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FDA'S RUSTY KATZ RECEIVES THE CTAD LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE THERAPEUTIC RESEARCH

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, November 14, 2013. Dr. Russell Katz, who recently retired as director of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Division of Neurology Products, today received the first ever CTAD Lifetime Achievement Award in Alzheimer's Disease Therapeutic Research.

Dr. Katz, known as "Rusty" to clinicians and researchers across the drug development spectrum, was selected for this award in recognition of the spirit of openness and collaboration that he promoted at the FDA. He frequently attended scientific meetings to share the FDA perspective with clinical investigators from academia and industry. At these meetings, he stood out for his flexibility and thoughtfulness when responding to questions from those on the "other side".

"I understood that if a company chose to develop a drug and went all the way to generate data, their job was to try to put the best face on the data and our job was to try to look at the data objectively and come to an answer," said Dr. Katz. "But I realized early on that there are smart people on all sides of drug development, and we're all trying to get to the same place. We're all trying to get good drugs out there to people as soon as we can."

Dr. Katz received his M.D. degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1977. Following residencies in neurosurgery and neurology, he began working as a medical officer at the FDA's Division of Neuropharmacological Drug Products in 1983, which reviews and approves drugs and biologics for neurologic conditions, including AD. In 1999 he was appointed director of the division; and in 2005, when it was split up into two separate divisions, he became the Director of the Division of Neurology Products.

Dr. Katz has written and lectured extensively on all aspects of drug development and regulatory approval of drugs and biologics. He also received the Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Award in 2013, which honors researchers leading the way in promising and innovative approaches to Alzheimer's treatment, prevention, and care.

"The value to the field of an FDA Neurology Division chief who was committed to collaboration with investigators on issues of trial design and regulatory paths has been enormous," said Paul Aisen, M.D., Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study and Professor of Neurosciences at the University of California, San Diego. "When we succeed in bringing to the clinic effective drugs to slow AD, it will be due in significant measure to Rusty Katz's generous and insightful contributions."