

## PHILANTHROPIC IMPACT

In 2018, 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 highly inheritable, skin samples that are converted into stem cells enable our 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 towards finding a solution for YOAD.

The D. H. Chen Foundation's generous support further enabled SMADRC to hire a full-time social worker dedicated to our YOAD patient and caregiver community. Ivonne Arias, MSW, is bilingual and bicultural, making her the ideal fit for our patient cohort. She completed her graduate internship at the SMADRC and because of The D. H. Chen Foundation's philanthropy, 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 and related dementia research. It also offers flexible resources to attract and retain top talent to care for our patients and caregivers. **As a member of our donor community, we thank you for the tremendous difference you make every day for the Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.**

## THANK YOU

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 initial seed funding for research projects. As the research gains data 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. These vital programs extend to families struggling with 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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To make a gift by check, mail to:  
**UC San Diego Health Sciences Advancement**  
Attn: Shiley-Marcos ADRC  
9500 Gilman Drive, #0937  
La Jolla, CA 92093

To make a gift online, please visit:  
[giveto.ucsd.edu](http://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 ideas, unexpected answers, lifesaving discoveries and planet-changing impact.

UC San Diego  
Health Sciences

# SHILEY-MARCOS ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER

THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING | 2020



### MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

*Thank you for your commitment to our groundbreaking programs at UC San Diego Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (SMADRC). As we all navigate the challenges of the coronavirus, I am deeply moved by the steadfast generosity of our donors, and the resilience and innovation of our participants, staff and faculty.*

*With the goal of eradicating Alzheimer's disease and related disorders, we have been agile in developing new ways to advance our mission and share the impacts of our research. We are determined to sustain and enhance meaningful engagement throughout our diverse communities. In collaboration with local and national partners, we are forging ahead on transformative paths of discovery that will hasten our understanding of the disease, and we are developing new processes to deliver this understanding toward new therapeutics.*

*Support from our donors and the wider San Diego community is vital to this work. It fuels the shared labor of our entire SMADRC family and is a powerful force for helping improve the lives of people with Alzheimer's disease. I invite you to join us in our endeavors, and I thank you for your partnership.*

**James Brewer, MD, PhD**

Director, Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center  
Chair, Department of Neurosciences



**STUDENT PROFILE**  
**AMANDA CALCETA '20**

SMADRC employs undergraduates part-time, providing vital hands-on experience for students exploring a career in Alzheimer's research.

Amanda Calcetas '20 was the 2019 recipient of the **John M. (Jack) McKeown Alzheimer's Disease Award** which supports the continuing research and education of work-study students, pre/post docs, 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 with great promise, Amanda was invited to present her work, on behalf of UC San Diego, at 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 get where I am now without your constant support!" She is looking forward to continuing her partnership with her former colleagues — an SMADRC-affiliated laboratory recently hired her as a full-time staff research associate. "This position seems like a great fit and they work with the SMADRC, so I'll still be around."

*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 clinical research activities throughout their stay in the program and the concentration in neuropsychology is led by neuropsychologists at SMADRC.

Alena Stasenکو obtained her PhD through the joint doctoral program in neuropsychology in 2019 and worked closely with the SMADRC's Hispanic Core. Her study measured the cognitive changes that occur with aging among 90 active participants from the Hispanic community in the San Diego area. Dr. Stasenکو's dissertation, "Cognitive and Neural Control in Bilingual Language Processing," examined the effects of aging on processes underlying bilingualism, and how bilingualism affects the ability to detect cognitive impairment in elderly Latino patients.

As one of the top five psychology programs in the country, the SDSU-UC San Diego joint doctoral 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.

**CHICANX / LATINX FOR COMMUNITY MEDICINE**

Supporting and elevating our diverse communities is at the heart of SMADRC's values. With philanthropy, we are able to increase accessibility to underserved communities by offering travel funds to participant families who commute from outlying areas to the SMADRC in La Jolla. The flexible resources provided by donors, 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 to advance our understanding of Alzheimer's disease.



*Promotoras who have been working with the SMADRC to engage the Latino community*

We also recognize the importance of exposing the next generation of physician-scientists to this important work. Recently, SMADRC connected with Chicanx/Latinx for Community Medicine to facilitate a more inclusive student enrollment cohort. 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, Yves and Henri immigrated to San Diego with their family in 1940. They both studied at UC Berkley and then served in the military. Yves went on to teach French, Spanish and English as a second language in San Diego for almost four decades.

In 2004, the twin brothers got involved in UC San Diego's Longitudinal Study which examines genetic and environmental influences on brain function and aging beginning at midlife. To date, more than 1,600 identical and fraternal male-male twins have participated, adding to new knowledge about cognition, aging and the risk of mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease. In 2014, Henri began to show some change in his memory and when he passed away on December 8, 2018, per his wishes, his brain was donated for autopsy to our program.

Participation in SMADRC's study during Henri's illness helped Yves gain a better understanding of what his brother experienced with Alzheimer's disease. He believes in the importance of this work and has also agreed to donate his brain for autopsy at the end of his life. This generous gift is integral to shaping researchers' understanding of the neurological pathology associated with Alzheimer's disease and how it relates to the clinical presentation of symptoms. Yves encourages others from the Latino community to contribute to this scientific body of knowledge, either through an end-of-life donation or by actively participating in a study like he and Henri did.

*Right: Brothers Yves and Henri Jacot*



**BY THE NUMBERS**

**1,327**

Number of no-cost memory screenings since 2017

**1,300+**

Peer-reviewed publications published by the UC San Diego SMADRC since 1985

**1,274**

Caregivers received Quality of Life training to support persons with dementia and their families in 2020

**300**

Quality of Life program hours offered in English and Spanish to the public, caregivers and practitioners in 2020

**214**

Small-group peer-support training hours delivered to practitioners in 2020

**80**

SMADRC-affiliated faculty awarded federal and state grant funding in 2019

**28**

Academic lecture hours presented to undergraduate and graduate students in 2020

**24**

Internships awarded to graduate and postdoctoral trainees in 2020

**5+**

SMADRC pilot awards presented to early career investigators each year

**Philanthropic support has helped position us to embark on a future of limitless possibilities in scientific learning, exploration and discovery that can transform lives.**