TORONTO, CANADA, July 24, 2016 – The Alzheimer’s Association recognizes three leading scientists for their contributions to advancing Alzheimer’s disease and dementia research. The awards were presented during the opening session at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference® 2016 (AAIC® 2016) in Toronto, Canada.

“These three scientists have made invaluable contributions in advancing the field of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia research,” said Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., chief science officer for the Alzheimer’s Association. “While their specific individual investigations vary, they share a common commitment to improving the lives of people living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias, and leading the way to a world without Alzheimer’s. We honor them for their passion, leadership and dedication.”

Khalid Iqbal, Ph.D., Bengt Winblad, M.D., Ph.D., and Henry Wisniewski, M.D., Ph.D., founded the Alzheimer’s research conference in 1988. The AAIC Lifetime Achievement Awards are named in their honor. The Awards honor individuals who have made significant fundamental contributions to Alzheimer’s research, either through a single scientific discovery or a body of work. These contributions, whether in research, leadership or mentorship, must have a lasting impact on the field and demonstrate a lifetime commitment towards progress against Alzheimer’s and dementia. The 2016 honorees are:

Khalid Iqbal, Ph.D., Life-time Achievement Award in Alzheimer’s Disease Research

- W. Sue T. Griffin, Ph.D., Alexa and William T. Dillard Professor in Geriatric Research, Director of Research at the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Chief Editor of the Journal of Neuroinflammation. Dr. Griffin has made groundbreaking contributions in the study of Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative conditions. Her pioneering work included the discovery of a type of inflammation in the brains of Alzheimer’s patients. Dr. Griffin went on to show how this inflammation contributes to formation of amyloid plaques, neurofibrillary tangles, and Lewy bodies in Alzheimer and Parkinson brains as well as its connections to genetic differences that confer greater risk of the disease in certain individuals. Her current work is building toward therapy with a team-oriented exploration of novel drugs to combat these molecular and biochemical processes.
Bengt Winblad Lifetime Achievement Award in Alzheimer’s Disease Research

- Denis A. Evans, M.D., Jesmer Professor of Internal Medicine at Rush Medical College and Director of the Rush Institute for Healthy Aging at Rush University Medical Center. A tireless researcher, Dr. Evans has authored or co-authored approximately 340 publications. His major interest is in common chronic diseases and conditions of older persons, especially Alzheimer’s disease, as they occur in the community, rather than in a hospital or nursing home. Evans was the Principal Investigator from 1993 to 2012 of the Chicago Health and Aging Project, a NIH-funded population study enrolling more than 10,000 residents of an urban, biracial community on the south side of Chicago. He is currently Principal Investigator of the Genetic Epidemiology of Cognitive Decline in an Aging Population Sample study, which is investigating the genetics of late-life cognitive decline in two large cohorts of African Americans and European Americans - the Chicago Health and Aging Project and the Indianapolis-Ibadan Project.

Henry Wisniewski Lifetime Achievement Award in Alzheimer’s Disease Research

- Bengt Winblad, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Geriatric Medicine and co-head of the Clinical Trial Unit at the Karolinska University Hospital, Huddinge, Sweden. Winblad is Head of the KI-Alzheimer Disease Research Center in Huddinge, and Director of the Swedish Brain Power research network. Recognized in 2009 as the world’s most prolific researcher in the Alzheimer’s field, Dr. Winblad’s contributions in advancing Alzheimer’s and dementia research have been invaluable. He was a member of the Nobel Assembly for physiology and medicine 1989-2008. His research interests focus on the epidemiology, genetics and treatment of dementia conditions in Alzheimer’s. In addition to authoring more than 1,000 publications in the field, Dr. Winblad has tutored more than 150 Ph.D. students. He is chair of the European Alzheimer Disease Consortium (EADC) and former chair of the Medical Scientific Advisory Panel of Alzheimer Disease International.

The Alzheimer’s Association is committed to accelerating the global effort to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease and to recognizing the efforts of researchers who further our understanding about this devastating disease. The Association is the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer’s research. It currently supports more than 350 ongoing research projects in 21 countries, totaling over $80 million. Since 1982, it has awarded more than $350 million to almost 2,300 scientific investigations.

About AAIC
The Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC) is the largest gathering of leading researchers from around the world focused on Alzheimer’s and other dementias. As a part of the Alzheimer’s Association’s research program, AAIC serves as a catalyst for generating new knowledge about dementia and fostering a vital, collegial research community.
AAIC 2016 home page: www.alz.org/aaic/
AAIC 2016 newsroom: www.alz.org/aaic/press.asp

About the Alzheimer’s Association®
The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our 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. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. Visit alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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