2015 Zenith Society Meeting Highlights

On November 2 and 3, leading Alzheimer’s supporters convened in San Francisco for the Zenith Society meeting. This meeting gives Zenith Society members and fellow philanthropists the opportunity to deepen relationships with one another, build a greater understanding of the work of the Alzheimer’s Association and ultimately learn about how their support is helping the Association achieve its vision of a world without Alzheimer’s disease.

Participants reviewed applications for the Zenith Fellows Awards, welcomed new Zenith Society members, participated in research panel discussions, and connected with Association leadership and each other.

2015 Zenith Fellows Awards
Zenith Society members reviewed six Zenith Fellows Award applications from leading researchers across the globe. William Thies, Ph.D., Alzheimer’s Association senior scientist in residence, and Ralph Nixon, M.D., Ph.D., New York University Langone Medical Center, presented the proposals for an in-depth review before four were ultimately selected. The recipients are as follows:

**George S. Bloom, Ph.D.,** University of Virginia: *Tau, mTOR & Neuron Cell Cycle Re-entry: Why Insulin Resistance Promotes Alzheimer’s Disease*

**Carol A. Colton, Ph.D.,** Duke University Medical Center: *Onset of Immune Pathology in Alzheimer’s Disease*

**Francesca-Fang Liao, Ph.D.,** University of Tennessee Health Science Center: *Is Dysfunctional eNOS a Major Contributing Factor for Sporadic Alzheimer’s Disease*

**Stephen Meredith, M.D., Ph.D.,** University of Chicago: *Brain Amyloid Seeded Oligomers*

New Members
The Alzheimer’s Association and the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM) welcomed five new members, including one anonymous member, to the Zenith Society in 2015. These new members join an elite group of donors who are committed to a world without Alzheimer’s disease.

*John and Crystal Beuerlein*
*Debbie and Clay Jones*
*Dick and Marianne Kipper*
*Jill and Bob Thomas*
**Scientific Panel Discussion**

Guests participated in a panel discussion with leading researchers from across the country. Topics included lifestyle risk factors associated with Alzheimer’s disease; the Association’s efforts to advance cutting-edge science and develop the careers of new scientists; the challenges of bringing a new drug to clinical trial; and the Association’s key role in understanding and supporting research in multiple types of dementia. Alzheimer’s Association Chief Science Officer, Maria Carrillo, Ph.D., facilitated the discussion with the following guests:

- **Enchi Liu, Ph.D.**, Program Team Leader, Prothena Biosciences, Inc.
- **Gil Rabinovici, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Neurology, University of California, San Francisco
- **Marwan Sabbagh, M.D.**, Director, Memory Disorders Center & Professor of Neurology, Barrow Neurological Institute
- **Rachel Whitmer, Ph.D.**, Investigator, Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research

**Special Recognition**

As part of the meeting, the Association recognized Zenith Society Chair John Osher for his years of service. Osher has served the organization for the past 10 years as both a national board member and chairman of the Zenith Society. Under his leadership, the Zenith Society has raised more than $55 million for strategic initiatives that extend across the world.

While Osher is stepping down from his role, we know he will continue to play an integral part in helping guide the organization in the years to come. The Association is truly grateful for his dedication, leadership and service.

**Photo Highlights**

- Alzheimer’s Association President and CEO Harry Johns recognizes retiring Zenith Society Chair John Osher for his years of service.
- Courtney Panik, Kristen Kirst and Lisa Fedler Swiontek represent Zenith Society member Sigma Kappa at the annual meeting.
- Chief Science Officer Dr. Maria Carrillo guides a discussion with the scientific panel.
- Guests gather at the annual Zenith Society meeting.