

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HOW TO DETECT ALZHEIMER'S PRIOR TO MEMORY LOSS**  
***Alzheimer's Association's Annual Foley Lecture Returns October 26, 2011***

**CLEVELAND, Oct. 5, 2011** – Remarkable progress has been made toward understanding the scientific underpinnings of Alzheimer's disease in the last 25 years. The public is invited to hear more about the discoveries of recent studies and advancements in early detection of the disease at the **24<sup>th</sup> Annual Foley Lecture October 26 from 5:00-7:00 pm, hosted by the Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter** at Tri-C Corporate College East, 4400 Richmond Road, Warrensville Hts. The event is free and offers 1.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to social workers and nurses.

The 2011 Foley Lecturer, David M. Holtzman, MD will lead off the discussion for the evening with his keynote ***"How to detect Alzheimer's disease prior to memory loss: Lessons from cancer and cardiovascular disease."*** The talk will also review new approaches and developing therapies that may prevent or delay dementia. Dr. Holtzman is Chair of the Washington University School of Medicine, Department of Neurology and Associate Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Following the keynote, a panel of Alzheimer's disease experts will expand upon the issues and take questions.

"We now have a better understanding of the time course of cognitive and behavioral changes that characterize Alzheimer's disease in relation to the underlying brain changes that cause the disease," Dr. Holtzman said. "A number of recent studies now demonstrate that Alzheimer's brain changes appear to begin 10-20 years prior to cognitive decline or dementia."

The findings underscore the importance of catching and addressing changes in memory and cognitive function as early as possible. The Alzheimer's Association hopes to reach a wide audience of healthcare professionals, as well as the public, with a message to increase awareness and recognition of the early signs of dementia.

Moderating the panel will be Matthew Wayne, MD, Chief Medical Officer, CommuniCare Health Services. Lecture panelists include Stephen Baum, MD, Geriatric and Internal Medicine; Christine Nelson, APRN, BC, Coordinator, Lakewood Hospital Senior Assessment Center; and Paul Ford, PhD, Director of the NeuroEthics Program, Cleveland Clinic.

**To register for the event, contact Mary Lambert, Education and Outreach Manager, at 216.231.1485 or [mary.lambert@alz.org](mailto:mary.lambert@alz.org).**

The Foley lectureship was established in 1987 by the Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter to recognize Dr. Joseph Foley's invaluable contributions to individuals and families struggling with Alzheimer's disease.

**ALZHEIMER'S ON THE RISE**

The number of Alzheimer's cases is growing in Ohio, and with that, the impact on families and caregivers grows as well. The number of Ohioans with Alzheimer's has grown 15 percent in the last 10 years, placing an ever-growing financial demand on families. At a tremendous personal cost to them, **caregivers in Ohio provided more than 666.5 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$7.9 billion.**

"As the number of individuals with Alzheimer's climbs, we find our services in greater demand and reach out for increasing community support," said Nancy Udelson, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association, Cleveland Area Chapter.

## **ABOUT ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CLEVELAND AREA CHAPTER**

For the last 31 years, the Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter has served as the regional voice for people living with Alzheimer's disease and those caring for them. Annually, the chapter serves more than 3,500 area families through its core services including care consultation, support services, family and community education, safety services and referrals. All services and programs are offered free of charge.

The Alzheimer's Association Cleveland Area Chapter serves Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Lorain counties with offices in Ashtabula, Avon, Beachwood, Chardon and Mentor. The Association's 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. The disease currently affects an estimated 5.4 million American adults (about 40,000 in Northeast Ohio) and is the 6th leading cause of death in the country.

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