



RELEASE

PUBLIC IS INVITED TO DISCUSS APPROACHES TO ALZHEIMER'S

WPSU hosts a moderated discussion to expand the current thinking on Alzheimer's Disease, going beyond the medical approach.

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA (March 12, 2007) –WPSU invites the public to "Beyond Medicine: Meeting the Challenge of Alzheimer's Disease Today" on Thursday, March 29 at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Outreach Building in University Park, near the Penn Stater. As part of the Common Ground Lobby Talk series, host Patty Satalia and a panel of experts will discuss perspectives and approaches to dealing with dementia that go beyond the medical approach and will focus on expanding the current thinking of Alzheimer's Disease. The public is invited to participate in the discussion with their questions and comments.

An estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, whose devastating effects on the human brain are well known. Over the past 20 years, much progress has been made in understanding some of the biological mechanisms of Alzheimer's Disease, but existing pharmaceutical treatments are marginally effective. Truly effective treatments remain on the distant horizon, and even further are hopes of prevention or a cure. This Common Ground Lobby Talk will explore other approaches to dealing with this condition that could potentially help people with dementia and their families now.

Panelists include:

Anne Basting, Ph.D. - Basting has developed creative approaches to dementia that involve the use of storytelling, drama and the arts. She is the director of the Center on Age & Community and an associate professor in the department of theatre and dance at the Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, where she is administering the CAC Residency in Applied Arts, which offers a three month development residency to a nationally renowned artist to explore the field of dementia. Basting is also advising StoryCorps on their Memory Loss Initiative, developing a Web portal called "Beyond Bingo." She has written extensively on issues of aging and representation, including her book, "The Stages of Age: Performing Age in Contemporary American Culture." She is currently working on a book entitled "Forget Memory: Imagining a Better Life for People with Dementia."

Jacalyn Duffin, Ph.D., M.D. - Duffin is exploring the possibility that music recognition is spared in dementia. She is Hannah Chair for the History of Medicine at Queen's University in Canada. Duffin won the 2005 David Horrobin Prize for best article for her work, "Music, Memory and Alzheimer's Disease." The article was co-written with Lola Cuddy and published in "Medical Hypotheses," in 2005. She is the immediate past-president of the American Association for the History of Medicine and has studied at the University of Toronto and the Sorbonne.

Peter J. Whitehouse, Ph.D., M.D. - Whitehouse is a geriatric psychiatrist, neuroscientist and bioethicist who worked for two decades as a clinician and researcher involved with developing and evaluating drug treatments for dementia. His growing dissatisfaction with the focus on the biomedical approach to treatment led him to develop a clinical approach built around the power of stories to assist those with aging associated cognitive challenges. His research, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), focuses on quality of life, ethics, intervention trials and genetic testing in dementia. The Alzheimer Center of University Hospitals of Cleveland/Case Western Reserve University was funded with a plan written by Whitehouse who served as its founding director. It is a National Institute on Aging Alzheimer Disease Research Center. He is professor at Case Western Reserve University.

Steve Zarit, Ph.D. - Zarit is one the most widely recognized researchers in the world on issues related to family caregiving for the elderly with dementia, the health and functioning of the oldest old, and the development of prevention and treatment programs for mental health problems in later life. He is professor of human development and head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Penn State. He received his Ph.D. in human development from the University of Chicago. In 2001, he won the Senator John Heinz Memorial Award from the National Council on Aging. From 1987 through 2000, he served as the co-facilitator for the Alzheimer's Support Group of Centre County.

This talk will also be streamed live at will be streamed live at wpsu.org/lobbytalks online. The Common Ground Lobby Talk Series, a production of Penn State Public Broadcasting in conjunction with WPSU's Public Service Media Study Group, provides a forum for increasing public discussion about important issues and current events. Common Ground Lobby Talks are locally broadcast, aired on the ResearchChannel, and available online. Please see wpsu.org/lobbytalks for archived and upcoming events.

WPSU serves central Pennsylvania with programming, educational services and community outreach. This public media service produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of an audience within central Pennsylvania.

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