

**The Mary and Joseph A. Pignolo, Sr. Award
and Lectureship in Aging Research**

**"Longevity Factor Klotho, Aging, and
Neurodegenerative Disease"**



Dena Dubal, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurology,
UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences
2024 AWARDEE

April 22, 2025
1:00 - 3:30pm
University of Pennsylvania

AGENDA

1:00pm

Welcome

David Wolk, MD
Co-director, Institute on Aging

1:05pm

Introduction to the Pignolo Awardee

Robert J. Pignolo, MD, PhD
Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and
Research

1:10pm

2024 Pignolo Lecture

Dena Dubal, MD, PhD
Professor of Neurology, UCSF Weill Institute
for Neurosciences

1:55pm

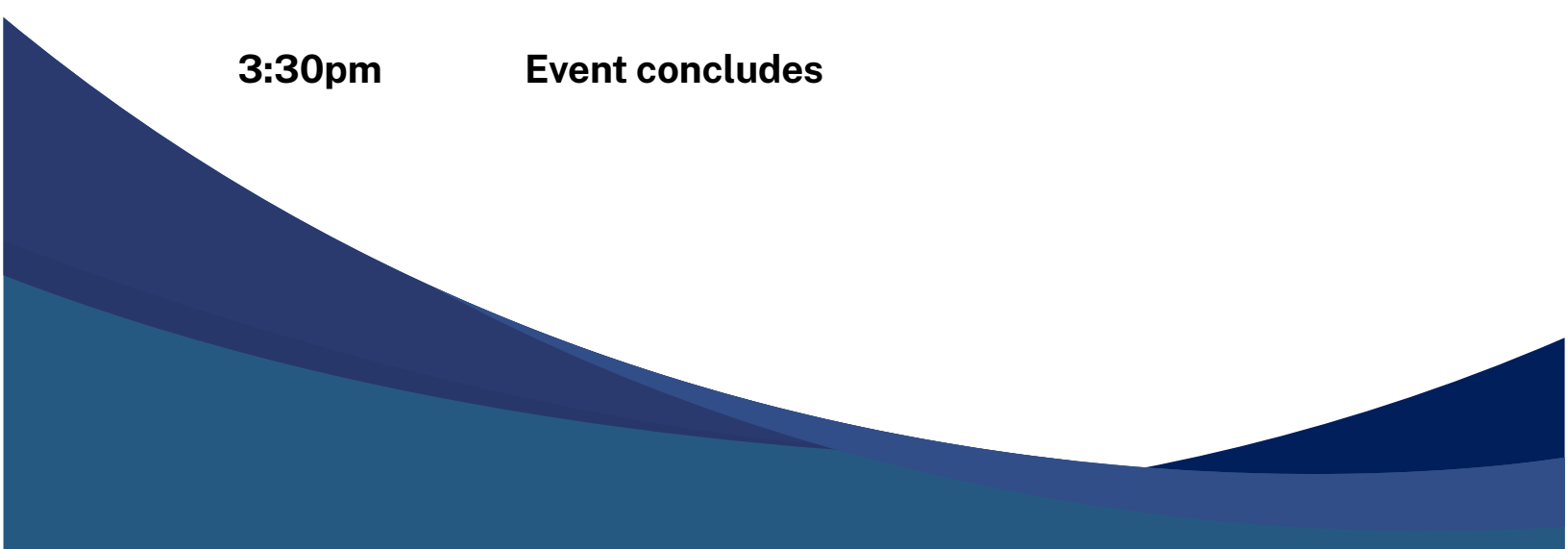
Q&A

2:10pm

Reception

3:30pm

Event concludes




ABOUT DR. DUBAL

Dena B. Dubal MD, PhD is a physician-scientist, Professor of Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco and serves as the David Coulter Endowed Chair in Aging and Neurodegenerative Disease. Dr. Dubal received her BA (anthropology and molecular neuroscience) from UC Berkeley –and her MD and PhD degrees from the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. She completed a medical internship and neurology specialty training at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), where she served as chief resident. Dr. Dubal further trained as a dementia specialist at UCSF for a Behavioral Neurology Fellowship at the Memory and Aging Center.

Dr. Dubal directs a laboratory at UCSF focused on mechanisms of longevity and brain resilience that integrates genetic and molecular approaches to investigate aging and neurodegenerative diseases, in animal models and human populations. Her team discovered that klotho enhances the brain in aging and in models of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Her team also discovered novel and fundamental roles for the X chromosome in brain resilience to aging and disease.

Dr. Dubal's discoveries are published in top-ranked journals such as Nature, Nature Aging, and Science Advances and have been profiled in high-visibility media such as the New York Times, The Economist, NPR, Wired, and Scientific American. Her work is recognized for its potential toward therapies to live longer and better. Among her honors, Dr. Dubal received the NIA/AFAR Paul Beeson Award for Aging Research, Glenn Award in Biologic Mechanisms of Aging, Grass Award in Neuroscience, and Neuroendocrine Research Award. She served on the Board of the American Neurological Association and currently serves in the leadership of JAMA Neurology, the Board of the Glenn Foundation for Medical Research, and the Board for the Weill Institute of Neuroscience.



PAST PIGNOLO AWARD RECIPIENTS

Paras Minhas, PjD

Songi Han, PhD

Christopher Walsh, MD, PhD

Nathan Basisty, PhD

Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD

Bruce A. Yankner, MD, PhD

Dongsheng Cai, MD, PhD

Joseph A. Baur, PhD

Darren J. Baker, PhD

Richard A. Miller, MD, PhD

The Mary and Joseph A. Pignolo, Sr. Award and Lectureship in Aging Research is awarded as part of the Institute on Aging (IOA) Visiting Scholar series to annually recognize an outstanding contribution to the field of biogerontology. Created by geriatrician and gerontologist Robert J. Pignolo, M.D., Ph.D. in honor of his mother and father, award recipients are invited to present a lecture highlighting their work in basic aging research and receive a prize to recognize their exceptional contributions.