



# Touro University Nevada

## Making a Difference in Nevada

Presentation to Legislative Committee on  
Health Care's Task Force to Develop a State Plan  
for Alzheimer's Disease

July 11, 2012

**EXHIBIT D - Alzheimer's  
Document consists of 19 pages.  
Entire document provided.  
Meeting Date 07-11-12**

# Campus Statistics

- Established 2004
- Approximately 1,400 students
- More than 300 faculty and staff
- Jewish-affiliated, not-for-profit university, part of the Touro College and University System.



# Programs Offered

- College of Osteopathic Medicine
  - Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
  - Master of Physician Assistant Studies
  - Master of Medical Health Sciences



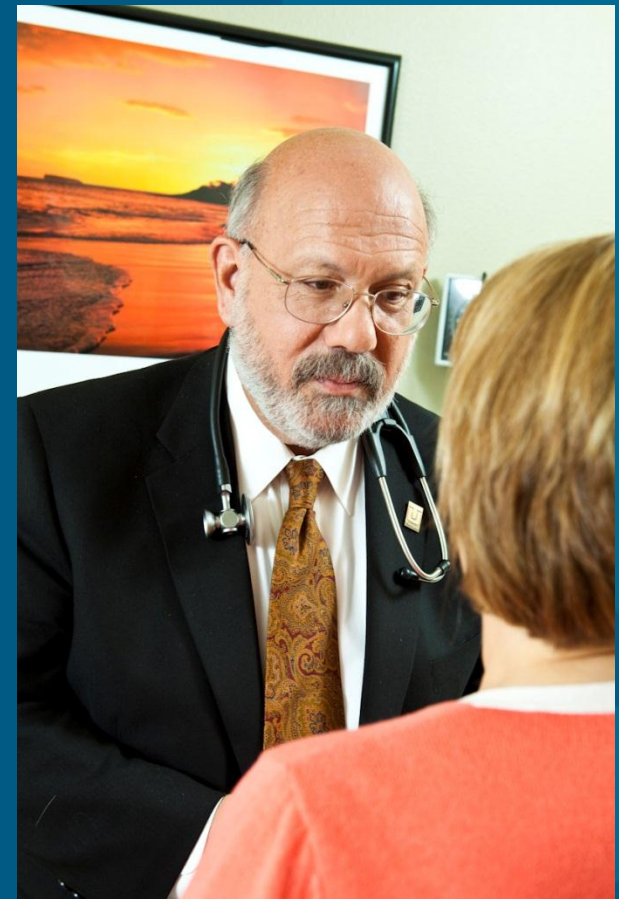
# Programs Offered

- College of Health & Human Services
  - Doctor of Nursing Practice
  - Master of Science in Nursing
  - Bachelor of Science in Nursing
  - Doctor of Physical Therapy
  - Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
  - Master of Education
  - Educational endorsement programs



# Patient Care and Community Service

- Health Center at Touro - 13 faculty members practice in Touro's Health Center – more than 13,500 patient visits.
- Center for Autism & Developmental Disabilities – only multi-specialty Center in Nevada.
- Caring Without Walls – health outreach to underserved populations
- Stallman Touro Clinic at Shade Tree – provide health care to women and children at shelter.



# Touro's Impact to the State of Nevada

- As a private, not-for-profit institution, we offer an alternative to public higher education and are able to collaborate with a variety of organizations and institutions through the state.
- We are growing and expanding to provide programs and services that meet State needs.
- We are an active community partner.
- We do not receive any state funds.

# Osteopathic Medicine Curriculum and Alzheimer's

- Touro student doctors are educated on the specific issues, pharmacology, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia.
- Geriatrics Interest Group
- Third and Fourth year students participate in clinical clerkships in Neurology and Geriatrics.
- Touro offers Graduate Medical Education (residency) at Valley Hospital in Neurology.

# Physician Assistant Studies Curriculum and Alzheimer's

- Touro has learning goals and objectives that ensure our PA students can:
  - Evaluate the pertinent history & physical findings in patients with Alzheimer's Disease (AD)
  - Correlate the pertinent diagnostic modalities of AD
  - Develop a management plan to include health maintenance, clinical interventions and therapeutics, patient education, counseling, proper referrals and working with a health care team for AD
  - Utilize the relevant scientific concepts in relation to the disease processes of AD.



# Occupational Therapy Curriculum and Alzheimer's

- Touro's School of Occupational Therapy utilizes a developmental approach to the curriculum and specifically addresses the needs of older adults during the 4<sup>th</sup> semester of instruction.
- OT students are skilled in the techniques used to work with individuals with AD to include:
  - Maximizing occupational engagement
  - Promoting safety
  - Enhancing the quality of life

# Physical Therapy Curriculum and Alzheimer's

- Touro's PT program is a three-year professional doctorate which includes:
  - A required Geriatrics course
  - Program promotes a patient-centered, evidence-based approach
  - Faculty and students who are active in community advocacy and service initiatives, including those related to Alzheimer's Disease.

# Nursing Curriculum and Alzheimer's

- Touro School of Nursing provides specific curriculum related to Alzheimer's and Dementia:
  - General clinical picture of dementia and AD
  - Epidemiology of AD
  - Etiology of AD including an examination of possible biological and environmental factors
  - Application of the nursing process
  - Diagnostic tests – use and meaning
  - Staging of AD
  - Nursing care outcomes for AD patients and families
  - Counseling, communication and integrative therapy techniques
  - Pharmacological interventions

# A Patient-Centered Approach

- Touro's approach to education is interdisciplinary
- All of our programs teach the importance of patient-centered care.
- We are unique in Nevada in that all related health care disciplines work collaboratively within one institution.
- To fully address issues of AD, we must find a way to create a continuum of care and service to patients and their families.
- We can't look solely to physicians – need a team-centered approach that includes families, care givers and health care providers.
- Informatics will play a very important role in ensuring transfer of patient information among care settings.

# What Else Can Touro Do to Help Nevada Address this Issue

- Touro Geriatricians provide care to community members at the Touro Health Center and throughout the community.
- Active Aging Center
- Geriatric Education Consortium
- Interdisciplinary exercises for students
- Caring Without Walls
- Student-run free Physical Therapy Clinic

# What are the Barriers?

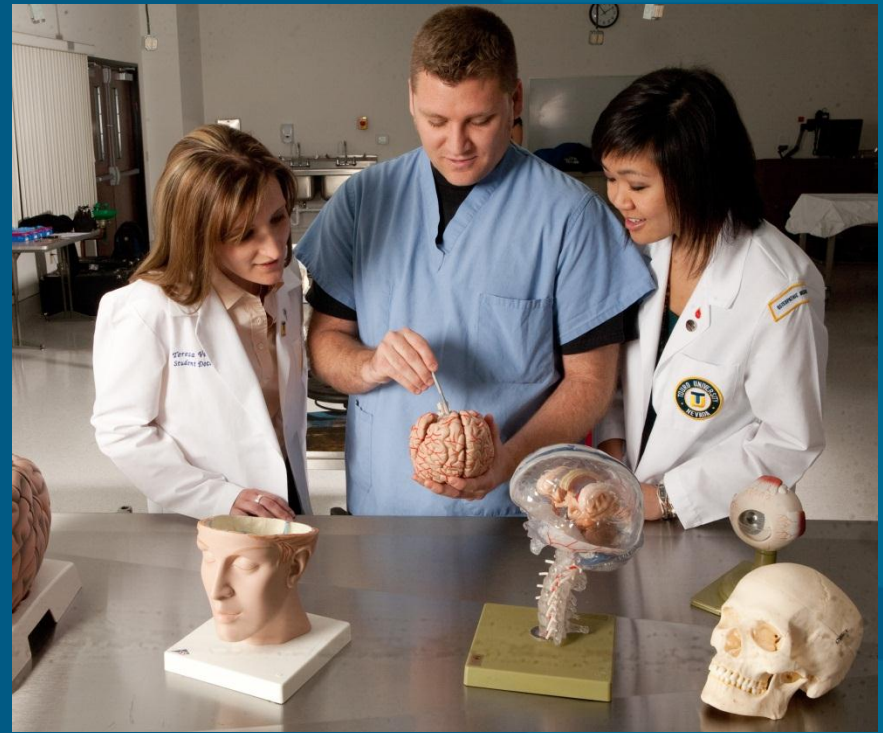
- Denial on the part of patient and family for early diagnosis
- Providers reluctance to address the issue
  - Discussion is very time consuming
  - No lab tests or x-rays
  - Screening is time consuming
  - No good treatments
- Treatment is not curative
- Management is not just pharmacological, but involves multiple disciplines
- Caregivers are not adequately trained to handle the demands of patients.

# What are the Barriers?

- Lack of community knowledge and awareness
- Statutory restrictions on volunteers
- Need for information systems that allow for transfer of medical information among various care settings
- Licensing of Health Care Providers
- Graduate Medical Education placement in Nevada hospitals
- Placement of other health care providers in Nevada hospitals

# Closing Remarks

- Questions?
- Touro is committed to working with the Task Force, Nevada Legislature, and healthcare leaders to address the issues related to Alzheimer's Disease.
- We want to be a part of the solution.





**Thank You**



**Touro University  
Nevada**

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**Andrew Priest, EdD, PT**, is Dean of the Touro College of Health and Human Services, which includes the schools of Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, and Education. Dr. Priest received his Doctor of Education at Texas Tech University in Higher Education Administration and has a Master of Physical Therapy from Baylor University. Prior to joining Touro earlier this summer, Dr. Priest served for many years as the Chair of the Health Sciences Division and Chair of the Physical Therapy department at Clark University in Dubuque, Iowa. Before taking the position at Texas Tech, Priest was a commissioned officer in the United States Army practicing physical therapy. During his time with the Army, he achieved certification as a neuro-musculoskeletal screener among other accomplishments. In his spare time, Dr. Priest has been invited to serve as a text reviewer for various publications and books. He has co-authored and been featured in multiple publications.

**Suzanne Brown, PhD, PT**, is an associate professor and director of the School of Physical Therapy. She received her Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership from Trident University International and a Master of Public Health and Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy from the University of Oklahoma. Ms. Brown has founded two other entry-level physical therapy programs and one of the first fully on-line transitional doctor of physical therapy programs. She joined Touro University Nevada in 2008 to develop the School of Physical Therapy. She has served as a physical therapy education administrator and faculty since 1985. She has developed and taught courses in pharmacology, differential diagnosis, professional practice, research design, evidence-based practice, clinical decision making, tests and measures, and educational principles. She has received more than \$1 million in grant support for education-related demonstration projects. Her scholarly productivity includes five peer-reviewed publications, two monographs, 14 research presentations, and more than 65 invited presentations. Her research interests range from investigations in competency in physical therapists, use of assistive aids in the elderly, and application of evidence based practice.

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**Lisa Rosenberg, MD**, is a board-certified geriatrician who also holds certifications in internal medicine and hospice and palliative medicine. She attended the Medical University of South Carolina, followed by residency training at the University of Pittsburgh. She completed a two-year fellowship at Johns Hopkins Bayview Hospital and then returned to the University of Pittsburgh as an assistant professor for five years. In 2006, Dr. Rosenberg moved to Las Vegas to work in Southwest Medical Associates' department of geriatrics. In August of 2008, Dr. Rosenberg started as faculty in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Touro University Nevada. Her interests are adverse drug events in older adults, urinary incontinence and palliative care.

**Upinder Singh, MD**, did his internal medicine residency and geriatrics fellowship from St Vincent's CMC, NY. He is triple boarded in internal medicine, geriatrics and hospice and palliative care medicine. He was the clinical director of the PACE program in Syracuse, director of geriatrics for UMA and director, Center for Senior Health, United Health Services, Binghamton, NY before moving to sunny Las Vegas in 2004. He joined as chief of geriatrics for Southwest Medical Associates and left as medical director for Health Plan of Nevada to join Touro University Nevada as professor in 2010. He runs the Memory Disorder Clinic in Touro Multispecialty Patient Clinic. He is on the board of directors for Alzheimer's Association. He is a fellow of AGS and ACP. His major interest is in dementia, osteoporosis and improving quality of care of older adults.

**Mark Ackerman, MSN, RN, PMHNP-BL**, had an interesting career pathway to nursing. He graduated with a degree in Political Science from SUNY Albany in 1991. He then went on to an apprenticeship for pipefitting due to dismal job prospects in the political realm. He worked as a pipefitter and welder, and then as a purchasing agent until his cousin, a nurse in the US Air Force, encouraged him to try nursing. He completed his BSN and MSN at Touro University, Nevada. He has worked as a floor nurse and charge nurse at Monte Vista Behavioral Health Hospital. He was promoted to oversee the partial hospitalization program and then earned another promotion to the director of the acute adult unit. He joined the faculty at Touro University Nevada in the summer of 2010. He enjoys teaching at his alma mater, especially teaching mental health. He recently graduated from the psychiatric nurse practitioner program at Rush University, Chicago. He is interested in psychotherapy and will be going to the Beck Institute in Philadelphia to learn cognitive behavioral therapy. His research interests are in therapy for depression and anxiety.

**Ashley Fecht, OTD, OTR/L**, joined Touro University Nevada in July 2011. She has provided occupational therapy services in the school district and in outpatient pediatric and adult clinics, and acute care settings. Her clinical expertise is the provision of child-based therapy for children with special needs. Her current research pursuits include constraint induced therapy, evaluation of occupational therapy assessments, and the effective provision of academic fieldwork coordination services. Dr. Fecht obtained her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, with minors in Math, Biology, and Spanish. She received her Doctor of Occupational Therapy in 2004 from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Her culmination research project titled, "The effectiveness of constraint-induced therapy as a stroke intervention: A meta-analysis", was published in Occupational Therapy in Health Care.

**Graceann Freeman** received her Doctor of Medicine degree (MD) in 1983 from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines with internship at the Veteran's Memorial Medical Center. She had her residency training in Anesthesia at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Medical Center with subspecialty fellowship training in Pediatric Anesthesia at the Philippine Children's Medical Center with rotations at the Philippine Heart Center of Asia for Cardio-thoracic surgery, Lung Center and Kidney Center of the Philippines, after which she went on to private practice. She also served as a Medical Officer with the Philippine Navy and became the Executive Officer at the Philippine Military Academy Station Hospital. Graceann migrated to the United States as a nurse in 2001 and received her Master's degree in Nursing and Advanced Practice in Nursing from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and became a certified Family Nurse Practitioner. She joined the Touro University Physician Assistant Program in 2010. Her medical and nursing background truly help her treat, give comfort and care to her patients and become comfortable working with people from diverse social and cultural backgrounds.

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