

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

MAKING STRIDES IN 2012, MIND CENTER ADDS RESEARCHERS, TECHNOLOGY IN QUEST AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S

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JACKSON, Miss. – The MIND Center continued moving ahead in 2012, adding faculty and technology, and strengthening strategic partnerships, according to MIND Center Director Dr. Thomas H. Mosley Jr.

"Alzheimer's is devastating, and it's been a profoundly difficult disease for scientists to understand and combat," Mosley said. "That said, the past year has brought tremendous progress, and momentum is on our side."

He highlighted the following 2012 accomplishments:

Accelerated ground-breaking research

To date, MIND Center faculty and staff conducted exams on more than 1,000 participants in one of the largest and most comprehensive studies ever conducted of mid-life risk factors for dementia and cognitive decline. The researchers plan to wrap up data collection in 2013 and move into their analysis phase, which may yield unique discoveries about the course of memory loss and cognitive decline.

Added powerful new technologies

The MIND Center added powerful new brain-imaging technologies that will allow its scientists to see deeper and with more clarity into the brain than ever before. The MIND Center's advanced PET/CT and MRI capabilities ensure that it will continue to remain at the vanguard in the search for a cure.

Expanded the team

Dr. Kenneth Lee Weiss, a neuro-radiologist, joined the MIND Center as part of its Biomarkers/Imaging Core. As well, Dr. Hao Mei, a biostatistician, joined the MIND Center's Genetics Core. Their expertise, combined with new genetic and brain-imaging technologies, expands the ability of researchers to uncover causes and possible treatments of Alzheimer's disease and related forms of dementia.

Strengthened strategic partnerships

The MIND Center is working with the Alzheimer's Association, the Mississippi Department of Mental Health and other key partners to increase support for Alzheimer's research at state and federal levels. The MIND Center's goal is to create a comprehensive state strategic plan that coordinates efforts and increases resources in the fight against this dreaded disease.

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The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's health-care enterprise includes five hospitals in the University Hospitals and Health System, and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's population. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at 601-984-1100 or visit us on the Web at umc.edu/publicaffairs

