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CONTACT:

Kim Rymsha
krymsha@gymr.com

Genevieve Matthews, 858-246-1318
gfmatthews@ucsd.edu

Alzheimer's and Down Syndrome

Keynote Speaker: William Mobley, MD, University of California at San Diego, CA

Date/Time: Friday, November 15 @ 8:30 a.m. PT

About: All people born with Down Syndrome develop Alzheimer's disease pathology and at least 75% develop full-blown AD; Dr. Mobley will discuss the implications.

- Every single person with Down syndrome will develop Alzheimer's pathology by age 40, and more than half will have dementia by age 60
- Down syndrome affects some 6 million people worldwide. The population thus represents the largest group of individuals with early onset AD, far more than the number with AD-inducing genetic mutations.
- the diagnosis can be made long before the onset of dementia and followed longitudinally
- AD patients with Down syndrome are younger and relatively healthier than older AD patients who frequently have other medical problem
- Down syndrome patients frequently have supportive and motivated caregivers.
- the neuropathology is nearly identical to what is seen in sporadic AD
- mouse models of Down syndrome can be used to explore the mechanisms of neurodegeneration