

—Slug:.....COMM-0841.arts.WWAC_alzheimers
—Contributor.....
—Contributor email.....
—For section..... The Arts
—Format..... News - no byline
—Dateline.....
—Article Number:.....42616

Notes from editor (not for publication):

HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

Film tells story of Cuba's Alzheimer's breakthrough

####END HED####

####BEGIN SUBHED####

####END SUBHED####

TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

On Friday, Nov. 21, at 6 p.m at 118 Elliot Gallery,
Windham World Affairs Council (WWAC) and 118 Elliot will
present *Teresita's Dream: Cuba's Battle Against Alzheimer's*, a
new short film (23 minutes) by Cuban Director and Journalist
Daniel Montero.

The film gives viewers a window into the challenges and
motivations of scientist Teresita Rodriguez as she and her team
work toward developing a promising new Alzheimer's drug.

12 A discussion with Montero and other Cuba watchers will
13 follow.

14 Americans often hear of Cuba's troubles, but rarely do
15 we capture a glance at the country's medical research and drug
16 development, which continues, despite the burdens imposed by
17 the 65-year U.S. embargo on its island neighbor.

18 Rodriguez's dream is her quest to cure Alzheimer's,
19 inspired by her mother Amelia's own battle with the disease. As a
20 founding member of Cuba's Center for Molecular Immunology
21 (CIM), she discovers that a new treatment being developed for
22 strokes could work to slow Alzheimer's down. She and her team
23 of mostly women scientists are now pushing to finish the final
24 clinical trials to release the patented Alzheimer's drug, called
25 NeuroEPO (commercialized as NeuralCIM).

26 According to the news release, up to this point
27 NeuroEPO has shown promising results and very few side effects
28 (such as brain bleeds), if any, when compared to leading FDA-
29 approved treatments for Alzheimer's and dementia. The reported
30 results include a slowing of the progression of the disease for
31 extended periods of time, and in some cases, improvement of a
32 patient's cognitive ability.

33 Additionally, while many Alzheimer's medications are
34 administered via injection, NeuroEPO is administered via nasal
35 drops, making it more user-friendly for the patient and caregiver.

36 "More than 55 million people globally live with
37 Alzheimer's — 7.2 million in the U.S. — but access to treatment
38 is unequal and exorbitantly priced," stated event promoters in the
39 news release. The filmmakers say that when Neuro-EPO is ready
40 for public use, it will be made available for all Cubans for free —
41 and to the rest of the world at a significantly lower cost than
42 other existing treatments on the market.

43 Bringing any drug to market requires a high investment,
44 but U.S. policy greatly magnifies Cuba's challenge in bringing its
45 products to people who need them. In 2021, Cuba quickly
46 developed three Covid vaccines rivaling Moderna and Pfizer in

47 effectiveness to administer to its own people. Other
48 breakthroughs include Hebeprot-P, a drug for diabetic foot ulcers
49 that prevents neuropathy and consequent amputations; and
50 Cimavax, a lung cancer vaccine currently in U.S. trials with
51 Roswell Park, a Buffalo, N.Y.-based cancer center.

52 Belly of the Beast is an independent U.S. media outlet
53 that includes a team of both U.S. and Cuban journalists.
54 According to promotional materials, its pioneering mission is “to
55 tell untold stories from Cuba through documentary filmmaking
56 and reporting, breaking from the traditional ‘parachute
57 journalism’ model.” The independent organization takes no
58 government or corporate support.

59 Elisabeth Stevens, director, Americans for Common
60 Sense on Cuba, a volunteer association working to overturn the
61 U.S. blockade on Cuba and recent executive branch actions that
62 harm the peoples of both countries, and Lissa Weinmann,
63 WWAC board emerita and long-time U.S.-Cuba policy observer,
64 will be present to join Montero (Zoomed in from Cuba) to answer
65 questions and lead a discussion, accompanied by refreshments,
66 following the screening.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

####BEGIN BIO/COATTAIL####

67

####END BIO/COATTAIL####

LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

####BEGIN MAXISSUE####

68

0

####END MAXISSUE####

LINKS:

####BEGIN LINKS####

69

###END LINKS###

VIDEO:

####BEGIN VIDEO####

70

####END VIDEO####

LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

####BEGIN LOGLINE####

71

####END LOGLINE####