Collectively, we must make breakthroughs that could relieve the burden Alzheimer’s disease brings to our health care systems, our economy, and the well-being and productivity of those it impacts. Yet despite the progress we have made to better understand this disease, there are no adequate therapies to fight against it.

The need to find safe and effective treatments for Alzheimer’s disease that are accessible to diverse communities is paramount, and the time to pursue new therapeutic options is now. The Epstein Family Alzheimer’s Research Collaboration is a commitment to the high-risk, high-reward pursuit of a potential cure that gene therapy offers, as well as a concerted effort to fast-track existing medications that could be widely available, affordable and practical.

Our goal is to offer hope in situations where there is currently none. Today, there is no way to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s disease, let alone to halt it or reverse symptoms. If we can make advancements in any of these areas, we will have made a difference.

Within five years, we intend to identify five to 10 compounds for treating this disease that we can deliver directly to the people who need them. The steps we need to turn this dream into reality can only occur with academic rigor among leading universities such as UC San Diego and USC. Philanthropic investment is the catalyst that can accelerate early-stage research so these goals can be achieved.

Beyond the Epstein’s initial $50 million investment to establish the Epstein Family Alzheimer’s Research Collaboration, the couple has challenged USC and UC San Diego to raise an additional $25 million each to support Alzheimer’s research.

“One Plus One Equals Three

“If you want to do something transformational, you need a lot of key ingredients. It’s not just a matter of throwing dollars at it. There needs to be an overall recognition and understanding of the problem, a plan for involving others in coming up with solutions, and an approach that will engage others in the community to support it so you can make some real advancements.

When you have the opportunity to support something in a meaningful way, you take a look at the community, take a look at the needs, and at the end of the day you have a sense that you made a difference. That’s what we’ve tried to do through our family and our foundation — to make a difference.”

– DAN EPSTEIN
If you would like to join the Epsteins in their ambitious, potentially historic contribution to science and human health, we invite you to contact Whitney Egan at wnegan@ucsd.edu or (858) 246-1561 to learn more or visit campaign.ucsd.edu/impact/epstein-challenge to give today.

THANK YOU for considering making a gift to support the Epstein Family Alzheimer’s Research Collaboration and partnering with us to realize a future of promise for those impacted by Alzheimer’s.

“Our intention is to leverage this foundational funding and to double, triple or quadruple it through grants that arise from the data we will generate from their gift. This is the accelerator step. Government funding agencies will support a project once it has generated some proof, not when it’s an idea. This seminal money helps us move ideas from the labs to the clinic, where they can begin to be tested more readily. Philanthropy holds the extraordinary potential to make that happen.”

– HOWARD FELDMAN
Dean, Alzheimer’s and Neurodegenerative Disease Research
Professor of Neurosciences, UC San Diego School of Medicine