

Second Annual SAR Retreat a success, and future plans with Mayo SAR members

The second Annual Minnesota Scientists in Aging Retreat held on February 28, 2009 at the University of Minnesota's Hasselmo Hall was a real success. There were outstanding presentations and posters and ample networking opportunities over lunch and during the poster session. We especially enjoyed hearing Jim Kirkland MD, PhD discuss the new and evolving **Mayo Clinic Robert and Arlene Kogod Center on Aging**. We were also fortunate to have Dr. Mahadev Murthy from the NIA speak on funding opportunities from the NIA, including the latest information on the ARRA Challenge Grants. The attendees enjoyed the collegial warm atmosphere in a relaxed setting, and savored the wine and cheese reception at the end of the day. Thank you to Dr. Robert Kane and the Center on Aging, as well as the Fesler- Lampert Chair on Aging for sponsoring the retreat.

The discussion sessions in the afternoon by LaDora Thompson PhD and Paul Tuite MD led to some concrete action items to forward the continued collaboration in Aging Research between the University and Mayo. These are described below:

- 1) A University- hosted Aging Seminar and poster session will be held on a Saturday in September 2009.
 - We have proposed Saturday September 12. A second choice would be Saturday September 19. We will confirm the date soon on the SAR website.
- 2) A Mayo- hosted Aging Seminar with a tentative date of June 17-20, 2010 with a poster session
 - Mayo will confirm the dates of this seminar.
- 3) Create a virtual list and contact information of investigators conducting Aging Research who are at Mayo and the University/VA/Twin Cities.
 - We are working with the Center on Aging staff to create a list of University faculty to share with Mayo
- 4) Explore the potential of using the Virtual Web Cam technology to link aging research and educational opportunities between Mayo and the University
 - We will keep you abreast of this development.
- 5) Create a registry of geriatric 'control' patients who would be willing to be contacted for clinical studies.
 - We also discussed this in the clinical discussion group with Paul Tuite MD, and plan to seek funding sources to hire an assistant to recruit and maintain a 'healthy control' registry.
- 6) Pursue the opportunity for University Scientists to participate in the Mayo Aging Seminar series that is in development
 - We will keep you abreast of this development

