Alzheimer’s Disease. I invite you to join us in our endeavors, and I thank you for your partnership.

PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT

In 2016, UC San Diego received an important grant from The D. H. Chen Foundation to deepen our understanding of younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease (YOAD). The grant provided unique seed funding to start a research program that utilizes stem cell and genomic technologies to understand biological pathways that lead to YOAD, an uncommon but devastating dementia.

Our patients in the YOAD clinic within the SMADRC participated in this groundbreaking research. Because YOAD is a highly inheritable skin sample that is converted into a stem cell enables scientists to discover the pathways that are interrupted, resulting in disease. Leveraging this visionary gift, SMADRC was able to create a stem cell core, now supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), that offers the global scientific community access to highly characterized samples for continued research into YOAD, amplifying the progress toward finding a solution for YOAD.

The D. H. Chen Foundation’s philanthropy further enabled the SMADRC to hire a full-time social worker dedicated to our YOAD patient and caregiver community. Jasmine Alvin, MSW, a bilingual and bicultural, joined our staff for the ideal fit for our patient cohort. She completed her graduate internship at the SMADRC and because of The D. H. Chen Foundation’s generous support, we were able to retain her after she completed her training. This provided continuity for our patients and caregivers, which is especially important when dementia affects people under the age of 65.

Philanthropy provides critical seed funding to explore the next big leaps in Alzheimer’s-related dementia research. It also offers flexible support for patient bedside. We use unrestricted donor support to jumpstart the careers of young investigators by providing them with critical seed funding for research projects. As the research gains pace and promise, projects can be leveraged for NIH or other grant dollars that help propel this important work. Philanthropy is often present where big breakthroughs begin.

Donor funds also play a critical role in maintaining and growing our quality of life programs. Three key programs related to YOAD were suspended because of COVID-19 isolation. During the COVID pandemic, when most activities for people with dementia were put on hold, our free, remote program, “Virtual Memories at the Museum,” provided interactive tours of San Diego’s museums to people with memory disorders.

For more information about how you can support SMADRC’s researchers, clinical trials, vital research equipment, young talent and specialized programs for patients and caregivers through estate giving, memorial gifts or volunteer opportunities, please contact us:

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(858) 735-5137
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To make a gift by check, mail to:
UC San Diego Health Sciences Advancement
2500 Geisel Drive, #0937
La Jolla, CA 92037

To make a gift online, please visit:
giveto.ucsd.edu (enter fund “E2140” for the SMADRC)

The Campaign for UC San Diego
Your gift to the Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center is part of the Campaign for UC San Diego — our comprehensive fundraising effort concluding in 2022. Together with our philanthropic partners, we will continue our nontraditional path toward revolutionary discoveries, unexpected answers, compelling also unique and planet-changing impact.

Your support of the Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center provides scientists with the vital resources needed to advance groundbreaking research into Alzheimer’s disease and make the leap from laboratory bench to patient bedside. We use unrestricted donor support to jumpstart the careers of young investigators by providing them with critical seed funding for research projects. As the research gains pace and promise, projects can be leveraged for NIH or other grant dollars that help propel this important work. Philanthropy is often present where big breakthroughs begin.

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Amanda Calcetas ‘20 was the 2019 recipient of the John M. (Jack) McKeown Alzheimer’s Disease Award which supports the continued research and education of under-graduate and graduate students, pre- and post-doctoral staff, and junior staff employed at the SMADRC. Amanda managed a research project that evaluated the benefit of the SMADRC Memory Screening Days through which the Center provides free, brief cognitive screening for persons 65 years and older. The events are a valuable mechanism for community outreach and recruitment of research participants. An excellent researcher and great asset, Amanda is devoted to her work on behalf of UC San Diego, to the 2019 Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Los Angeles.

Amanda graduated with a degree in cognitive and behavioral neuroscience with a minor in clinical psychology. She is thankful for her experience working at the SMADRC, “I wouldn’t have been able to go where I am now without your constant support!” She is working towards building her partnership with her former colleagues — SMADRC staff and laboratory recently hired for a full-time staff researcher associate. “This position would not be possible if it were not for the work I did, and they work with the SMADRC, so I’ll be in awe.”

Above: Amanda presenting her research at the 2019 Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Los Angeles.

**SDSU-UC San Diego Joint Doctoral Program**

UC San Diego, in collaboration with San Diego State University, offers a joint doctoral degree in clinical psychology with several key areas of focus: neuropsychology, experimental psychopathology and behavioral medicine/health psychology. The program emphasizes the integration of research and practice in training, activities and experience. Students are actively involved in diverse research activities throughout their stay in the program and the concentration in neuropsychology is led by neuropsychologists at SMADRC.

Alena Stasenko obtained her PhD through the joint doctoral program UC San Diego, in collaboration with San Diego State University, which focuses on bilingualism, and how bilingualism affects the processes underlying bilingualism, and how bilingualism affects the ability to detect cognitive impairment in elderly Latinas.

As one of the top five psychology programs in the country, the SDSU-UC San Diego joint doctorate program is designed to enable students to be on the forefront of developments and applications in clinical psychology. With extensive opportunities to become involved in research and clinical activities that focus on diverse, underserved populations, the program offers valuable training resources for students to develop their research and translate their findings into improved outcomes for patients.

**Chicano/Latino for Community Medicine**

Supporting and elevating our diverse communities is at the heart of SMADRC’s vision. We are actively involved in diversity and inclusion activities that focus on diverse, underserved populations, the program offers valuable training resources for students to develop their research and translate their findings into improved outcomes for patients.

Yaacov Jacob and Hispanic, older brother, Mien, contributed a combined total of 38 years of research data to the SMADRC. Born in Mexico City, Yaacov and Mien immigrated to San Diego with their family in 1980. Yaacov later studied at UC Berkeley and then worked in the military. Yaacov went to teach English, Spanish and English as a second language in San Diego for almost 30 years.

In 2004, the two brothers got involved in UC San Diego’s Latino Health Center, which raises issues for the ethnic community to address. They have been very active in the community, helping to bring awareness and knowledge about cognition, aging and brain health to the community. They were an inspiration to all of us, especially to people like you, also ensure our staff can offer home visits when needed. This proactive connection with the community enables us to gain much-needed participation from diverse and underrepresented communities. This is what drives our advancement of knowledge of Alzheimer’s disease.

We also recognize the importance of exposing the next generation of physician-scientists to this important work. Recently, SMADRC connected with Chicano/Latino for Community Medicine to facilitate a more diverse student body. The student organization works with pre-health undergraduates providing support, guidance and education. Like SMADRC, they are deeply committed to empowering underrepresented communities through service and improved access to culturally competent health care.

Because of its success, this important project helped the SMADRC leverage an undergraduate training grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to strengthen the research education activities needed to better understand cultural, linguistic and social factors in diagnosing and treating Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

**COMMUNITY PARTICIPANT PROFILE**

YVES AND HENRI JACOT

Yves Jacot and his late, older brother, Henri, contributed a combined total of 38 years of research data to the SMADRC. Born in Mexico City, Yaacov and Mien immigrated to San Diego with their family in 1980. Yaacov later studied at UC Berkeley and then worked in the military. Yaacov went to teach English, Spanish and English as a second language in San Diego for almost 30 years.

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**BY THE NUMBERS**

- **1,320+** Neuron-cost-to-cost memory screenings since 2017
- **300** Quality of life program hours for persons with dementia and their families in 2020
- **214** Small-group year-long support training hours delivered to caregivers in 2020
- **38** Research publications published by the UC San Diego SMADRC since 1985
- **1,274** Peer-reviewed Quality of life training to support persons with dementia and their families in 2020
- **28** Academics lecture hours presented to undergraduate and graduate students in 2020
- **80** SMADRC-affiliated faculty awarded federal and state grant funding in 2019
- **5+** SMADRC pilot projects presented to early career investigators each year
- **24** Years Jacob and his older brother, Mien, contributed a combined total of 38 years of research data to the SMADRC. Born in Mexico City, Yaacov and Mien immigrated to San Diego with their family in 1980. Yaacov later studied at UC Berkeley and then worked in the military. Yaacov went to teach English, Spanish and English as a second language in San Diego for almost 30 years.

**Philanthropic support has helped us position to embark on a future of limitless possibilities in scientific learning, research and translation.**