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Media Contact:

Jane Ransom, executive director, ABF
612-928-6317, jransom@americanbrainfoundation.org

Shafali Jeste, MD, Named Secretary of the American Brain Foundation

(MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 23) – Today, the American Brain Foundation (ABF) announced the appointment of Shafali Jeste, MD, as Secretary of its board of directors. Dr. Jeste joined the board in 2018.

Dr. Jeste is a behavioral child neurologist specializing in autism and related neurodevelopmental disorders. She is Associate Professor in Psychiatry, Neurology and Pediatrics at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine, and a lead investigator within the UCLA Center for Autism Research and Treatment.

Her research is focused on developing methods to improve diagnosis and treatment of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) through the application of brain-based biomarkers and more targeted developmental phenotyping. Her lab studies NDDs from early infancy through late childhood.

Dr. Jeste designed innovative studies in early predictors of autism in Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC), which integrates biomarkers with behavior to define atypical development prior to the onset of clinical symptoms of autism. Her work in TSC has led to the first randomized controlled clinical trial of behavioral intervention in infants with TSC.

Dr. Jeste also serves on the board of the National Organization of Rare Disorders, chairs the International Baby Siblings Research Consortium, and is editor-in-chief of the Child Neurology Edition of *AAN Continuum*. Dr. Jeste's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Defense, Dup15q Alliance, and Roche pharmaceuticals. She recently was awarded the prestigious 2019 Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering.

"I dedicated my career to autism because there are still so many unknowns for which we need answers to best help our patients. I joined the American Brain Foundation board to give back to the neurology community, as the ABF and American Academy of Neurology were the first organizations to fund my research more than 10 years ago," said Dr. Jeste. "As board secretary, I look forward to this expanded role and working with this inspirational group of clinicians, scientists, and advocates to improve public awareness about and funding for cutting edge and impactful research in neurodevelopmental disorders."

Dr. Jeste is one of four incoming ABF board officers, including Chair, David W. Dodick, MD, FAAN, Mayo Clinic Arizona; Vice Chair, Susan Schneider Williams, fine artist; and Treasurer, James Essey, TemPositions Group.

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About the American Brain Foundation:

The American Brain Foundation brings researchers and donors together to cure brain diseases and disorders. To learn more, visit [our website](#) and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).