

Contact: Stacey Harris  
212-703-9977

**New York City's Renowned Philanthropists and Corporate Leaders Honored for their Contributions to Research on Aging and Diseases of Aging**

**Filling the Gap in Funding of the Nation's Scientists**

**Art Auction Merges Art and Science**

NEW YORK, October 1, 2009 – John C. Whitehead, former Co-Chairman of Goldman Sachs & Co., Hussein Manji, MD, Global Head of Neuroscience at Johnson & Johnson, John C. Erickson, Chairman and Founder of Erickson Retirement Communities, and the late Fredric B. Garonzik, a former Partner at Goldman Sachs, will be honored October 5, 2009, along with leaders in the scientific community for their commitment to the field of aging research at an awards dinner hosted by the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR). The dinner to be held at New York City's Union Club will raise money to fund the nation's scientists who are conducting research into aging processes and age-related diseases.

Other honorees include: Robert N. Butler, MD, President and CEO of the International Longevity Center, Woodring E. Wright, MD, PhD, Professor of Cell Biology at the UT Southwestern Medical Center and Brian K. Kennedy, PhD, Associate Professor at the University of Washington.

Fredric B. Garonzik was a leading philanthropist who dedicated his life to supporting medical and scientific research and educational causes. John C. Whitehead has been an ambassador for international causes, medical and scientific research, and efforts to rebuild lower Manhattan after September 11<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Hussein Manji and Johnson & Johnson are being honored for their

research efforts in advancing human health. John Erickson, Chairman and Founder of Erickson Retirement Communities is also being recognized for his commitment to changing public perception of aging through the creation of a new model of active retirement communities and through his efforts to prepare a community of leaders to improve and enhance the lives of older adults.

"We are grateful for the support of these individuals," said Stephanie Lederman, Executive Director, AFAR. "Each of them helps support key areas of aging research from basic research on aging processes to the clinical, all of which will be needed to prevent and cure the diseases of aging and care for a growing aging population," she added.

An art auction of donated works by scientists will benefit the organization. To view the collection, please visit, [afar.org/auction.html](http://afar.org/auction.html).

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The **American Federation for Aging Research** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support biomedical research on aging. It is devoted to creating the knowledge that all of us need to live healthy, productive, and independent lives. Since 1981, AFAR has awarded approximately \$124 million to more than 2,600 early and mid-career scientists and medical students as part of its broad-based series of grant programs. Its work has led to significant advances in our understanding of aging processes, age-related diseases, and healthy aging practices. AFAR communicates news of these innovations through its organizational web site [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org) and educational web sites Infoaging ([www.infoaging.org](http://www.infoaging.org)) and Health Compass ([www.healthcompass.org](http://www.healthcompass.org)).