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Alzheimer's disease forum will address the future of diagnosis, treatment

DALLAS – Oct. 11, 2006 – The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center will hold its Fall Public Forum, with the topic "Near-term Prospects for Better Diagnostics and Therapeutics to Delay and Prevent Alzheimer's Disease," on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

The speaker will be Dr. David Holtzman, professor of neurology from Washington University in St. Louis.

A major problem in Alzheimer's disease is the buildup of a protein called amyloid-beta in the brain, a process that occurs years before any symptoms or signs of memory loss. Dr. Holtzman will discuss the possibility of detecting this buildup early, well before symptoms develop. This is important because there are many new treatments being developed that might be able to delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease if treatment could begin earlier, he said.

"Dr. Holtzman is one of the most outstanding scientists in the field of Alzheimer's research," said Dr. Roger Rosenberg, professor of neurology, director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center and head of the Josephine Rudman Laboratory for Alzheimer's Disease Research. "He has most recently demonstrated measurements of the rate of synthesis and turnover in amyloid that could lead to new treatments."

At Washington University, Dr. Holtzman is head of the Department of Neurology, associate director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and a member of the Hope Center for Neurological Disorders. He is also the Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor of Neurology and Molecular Biology & Pharmacology.

The forum is free and open to the public. It will be held at 7 p.m. in the Excellence in Education Foundation Auditorium in the Simmons/Hamon Biomedical Research Buildings on UT Southwestern's North Campus, 6000 Harry Hines Blvd. Complimentary valet parking is available.

Attendance should be confirmed by calling 214-648-2344.

The Friends of the Alzheimer's Disease Center was established in 1996 to provide financial support for Alzheimer's research at UT Southwestern. It has more than 100 members,

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most of whom have a family member or friend touched by the disease.

One hundred percent of the group's membership contributions go directly to support Alzheimer's research at UT Southwestern.

Since its founding, it has raised more than \$650,000 for grants to young researchers. 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 twice-yearly newsletter and are invited to attend educational programs featuring local and national medical experts.

For more information, call the UT Southwestern Development Office at 214-648-2344.

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About UT Southwestern Medical Center

UT Southwestern Medical Center, one of the premier medical centers in the nation, integrates pioneering biomedical research with exceptional clinical care and education. Its more than 1,400 full-time faculty members – including four active Nobel prize winners, more than any other medical school in the world – are responsible for groundbreaking medical advances and are committed to translating science-driven research quickly to new clinical treatments. UT Southwestern physicians provide medical care in 40 specialties to nearly 89,000 hospitalized patients and oversee 2.1 million outpatient visits a year.

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