

**UC Irvine Institute** for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders

# MOND MATTERS

A quarterly publication of UCI MIND

Summer 2016

## UCI MIND LAUNCHES NEW POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS REGISTRY!



"Research today. Hope tomorrow." is one of our mottos at UCI MIND. But research today is consistently delayed by slow recruitment of the necessary people to complete exciting new studies on brain aging and cognitive disorders.

To assist in this recruiting effort, researchers at UCI MIND, in collaboration with UCI Health and the UCI Institute for Clinical Translational Science, are launching the UCI Consent to Contact (C2C) Registry, a new online tool for people interested in learning about research opportunities at UCI. The UCI C2C Registry is voluntary and carries no obligation to participate in any study. You can withdraw at any time.

By joining the registry you could be included in novel studies that are on the cutting edge of finding preventions for dementia, treatments for cancer, and ways to help people live longer, healthier lives. Your information will be kept private and you will only be contacted if you qualify for a study that meets your specific needs.

If you or your family and friends would like to learn more or register for the UCI C2C Registry, please visit **c2c.uci.edu**. YOU can make a difference. Accelerate research today for cures tomorrow by joining the UCI C2C Registry!

# UCI MIND faculty collaborate with researchers in Israel

In June, UCI MIND faculty members, Drs. Frank LaFerla, Carl Cotman, David Cribbs, Andrea Tenner, Kim Green, and Mathew Blurton-Jones, were invited to participate in an Alzheimer's disease research conference at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Presentations covered a variety of topics including diagnosis, experimental therapies, and biological mechanisms of the disease. During their visit, UCI MIND faculty had the opportunity to tour the incredible historic sites of Israel, including Nazareth, Temple Mount, the Sea of Galilee, and the Dead Sea Scrolls. The UCI group was hosted by Tel Aviv University faculty members, Drs. Amos Korczyn, Dan Frenkel, and Daniel Michaelson. This partnership between UCI MIND and Tel Aviv University represents one of the many important international collaborations in Alzheimer's disease research.



Left to right: Frank LaFerla, PhD, David Cribbs, PhD, Mathew Blurton-Jones, PhD, Carl Cotman, PhD, Kim Green, PhD, Victoria Jones, PhD, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement, Andrea Tenner, PhD (not pictured)

# UCI MIND team awarded \$2 million clinical trial grant by UC Office of the President



On July 25, the University of California (UC) announced a team of UCI MIND investigators as one of only two recipients of the UC Cures for Alzheimer's Disease Initiative awards. The Initiative, launched by the UC Office of the President to accelerate Alzheimer's disease research, was highly competitive, inviting investigators across the 10-campus system to submit proposals.

The UCI MIND project will examine if high doses of nicotinamide can reduce tau phosphorylation in people with early Alzheimer's disease. The hypothesis tested by this human study is based on studies from the laboratories of Drs. Kim Green and Frank LaFerla. The UCI MIND team was led by UCI MIND co-director Dr. Joshua Grill, and included Drs. Dan Gillen, Aimee Pierce, Steven Schreiber, and Kim Green.

#### Frank LaFerla, PhD & Joshua Grill, PhD

### FROM THE DIRECTORS



Dear Friends of UCI MIND,

On July 1, Dr. Andrea Tenner returned to devoting her full time to research and teaching and transitioned leadership to Drs. Frank LaFerla and Joshua Grill. UCI MIND is grateful to Dr. Tenner for her outstanding leadership and dedication to the field of Alzheimer's disease research.

Drs. LaFerla and Grill are excited to lead UCI MIND at an important and opportune time. The National Institutes of Health have steadily increased funding for Alzheimer's disease research since the passing of the National Alzheimer's Project Act. At UCI, Dr. LaFerla remains Dean of the Ayala School of Biological Sciences and Dr. Howard Federoff is celebrating his first anniversary as Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs. And so, two world-renowned researchers in neurodegenerative disease fill critical campus leadership positions. Simultaneously, the bonds

between UCI MIND and the local Orange County community have never been stronger. UCI MIND faculty and staff delivered more than 40 community lectures last year, and the number of volunteers participating in research studies continues to increase. The **Successful Aging Program** and **The 90+ Study** are currently open to enrollment, as are a variety of **clinical trials** that aim to test interventions to better treat people with memory problems or even to prevent memory problems from beginning. UCI MIND is taking another important step in research with the launch of the **UCI Consent to Contact (C2C) Registry** (page 1). The goal for this registry is to link people in Orange County who are interested in research to studies at UCI.

UCI MIND is poised to make important contributions to the pursuit of improved understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. And these contributions have never been more needed. The prevalence of these diseases continues to rise at rapid rates; more patients and families face this disease than ever before. Drs. LaFerla and Grill readily undertake the responsibility of guiding UCI MIND in maximizing our contributions to the field of brain aging research, ensuring our community is kept abreast of research findings and participation opportunities, and using knowledge gained from research to benefit patients and families here in Orange County. Together, we can and we will make a difference.

#### DONOR HIGHLIGHT: CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY

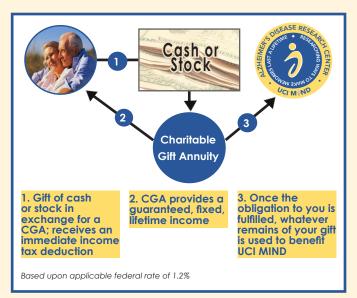
Supporters can give to UCI MIND in a variety of ways. One couple, who wish to remain anonymous (we'll call them Mr. and Mrs. Smith), wanted to share how they have chosen to support research. Having seen the devastation caused by Alzheimer's first hand, Mr. and Mrs. Smith decided that they wanted to support Alzheimer's disease research at UCI MIND. But, they also wanted to continue enjoying the fruits of years of hard work and careful saving. Mr. and Mrs. Smith chose to make their gift through a **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)**.

A CGA is a simple contract in which the UC Regents provide a guaranteed fixed income stream to a donor, in exchange for their gift. Once the obligation to the income beneficiaries is satisfied, whatever remains is used by the University to support an area designated by the donor, in the case of the Smiths—UCI MIND.

It is a particularly good time for a CGA as a means of achieving philanthropic and financial goals. Based upon the age of the income beneficiaries (also known as annuitants), return rates for CGAs often exceed 5% and can be as high as 9%. CGAs can supplement retirement income, provide strategic and integrated value to an individual's estate, and create significant tax savings. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have made multiple CGA gifts with each one providing additional fixed lifetime income streams.

"We want to stop this disease and believe the researchers at UCI MIND are our best way to help find a cure." – Mrs. Smith

If you are like Mr. and Mrs. Smith and want to make a philanthropic gift and, at the same time, supplement your current income stream, a CGA may be a good option for you. Please contact Linda Scheck, Director of Development, **Ischeck@uci.edu** or **949.824.3251** to learn more.



### RESEARCH PARTICIPANT HIGHLIGHTS

#### Participant turns 100!

On March 3, UCI MIND wished Mr. Paul Kroesen a happy and healthy 100th birthday! Mr. Kroesen, a **Successful Aging Program** participant, is pictured here with Dr. Aimee Pierce at his 16th visit to UCI MIND's Memory Assessment and Research



Center. UCI MIND is grateful for the invaluable gift of participation that Mr. Kroesen and others commit to the study of the neurobiology of aging.

If you would like to learn more about the Successful Aging Program and other research opportunities, call **949.824.3249**, email **research@mind.uci.edu**, or enroll in the UCI C2C Registry at **c2c.uci.edu**.

#### Advocates for research

In addition to participating in research, volunteers like Joe and Esther Goff and Judith Jones help raise awareness and advocate for research. In May, the Goffs invited UCI MIND to deliver a research update to over 100 members of their homeowners association in Lake Forest. And in early August, Ms. Jones facilitated an intimate UCI MIND

presentation for her San Clemente Kiwanis group.

If you have a community group that might be interested in learning more about research at UCI MIND, call 949.824.9896 or email cqcox@uci.edu.



Joe and Esther Goff with UCI MIND codirector, Dr. Joshua Grill

#### SUMMER APPRECIATION EVENT HONORING OUR RESEARCH VOLUNTEERS

On June 10, UCI MIND hosted the **5th Annual Summer Appreciation Celebration** honoring our research volunteers. The event was attended by over 100 participants, family members, friends, and UCI MIND faculty and staff. Following a warm welcome from Dean Frank LaFerla (pictured below), faculty members, including Drs. Carl Cotman, Joshua Grill, Andrea Tenner, Mark Mapstone, Karen Edwards, Pinar Coskun, Aimee Pierce, Edwin Monuki, and Mathew Blurton-Jones, provided updates on their current research projects and participated in an open question and answer session with attendees (pictured to the right). The



volunteer recognition program, honoring those who have completed 5, 10, and 15 annual assessments as part of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center **longitudinal study**.

Through their remarkable contributions to research, our volunteers and their families help us increase knowledge about memory and aging. UCI MIND faculty and staff recognize and appreciate this commitment and are confident that, together, we will find treatments, preventions, and cures for neurodegenerative diseases. Thank you for partnering with us on this critical mission!

## **ASIAN AMERICAN OUTREACH**

Alzheimer's disease is a pervasive condition that knows no racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic bounds, and research suggests that different groups are vulnerable to different risk factors. For these reasons, researchers strive for diversity in Alzheimer's disease research studies and clinical trials. Enrolling older adults from diverse backgrounds in research

studies will help investigators better understand the various genetic and environmental risk factors that lead to Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, bringing the field closer to both personalized medicine and interventions that benefit all individuals.

To this end, UCI MIND aims to bring outreach and education on healthy brain aging and Alzheimer's disease research to diverse groups throughout Orange County, in particular, the Asian American community, which now constitutes 20% of OC's population (U.S. Census Bureau, 2015). Pictured on the right, UCI MIND co-director, Dr. Joshua Grill, and patient care coordinator, Ruobing Li, delivered a presentation in English and Mandarin to 160 members of the Laguna Woods Village Chinese American Club in June. As OC's only state and federally funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, UCI MIND is committed to partnering with community organizations to increase awareness of important resources and knowledge on brain aging research.





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27th Annual Southern California Alzheimer's Disease Research Conference



Alzheimer's | ORANGE COUNTY



# **Advances in Dementia Research Across Unique Populations**

The Annual Southern California Alzheimer's Disease Research Conference is hosted by the UC Irvine Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders (UCI MIND) in partnership with Alzheimer's Orange County (formerly Alzheimer's Association, Orange County Chapter). Reaching a diverse audience of over 400 clinicians, researchers, students, aging-services providers, and caregivers, the conference brings together nationally renowned researchers to address our nation's progress in the battle against Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

(Special student rates and continuing education units available)

September 30, 2016

7:30 am - 5:00 pm | Irvine Marriott Hotel

Use discount code EARLYBIRD through September 9 to save on admission! REGISTER ONLINE: www.alzoc.org/events/2016-research-conference/ PHONE: 949.757.3721 EMAIL: adriana.bakhoum@alzoc.org