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UT Southwestern Alzheimer's disease forum will focus on genetics

DALLAS – March 6, 2008 – The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center will hold its Spring Public Forum on March 11 at UT Southwestern Medical Center. Dr. Stephen C. Waring, research epidemiologist and lead scientist for the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium, will discuss, "Alzheimer's Disease: Unraveling the Genetic Code to Better Inform How to Deal With the Hand We Are Dealt."

The 7 p.m. forum is open to the public. It 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 UT Southwestern's Office of Development at 214-648-2344.

Dr. Waring and colleagues at the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium currently are engaged in research to determine how genetics contributes to the age of Alzheimer's onset and the genes and biomarkers associated with the disease's progression.

"This research has a high probability to find new gene variations that will explain the complex changes that occur in the brains of patients with Alzheimer's and potentially could uncover new molecular targets for therapy," 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.

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 \$60,000 will be awarded to Dr. Yuji Nakada, assistant instructor of pathology. Dr. Nakada's research is investigating the prevention of Alzheimer's through understanding various functioning aspects of the aging-suppressor gene *Klotho*.

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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