



LABioMed

Los Angeles Biomedical  
Research Institute

at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center

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**For Immediate Release**

**Discovery Gala Honors County Supervisor Don Knabe and  
Distinguished Investigator Emil D. Kakkis, MD, PhD**

*Evening of Dinner and Dancing Nov. 6 at the Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes*

LOS ANGELES (Sept. 28, 2009) – The Los Angeles Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center ([LA BioMed](#)) will honor Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and Emil D. Kakkis, MD, PhD, founder and president of Kakkis EveryLife Foundation, as its “Spirit of Excellence” award winners at its annual Discovery Gala Nov. 6 at the Terranea Resort in Rancho Palos Verdes.

“We are so pleased to be honoring two outstanding men for the excellence each represents in his chosen field,” said LA BioMed President and CEO David I. Meyer, PhD. “Dr. Kakkis is a renowned researcher who led a team of gifted scientists in developing a breakthrough treatment a life-threatening inherited disorder known as MPS I or Hurler-Scheie disease. Supervisor Knabe has excelled at serving the community and his constituents for more than a decade, and he’s been a strong supporter of LA BioMed.”

Dr. Kakkis is best known for his work over the last 18 years to develop novel treatments for neglected rare disorders. He began his work in a research bungalow at LA BioMed at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, working to develop an enzyme replacement therapy (Aldurazyme<sup>®</sup>) for the rare disorder, MPS I.

Supervisor Knabe was first elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in November of 1996 and was overwhelmingly re-elected in 2000, 2004 and 2008. Supervisor Knabe represents the Fourth District, which is a uniquely diverse area that is home to more than 2 million residents. He has been a tremendous advocate for LA BioMed and Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

“The theme of this year's Gala, ‘The Art of Discovery,’ celebrates the creative spirit, which is the essence of biomedical research and discovery,” said Gala Co-Chair Jennifer Laity. “In bringing together our researchers and showcasing their discoveries, in the company of talented local artists and craftsmen, the Gala celebrates LA BioMed's innovative biomedical research, its continuing contributions to the community and the training it provides to ensure a better future with health care. With a beautiful new venue and these two wonderful honorees, this year's event promises to be an exciting, artistic and entertaining evening for all our guests.”

The Gala will feature paintings by the Portuguese Bend Artists' Colony, as well as the work of several local artists for display and sale. Guests can enjoy an exciting “silent auction,” dinner and dancing to music provided by the John Brown Band.

Among the items to be bid upon at the auction will be a Medieval-Themed Dinner and a room at the Terranea Resort. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Terranea Resort. Tickets are \$250 per person. For more information and to purchase tickets for the event, please contact Eileen Mosler, Director of Public Relations, at 310-222-8284 or [emosler@LABioMed.org](mailto:emosler@LABioMed.org)

## **About LA BioMed**

Founded in 1952, LA BioMed at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center is one of the country's largest nonprofit independent biomedical research institutes. It conducts biomedical research, trains young scientists and provides community services, including childhood immunization and nutrition assistance. The institute's researchers conduct studies in such areas as cardiovascular disease, emerging infections, cancer, diabetes, kidney disease, dermatology, reproductive health, vaccine development, respiratory disorders, inherited illnesses and neonatology. LA BioMed is academically affiliated with the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. For more information, please visit our website at [www.LABioMed.org](http://www.LABioMed.org)

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