



National Alliance on Mental Illness

nami San Diego

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Pioneering UCSD Psychiatrist Dilip Jeste, M.D. to receive Lifetime Achievement Award at upcoming NAMI San Diego dinner

SAN DIEGO—The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI San Diego) will be honoring Dilip Jeste, M.D., Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and director of the UCSD Stein Institute for Research on Aging—as well as other local individuals and organizations that champion mental health—at their annual Inspirational Awards dinner on October 7, 2011.

Dr. Jeste will be awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by NAMI San Diego because of his numerous contributions to the field of mental health and medicine over the years. Following medical education in India, Dr. Jeste completed psychiatry and neurology residencies at Cornell and George Washington University, respectively. He was Chief of Units on Movement Disorders and Dementias at NIMH before joining UCSD in 1986. He is the President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association and will become President in May, 2012.

Dr. Jeste was President of the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, and International College of Geriatric Psychoneuropharmacology, and is Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. He has published 11 books, and over 600 articles in peer-reviewed journals and books. Dr. Jeste is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. He was a member of the National Advisory Mental Health Council as well as of the Council of Councils of the National Institutes of Health. He is in the Institute of Scientific Information list of the “world's most cited authors”—comprising less than 0.5% percent of all publishing researchers of the last two decades. Throughout his career, Dr. Jeste has mentored over 200 young trainees and has researched important topics such as neuroscience, community psychiatry, schizophrenia, and emotional aging.

In addition to recognizing Dr. Jeste, the NAMI San Diego Inspiration Awards Dinner will feature Father Joe Carroll as the Inspirational Person of the Year and keynote speaker. Father Joe is well-known in San Diego for his tireless work on behalf of people who are homeless. He founded Father Joe's Villages which, collectively, is the largest provider of homeless services in Southern California, serving over 20,000 individuals and families each year.

There will also be a number of other awards at the dinner given to people and organizations who have greatly contributed to the mental health community. These include:

- Employer Champion: Shawn Crew of VONS
- Research Award: Marc A. Shuckit, M.D.
- Young Advocate: Maggie Reese
- Media Award: "It's Up to Us" Campaign

Councilman Todd Gloria will return to emcee the 8th annual Inspirational Awards dinner. Todd is a District 3 Councilman and a third-generation resident of the area where NAMI San Diego is headquartered. Among his former positions he has worked for the County's Health and Human Services agency and his commitment to the community is strong.

"We are extremely excited about this year's Inspiration Awards dinner," said NAMI San Diego Executive Director Shannon Jaccard. "Every award-winner sets the standard for compassion, education and advocacy in the world of mental health. It is truly an honor to be able to recognize their unique and valuable contributions to the community."

NAMI San Diego is a non-profit organization that provides education, support services and advocacy to improve the lives of everyone affected by mental illnesses, which, really, is all of us in one way or another. Most recently, the San Diego branch was named Affiliate of the Year by NAMI National. They received this due to their consistent support of NAMI's mission evidenced by the number of support groups, education classes, community outreach activities, seminars, and monthly meetings they offer. NAMI San Diego also runs a Family and Peer Support Helpline that offers free, safe, confidential information, referrals and support for people with mental illness and their loved ones. The number is (619) 543-1434 or (800) 523-5933.

The annual Inspiration Awards dinner is one of NAMI San Diego's largest fundraisers and proceeds from it enable them to continue doing their important work.

The dinner will be held at the Catamaran Resort in Mission Beach on Friday, Oct. 7. Tickets are on-sale now and can be purchased by calling the NAMI San Diego office at (800) 523-5933 or online at www.namisandiego.org.

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