“My own mother had no idea that I was her daughter. That fact alone keeps me interested and focused on supporting Alzheimer’s research until a cure is found.”

-Virginia Naeve
Caregiver
5.8 Million people with Alzheimer’s Disease

$290 Billion annual cost to US healthcare system

3rd leading cause of death in Orange County

$1 trillion by 2050
Few illnesses disrupt quality of life as much as dementia. And the devastation is about to get worse. With 10,000 Baby Boomers reaching age 65 every day, the number of people with Alzheimer’s disease — the most common cause of dementia — is expected to double over the next 20 years.

But there is hope.

Armed with genetically engineered mice, reprogrammed human skin cells, experimental drugs and in partnership with thousands of community members, the UCI Institute for Memory Impairments and Neurological Disorders (UCI MIND) is poised to open new frontiers in the fight against Alzheimer’s disease and other brain disorders.

As one of just 32 federally designated Alzheimer’s Disease Research Centers in the U.S. — and the only such institute in Orange County — UCI MIND has long been a global leader in dementia research.

Now, with your help, UCI MIND will continue to expand its capacity to conduct promising clinical trials, fund groundbreaking research, and recruit more scientific leaders to accelerate progress toward a world without Alzheimer’s disease.
Transformative research doesn’t always require enormous sums of money. In 2010, Harry Bubb – whose wife, Berdie, succumbed to Lewy body dementia – asked if UCI MIND had any ideas that needed funding. Bubb secured $63,000 for a proposal to genetically engineer a new experimental mouse for studying Alzheimer’s disease. As a result of this work, in 2017, the National Institute on Aging granted UCI MIND researchers $11.35 million to refine their next-generation mice and eventually make them available to scientists around the world.

In 2013, philanthropist Keith Swayne pledged to match $150,000 in support to demonstrate the feasibility of a new technology, induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells, as a tool in Alzheimer’s research. Few discoveries in biology have as great a transformative potential for altering modern medical research as iPS cells. These cells, derived from donated adult blood or skin cells, can give rise to every cell type in the body, allowing researchers to study and test novel approaches like never before.

In 2017, UCI MIND launched a new partnership with Maria Shriver’s Women’s Alzheimer’s Movement, to study why two out of every three patients with Alzheimer’s disease are women. The Initiative funds cutting-edge research into the role of sex in Alzheimer’s disease and has already yielded important insights.

The only path to a cure is to invest in discovery.
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“Research will be the answer for Alzheimer’s, and it is a mission of mine to support UCI MIND and gather others to do the same. I firmly believe there will be a breakthrough in the search for a cure and that breakthrough may well result from research at UCI MIND.”

– Keith Swayne
Founder, Keith and Judy Swayne Family Foundation
“We are at the forefront of finding solutions, but we need the help of the community to make these promising studies as successful as possible.”
- Joshua D. Grill, Ph.D., Director, UCI MIND

The renowned researchers at UCI MIND are committed to ending Alzheimer’s disease. The UCI MIND Innovative Research Initiative stimulates revolutionary ideas and funds daring projects with the potential to have immediate impact on Alzheimer’s disease research. This Initiative supports high-risk, high-reward projects that hold the potential to quickly advance the field, but aren’t eligible for traditional grants.

The power of this Initiative is twofold:

• Researchers will have resources to test potentially transformative hypotheses deemed too risky for mainstream funding.

• Funding from the Initiative enables collection of preliminary data that will make the researchers competitive for significant federal grants.
The MODEL-AD project brings together UCI MIND scientists from four departments in the UCI Schools of Biological Sciences and Medicine to develop, characterize, use and share the next generation of mouse models of Alzheimer’s disease. The highly collaborative project builds upon a rich tradition at UCI of team science, discovery, and sharing novel scientific resources with the global research community.
With more than 100 faculty, staff and trainees from a dozen departments across campus, UCI MIND is already home to some of the world’s most preeminent scientists. Recruiting more top researchers and clinicians will enhance our capacity for novel and groundbreaking studies, collaborations and trials. It also enables UCI to train the next generation of scientists. This initiative includes:

- **Endowed Faculty Chairs**
  Endowed chairs are critical to attract and retain top faculty, offering an extraordinary advantage when competing with peer institutions.

- **Recruitment Packages**
  The ability to recruit top faculty researchers often depends on having adequate funds to finance their laboratory equipment and research teams. These one-time costs vary depending on the nature of the research.

- **Training Fellowships**
  The early stages of a scientist’s career — after formal training but before securing a faculty position — are critical. These fellowships educate the next generation of neurologists, psychiatrists, geriatricians and neuropsychologists who will make discoveries in age-related brain diseases.
Our legacy starts with how we live our lives. Donors mark their legacy or the legacy of a loved one by making naming gifts to fund a lab, research project or faculty position. These gifts publicly demonstrate a commitment to the fight against Alzheimer’s and show the world how important research at UCI MIND is.

- **UCI MIND Institute Naming Endowment**
  An endowment to name UCI MIND would provide a perpetual stream of resources to fuel discoveries that transform the lives of people with Alzheimer’s disease. Funds will be used to recruit world-renowned scholars, acquire cutting-edge laboratory equipment and accelerate innovative research.

- **Director of UCI MIND Endowment**
  A named directorship for UCI MIND, a first in the Institute’s history, would provide critical funding to advance research into Alzheimer’s disease and ensure the Institute can recruit and retain a preeminent scholar and researcher to lead the organization.