

For Immediate Release

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## **UCSF'S YIN SHEN, PHD, RECEIVES \$100,000 AFAR 2016 NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- As it commemorates its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) is proud to award **Yin Shen, PhD**, Assistant Professor, University of California, San Francisco, with a 2016 New Investigator Award in Alzheimer's Disease.

With support from The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the major goal of The AFAR 2016 New Investigators Awards in Alzheimer's Disease program is to support important research in areas in which more scientific investigation is needed to improve the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. The program also serves to encourage junior investigators in the United States and Israel to pursue research and academic careers in the neurosciences, and Alzheimer's disease in particular. The program, now in its tenth year, has provided more than \$4 million to 47 scientists in the United States and Israel.

Three New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Disease, at \$100,000 each, have been given this year.



Dr. Shen's research will explore *Deciphering the Genetic Basis of Alzheimer's Disease by Novel Functional Genomic Approaches*.

The New Investigator Awards in Alzheimer's Diseases is a key program in AFAR's Biology of Aging grants portfolio, selected through a rigorous review process. AFAR is appreciative of the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation for its decade-long commitment to explore the intricacies of Alzheimer's disease," explains Stephanie Lederman, Executive Director of AFAR. Partnerships like these ensure that the best young scientists and most promising research towards eradicating Alzheimer's disease are supported."

"Through this award, AFAR and The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation are committed to nurturing these highly qualified researchers to ensure the availability of the brainpower and talent needed to fuel future progress in Alzheimer's disease research" says Martin H. Blank, Jr., Trustee of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation. "Even if we can make modest advances in preventing Alzheimer's disease or delay its progression, this could have a huge global public health impact."

For over three decades, an AFAR grant consistently has been the catalyst for advancing a research and discourse in the field. As AFAR's Scientific Director, Steven N. Austad, Ph.D. Distinguished Professor and Department Chair, Department of Biology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, notes: "Support from AFAR is a clear sign of the high quality of research that a scientist is conducting in aging. An AFAR grant has proven to help an investigator obtain greater funding, publication, and career advancement."

On receiving a New Investigator Award, Dr. Shen notes: "The AFAR New investigator Award will allow me to generate exciting new data, which will shed light on the causes for people who get Alzheimer's disease (AD). With the support from AFAR we can execute the functional genomic experiments and analysis, which are still relatively expensive compared to other traditional methods. The findings from this study will set the stage for my career as the approaches used for this study can also be broadly applied to identify causal variations for many other complex diseases."

**To date, AFAR has awarded more than \$160 million in grants to support nearly 3,200 investigators at more than 500 leading institutions across the United States as well as Ireland, Israel, Italy, and the United Kingdom.** AFAR's support of solid science in the biology of aging is more critical than ever. While the world's population over 65 years old is growing an unprecedented rate, "AFAR's Biology of Aging Grants help create a career pipeline that is essential to advancing better medicine for age-related diseases and discoveries that will help us all live healthier, longer," notes Lederman.

### **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.

### **About The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation**

The mission of The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation is to invest in programs that promote education, tolerance, social services, healthcare, and the arts. The Foundation builds on the ideals and pursuits of its founders, Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert. In the area of Alzheimer's disease, The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation focuses its grant-making on advancing research by early career investigators in the United States and Israel and investments in Alzheimer's disease caregiving. For more information, please see:

[www.thegilbertfoundation.org](http://www.thegilbertfoundation.org).



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