



Sanders-Brown Research Volunteer Newsletter



Sanders-Brown
Center on Aging
University of Kentucky
Alzheimer's Disease Center

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Markesbery awarded prestigious “Zaven Khachaturian” Prize

Dr. William Markesbery, the Director of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, was selected this year for the prestigious, lifetime achievement, Khachaturian Award. This distinguished award recognizes an individual whose compelling vision, selfless dedication, and extraordinary achievement have significantly advanced the field of Alzheimer's disease science.

"I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the Alzheimer's Association Zaven Khachaturian Award for advancing the field of Alzheimer's disease research," said Markesbery. "Nothing is quite as rewarding as the recognition of one's peers. I am grateful to have the opportunity to take

part in the investigation of the most devastating disease that affects humanity. It has been a privilege to care for individuals with the disease, support the families, and through research, strive to gain a better understanding of Alzheimer's disease, so that one day soon, we will learn how to prevent the disease in those at risk and stop the progression of those with the disease."

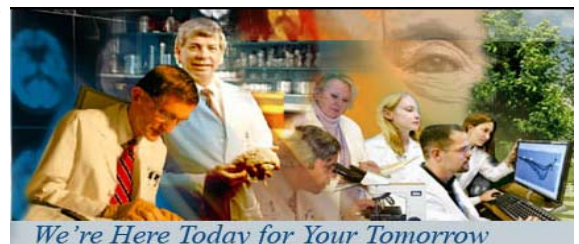
Please join us for an exciting afternoon of science at the 2009 Sanders-Brown Scientific Symposium at the Lexington Downtown Hotel

Save the date, November 14! This event is exclusively for the patients, normal volunteers, and families that contribute to the research programs at the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging. Please join us and make this event a success! Admission, refreshments, and the scientific discovery presented are completely free!

The amazing scientific breakthroughs, that flow from the generous contribution of your time and energy as a participant in the research studies of the UK Alzheimer's Disease Center and Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, deserve recognition. Without your selfless contribution, we would be much further from a cure for this devastating disease. You have made a tremendous impact and continue to do so as a result of your commitment!

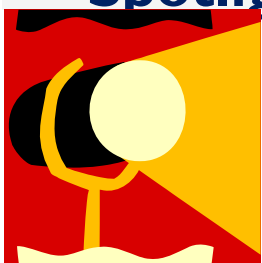
Understanding and appreciating this impact can be difficult for the average layperson without a scientific background. The 2009 Sanders-Brown Scientific Symposium has been designed just for you. Join us for an elegant afternoon of hors d'oeuvres and refreshing drinks! Meet the scientists that are responsible for the tremendous breakthrough research your participation allows, one-on-one! Understand the discoveries that have placed a cure within our reach!

SBCOA scientists will present their work in a style that allows all to understand the meaning and importance of your research contribution. Our speakers boast two of the top 100 Alzheimer researchers in the world! Bill Markesbery, MD, Greg Jicha MD, PhD, and Stephanie Freeman, MSW will host (Cont. on Pg. 4)





Spotlight on SBCOA staff: Stephanie Freeman,



Stephanie Freeman is more than just a social worker, she is a “matchmaker”. While traditionally, matchmakers found love for single adults that were struggling to achieve wedded bliss, Stephanie’s role is quite different. She strives to match interested research subjects with studies that are a perfect fit for them. The job is not as easy as it sounds. Every research study is unique in its demands and sometimes its risks. Stephanie gets to know you personally, and her job is to find the ideal study for you or your loved one.

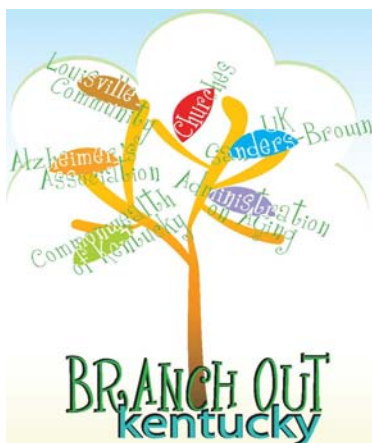
Whether you have normal cognition or suffer from Alzheimer’s disease, she can help! She serves as the central contact for all clinical therapeutic research activities and affiliated studies. Working closely with Diane Spencer (Normal control recruitment, 859-323-6422) and Caitlin McGuire (Special recruitment for African-American Outreach, 859-257-8971), Stephanie can find a fit just right for you!

Stephanie was recruited just over a year ago from the University of Louisville. She worked extensively in Louisville in the area of geriatric social work, her chosen field. We are lucky to have her!

For information on available research opportunities, call Stephanie at 859-257-1412 x234

Branch Out Kentucky: African-American Outreach

On March 22nd Sanders-Brown Center on Aging’s African American Dementia Outreach Partnership (AADOP) held a Branch Out Kentucky Conference. This year’s conference, “African Americans and Alzheimer’s Disease: It Takes a Partnership”, focused on the importance of research participation for African Americans. The conference was co-sponsored by the local Council of Ministers, the Department of Aging and Independent living, the Alzheimer’s Association , and the Ohio Valley Appalachia Regional Geriatric Education Center. The conference was a huge success, and AADOP and the SBCOA hope to continue these efforts through a new NIH grant awarded to Deborah Danner, PhD, for her innovative research and efforts engaging the African-American community here in central Kentucky!



FACTS ABOUT ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE IN AFRICAN AMERICANS

- ⇒ African Americans may be at increased risk for Alzheimer’s disease due to increased risk factors such as diabetes, hypertension, and high cholesterol
- ⇒ Reduced access to care is also an important factor in this increased risk for African Americans seen in many studies
- ⇒ Age of onset and death is 5-7 years earlier for Alzheimer’s disease in African Americans
- ⇒ Few clinical care or research programs exist to battle this epidemic among African Americans in the US today
- ⇒ We are fortunate to have Dr. Danner and AADOP as part of our global efforts to eradicate this disease!

Do you have a story, comment, or anecdote to share? The BRAiNS Newsletter can be your voice! Please send any thoughts or comments to: Dr. Greg Jicha at gajich2@email.uky.edu or by conventional mail at 223 Sanders-Brown Bldg, 800 South Limestone, Lexington, KY 40536



Kentucky American Legion Auxiliary Donates to Sanders-Brown!



Ann Betsekas (left) presents the donation to Dr. Stephen Scheff and Diane Spencer, of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging.

The Sanders-Brown Center on Aging was pleased to accept a donation provided by the Kentucky American Legion Auxiliary, through the dedicated efforts of Ms. Diane Spencer, who served as the Department President 2006-2007. A full description of this award is provided at the University of Kentucky News Web-site (<http://news.uky.edu/news/>).

This generous gift will support research efforts into the causes and cures for Alzheimer disease at our Center. Dr. Steven Scheff, Associate Director of the Center, accepted the donation on the Center's behalf.

All of us at the Center express our sincere appreciation to Ms. Betsekas (Department President 2008-2009), Ms. Spencer, and the entire Kentucky American Legion Auxiliary for their selfless commitment and altruism!

Natural Immunity to Alzheimer's Disease? What's it all about, and how do I get some of that?

Believe it or not, researchers have identified antibodies that attack Alzheimer's disease in donated human blood. Researchers think that many of us may produce such antibodies naturally, preventing the development of Alzheimer's disease in many. Others that do not produce such antibodies may be less fortunate. These antibodies have been shown in preliminary studies to potentially slow or even stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease.

Over nine months, patients randomized to IVIG demonstrated significant improvement on a number of cognitive measures compared with placebo, with no evidence of toxicity, said Norman R. Relkin, M.D., of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, discussing an interim analysis of the first double-blind phase II trial of the therapy.

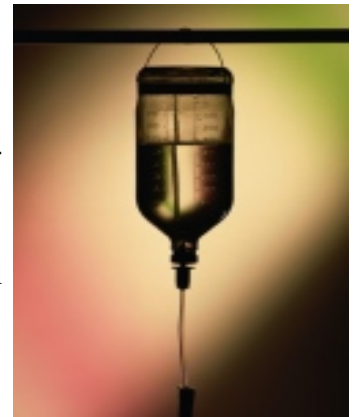
"The key points," said Dr. Relkin at the International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease in July of 2008, "are that this was the first time that a controlled clinical trial of this treatment demonstrated benefit at what we believe to be an optimal dose."

IVIG is an appealing therapy option because "it is obtained from the plasma of healthy humans and, as such, it has the advantage of having an established safety record."

A large study of subjects given IVIG for non-Alzheimer conditions reported a 42% lower risk of Alzheimer's disease in those receiving the treatment (847 subjects) over controls (84,700 subjects). This study is the largest to date investigating the possible prevention of Alzheimer's disease with IVIG administration.

This ongoing trial will further investigate the disease-modifying properties of IVIG in subjects with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease over a 1 1/2 year period.

For information call Stephanie at (859) 257-1412 ext. 234



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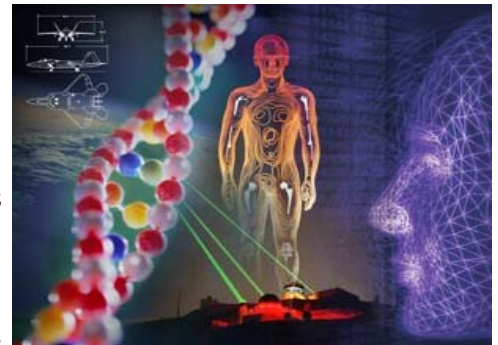
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Please Join Us! Sanders-Brown Scientific Symposium 2009 November 14, 2009 1-4pm (continued from pg. 1)

the event and serve as moderators. Speakers will include Steve Scheff, PhD (Associate Director of SBCOA), Elizabeth Head, PhD (our most recently recruited faculty member from UC Irvine), Alan Butterfield, PhD (renowned AD researcher), & Fred Schmitt, PhD (the man who grades your tests, also a world-renowned AD researcher).

Topics that will be covered include the early loss of nerve cell connections that can precede the death of neurons and clinical memory loss by years, the strange link between Alzheimer's disease and Down's syndrome (a developmental disorder affecting children and young adults), oxidative stress and injury to the brain in Alzheimer's disease (brain rust that contributes to neurodegeneration), and recent efforts at developing large scale international prevention trials in Alzheimer's disease at UK. In addition, we have asked the scientific faculty of SBCOA to be present to "mingle", answer questions, discuss their personal research one-on-one, and host this delightful event!

This special event is being held at the Lexington Downtown Hotel, 369 West Vine St., Lexington, KY 40507 (corner of Broadway and Vine street) This is a "must attend" event! Please RSVP to 859-323-5550.



THE MEMORY LOSS TAPES



HBO Premiered the "Memory Loss Tapes" in a Gala Event in Lexington

Sanders-Brown was chosen as one of only twenty Alzheimer's Disease Centers to show an advanced screening of the HBO Alzheimer's Project documentary, "The Memory Loss Tapes", on Sunday, April 26th. This touching documentary, which is part of a multi-platform series examining the effects of this disease on those with Alzheimer's and their families, takes a close look at groundbreaking discoveries made by the country's leading scientists.

To watch the tapes connect to <http://www.hbo.com/alzheimers/memory-loss-tapes.html>