

August 2, 2009

## McKnight Leadership Council Retreat

### Unique characteristics of each Institution:

- 1) We had an extensive discussion of weaknesses and strengths, and provided feedback to one another that was very helpful – both regarding the weaknesses and strengths. This discussion lead us to potential answers for our original point #4 (Can we tackle aging, and age-related memory disorders on a grand scale – a sort of “Manhattan Project-like” initiative for brain aging?). Therefore we discussed the following issues:
  - i) **identify special scientific opportunities that are ready to be deployed and translated**
    - a) epigenetics and HDAC inhibitors
    - b) SSRIs as a potential novel treatment
    - c) Calcium channel antagonists (isradipine - dynaCIRC)
    - d) NSAIDs
  - ii) **identify those treatment approaches that may require more scientific and technological innovation**
    - a) Neuroimaging advances with neuropsychological assessments
    - b) Human genetics and genomics to identify biomarkers combining neuropsychological assessment
    - c) Cognitive enhancement – tripartite synapse, neuroregeneration, anti-inflammatory
  - iii) **identify specific barriers to progress, and then see how we may be able to build collaborative linkages among our Institutions to move forward.**  
Target areas for the future - identify focus groups –

### Grand Opportunities for Collaboration

Centenarian study to identify successful aging

### Future of the Leadership Council:

- Leadership Council was a constructive activity that we will continue.
- Carol has agreed to stay on for another year as the McKnight Tsaritsa.
- The term will be 2 years, and will not coincide with the person who has the Inter-Institutional meetings.
- The next Csar will be either Tom or David (which will occur after the April 2010 meeting).

### Cognitive Aging Summit II

We have identified target areas of opportunity for the future – the topics could be used for emphasis at the Summit meeting

We discussed the organization of the summit, and we believe that we should use the same procedure as we did for the first summit – that is, to convene a group of leading individuals in the field to select topics and specific speakers

*Merck - pilots studies<sup>1</sup>  
Fund Raising ??*