrilled to welcome two new faculty members, Drs. Vivek Swarup and Mari Perez-Rosendahl (below) and several new staff members (page 3), who join us in our critical mission, *researching ways to make memories last a lifetime*.



Aimee Pierce, MD

NEW UCI MIND FACULTY



Vivek Swarup, PhD
Assistant Professor,
Neurobiology & Behavior

Two new faculty members began at UCI MIND on July 1, both after completing their fellowships at UCLA. Dr. Vivek Swarup is a neuroscientist who began his training in India, completed his PhD at Laval University in Quebec, and then worked with renowned neurogeneticist Dr. Dan Geschwind at UCLA. Dr. Swarup is now an Assistant Professor of Neurobiology and Behavior and will use the UCI MIND brain bank to apply systems biology approaches to the study of dementia.



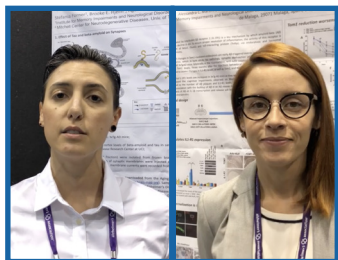
Mari Perez-Rosendahl, MD
Assistant Professor,
Pathology

Dr. Mari Perez-Rosendahl joined UCI as an Assistant Professor of Pathology, but she knows her way around UCI. After medical school at UCLA, she was a resident at UCI. She then spent her fellowship years at UCLA as well, with chief neuropathologist Dr. Harry Vinters. Dr. Perez-Rosendahl will play a vital role in the Neuropathology Core of the ADRC, making the final diagnosis and playing an essential role in our clinical research program. Please join us in welcoming Drs. Swarup and Perez-Rosendahl to UCI MIND!

UCI MIND AT AAIC 2018 IN CHICAGO



Professors Andrea Tenner (middle) and Frank LaFerla, along with other members of UCI MIND's NextGen Animal Models grant, presented their work at the Accelerating Medicines Partnership—Alzheimer's Disease (AMP-AD) meeting at a pre-conference to the AAIC



Drs. Stefania Forner (left) and Alessandra Martini (right) presenting posters on their research



Dr. Baglietto-Vargas (left) speaking about his research in sporadic Alzheimer's disease animal models

This year, the Alzheimer's Association International Conference took place in Chicago, and UCI MIND faculty, postdoctoral researchers, and staff made their mark among thousands of attendees who came from over 70 countries to collaborate and discuss the latest dementia study results and theories.

Assistant Researcher Dr. David Baglietto-Vargas and UCI MIND Director Dr. Joshua Grill presented their work in oral presentations. Faculty members Drs. Maria Corrada, Jorge Busciglio, postdoctoral researchers Drs. Alessandra Martini and Stefania Forner, and Down syndrome researcher Eric Doran all presented posters on their work.

Exciting news from AAIC included additional findings from BAN2401 (see From the Director), the SPRINT MIND trial, which suggested that more intensive treatment for high blood pressure could lower risk for developing cognitive problems, and new findings linking a woman's reproductive history to her risk of dementia. For more research updates and commentary, follow our blog at:

www.mind.uci.edu/blog

WORRIED ABOUT WHAT YOU ARE FORGETTING? Help us research two investigational drugs.

The TRAILBLAZER-ALZ Study is looking at 2 investigational drugs for people having problems with memory loss or confusion. This clinical research study will examine if the investigational drugs, either alone or used together, may help to slow or stop memory loss in people with early stages of Alzheimer's disease.

You may be able to take part if you:

- are 60-85 years of age
- have had memory loss for 6 months or more that has become gradually worse over time
- have a family member or close friend who is with you at least 10 hours per week and can attend study appointments with you.

The study will last for up to 2 years and 5 months. About 375 people from the United States and Canada will participate. All study-related care will be provided at no cost.

Want to know more?

If you would like to learn more, please contact us:

Phone: 949-824-0008

Email: research@mind.uci.edu

NEW RESEARCH STAFF

UCI MIND welcomed new staff in our Clinical Research Program and Education Core this summer. To learn more about the dedicated staff, clinicians, and scientists who make UCI MIND a collaborative group of diverse leaders, visit www.mind.uci.edu/staff



Javeria Manazir, MD
Research Clinician



Christian Salazar, PhD
Associate Project Scientist



Blake Miranda, BS
Assistant Study Coordinator



Melissa Leang, BS
Assistant Study Coordinator

MIND Matters is a publication of the UCI Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) and the California Alzheimer's Disease Center (CADC). The ADRC is funded by a grant from the National Institute on Aging and supports and promotes interdisciplinary research on Alzheimer's disease. The CADC is funded by the California Department of Public Health and provides expert clinical assessments and diagnosis of memory complaints related to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

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**go to bit.ly/alzconference
or call 949.757.3720 x 3733**

9TH ANNUAL UCI MIND A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER

Gala

The 9th Annual UCI MIND Gala, *A December to Remember*, will be held on December 1, 2018 at the Balboa Bay Resort. Proceeds will support Alzheimer's disease research at UCI MIND.

UCI MIND is proud to honor William Edwards, Steve O'Leary and Keith Swayne with the UCI MIND Award and the Brower Group with the Community Leadership Award for their inspirational commitment to Alzheimer's research.

Widely respected among the scientific community, UCI MIND is a non-profit Alzheimer's Disease Research Center designated by the National Institutes of Health. It is one of 30 such centers across the United States and the only center in Orange County.

Our goal is to generate philanthropic support to accelerate research today for cures tomorrow. We hope you will join us for this special evening of fun and philanthropy that will bring us closer to a world without Alzheimer's disease.

For more information, contact Linda Scheck:

949.824.3251 or LScheck@uci.edu
gala.mind.uci.edu