



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CLEVELAND CLINIC LOU RUVO CENTER FOR BRAIN HEALTH CONVENES LEADING RESEARCHERS TO ACCELERATE DISCOVERY OF NEW TREATMENTS ON ALZHEIMER'S AND OTHER NEUROCOGNITIVE DISEASES

Conference to Focus on Science Behind Tau Proteins, Thought to be Main Causes of Neurocognitive Disease Progression

LAS VEGAS – On March 25 and 26, 2011, [Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health](#), in collaboration with Frontotemporal Dementia Treatment Study Group (FTSG), will host a pioneering conference, *Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD): The Next Therapeutic Frontier*, which will bring together academic researchers, pharmaceutical researchers, physicians and advocacy groups to explore possible treatments for FTD and related neurocognitive diseases. With no effective treatments for FTD currently available, the Center for Brain Health aims to foster collaboration of these industry leaders through lectures, panels and group discussions with a focus on Tau protein abnormalities in the brain and their effect on the progression of neurodegenerative diseases.

The most common degenerative brain disease in America is Alzheimer's disease, which affects over five million people. There is now substantial evidence that Tau proteins are the main cause of the progression of Alzheimer's disease as well as other neurodegenerative diseases such as Frontotemporal dementia. With the development of a safe, effective treatment for Tau abnormalities, these diseases have the possibility of being eradicated.

"At the Center for Brain Health, we are constantly researching new treatments and conducting clinical trials, and what better way to initiate development of new therapies than through this great meeting of the minds," said Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, Director of Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. "Developing treatments for these devastating neurodegenerative diseases is as important as ever with Alzheimer's disease alone expected to affect an estimated 16 million Americans by 2050. Moving forward, we must work together to share our research and find a cure."

Since opening its doors almost two years ago, there have been nearly 7,000 visits from patients with Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's, dementia and other neurocognitive disorders looking for advanced methods of treatment at the Center for Brain Health. The clinical trials led by Dr. Cummings, Dr. Kate Zhong, and Dr. Charles Bernick at the Center, evaluate the efficacy of drugs believed to improve the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, as well as identifying markers that may be helpful in the early detection and tracking of disease progression.

The Center for Brain Health's mission is to preserve memory and advance new treatments for Alzheimer's disease and other neurocognitive disorders. It builds upon Cleveland Clinic's philosophy of "Patients First" and continues the emphasis on clinical trials as a means of translational research. For

more information on Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health, visit http://my.clevelandclinic.org/brain_health.

About Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health:

Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health provides state-of-the-art care for cognitive disorders and for the family members of those who suffer from them. The physicians and staff at the Center for Brain Health continuously work towards the development of early diagnosis and the advancement of knowledge concerning mild cognitive disorders, which could one day delay or prevent their onset. Patients receive expert diagnosis and treatment at the Center for Brain Health, which offers a multidisciplinary patient-focused approach to diagnosis and treatment, promoting collaboration across all care providers, offering patients a complete continuum of care and infusing education and research into all that it does. The facility, designed by Frank Gehry, houses clinical space, a diagnostic center, neuroimaging rooms, physician offices, laboratories devoted to clinical research and the Keep Memory Alive Event Center. For more information, visit <http://www.clevelandclinic.org/brainhealth>.

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