

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Alzheimer's Association names winners of the 2009 Young Scholar Awards

San Diego, CA – The Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter announces the second annual Young Scholar Awards recipients at a Ceremony held at the Association Headquarters on November 18th 2009. The ceremony will honor seven very promising local young Alzheimer's disease post doctoral fellows and graduate students from the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, the University of California San Diego, and the Scripps Research Institute.

Through the generosity of individual donors, in 2008 the Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter established a permanent fund for Young Scholar Awards. The purpose of the Award Program is to encourage scholars very early in their research careers to pursue their interests and investigations into the causes and ultimately the cure for Alzheimer's disease.

Recipients of this year's *Young Scholar Awards* include Aimee Pierce, MD, Yu-Ling Chang, PhD, and Elizabeth Murphy, all of the University of California San Diego. This year's *Honorable Mentions* go to Davide Gianni of Scripps Research Institute, Sara Sanz-Blasco, PhD, of the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, and Brea Midthune and Jimcy Platholi, PhD, both of the University of California San Diego. In addition to being honored by the Alzheimer's Association at the ceremony, the Young Scholar Award recipients will receive a cash award of \$1,500 and \$500 travel funds for a major national or international conference. The Honorable Mention recipients will receive a \$500 award.

The program received numerous applications from graduate students and post-doc fellows from the Burnham Institute, Salk Institute, Scripps Research Institute and the University of California San Diego. The applications were accompanied by letters of support from their distinguished mentors highlighting their very promising work. Entries were evaluated by the Young Scholar Awards Selection Committee drawn from the Chapter's Medical and Scientific Advisory Board, and were rated based on the relevance of their studies or research projects to Alzheimer's disease, on the novel approach of the work and on the potential impact on our understanding or ability to treat the disease.

Alzheimer's Disease

Alzheimer's disease is a fatal degenerative disorder that destroys brain cells. It is the leading cause of dementia, a condition that involves gradual memory loss, problems with thinking, loss of language skills, impairment of judgment, and personality changes.

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association San Diego/Imperial Chapter is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) voluntary health organization whose mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. The Chapter provides free services for families coping with Alzheimer's disease, including a 24/7 Helpline, support groups, educational programs, Care Consultation, MedicAlert® + Safe Return® and the Memories in the Making™ art program. For more information, visit www.sanalz.org or call 1-800-272-3900.