About the Brother Lucian Blersch Symposium

Organized by the School of Natural Sciences and the Kozmetsky Center of Excellence in Global Finance at St. Edward’s University, the event is free and open to the public. This symposium honors Brother Lucian Blersch, CSC, a longtime professor of Engineering at St. Edward’s who died in 1986 and in whose name a professorship in the School of Natural Sciences was endowed by a gift from J.B.N. Morris ’48, ’52 and his family.

PAST SYMPOSIA

2013  Global Health & Infectious Disease: Stress and Inflammation
2012  Global Health & Infectious Disease: Pathogenic Proteins
2011  Global Health & Infectious Disease: Tuberculosis
2010  Global Health & Infectious Disease: HIV/AIDS

Learn more at www.stedwards.edu/lucian
Amyloids are insoluble fibrous protein aggregates that have been associated with the pathology of a range of human diseases, most notably Alzheimer's disease (AD). Beyond AD, diseases associated with the formation of amyloid deposits include Parkinson's disease, Spongiform encephalopathy (more commonly referred to as mad cow disease), and a range of dementia and prion diseases. Other neurodegenerative diseases, including Huntington's disease (HD) and Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), are associated with the pathological aggregation of specific amyloidogenic proteins. Altogether, more than forty of these "protein deposition" diseases have been described so far, making this one of the most important, but also one of the more intractable, problems in biomedicine.

While no efficacious treatments have yet been found to delay or stop the progression of AD, remarkable scientific advances continue to be made in our understanding of these various pathologies. More importantly, a unified picture of the molecular and clinical features of protein misfolding and aggregation is emerging, yielding the exciting prospect of therapeutic advances that might be applicable across more than one disease.

This symposium will highlight some of the key advances made to date in our understanding of the molecular characteristics underpinning these clinical pathologies. Key biochemical targets will be highlighted, along with the challenges that these pose to the development of therapeutics.

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

9:30 a.m.  
**Welcome**

9:40 a.m.  
Eamonn F. Healy, PhD, (St. Edward's University): "A Novel Amyloidogenic Marker for Protein Misfolding Diseases"

10:10 a.m.  
David Teplow, PhD, (University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)): "Amyloid Formation: From the Molecular to the Clinical"

11 a.m.  
**Break**

11:15 a.m.  
Lucía Chavez Gutierrez, PhD, (University of Leuven, Belgium): "Learning by Failing: γ-Secretases in Alzheimer’s Disease and Beyond"

12:05 p.m.  
Nigel Greig, PhD, (National Institution on Aging): "Advances in Alzheimer Therapy: Understanding Pharmacological Approaches to the Disease"

1 p.m.  
**Lunch and Student Poster Session:**  
Foyer, John Brooks Williams Natural Sciences Center

For directions and a map of campus, go to: stedwards.edu/map