

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



EDUCATION PROGRAM SUMMARY OF AAP SECTION FOR SENIORS 2007 NCE SAN FRANCISCO

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More than 60 section members and guests attended the 2007 Section for Seniors CME program, PROMOTING LONGEVITY IN THE ERA OF STEM CELL RESEARCH. They submitted very positive evaluations, indicating their regret that more section members weren't in attendance at this remarkably informative session. Since our Section budget does not permit recording the program for others unable to attend, the following is a summary of this year's presentations.

GENES, AGING, & DISEASE: Dale Bredesen, M.D., Professor of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and President and CEO of the Buck Institute for Age Research in Novato, California presented. Dr. Bredesen's research has revealed alternatives to apoptosis for programmed cell death. He described studies showing cancer development ensuing as malignant cells fail to commit suicide and explained paraptosis, consisting of complementary pathways providing fail-safe mechanisms to ensure that cell death occurs when and where required. In addition to his erudite explanations of complex scientific research, he amused the audience with his description his laboratory's creation of transgenic mice, which model Alzheimer's disease (or "Mausheimer's"). This research has demonstrated a single point mutation sufficient to rescue the major phenotypic abnormalities of synaptic loss, atrophy of dentate gyri, and electrophysiological abnormalities.

DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT OF MEMORY DISORDERS: Bruce Miller, M.D., Professor of Neurology at UCSF and Director of the Center on Memory & Aging spoke as a clinician and neuro-cognitive researcher. Dr. Miller defined various types of dementias, their diagnosis and treatment options. He spoke of emerging research on apoproteins which may have clinical applicability for pediatric populations to assist in long term memory retention. He also reviewed various factors which increase risk for memory loss, including head injury, cerebrovascular accidents, neoplasms, and advised diet, exercise, and active creative activities, as well as judicious attention to good health. He reviewed additional research on promising medications for augmenting memory, advising that preventive efforts are at this time more promising than current pharmaceutical options.

STEM CELL RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY 101: Martin Pera, Ph.D., Research Professor and Director of the Center for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine at Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles presented a superb overview of stem cell research, describing isolation and characterization of pluri-potential stem cells. He hypothesized how stem cell cultures representing different cell types can be controlled to express different cell types in vitro, and defined possible future clinical applications, predicated by propagation of stem cells on a large scale under defined conditions for large scale research projects and clinical trials. Noting the numerous practical and ethical questions remaining, he gave a promising outlook to the diagnosis and management of cognitive disorders in the aged.

The Section for Senior Members (SFSM) of the AAP invites you to plan now to attend the 2008 AAP NCE and SFSM Scientific Meeting in Boston, MA. For more information on the 2008 NCE [CLICK HERE](#).