



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEMORY ASSESSMENT CENTER WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Neurologist and Nurse Practitioner serve community at Eisenhower Medical Center

RANCHO MIRAGE, CA – (April 22, 2009) The Memory Assessment Center for Alzheimer's disease, memory loss and related disorders at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage is pleased to welcome two new professional staff.

Azar Izadian, M.D. a neurologist specializing in Alzheimer's disease, vascular cognitive impairment and other memory disorders; and **Nasrin Esnaashari**, a nationally certified nurse practitioner and clinical nurse specialist. Both professionals are members of the department of neurology at University of Southern California (USC) Keck School of Medicine.

Azar Izadian, M.D. is director of the Memory Assessment Center and is assistant professor of neurology at USC. A graduate of the University of Iran Medical School, Izadian also completed three years in a psychiatric residency program before beginning her practice as a psychiatrist and director in charge of the West Tehran Mental Health Center. Izadian moved to the United States in 1998, where she completed four and a half years of residency. This included a one year residency in psychiatry at the State University of New York (SUNY) Downstate Medical Center and a three-and-a-half year residency in neurology at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.

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Izadian also completed a 2 year fellowship in Behavioral Neurology/Dementia at UCLA/GLAVA Medical Centers. She is certified by the Medical Board of California and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Nasrin Esnaashari, MSN, CCRN, CSNP serves as Nurse Practitioner and clinical manager at the Memory Assessment Center. She completed her graduate degree and nurse practitioner training at University of California Los Angeles and has held a National Nurse Practitioner certification since 1996. Esnaashari began her career with USC in the neurosurgery department 23 years ago and joined the neurology department on 2007. In addition to her work in neurology at the Memory Assessment Center, she also works at the movement disorder clinic at USC Health Campus.

The Memory Assessment Center is the first of its kind in the Coachella Valley and is devoted exclusively to the diagnosis, treatment and research of Alzheimer's disease and related memory disorders. The Center opened in 2007 as a joint venture between Eisenhower Medical Center, the Alzheimer's Association, California Southland Chapter and the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine. Major funding was provided by Helene and Lou Galen, Ann and Robert Byfield, and the Judy Fund.

Eisenhower Medical Center provides critical diagnostic tests including laboratory studies, MRI, CT and PET imaging, making it a convenient location for the center.

Clientele can receive diagnosis, treatment, an assessment of needs, and assistance with long-range planning and problem solving. If they are interested, they can learn more about research studies and participation in clinical trials. Additionally, they learn about evidence-based measures for Alzheimer's disease risk reduction.

The Memory Assessment Center operates Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for scheduling, questions, insurance verification and referrals. Appointments with the neurologist and nurse practitioner are on Tuesdays. To schedule an appointment, call 760-341-5315.

About the Alzheimer's Association

Commemorating its 10th anniversary of service to the Coachella Valley, the Alzheimer's Association serves some 11,000 local individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their families. Programs and services include care consultation, support groups for caregivers valley wide; the Maureen Reagan Early Stage support group, and the Memory Makers Club for people in the early stages of Alzheimer's. In addition, the Alzheimer's Association provides professional and public education and participates in advocacy and research nationwide.

The Alzheimer's Association is the global leader in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Visit online at www.alz.org/californiasouthland .

The Alzheimer's Association Coachella Valley Regional Office is at 69-730 Highway 111, Suite 202, Rancho Mirage. Local phone number is (760) 328-6767. Or call the toll-free Helpline for 24-hour information and support at 1-800-272-3900.

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