

## **The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation's Chairman's Award**

The ADDF Chairman's Award honors individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to promote awareness of the critical need to fund drug research for Alzheimer's disease. This year, we are pleased to honor our President, Nancy Corzine, with the ADDF's inaugural Chairman's Award.

Ms. Corzine has served as President of the ADDF's Board of Directors since 2005, providing enthusiastic support of, and constant guidance to, the Foundation in all of its activities. We are deeply grateful for her long-standing commitment to our mission.

In honor of Ms. Corzine, and in loving memory of her mother, Rita Johnson, the ADDF is pleased to grant funds to support the research of Dr. Lennart Mucke. Dr. Mucke is a world-renowned scientist and current Director and Senior Investigator at the Gladstone Institute of Neurological Disease (GIN), as well as the Joseph B. Martin Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience in the Department of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Mucke's work involves investigating new drugs that may protect brain cells from dying by decreasing the production of "tau protein," a key component of the "tangles" associated with Alzheimer's disease.

### **2011 Connoisseur's Dinner Fund a Scientist Awardees**

#### **Prana Biotechnology, Ltd., Melbourne, Australia**

This company has one of the first programs selected under the ADDF's new Program to Accelerate Clinical Trials (PACT). The accumulation of amyloid in the brains of patients suffering from Alzheimer's disease (AD) is widely accepted to be related to the devastating symptoms of the disease and is a key target for many of the efforts to develop a treatment. Prana's novel drug, PBT2, prevents the ability of toxic metals to interact with amyloid and cause brain cell damage. In a clinical trial of 78 patients with mild AD, after a 12-week treatment period, PBT2 has been shown to reduce amyloid in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients who received the drug — as well as to improve cognitive outcomes. In the new ADDF-funded trial, brain imaging will be employed to monitor the effects of the treatment on amyloid deposition. If successful, this study will put the company in an excellent position for partnering with a pharmaceutical company to bring the drug to market.

#### **Yuma Therapeutics, Brookline, Massachusetts**

Yuma Therapeutics is an early-stage start-up company co-founded by Ms. Yukari Perella, MBA, a seasoned healthcare and business professional with 20 years of experience. Yuma is collaborating with the Laboratory for Drug Discovery in Neurodegeneration at Harvard University to develop new compounds that promote the clearance of unwanted proteins from brain cells, protecting the cells from death. These compounds, inhibitors of "Heat Shock Protein 90" (Hsp90), have been primarily developed for cancer applications. However, after promising initial results in Alzheimer's models, the potential for neurodegenerative diseases is clear. Your funding is critical for Yuma to continue its work applying this science to Alzheimer's disease.

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