

# Rancho Santa Fe REVIEW

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## La Jolla Institute dedicates Type 1 Diabetes Research Center and Elam Discovery Wall •Visualization Wall named for father of RSF resident Kevin Keller

More than 130 guests got a visually stunning view of type 1 diabetes cellular activity Oct. 29 at the La Jolla Institute for Allergy & Immunology's dedication of its Type 1 Diabetes Research Center and Elam Discovery Wall. The Wall is named in memory of William N. Elam, Jr., M.D., a longtime family physician and stepfather of Rancho Santa Fe resident and Institute friend Kevin Keller.

The La Jolla Institute is an international leader in immunology research and San Diego's only research institute focused solely on immune-mediated diseases.

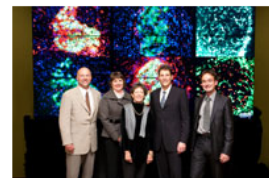
"I think my Dad would be very proud to see this Wall and the potential that it holds for aiding medical advancement and enhancing public awareness about the importance of basic biomedical research," said Keller, who unveiled the Wall with his mother Patricia Ann Elam, wife of the late Dr. Elam. The Wall is a technologically advanced scientific research and education tool that enables views of cellular and other research images in extremely wide scope with unprecedented clarity.

During the dedication event, guests viewed powerful cellular images of type 1 diabetes activity via the Elam Discovery Wall, while speakers discussed the goals of the Institute's Center for type 1 diabetes research. Led by Matthias von Herrath, M.D., one of the world's top type 1 diabetes researchers and recipient of the American Diabetes Association's prestigious 2008 Outstanding Scientific Achievement Award, the Center will accelerate research toward new therapies to better treat, prevent or cure type 1 diabetes. "Our mission is to be a premier center of immunological excellence in type 1 diabetes research," said Dr. von Herrath. The center will focus on new, immune-based approaches and is the first such immunologically focused research center for type 1 diabetes in Southern California. Dr. von Herrath said collaboration with local organizations is key to the Center's efforts to combat type 1 diabetes.

"The San Diego life sciences community offers a very dynamic environment populated by world leaders in a variety of specialties," said Dr. von Herrath. "We anticipate working collaboratively with scientific colleagues at several prominent San Diego research institutes, clinical care environments and biotechnology companies to aide our research efforts against type 1 diabetes." The Center has close ties with the Pediatric Diabetes Research Center of UC San Diego, the Sanford Children's Health Research Center at the Burnham Institute, and Rady Children's Hospital, along with several private San Diego biotechnology companies. In addition, the La Jolla Institute works closely with the Brehm Coalition, a national scientific consortium devoted to accelerating research toward a type 1 diabetes cure.

Type 1 diabetes, also known as juvenile diabetes, is a serious, chronic disorder that affects more than 2 million Americans and occurs when the immune system mistakenly destroys insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas.

The Elam Discovery Wall is a high-resolution visualization wall, which enables Institute scientists to see cellular activity with extreme clarity via a large, interconnected wall of HD monitors driven by sophisticated computer software. The Wall technology was developed by the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology (Calit2) at UC San Diego.



The La Jolla Institute dedicated its Type 1 Diabetes Research Center and Elam Discovery Wall, a high-tech scientific education and research tool, at an event held Oct. 29 and attended by many Rancho Santa Fe and other area residents. The Elam Wall was dedicated in memory of William N. Elam, Jr., M.D., a longtime family physician and stepfather of Rancho Santa Fe resident Kevin Keller. (Pictured from left) Kevin and Debbie Keller; Patricia Ann Elam, Kevin's mother and wife of the late Dr. Elam; Dr. Mitchell Kronenberg, La Jolla Institute president and scientific director; and Dr. Matthias von Herrath, director of the Institute's Type 1 Diabetes Research Center. (Inset) RSF residents Jerry Mohr (left) and Dr. David Bergman.

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