



A DECEMBER TO REMEMBER RAISES RECORD-BREAKING \$370K

UCI MIND held its 9th annual *A December to Remember* gala at the Balboa Bay Resort and raised over \$370,000 through underwriting, ticket sales, and donations from attendees. Over its nine-year history, the gala has brought more than \$1,500,000 to fund critical research for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

The 2018 UCI MIND Honorees were William Edwards, CEO of Edwards Global Services, Steve O'Leary, Vice Chairman of The Shipyard, and Keith Swayne, retired CEO of Case Swayne Co./ International Food Solutions. All three men have been personally affected by Alzheimer's disease and were honored for their visionary leadership, dedication to UCI MIND, and commitment to helping other families impacted by the disease. UCI MIND also recognized the Brower Group, The Smart Agency™, as the 2018 Community Leadership Honoree. Led by Chief Strategist Judy Brower Fancher and President Jenn Quader, the Brower team has helped increase community awareness of UCI MIND on a pro bono basis since 2016.

We are grateful to our gala honorees, supporters, and sponsors for another successful year! View gala photos and mark your calendar for the 10th annual gala, December 7: www.gala.mind.uci.edu.



(L to R) Honorees Keith Swayne, Steve O'Leary, & William Edwards



(L to R) Frieda Caplan, founder of Frieda's Specialty Produce, with Joshua Grill, PhD

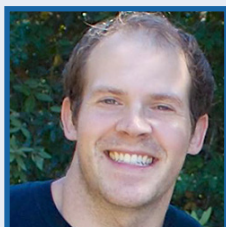


(L to R) Honorary Gala Chairs Karen Anderson Spevak, Electa Anderson, & Beth Anderson, PhD



(L to R) Honorees Jenn Quader & Judy Brower Fancher with Joshua Grill, PhD

UCI MIND Welcomes New Faculty & Staff



Kevin Beier, PhD
Assistant Professor,
Physiology & Biophysics



Elizabeth Head, PhD
Professor, Pathology &
Laboratory Medicine



Xiangmin Xu, PhD
Professor, Anatomy &
Neurobiology



Neetha Basheer, MD
Assistant Clinical
Research Coordinator



Diana Ngo, BS, CNA
Assistant Clinical
Research Coordinator



Melanie Tallakson, DNP, FNP
Nurse
Practitioner

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Joshua D. Grill, PhD



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! We at UCI MIND anticipate an exciting, productive year ahead as we continue our critical work to improve understanding of neurodegenerative diseases and to serve as a source of clinical and scientific expertise to the community. Our multidisciplinary team continues to grow with new faculty members and clinical research staff (page 1) and promising young scientists (below). And our teamwork is only possible through collaboration with supporters, such as those who attended and were honored at our 9th annual gala last December (page 1), and research volunteers who participate in important studies, such as the NEAT clinical trial (page 4). We are grateful for the steadfast support of our local community. In turn, we strive to provide you with resources and expertise to empower informed decisions in brain healthcare, research participation, and disease management.

In 2019, we will redouble our efforts to bring the collective expertise of UCI MIND to our local community. For example, Down Syndrome Program Manager, Eric Doran, has inspired the creation of a new play to bring to light issues in Down syndrome (page 3). Additionally, UCI MIND has launched a monthly Facebook Live series, *ASK THE DOC: Alzheimer's Research Today*. This online video series will feature an expert from UCI MIND the first Friday of every month to discuss Alzheimer's disease research and answer live questions from viewers (page 4). So, if you have Facebook, tune in live [@UCIrvineMIND](#) or you can view the videos later on our Blog and YouTube. We are also thrilled to partner with colleagues across the country to bring education to our local community, such as Ronald Petersen, MD, PhD, Director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, who will deliver the sold-out *UCI MIND Distinguished Lecture on the Brain* on March 5. The lecture will be available live online at www.mind.uci.edu/livestream or on Facebook [@UCIrvineMIND](#) and will also be posted on our Blog and YouTube in the next month.

UCI MIND researchers will make exciting discoveries in 2019. We look forward to working together with you to advance the field and share our progress through community outreach.

10th Annual Symposium Highlights Next Generation of Scientists

On February 11, UCI MIND's trainee organization REMIND, led by co-chairs Amanda McQuade, Alessandra Martini, PhD, Ashley Keiser, PhD, Sarah Royer, Michelle Nuño, and Morgan Coburn (right), hosted their Emerging Scientists Symposium. The event featured invited graduate student speakers Natalie DiProspero (Yassa lab), Jonathan Hasselmann (Blurton-Jones lab), and Isabella Sanchez (Thompson lab); postdoctoral speakers Branden Kolarik, PhD (Stark lab), Adam Kreutzer, PhD (Nowick lab), and Charlie Smith-Geater, PhD (Thompson lab); a poster competition; and a keynote presentation by Head of Science for the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Cori Bargmann, PhD.



Cori Bargmann, PhD (center) with REMIND co-chairs

Graduate student Jessica Sanchez (Blurton-Jones lab) and postdoctoral fellow Conor Cox, PhD (Lynch lab) were awarded for outstanding poster presentations. And postdoctoral fellows Lindsay Hohsfield, PhD (Green lab) and Alessandra Martini, PhD (LaFerla lab) received the annual Carl W. Cotman Scholar Award for their leadership and promising scientific contributions to the field of Alzheimer's research. UCI MIND thanks the REMIND co-chairs for another successful symposium and congratulates all the exceptional emerging scientists who participated.

NEW PLAY AIMS TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOWN SYNDROME



Eric Doran, Manager of UCI MIND's Down Syndrome Program (left), has partnered with his longtime friend and playwright, Steven Oberman, to tell the true story of Dr. John Langdon

Down, the man who first described Down syndrome. We interviewed Mr. Doran to learn more about the vision behind this new play, *Blurred at the Edges*, set to run in March at the Diversionary Theatre in San Diego.

What is the vision behind *Blurred at the Edges*?

Doran: Down syndrome is named after Dr. John Langdon Down, a British physician who first described the condition in 1866. Most parents of a child with Down syndrome know that the condition was originally described as Mongolian idiocy or Mongolism, terms considered offensive in modern times. These terms would forever be attributed to Dr. Down and would unfortunately persist in the medical literature for the next 100 years. His ethnic classification of Down syndrome and several other developmental conditions has blemished his reputation with parents and medical professionals alike.

My colleague, Dr. Anne Tournay, and I felt there was another aspect of the man that was less well-known but worthy of recognition. Dr. Down was a pioneer for the humane and dignified care of persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Within an institution known as Normansfield, he created an enriched environment that would allow residents to reach their full potential and thrive. We believe this play will provide a meaningful historical context to allow the audience to understand why he chose the pejorative term to describe the condition and better understand the life work of this pioneering physician.

How were you involved in the creation of the play?

Doran: I served as creative consultant by answering questions regarding the medical and behavioral aspects of Down syndrome. I also served in a supportive role by researching content for the

development of the script. Steven has been working on this play, along with several others, over the past two and a half years.

What message do you hope the play delivers to audiences?

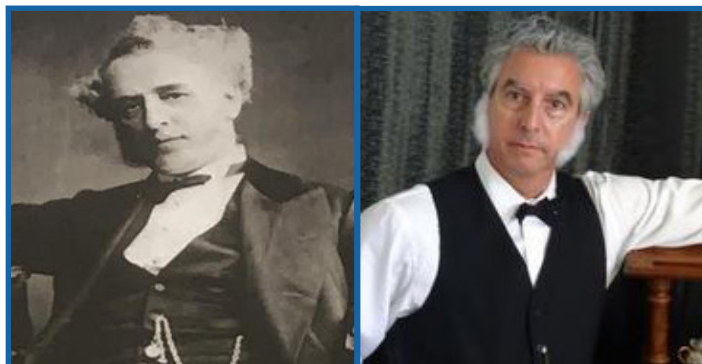
Doran: The importance of treating everyone in a humane and dignified manner. By providing all persons with developmental and intellectual disabilities with appropriate support and services they will have an opportunity to lead a productive and meaningful life and in turn will have a chance to enrich all of humanity.

Who should attend this play?

Doran: Individuals with Down syndrome and their family members, health care professionals, and anyone else interested in Down syndrome or other intellectual/developmental disabilities. Though the show runs for a limited time, the production is available for private engagements and special events. Tickets can be purchased online: <https://blurredattheedges.ticketleap.com/dr-down>

What else would you like people to know about Down syndrome that might not be addressed in the play?

Doran: The cause of Down syndrome wouldn't be known until 100 years later when it was discovered to be the result an extra copy of the 21st chromosome, one of our genetic building blocks. As part of the Down Syndrome Program at UCI MIND, we aim to better understand how this genetic imbalance may contribute to the pathology and dementia of Alzheimer's disease in adults with Down syndrome with the ultimate goal of getting us closer to prevention or cure of this devastating disease.



Dr. John Langdon Down (left), portrayed by Steven Oberman (right), the writer, producer, and star of the one-man show

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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DONATE

Are you or is someone you know experiencing memory loss?

Researchers at UCI and UCLA are conducting a new study to test whether high doses of nicotinamide (a component of vitamin B3) can halt or reverse neurofibrillary tangles in Alzheimer's disease

You may be eligible if:

- You are age 50 years or older
- You are experiencing symptoms that might be related to Alzheimer's disease, such as problems with memory or thinking
- You have someone who can be your study partner to accompany you to visits and provide information about your health
- You are able to undergo a medical procedure called a lumbar puncture

If eligible:

- You will be randomly assigned to receive placebo or the investigational medication at 4 visits over the course of 12 months
- All study medication, examinations, and medical care related to the study will be provided at no cost to you
- You will be compensated for your participation at the completion of each visit

For more information, please contact:
949.824.0008 | research@mind.uci.edu



ASK THE DOC
Alzheimer's Research Today

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First Friday of Every Month • 9:00 AM PST



Apr. 5 | Andrea Tenner, PhD
Is Alzheimer's an immune disorder?



May 3 | Elizabeth Head, PhD
Are there any promising vaccines for Alzheimer's?



Jun. 7 | Craig Stark, PhD
Can brain scans be used to diagnose Alzheimer's?



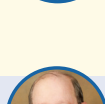
Jul. 5 | Steven Tam, MD
What medications can I take to prevent or treat Alzheimer's?



Aug. 2 | Mark Mapstone, PhD
Is there a blood test for Alzheimer's?



Sep. 6 | Edwin Monuki, MD, PhD
What have researchers learned from brain donations?



Oct. 4 | Malcolm Dick, PhD
When should I see a doctor about memory concerns?



Nov. 1 | Maria Corrada, ScD
Will I get Alzheimer's if I live long enough?



Dec. 6 | Ira Lott, MD
What is the link between Down syndrome and Alzheimer's?

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