LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON
2025

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SPEAKER: Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Flanagan

Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio

Dr. Margaret (Maggie) Flanagan is an Associate Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio where she holds the distinguished chair in Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases. Born in the U.S. and raised partly in Ireland, she pursued medical studies at Trinity College Dublin, deeply influenced by her dual citizenship and the early experiences of mobility and exposure to different cultures. Her personal connection to dementia is profound—both her parents suffered from dementia, with her mother serving as a lifelong nurse and her father, an Irish immigrant and U.S. Army veteran, also facing an Alzheimer's disease diagnosis. Dr. Flanagan's professional journey began with foundational training at the University of North Dakota and continued with specialized training at the University of Washington and Stanford University. Here, she developed innovative neuropathological protocols and refined diagnostic techniques for studying brain pathologies. Today, she leads a dynamic research team at UT Health San Antonio, focusing on advanced biomarker development, biostatistics, and the integration of digital pathology. A significant part of Dr. Flanagan's research leadership is her role as Director of the iconic Nun Study on Aging and Alzheimer's Disease. In this capacity, she meticulously correlates brain autopsy findings with cognitive and physical assessments gathered throughout the lives of the study's participants. Her work aims to elucidate the progression of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, offering new insights into how different brain pathologies, lifestyle factors, and genetics influence neurodegenerative processes. This leadership role highlights her commitment to advancing our understanding of aging and cognitive decline through longitudinal studies. Furthermore, Dr. Flanagan is pivotal in connecting Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers to enhance data sharing and analytics through digital neuropathology. She leverages artificial intelligence (AI) to improve neuropathologic diagnostic accuracy and efficiency, thus enhancing our understanding of neurodegenerative diseases. Her efforts in digital pathology and her extensive research, teaching, and leadership roles continue to significantly advance our understanding of Alzheimer's and related dementias, informing the development of future effective therapeutic interventions.

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