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UT Southwestern forum to offer new Alzheimer's insights

DALLAS – March 30, 2010 – New insights into the cause and treatment of Alzheimer's disease will highlight the Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center Spring Public Forum on April 20 at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Dr. Joachim Herz, professor of molecular genetics and neuroscience and director of the new Center for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases at UT Southwestern, will discuss "Novel Disease Prevention Strategies Against 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. Due to limited seating, attendance should be confirmed by calling the UT Southwestern Office of Development at 214-648-2344.

Dr. Herz will discuss his research on how a mutation in a single protein triggers the devastation of Alzheimer's disease.

"Dr. Herz has developed a brilliant insight into how this risk factor of Alzheimer's operates, and he is working on developing new compounds that have the potential to reverse its effects," said Dr. Roger Rosenberg, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center. "We are in for a very exciting and cutting-edge talk."

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

This year, a \$65,000 grant will be awarded to Dr. Todd Eager, assistant professor of neurology. Dr. Eager studies the mechanisms of an experimental DNA vaccine against beta-amyloid, a protein that accumulates in the brains of people with Alzheimer's.

Since its founding, the group has raised \$972,000 for grants to researchers. For information on joining the group, call the development office at 214-648-2344.

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