The COVID-19 pandemic brought new challenges with stay-at-home orders and unreliable internet connections impacting remote testing. For this essential research to continue, we had to alleviate the technological barriers faced by many of our research participants.

The SMADRC is actively working to break new ground in Latino outreach and community engagement and in training the next generation of emerging scholars in the field. In this way, we seek to ensure that all populations will benefit from our research to prevent or delay Alzheimer’s disease.

Contributions to our work advance this groundbreaking research and immediately help to mitigate the impacts of neurocognitive disorders across our diverse San Diego community. We wouldn’t be able to do it without you.

Gifts of all sizes play an important role in sustaining our momentum. The innovative, inclusive research of SMADRC’s faculty and early-career investigators is making a real impact on human health and well-being, thanks to the essential support from our generous donors.

Please help us in propelling our next breakthrough! Thank you for your partnership in the transformative work taking place at the Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (SMADRC) at UC San Diego.

The field has a lot of work to do in broadening applicability of our science to include the Latino communities. The SMADRC is committed to leading the way toward progress in this critical endeavor. Thanks to your contributions, our diverse, young and brilliant emerging scholars will be well prepared to take the baton from us and ensure that this work continues across the nation.

I hope you enjoy learning from this annual report and that it leaves you feeling as I do — energized and optimistic about what we can accomplish together in the coming year!

Sincerely,
James Brewer, MD, PhD
Chair, Department of Neurosciences

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for your partnership in the transformative work taking place at the Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (SMADRC) at UC San Diego.

We are excited to share with you this update on the groundbreaking programs now launched and thriving, despite the challenges of the pandemic. Our team’s perseverance and passion take us forward, but we could not make such advances without your generous support.

We cherish your dedication to us and our deep connections to you as we seek to rid the world of Alzheimer’s disease.

Here, we highlight team efforts to break new ground in Latino outreach and community engagement and in training the next generation of emerging scholars in the field. The two topics are related, as we seek to build resources toward making Alzheimer’s research more equitable and representative across our diverse communities.

The scholars trained at our center recognize the heterogeneity of Alzheimer’s disease and the lack of diversity in research.

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James Brewer, MD, PhD
Director, Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Chair, Department of Neurosciences
I was able to explore my own ideas and collaborate with experienced pathologists, neuropathologists and clinical neuropsychologists, which would not have been possible in a smaller lab setting without this support. "(Denis Smirnov)

Retracing on his PhD journey, Denis is grateful for the resources he found at SMADRC and the freedom provided by the Florida scholarship. "I wasn't tied to a premed project," he says. "I was able to explore my own ideas and collaborate with experienced pathologists, neuropathologists and clinical neuropsychologists, which would not have been possible in a smaller lab setting without this support." Denis hopes for dissertation findings that will aid in the diagnosis process and contribute to the development of appropriate treatments for these experiencing cognitive impairment.

"The Ding family is very proud to support the important work of emerging scholars such as Dr. Smirnov," says Denis. "These researchers are bringing much-needed attention to the field by developing new tools and resources to help end Alzheimer's for good."