

MEET THE 2026 PANEL



DATE WITH A CURE

A FREE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH FORUM



Marcella Lee *Moderator (CBS8)*

Marcella Lee is evening anchor at CBS News 8, and has won 18 Emmy awards -- 14 while at CBS8. Not only does Marcella enjoy telling other people's stories, she has also shared some of her own. In November of 2019, she shared her family's personal journey with Alzheimer's disease.



Dr. Paul Aisen *Director - USC Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute*

Dr. Aisen is a professor of neurology and the founding director of USC Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute (ATRI). He has been a leading figure in Alzheimer's disease research for more than three decades, having developed novel methodologies as well as designed and directed many large therapeutic trials. He has authored more than 500 scientific papers.



Dr. James Brewer *Director - UC San Diego Shiley Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*

Dr. Brewer chairs the UC San Diego Department of Neurosciences and directs the Shiley Marcos Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. He joined UC San Diego after completing MD and PhD degrees at Stanford and neurology residency training at Johns Hopkins. His research program focuses on applying advanced brain imaging approaches to detect the subtle and progressive changes that accompany aging and neurodegenerative disease. Dr. Brewer has developed tools to support the detection of abnormal brain atrophy for patients being evaluated in the clinical setting and in clinical trials of new Alzheimer's disease therapeutics and interventions.



Dr. Paulette Cazares *Medical Director, Senior Behavioral Unit and Geriatric IOP and Principal Investigator - Sharp Neurocognitive Research Center, Sharp Mesa Vista Hospital*

Over 24 years on Active Duty, Dr. Cazares held numerous leadership positions, both clinically, as a researcher and as a healthcare executive. She led general and specialty mental health programs, served nationally as the Chair of the Navy's Women's Health Clinical Community, and led creation of the Department of Defense's 1st Comprehensive Women's Health Clinic. She was Chair of the military's southern California regional Provider Wellness Committee, and served as Associate Director for Mental Health in San Diego and as the Director for Mental Health in Okinawa, Japan. From 2016-2024, Dr. Cazares served as the Navy Liaison to the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA). Following her retirement from the Navy in 2024, she was selected into the PI role at Sharp Mesa Vista in San Diego, CA where she currently oversees 10 active studies, and sees patients at the hospital. Dr. Cazares attended medical school at Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), completed a MPH at Drexel University, and Psychiatry Residency via the National Capital Consortium in Bethesda, Maryland. She is board certified in General Psychiatry, is a Clinical Associate Professor at USUHS, and is a proud wife and mother of four school-age children.



Dr. Jerold Chun, MD, PhD *Senior VP, Neuroscience Drug Discovery - Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute*

Jerold Chun, MD, PhD, is a Distinguished Scholar at Neurocrine Biosciences in San Diego and Professor at Sanford Burnham Prebys (SBP) Medical Discovery Institute in La Jolla, CA. He received his MD and PhD (Neuroscience) through the Medical Scientist Training Program at Stanford University School of Medicine, completed postdoctoral studies at the Whitehead Institute-MIT, and has held Professorships at UCSD School of Medicine, Scripps Research and SBP where he was also Senior Vice President for Neuroscience Drug Discovery. He has also served as Department Head of Molecular Neuroscience at Merck Research Laboratories and has interacted with the biotech and pharmaceutical industry over the last 25 years. His research has made important contributions to our understanding of the brain, including the discovery of genomic mosaicism and reverse transcriptase-mediated somatic gene recombination and its involvement in the most common forms of Alzheimer's disease, with relevance to other brain diseases; and in separate work, he identified the first lysophospholipid receptor and other members of this lipid receptor family that underlie multiple medicines (e.g., fingolimod, siponimod, ozanimod, ponesimod and etrasimod). He has further contributed to an understanding of other diseases, including hydrocephalus, schizophrenia, neuropathic pain, infertility and fibrosis. Dr. Chun has been recognized as a [Highly Cited Researcher](#) since 2014.



Dr. Hector M. González *Professor of Neurosciences - UC San Diego School of Medicine*

Hector M. González is a Professor of Neurosciences in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. González is a population neuroscientist. He is the Principal Investigator of the Study of Latinos-Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (SOL-INCA), which is the largest longitudinal study of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia among diverse Latinos.