FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TARC Alzheimer's Research Director in Lubbock Selected for National Academy of Neuropsychology's Early Career Award

AUSTIN, Texas -- **Dr. Sid E. O'Bryant**, director of the **Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium (TARC)** efforts at **Texas Tech University Health Science Center,** is this year's recipient of the National Academy of Neuropsychology's (NAN) Early Career Award. Dr. O'Bryant will accept the award at the academy's November conference in New Orleans, LA.

Dr. O'Bryant is part of the ongoing statewide TARC research team evaluating novel genes associated with age of Alzheimer's onset and rate of progression and the role that inflammation plays in Alzheimer's disease. Dr. O'Bryant is also the Director of Research for the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health at the Health Science Center at Texas Tech University and is primary investigator for the rural health study, Project FRONTIER (Facing Rural Obstacles to healthcare Now Through Intervention, Education and Research). He is working on several research projects associated with aging and dementia in ethnically diverse rural communities.

"Dr. O'Bryant is a gifted researcher who has helped advance the Consortium's ground-breaking research to more accurately identify changes in dementia progression - a critical step in early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease," said TARC Project Coordinator Jim Hinds. Dr. O'Bryant's selection for this prestigious award is "well deserved and speaks volumes about the outstanding talent we have in Texas working to meet the Alzheimer's challenge," said Dr. Robert Barber, the research consortium's Scientific Coordinator.

About 340,000 Texans and their families are currently impacted by Alzheimer's disease. The Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium will spent $6.8 million in state funding over the next two years to advance its

biomarker and genetic research into the links between Alzheimer's and cardio-vascular disease risk, diabetes, inflammation, depression and other health conditions – and is launching a new research focus on the impact of Alzheimer's disease on Hispanics. More than 800 Texans have volunteered to participate in Alzheimer's research at one of the five participating TARC medical institutions, and recruitment is continuing.

"Texas has taken a huge step towards advancing our understanding of Alzheimer's disease, and I predict that we will generate more accurate methods for estimating risk for this disease – and even identify subgroups of Alzheimer's patients that may guide updated treatment options. Given the diversity of Texas, I believe we have an opportunity and an obligation to work towards a better understanding of how this disease may impact ethnic minorities and both rural and urban populations. I am fortunate to be involved with dedicated researchers at the Health Sciences Center and through the TARC to advance these aims," Dr. O'Bryant said.

The NAN Early Career Award is given annually to an individual judged to have made substantial scholarly contributions to the field of neuropsychology within 10 years of the doctoral degree. Dr. O'Bryant's scholarly publications, grant support, and research contributions were "particularly impressive," said Dr. Christopher I. Higginson, Chair of NAN's Awards Committee. "The Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium is fortunate to have him as a member of their clinical research team."

Dr. O'Bryant, an Assistant Professor in Neurology, received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2004 from the University at Albany, State University of New York, and completed his Postdoctoral Fellowship at the New Orleans VA Medical Center. Since 2005, he has served as an Adjunct Professor in the Psychology Department at Texas Tech University. He is currently an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease* and on the Editorial Board of *Archives of Clinical Neuropsychology*.

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Members of the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium: **Baylor College of Medicine**, Houston; **Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center**, Lubbock; **University of North Texas Health Science Center**, Fort Worth; **The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio**; and **The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center**, Dallas.

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