



FROM: The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health
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**FNIH AND GEOFFREY BEENE FOUNDATION ALZHEIMER'S INITIATIVE OPEN
ONLINE VOTING TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE
2013 GEOFFREY BEENE GLOBAL NEURODISCOVERY CHALLENGE**

**Informed Public to Help Select Winners Who Will Study
Male/Female Differences in Alzheimer's Disease**

Bethesda, MD (October 29, 2013) – The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health, in association with the Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative, today announced the top four winners of the preliminary round of the first-ever challenge to identify male/female differences in Alzheimer's Disease (AD). The 2013 Geoffrey Beene Global NeuroDiscovery Challenge exceeded expectations in terms of scientific interest and global outreach with more than 800 open project rooms from 65 countries. The four winners of the first round will share \$50,000 in awards from the Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative.

From **November 1 – 5, 2013** the public will have the opportunity to vote for the grand prize winning entry. The grand prize winner will receive an additional \$50,000 award to continue research specifically in the area of male/female differences in Alzheimer's disease.

The 2013 Geoffrey Beene Global NeuroDiscovery Challenge invited researchers to leverage large sets of clinical data and novel analytical approaches to elucidate the causes and consequences of male/female (biologic sex) differences in the destructive physical changes and atrophy in the brain, how those changes translate into progression of physical symptoms and the influence of genetics and hormones on the development of AD in both men and women.

"We are delighted with the worldwide response and interest to the challenge," said Maria Freire, Ph.D., President of the FNIH, which manages the partnership for the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI), a significant study of the progression of Alzheimer's Disease that is one of the great success stories of National Institute on Aging/NIH and private-sector funding. "We are encouraging the informed public to review the final three candidates and participate in this important initiative by voting for a winner."

“What better way to inform the science and mobilize women than to ask a research question that matters to them?” says Meryl Comer, President and CEO of the Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer’s Initiative. “The 2013 Geoffrey Beene Global NeuroDiscovery Challenge supports and validates this research focus for our next generation scientists. It’s time to find out if what’s true in cardiovascular disease, with women presenting with “atypical” symptoms from men, is also true for Alzheimer’s disease.”

The four winners of the first round are:

Enrico Glaab, PhD – *Research Associate at the Luxembourg Centre for Systems Biomedicine, University of Luxembourg, (Netherlands).*

Age-related gender differences in brain expression levels of tau-interacting ubiquitin-specific peptidase 9 and possible implications for Alzheimer’s disease.

Kimberly Glass, PhD and John Quackenbush, PhD – *Harvard School of Public Health, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, (Boston, MA).*

Sex-specific differences in Alzheimer’s disease are characterized by unique alterations in cellular network structure.

Elizabeth Mormino, PhD – *Massachusetts General Hospital, Department of Neurology, (Boston MA).*

Gender and the Alzheimer’s disease pathological cascade.

Herve Rhinn, PhD and Asa Abeliovich, MD, PhD - *Department of Pathology, Columbia University (New York).*

Scarb1 as a Mediator of Gender-Specific Differences in Alzheimer’s disease.

Online voting for the grand prize winner runs November 1 – 5, 2013 at www.geoffreybeenechallenge.org. A live vote will also take place November 7, 2013 at the Alzheimer's Disease Summit: The Path to 2025, presented by The New York Academy of Sciences, the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease, and the National Institute on Aging/NIH.

The three candidates’ submissions under consideration for the grand prize are:

Enrico Glaab, PhD

Kimberly Glass, PhD and John Quackenbush, PhD

Herve Rhinn, PhD and Asa Abeliovich, MD, PhD

Featured speakers at the November 7, 2013 Alzheimer's Disease Summit include Maria Freire, President of FNIH, Freda Lewis Hall, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer, Anne Whitaker, President North American Pharmaceutical, CEO Sanofi US, Reisa Sperling, MD, Professor of Neurology, Director, Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Meryl Comer, President of Geoffrey Beene

Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative.

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About the Foundation for NIH

Established by the United States Congress to support the mission of the NIH—improving health through scientific discovery in the search for cures—the Foundation for the NIH is a leader in identifying and addressing complex scientific and health issues. The foundation is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) charitable organization that raises private-sector funds for a broad portfolio of unique programs that complement and enhance NIH priorities and activities. For additional information about the Foundation for the NIH, please visit www.fnih.org.

About Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative

The Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative—launched in November 2007 and funded solely by Geoffrey Beene, LLC and the Geoffrey Beene Foundation—has made contributions in excess of \$4.7 million to support next generation research in early diagnostics and groundbreaking awareness programs to expose the impact of the Alzheimer's epidemic on individuals, families and our health care system. Contributions include catalyst funding for the National Alzheimer's Prevention Registry; the award-winning Rock Stars of Science™ campaign; marquis sponsorship of HBO's "The Alzheimer's Project" documentary series; co-sponsorship of the Alzheimer's Challenge 2012; and co-founder of the 21st Century BrainTrust™.

About the 2013 Geoffrey Beene Global NeuroDiscovery Challenge

The 2013 Geoffrey Beene Global NeuroDiscovery Challenge was launched in association with: Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH), Institute of Medicine (IOM), Women Against Alzheimer's Network (WA2), 21st Century BrainTrust™ (21 CBT), BrightFocus Foundation, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Boston, Mass Bio (600 Biotech Companies), Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR). The National Institute on Aging/NIH provided technical support.

The 2013 Geoffrey Beene Global NeuroDiscovery Challenge Judging Panel:

- Marietta Anthony, PhD, Consultant in Women's Health Research
- Janine Clayton, MD, Director of Women's Health, NIH (*ex-officio* capacity)
- Howard Fillit, MD, founding executive director and chief science officer, Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation
- Florence Haseltine, MD, PhD, IT consultant, founder, Society for Women's Health Research
- Lenore Launer, PhD, Chief of the Neuroepidemiology Section, NIA
- Freda Lewis-Hall, MD, Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Pfizer
- Michelle Mielke, PhD, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, Mayo Clinic
- Peter Rabins, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Psychiatry and director of the Division of Geriatric Psychiatry and Neuropsychiatry, Johns Hopkins Medicine

- Alan Russell, PhD, founding director of the University of Pittsburgh's McGowan Institute for Regenerative Medicine, Carnegie Mellon University

Among the countries submitting entries:

United States, India, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Italy, Poland, Singapore, Israel, Spain, Switzerland, France, Pakistan, Portugal, Brazil, China, Greece, Turkey, Ukraine, Australia, Belgium, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Colombia, Denmark, Finland, Hong Kong, Jordan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Serbia, South Africa, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lithuania, Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic Of), Madagascar, Moldova (Republic Of), Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Slovakia, Slovenia, Taiwan , Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, and Uzbekistan.

21st Century BrainTrust™ Founding Partners: Geoffrey Beene Foundation Alzheimer's Initiative, USAgainstAlzheimers(USA2), BrightFocus Foundation, **Scientific Partner:** Cleveland Clinic/Lou Ruvo Brain Institute.