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UT Southwestern's public forum on Alzheimer's disease will focus on mechanisms of learning and memory

DALLAS – March 25, 2009 – The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center will hold a Spring Public Forum on April 1 at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Craig Powell, assistant professor of neurology and psychiatry at UT Southwestern, will discuss "Mechanisms of Memory: Therapeutic Opportunities in Alzheimer's Disease."

The 7 p.m. forum will be held in the Simmons/Hamon Biomedical Research Buildings on UT Southwestern's North Campus, 6000 Harry Hines Blvd. Complimentary valet parking is available. Because seating is limited, attendance should be confirmed by calling the UT Southwestern Office of Development at 214-648-2344.

Dr. Powell's presentation will focus on the mechanisms in the brain responsible for learning and memory and how they might be used to treat Alzheimer's disease. He will discuss recent insights into how connections between neurons in the brain are strengthened, as well as experimental approaches to treating Alzheimer's disease.

"Dr. Powell is a brilliant investigator who is discovering new insights into the basic neuroscientific basis for memory and learning," said Dr. Roger Rosenberg, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center at UT Southwestern and holder of the Abe (Brunky), Morris and William Zale Distinguished Chair in Neurology. "He is discovering how connections between neurons communicate to form memories and how they become impaired in patients with Alzheimer's disease. This will be an exciting talk the audience will remember and give them insight into why they are remembering it."

The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center was established in 1996 to provide financial support for Alzheimer's research at the medical center. All of the group's membership contributions go directly to support Alzheimer's research at UT Southwestern.

Since its founding, the group has raised more than \$800,000 for grants to researchers. This year a grant for \$65,000 will be awarded to Dr. Janine Prange-Kiel, assistant professor of cell

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biology. Dr. Prange-Kiel's research is focused on the steroid hormone estradiol, which might have both a neuroprotective and potentially therapeutic role in Alzheimer's disease.

Membership begins at \$500 annually and may be sent to Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center, P.O. Box 910888, Dallas, TX 75391-0888.

Members receive a newsletter and are invited to attend educational programs where they will learn about breakthroughs from leading scientists at UT Southwestern and other institutions.

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