

## AMERICAN FEDERATION FOR AGING RESEARCH HONORS LEADERS IN THE FIELD

At Anniversary Dinner, Scientific, Philanthropic, and Industry Leaders Recognize Thirty Years of Achievement, as well as Unique Challenges Faced in Aging Research Today

### A Special Celebration of Women in Science

NEW YORK, September 29, 2011 – Mrs. Nancy Kissinger, trustee emerita at The Rockefeller University, Dr. Mehmood Khan, Chief Scientific Officer and CEO Global Nutrition Group, PepsiCo, and Rose W. Dobrof, DSW, Founding Director of the Brookdale Center on Aging, Hunter College, will be honored on October 4, 2011 at a dinner hosted by the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) at the Union Club. The dinner commemorates the thirtieth anniversary of AFAR's founding, and highlights the achievements and obstacles in the field of aging research as the population ages. Funds raised at the dinner go towards supporting research on the aging process and age-related disease.

The night also celebrates women in science, who now constitute 50 percent of the researchers AFAR supports. Mrs. Kissinger, in her decade of service at The Rockefeller University Council, helped found the University's Women & Science Initiative, which supports women's equal participation in every facet of the sciences, from research to philanthropy.

Dr. Mehmood Khan serves as PepsiCo's Chief Scientific Officer, leading global research & development, launching research projects with leading universities around the world, and overseeing the opening of new advanced R&D facilities. Dr. Khan also is CEO of PepsiCo's Global Nutrition Group (GNG), leading a team of global experts in research & development, marketing, and product innovation working to leverage global scale in the company's resources in order to provide consumers with more products made with grains, fruits, vegetables, and dairy. PepsiCo, the world's second-largest food and beverage company, has set a goal of growing its worldwide health and wellness portfolio from the current \$13 billion in annual sales to \$30 billion by the year 2020.

As a founding director of the Brookdale Center on Aging, and through decades of service to the New York City and federal governments, Dr. Dobrof has been an active force supporting the fields of geriatrics and gerontology. Drs. Steven N. Austad, University of Texas Health Science Center, and Matthew R. Kaeberlein, University of Washington, will also be honored for their research in aging.

"We thank and applaud each honoree," says Stephanie Lederman, Executive Director of AFAR. "Aging researchers continually make discoveries that have the potential to transform life for the record numbers of older adults. The honorees have displayed the innovative thinking and profound commitment that is needed to advance this work in the face of severe funding shortages."

The American Federation for Aging Research is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to support biomedical research on aging. Since 1981, AFAR has awarded approximately \$140 million to 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 understanding of aging processes, age-related diseases, and healthy aging practices.

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AFAR communicates news about aging research through its organizational web site: [www.afar.org](http://www.afar.org). Contact: Ashby Andrews, Communications Officer ([ashby@afar.org](mailto:ashby@afar.org)) or (212) 703-9977 ext. 233.