

**For Immediate Release**

**Boston Research and Pharma Leaders to Explore  
THE FUTURE OF ALZHEIMERS: TRANSLATION AND THERAPEUTICS  
at Scientific Panel and Awards Luncheon**

Boston, Massachusetts—

Boston-based leaders in Alzheimer's research from across the medical, pharmaceutical, and scientific sectors will present their insights and be honored at a scientific panel and awards luncheon on **Tuesday, October 27, 2015** from **11 am to 3:30 pm** at the **Harvard Club** - Back Bay Clubhouse, 374 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA.

The **American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR)**, a national organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research, is pleased to host the symposia, "**The Future of Alzheimer's Disease: Translation and Therapeutics**," which will bring together the brightest minds in Boston who are working to move Alzheimer's research from the lab to the clinic.

Moderated by renowned Alzheimer's expert **Dr. Rudy Tanzi** of **Massachusetts General Hospital** and **Harvard Medical School**, the panel will pair innovative investigators—**Steven E. Arnold, MD**, of **Massachusetts General Hospital**, **Dennis J. Selkoe, MD**, of **Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center**, and **Li-Huei Tsai, PhD** of the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**--with leaders in the pharmaceutical sector, including **Dr. Roger Nitsch** of **Neurimmune** and **Dr. Jeffrey Sevigny** of **Biogen**, to discuss: *why this is a particularly promising moment for Alzheimer's research, what advancements are poised to revolutionize treatment, and how can private-public sector collaborations move research forward, faster.*

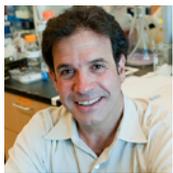
**Ilise Lombardo, MD**, Vice President of Clinical Research, **Axovant Dementia Solutions**, will share remarks on clinical trials with RVT-101, an orally administered therapy with the potential to improve dementia patients' cognition and daily functioning.

At the October 27 event, AFAR also will present its annual awards of distinction to two investigators for their outstanding commitment to Alzheimer's and aging research throughout their careers: Dr. Roger Nitsch, Founder and President of Neurimmune, and Dr. George M. Martin, Professor of Pathology Emeritus at the University of Washington School of Medicine and AFAR's Scientific Director Emeritus, who also curated the expert panel.

"The American Federation for Aging Research is honored to facilitate this discussion between leaders in the academic and pharmaceutical sectors, who, like AFAR, are dedicated to translating insights from the lab into critical treatments and improved care for the over 5 million Americans impacted by Alzheimer's," notes Stephanie Lederman, Executive Director, AFAR.

To advance basic and translational research on Alzheimer's, AFAR has supported 44 junior faculty through its New Investigators in Alzheimer's Disease Awards program, and AFAR has awarded over \$22.3 million to 227 scientists researching Alzheimer's disease and related dementias to date. In New England this year, AFAR is supporting 28 grantees at eight institutions including Boston Biomedical Research Institute, Boston University School of Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Brown University, Harvard University School of Medicine Medical School, Mt. Auburn Hospital, University of Massachusetts, and Yale University. Since its founding in 1981, AFAR has given more than \$150 million to over 3,000 investigators through its rigorously reviewed grant programs.

## PARTICIPATING PANELISTS:



**Rudolph Tanzi, PhD, Moderator**, is the Vice-Chair of Neurology and Director of the Genetics and Aging Research Unit at Massachusetts General Hospital, and serves as the Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Tanzi co-discovered three of the first Alzheimer's disease genes and has identified several others in the Alzheimer's Genome Project, which he directs. Dr. Tanzi has published nearly 500 research papers and has received the highest awards in his field, including the MetLife Foundation Award for Medical Research and the Potamkin Prize. Most recently, he received the

2015 Smithsonian American Ingenuity Award and was named to the 2015 list of TIME100 Most Influential People in the World. He co-authored the popular trade books *Decoding Darkness*, *Super Brain*, and *Super Genes*. He was named by *GQ* magazine as a Rock Star of Science, and in his spare time, has played keyboards with the band Aerosmith, guitarist, Joe Perry, and singer, Chris Mann.



**Steven E. Arnold, MD**, is joining the faculty of the Department of Neurology at Massachusetts General Hospital as Translational Neurology Head of the Interdisciplinary Brain Center. Dr. Arnold comes to the Massachusetts General Hospital from the University of Pennsylvania where he has been Professor of Psychiatry and Neurology. While at Penn, Dr. Arnold was Director of the Penn Memory Center of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Associate Director and Clinical Core Leader of the Alzheimer's Disease Core Center, Director of the Geriatric Psychiatry Section in the Department of Psychiatry, Director of the Cellular and Molecular Neuropathology Program in the Center for Neurobiology and Behavior, and

Associate Director of the University of Pennsylvania's Institute on Aging. Dr. Arnold has conducted longstanding research on neurodegenerative disease pathology and molecular biomarkers in relation to cognitive decline in late life and has led broad clinical and translational research programs examining brain aging.



**Roger Nitsch, MD**, is a Founder and President of Neurimmune. As neuroscientist with a background in medicine, Dr. Nitsch is recognized as a key opinion leader in neurodegenerative disease research with more than 20 years of experience in Alzheimer's disease research, and as a pioneer of disease-modifying therapeutic approaches for neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Nitsch was a 2004 recipient of the Potamkin Prize, is a Member of the German Academy of Sciences, and directs the Division of Psychiatry Research at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of Psychiatry Research at

University of Zurich and was formerly the Chairman of Pharmaceutical Scientific Advisory Board at Evotec AG.



**Dennis J. Selkoe, MD**, is the Vincent and Stella Coates Professor of Neurologic Diseases at Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital and co-founder of the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center. His many scientific articles in *Nature*, *Science*, *Neuron* and other journals have provided the underpinnings of numerous disease-modifying trials currently underway. Dr. Selkoe was the principal founding scientist of Athena Neurosciences, now part of Elan Pharmaceuticals. He has received many honors, including the A.H. Heineken Prize for Medicine, the Mathilde Solowey Award in the Neurosciences, the Potamkin Prize, the Alzheimer's

Association's Pioneer Award and Lifetime Achievement Award, the George C. Cotzias Lecture of the American Academy of Neurology, and the Ulysses Medal of University College Dublin. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Neurology and a member of the National Academy of Medicine. He was the principal founding scientist of Athena Neurosciences and is now a founding director of Prothena Biosciences.



**Jeffrey Sevigny, MD**, is a Senior Medical Director at Biogen in Cambridge, MA. Dr. Sevigny's research focuses on the development of biomarkers and therapeutics for neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Sevigny earned his MD from Tufts University and completed Neurology residency and fellowship in Aging & Dementia and Neuro-epidemiology at Columbia University. Dr. Sevigny previously worked at Novartis AG and Merck and Co, and prior to joining the industry, was an Assistant Professor of Neurology at Albert Einstein School of Medicine and at Columbia University.



**Li-Huei Tsai, PhD**, is the Director of the Picower Institute for Learning and Memory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Picower Professor of Neuroscience, and an Associate Member of the Broad Institute. She is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the National Academy of Medicine, and an Academician of the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Dr. Tsai is a leader in understanding the molecular pathophysiology of neurological disorders affecting cognition. Her work has revealed new mechanisms involved in learning, memory, and neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's

disease and suggests new paths for combatting age-related memory loss. Dr. Tsai has authored and co-authored over 130 peer-reviewed articles published in *Neuron*, *Nature*, *Cell*, *Molecular Psychiatry*, *The Journal of Neuroscience*, *Nature Neuroscience*, and *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* among others.

## FEATURING REMARKS BY:



**Ilise Lombardo, MD**, is the Vice President of Clinical Research at Axovant Sciences, Inc., where she oversees the clinical development of the company's lead product candidate, RVT-101, a 5HT6 receptor antagonist. As part of her work with RVT-101, Dr. Lombardo heads the MINDSET study, a confirmatory Phase 3 clinical trial evaluating the safety, efficacy, and tolerability of RVT-101 in patients with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease. Prior to joining Axovant, Dr. Lombardo was Vice President of Clinical Research at FORUM Pharmaceuticals, where she led the launch of the company's first Phase III programs in cognitive impairment in schizophrenia and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Lombardo also spent 9 years at Pfizer, where she led various development and medical teams across CNS indications and Rare Diseases, as well as leading the Medical Affairs Group across Neurology, Psychiatry, Endocrine Care, and Pulmonary Vascular Disease. Dr. Lombardo served on the faculty of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the New York State Psychiatric Institute, where she held research, clinical, and teaching responsibilities.

## ALSO HONORING:

At the October 27 event, AFAR also will present its annual awards of distinction two investigators for their outstanding commitment to Alzheimer's and aging research throughout their careers.



**George M. Martin, MD**, will receive the **Honorary Leadership Award**, which recognizes the achievements of individuals and organizations whose work has impacted the field of aging research and improved public health. Dr. Martin served as AFAR's Scientific Director for ten years, has been a board member since 1995, and is currently AFAR's Scientific Director Emeritus. Dr. Martin received his BS and MD degrees from the University of Washington and has been a member of its faculty since 1957. Dr. Martin's research utilized genetic approaches to the study of aging and age-related diseases in mammals. His lab contributed to our understanding of a number of mechanisms for the heritable alteration of genetic information. Honors for his research have included awards from the Gerontological Society of America, a World Alzheimer Congress Lifetime Achievement Award, an Outstanding Alumnus Award from the University of Washington School Of Medicine, and election to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Martin is a Past President of the Tissue Culture Society of America, the American Federation for Aging Research, and the Gerontological Society of America and is the founder of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Washington.



**Roger Nitsch, MD** will receive the **Chairman's Award**, presented to lay individuals or members of the corporate or foundation community who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the field of aging research through his/her activities and support of those involved in the field. Dr. Nitsch is a Founder and President of Neurimmune. As neuroscientist with a background in medicine, Dr. Nitsch is recognized as a key opinion leader in neurodegenerative disease research with more than 20 years of experience in Alzheimer's disease research, and as a pioneer of disease-modifying therapeutic approaches for neurodegenerative diseases. Dr. Nitsch was a 2004 recipient of the Potamkin Prize, is a Member of the German Academy of Sciences, and directs the Division of Psychiatry Research at the University of Zurich, Switzerland. Additionally, he serves as the Chairman of Psychiatry Research at University of Zurich and was formerly the Chairman of Pharmaceutical Scientific Advisory Board at Evotec AG.

## About AFAR

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is a national non-profit organization whose mission is to support and advance healthy aging through biomedical research. Founded in 1981, AFAR has championed the cause and supported the funding of science in healthier aging and age-related medicine. To address the shortage of physicians and researchers dedicated to the science of healthier aging, AFAR funds physicians and scientists probing the fundamental mechanisms of aging, as well as specific diseases associated with aging populations at critical points throughout their careers. AFAR engages the public through webinars, conferences and our online resource, InfoAging, featuring over two dozen downloadable guides, edited by guest experts on topics ranging from theories of aging, age-related conditions, healthy lifestyle tips, and more. Learn at [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org) or follow AFARorg on Twitter and Facebook.