



The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics at UCLA

Kate Edelman Johnson and The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics at UCLA Reach Out to China

Kate Edelman Johnson traveled to China as part of an outreach program of The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics at UCLA. Center Director and Co-founder, Jeffrey Cummings, M.D., provided a one-day course on the conduct of clinical trials for anti-dementia treatments in conjunction with Eisai Pharmaceuticals, China. The program was delivered to two hundred Chinese neurologists, psychiatrists, and geriatricians brought from throughout the country to Xi'an, China for the course.

Kate Edelman Johnson introduced the course telling the audience that she became devoted to finding a cure for Alzheimer's following the death of her husband, Deane, as a result of this tragic illness. Ms. Edelman Johnson is founder of The Deane F. Johnson Alzheimer Research Foundation and founding sponsor of The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics.

Following the program in Xi'an, Dr. Cummings lectured at Fudan University in Shanghai and made rounds on the Neurology ward of the Fudan University Medical Center. Kate Edelman Johnson accompanied Dr. Cummings and was welcomed by the Neurology staff and faculty at Fudan University. The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics plans more exchanges with Chinese physicians interested in neurotherapeutics including visits to UCLA by Chinese scientists.

Programs, projects or personnel that would benefit from additional philanthropic support will be described and contact numbers provided.

**Center Founders,
Kate Edelman
Johnson and
Jeffrey L.
Cummings,
M.D., visiting
clinicians in
Shanghai, China.**



Lincy Foundation Provides Grant for Pilot Investigations

The Lincy Foundation provided a generous grant to The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics at UCLA to support clinical investigations of neurotherapeutic agents. Using agents that are already approved and available on the market, small trials called, “Facilitated Assessments of Candidate Treatments” (FACTS), will explore novel applications of these agents in neurological disorders. The first pilot awards were made to Yvette Bordelon, M.D., PhD., to study the effect of curcumin in Huntington’s disease, and Lara Schrader, M.D., to investigate therapeutic strategies in patients with epilepsy. There is a third up-coming award to be made to support the development of therapeutic agents for the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics is extremely grateful for the support of the Lincy Foundation gift that allows the development of young investigators and advancement of neurotherapeutics.

Dr. Cummings Receives Award

Jeffrey Cummings, M.D., Director and Co-founder for The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics, has recently received several awards and honors. He was named as the Henderson Lecturer for the American Geriatrics Society annual meeting. This is an esteemed lectureship and provided him an opportunity to update the audience on advances on the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease. In addition, Dr. Cummings was chosen as an outstanding alumnus of the University of Wyoming. He attended an award ceremony and received a medal of distinction bestowed by the University of Wyoming President, Tom Buchanan.

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics Faculty Provide Preceptorships to Forest Pharmaceutical Company

In concert with the mission of The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics to provide educational programs as well as to support clinical trials Center’s staff has organized two preceptorships for Forest Pharmaceutical personnel. Forest Pharmaceutical markets the drug, memantine (Namenda) in the United States. The company requires that its staff maintain up-to-date information on the diagnosis and management of Alzheimer’s disease. Lectures were provided by Jeffrey Cummings, M.D., John Ringman, M.D., George Bartzokis, M.D., Harry Vinters, M.D., Paul Thompson, M.D., Po Haong-Lu,

PsyD., and Michelle Barclay, M.A., of the Los Angeles Alzheimer’s Association. In addition, Forest employees visited the Television and Motion Pictures Home in Calabasas, CA to better understand how care is provided to patients in long-term care facilities. More preceptorships on a variety of disease for other pharmaceutical companies are planned.

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**Jeffrey L. Cummings, M.D., Center
Medical Director**

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics Supports Multiple Clinical Trials

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics is fulfilling its mission of supporting clinical trials and advancing neurotherapeutics in the attempt to find new treatments for patients with neurologic disease, reducing symptoms, and improving quality of life. The Center is committed to developing new, quality treatments in the most efficient way. Currently, the Center is supporting twenty-three trials in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, stroke, Huntington's disease, and Lou Gehrig's disease (*amyotrophic lateral sclerosis*). More trials are planned for the future.

We Need Your Help to Advance the Mission of The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics was opened on October 12, 2004 and has now celebrated its one-year anniversary. Since its inception, the Center has fulfilled its mission of supporting clinical trials, advancing the science of clinical trials, and providing educational programs on treatment of neurological diseases. The Center is achieving its mission of advancing treatments for a variety of neurological diseases but much more can be done. A training fellowship devoted to clinical trials would help fill the void of expert clinicians needed to advance the treatments of neurological diseases. Funding for biomarker research would allow us to track how well a drug or device is working in the treatment of a brain disease by a tracking mechanism called a biomarker. Additional support for educational programs would allow publication and wide distribution of educational materials developed for the Center. Funding for international scholars and visitors would allow an enhanced international impact on the Center's activities. Support for basic science projects targeting drug discovery would further improve our ability to treat neurological disorders. Do one of these projects appeal to you? If so, please contact the Director of the Center, Jeffrey Cummings, M.D., at (310) 206-5238.

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics Sponsors its First Community Conference

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics sponsored its first community conference to update UCLA faculty and community practitioners on recent advances in neurological therapies. The conference, occurring on November 5 at Covel Commons UCLA, Sunset Village, provided an update on therapeutic advances in Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, headache, and stroke. The

half-day conference provided a rich curriculum useful to neurologists, psychiatrists, geriatricians, and internists on recent advances in the pharmacologic treatment of the most common neurologic disorders. One hundred people attended the conference. This conference is planned as an annual event and fulfills part of the mission of the Center to provide educational programs on progress and treatment of neurologic disorders.



Miss America contestants and Center Founder, Kate Edelman Johnson

Johnson Foundation Hosts Miss America Contestants

Kate Edelman Johnson with her friend and past Miss America, Phyllis George, hosted the 52nd Miss America Pageant contestants at Ms. Edelman Johnson's home in Beverly Hills. The evening afforded the opportunity to highlight the work of the Deane F. Johnson Alzheimer's Research Foundation and the Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics at UCLA. Several Miss America contestants shared their personal experiences with Alzheimer's disease. These stories chronicled the loss of loved ones and highlighted the ironic contrast between such a memorable evening and the loss of memory experienced by the affected family members. Several contestants showed an interest in supporting the work of the Johnson Foundation and the Center and ensuring public awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other neurologic illnesses.

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics Welcomes Clinic Coordinator, Christine Tam

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics welcomes its newest member, clinic coordinator, Christine Tam. Ms. Tam comes to us from the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association, where she worked as the Assistant Director of Clinical Research in Los Angeles, CA. Ms. Tam's background is in nursing and research administration. She is currently a master's candidate in Healthcare Management at California State University, Los Angeles. She states that it has always been her dream to work at UCLA and she is very happy to be at The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics.



Christine Tam, Center Clinic Coordinator

The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics Current Research Programs

The primary role of the Center is to promote vital clinical trials research in neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's disease and stroke. The following programs are among the many research studies at the Center that are currently recruiting for research subjects:

- 1) Alzheimer's Disease
- 2) Stroke Prevention
- 2) Parkinson Disease
- 3) Huntington Disease

You can find out more about our research by reaching us at (310) 206-9485.



The Deane F. Johnson Center for Neurotherapeutics at UCLA

Newsletter

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