2011-2012 Science of Medicine Theme: Aging

Convergence Day on Aging
An all-school event bringing together learning communities from graduate, health professions and medical schools to culminate a year of emphasis on aging

Directed by Dr. Craig Rubin and sponsored, in part, by the Southwestern Aging and Geriatrics Education (SAGE) program under an award from the Donald W. Reynolds’ Foundation

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

1:00 – 2:30 PM  Small Group Discussions of a Family Case Study
                Various Conference Rooms
                Mixed teams of first-year graduate, health professions and medical students will
discuss the role of their professions in understanding and treatment of aging-
related developments affecting a family’s health.

2:40 – 3:50 PM  Activities to Understand Aging
                D1 Plaza and Lecture Halls
                Students may participate in multiple activities including the Aging Knowledge
Bowl, nutrition demonstrations, research poster-viewing, volunteer
opportunity sign-ups, physical activities and video-viewing.

4:00 – 5:00 PM  Featured University Lecturer
                Gooch Auditorium
                Nir Barzilai, M.D., Albert Einstein College of Medicine
                Professor of Medicine and Genetics
                Ingebord and Ira Leon Rennert Professor of Aging Research
                Director, Institute for Aging Research

The Barzilai group has phenotyped and genotyped over 1,500 centenarians (450 are aged 95-110y)
their offspring, and unrelated individuals from a genetically homogeneous population (Ashkenazi Jews), and
PNAS. 2008) The goal is to identify new longevity genes using these recruits in both an unbiased high
throughput approach and by probing the GH/IGF-1 pathway that seems to be conserved for longevity.

Insulin action, inflammatory markers, and diabetes are completely reversed by surgical removal of
visceral fat (Diabetes 2002), also resulting in significant extension of life span (Aging Cell. 2008). Dr. Barzilai’s
lab has identified several central pathways that specifically alter body fat distribution and insulin action
and secretion by intraventricular administration of leptin, IGF-1 and IGFBP3 (J Clin. Invest. 1997; Neurobiology
of Aging 2006; Diabetes 2006). Resveratrol and other such peptides are now being tested for their specific
effects on activating peripheral insulin action through the hypothalamus.  (From Einstein.COM web page on Dr. Barzilai)