



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE PIONEER FUND CONTRIBUTES \$1.5 MILLION GIFT TO THE BRAIN RESEARCH FOUNDATION FOR ATYPICAL DEMENTIA RESEARCH

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS – (October 1, 2010) The Brain Research Foundation (BRF) and The Pioneer Fund have today announced a \$1.5 million endowment to study atypical dementia. “The Pioneer Fund’s generous contribution ensures substantial research will continue to advance the understanding of atypical dementia,” said BRF Executive Director Terre A. Sharma, Ph.D. “The funding of this endowment comes at a critical time and means that the tremendous potential of early stage research will continue to be explored.”

Atypical dementias are unusual cases of dementia related to a variety of underlying pathologies, including atypical Alzheimer’s disease, frontotemporal dementia, dementia with Lewy bodies, and prion disease, among others. Because these types of cases are not as common, research has not pursued them as vigorously as typical dementia. However, much can be learned from these less common conditions that could benefit people suffering from both typical and atypical dementia.

A private family foundation, The Pioneer Fund was established by Helen M. McLoraine and her mother, Mabel Green Myers, in 1962. The Fund was created to support medical research, higher education scholarship assistance, and youth social welfare. “We are very encouraged by the innovative work that the Brain Research Foundation supports and are confident that our grant will serve to further the understanding of atypical dementia,” stated a representative of the Pioneer Fund.

In 2006, Dr. Lawrence Pottenger, a University of Chicago orthopedic surgeon and Ms. McLoraine’s cousin, died as a result of complications due to early onset Alzheimer’s disease. His wife was instrumental in connecting the Brain Research Foundation with The Pioneer Fund to create this endowment to research atypical dementia. This work will be led by Dr. James Mastrianni, Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of Chicago, who was Dr. Pottenger’s doctor.

About the Brain Research Foundation | www.thebrf.org

The Brain Research Foundation supports cutting-edge neuroscience research and programming that leads to novel treatments and prevention of all neurological diseases in children and adults. We deliver this commitment through seed grants, which provide initial funding for innovative research projects, as well as educational programs for researchers and the general public.

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