UCSF Fresno to host the California ALS Research Summit

WHAT:
Leading scientists and clinicians from nearly all of the major medical centers in California will meet at UCSF Fresno for the fourth annual California ALS Research Summit to discuss advances in research aimed at treating amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. The UCSF Fresno Division of Neurology and the Central California Neuroscience Institute are hosting the summit.

WHEN:
Friday, January 10
8:30 am to 5 pm
and
Saturday, January 11
8:30 am to 3:30 pm

- “Ask the Experts” Patient Forum
- 1:30 pm to approximately 5:30 pm

At the forum, patients and families from throughout the state will learn about leading clinical advances and speak directly with some of the scientists and clinicians conducting the groundbreaking ALS investigations and treatments.

WHERE:
UCSF Fresno Center for Medical Education and Research
155 N. Fresno Street, Fresno

For more information about the summit, please contact Virginia Coningsby at (559) 459-6299, vconingsby@fresno.ucsf.edu

BACKGROUND:
UCSF Fresno offers one of the most comprehensive, multidisciplinary treatment facilities in the country for patients with neurodegenerative disorders such as ALS. ALS is a progressive neurological disorder resulting in the degeneration of motor nerve cells that control voluntary movement. Each year, more than 5,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with the disease.
Researchers and clinicians from California Pacific Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai, Sansum Clinic, Stanford, UC Davis, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC San Diego and UC San Francisco as well as scientists from Genentech and ISIS Pharmaceuticals are expected to attend the research summit at UCSF Fresno and discuss opportunities for statewide collaboration involving ALS clinical trials.

“One of the most significant aspects of this research summit is the comprehensive attendance we attracted from most every major medical center in the state,” said Jeffrey Rosenfeld, PhD, MD, chief of neurology at UCSF Fresno and organizer of the event. “The selection of the UCSF Fresno campus for this meeting also underscores the significance of our neuromuscular program. This gathering offers a unique opportunity to showcase our multidisciplinary team treatment and facilitate new collaborations and ideas that will further ALS research and ultimately, enhance treatment of patients.”

Funding for the summit is provided by the Golden West chapter of the ALS Association along with a grant from the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine.

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UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program, established in 1975, plays a substantial role in providing healthcare services to residents of California's San Joaquin Valley and training medical professionals in the region. A clinical branch of UC San Francisco (UCSF), the medical education program has trained approximately one-third of Central San Joaquin Valley physicians. Annually, UCSF Fresno currently trains approximately 245 medical residents in eight specialties, nearly 50 fellows in 14 subspecialties and about 250 medical students on a rotating basis.

UCSF Fresno faculty and medical residents engage in a broad spectrum of research addressing health issues pertinent to the Valley. UCSF Fresno faculty and residents also care for the overwhelming majority of the region’s underserved populations.

In addition, UCSF Fresno provides academic preparation programs for middle- and high school students interested in the health professions through the Doctors Academy and Junior Doctors Academy. UCSF Fresno is a key partner in the UC Merced San Joaquin Valley Program in Medical Education.

UCSF is a leading university dedicated to promoting health worldwide through advanced biomedical research, graduate-level education in the life sciences and health professions, and excellence in patient care. It includes top-ranked graduate schools of dentistry, medicine, nursing and pharmacy, a graduate division with nationally renowned programs in basic biomedical, translational and population sciences, as well as a preeminent biomedical research enterprise and two top-ranked hospitals, UCSF Medical Center and UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital.

For further information, please visit [www.fresno.ucsf.edu](http://www.fresno.ucsf.edu) and [http://www.ucsf.edu](http://www.ucsf.edu)