



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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**ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION AWARDS RESEARCH GRANTS  
TO MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN INVESTIGATORS**

**MILWAUKEE, WI—September 6, 2011** – The Alzheimer's Association has awarded New Investigator Research Grants (NIRG) to two distinguished investigators at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Nashaat Gerges, Ph.D. and Joseph Goveas, M.D. were chosen to receive funding for their efforts to advance the understanding of Alzheimer's disease, help identify new treatment strategies, provide information to improve care for people with dementia, and further knowledge of brain health and disease prevention.

Nashaat Gerges, Ph.D., assistant professor of cell biology, neurobiology and anatomy at the Medical College is receiving the New Investigator Research Grant (NIRG) for his study of the role of retinoic acid in Alzheimer's disease. Damage to the brain from oxidative stress occurs in Alzheimer's patients. Retinoic acid acts as an antioxidant, and could be useful in reducing that oxidative stress in Alzheimer's patients. Dr. Gerges will receive \$100,000 over two years to study the molecular mechanisms by which retinoic acid exerts its function in the brain.

Joseph Goveas, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine and the director of the geriatric psychiatry fellowship program at the Medical College, will receive \$99,994 over two years for his work, Multimodal Imaging in Depressed Adults at Risk for Alzheimer's disease. Studies have found a substantial link between adult depression and development of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Goveas will use multiple imaging techniques including functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) to identify the changes in memory-associated brain networks in depressed persons at higher risk for Alzheimer's disease.

“The Medical College is grateful for the Alzheimer's Association's continued support of our research efforts to prevent and treat this fatal disease,” said Joseph Kerschner, M.D., interim dean and executive vice president of the Medical College.

In September 2011, the Alzheimer's Association is observing the inaugural World Alzheimer's Month as a time to recognize the many heroes in the fight against this fatal disease, including those researchers who are leading the way toward better treatments and a cure. During September, visit [alz.org/wam](http://alz.org/wam) to learn how you can move the cause forward and declare that the “End of Alzheimer's Starts with Me.”

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For the 2011 grant-making cycle, the Alzheimer's Association awarded \$14 million to 75 funded projects. Since awarding its first grants in 1982, the Alzheimer's Association has become the largest private, nonprofit funder of Alzheimer research, awarding more than \$279 million to 1,900 projects.

The driving force behind the Alzheimer's Association International Grants Program is the desire to improve quality of life for people affected by Alzheimer's. This includes achieving new insights into the basic biology of Alzheimer's and other dementias; using these findings to identify novel approaches to risk assessment, diagnosis and treatment; improving care and support for those living with the disease; and furthering our understanding of brain health and prevention.

Alzheimer's is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States. It kills more Americans than diabetes, and more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined. An estimated 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease according to the Association's 2011 Alzheimer's disease Facts and Figures report.

For more information, visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800-272-3900.

#### About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's research, care and support. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through 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.

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