Can Science Meet the Challenges of Alzheimer's Disease?

Date: Thursday, October 16, 2008
Time: 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. Registration & Breakfast Buffet
        8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Program

Place: Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall
        The Rockefeller University
        York Avenue at 66th Street
        New York City

Featured Speaker

Mary Sano, Ph.D.
Professor of Psychiatry
Director, Alzheimer's Disease
    Research Center
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Panelists

Samuel Gandy, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Director, Mount Sinai
Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
Mount Sinai School of Medicine

Paul Greengard, Ph.D.
Vincent Astor Professor
The Rockefeller University

According to some estimates, as many as 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's disease in 2050—nearly four times the number living with the brain disorder today. The personal toll and financial burden associated with Alzheimer's is devastating to affected individuals and their families; in concurrence with an aging population, rising medical costs, and cutbacks in funding for health care programs, Alzheimer's disease could bring our nation to the brink of a "perfect storm" in public health.

While some medications have been shown to delay symptoms, no treatment is presently available to prevent or reverse Alzheimer's disease. Biomedical researchers are now racing against time to understand what causes the disease and discover new therapies. Currently, investigators are exploring the significance of human genetic studies that show a correlation between heightened risk of Alzheimer's disease and the inheritance of certain forms of genes that regulate cholesterol metabolism. Scientists are also learning more about the Alzheimer-related accumulation of toxic proteins in the brain, providing a novel approach to the development of new drugs.

On October 16, ***Women & Science*** will host a breakfast meeting on the current state of Alzheimer's disease research and treatment. Our distinguished guest speaker will be ***Mary Sano***, director of the Mount Sinai Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in New York. Through the Center, Dr. Sano designs and directs clinical trials with the goal of improving diagnosis, delaying disease progression, and enhancing the well being of those affected by Alzheimer's. Dr. Sano also leads the Center's medical scientists in general studies of the effects of aging, which are crucial to understanding a range of age-related conditions, including Alzheimer's disease.

A panel discussion following Dr. Sano's talk will also feature two other leaders in Alzheimer's disease research: neurologist ***Samuel Gandy*** and neuroscientist ***Paul Greengard***, 2000 Nobel laureate in medicine.

For more information please call (212) 327-8965.