FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

White Plains, NY – April 15, 2015 – Burke Rehabilitation Center in White Plains, N.Y. is currently recruiting participants for a clinical trial to evaluate whether increasing brain thiamine through the use of a new drug can help slow cognitive decline in individuals with mild Alzheimer’s disease or Mild Cognitive Impairment.

Thiamine (vitamin B1) is closely linked to memory and cognition. Many thiamine dependent processes are diminished in Alzheimer’s disease. The goal of this trial is to determine if increasing brain thiamine availability with the investigational drug benfotiamine will minimize the decline in glucose utilization and slow the cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

The one-year trial is being run by Barry Jordan, M.D., M.P.H., assistant medical director of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital and Gary E. Gibson, Ph.D., Director of the Laboratory for Mitochondrial Biology and Metabolic Dysfunction in Neurodegeneration at Burke Medical Research Institute. The co-investigators are Pasquale Fonzetti M.D., Ph.D., Staff Neurologist at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, Rosanna Cirio, MS, Senior Clinical Research Coordinator at Burke Medical Research Institute and Jessica Franchino-Elder, Ph.D from the Burke Medical Research Institute.

“Burke has always been a leader in preclinical and clinical research in Alzheimer’s and dementia-related diseases, yet even with all the advances we, and other researchers have made, there are still limited treatments available that can slow the progression of these diagnoses,” says Dr. Gibson. “We already know that benfotiamine is safe, and our hope is that the use of it
will be an effective way to treat these diseases, which over the long term, can be particularly debilitating.”

Individuals who are at least 60 years old and with a diagnosis of Mild Cognitive Impairment or Alzheimer's disease may be eligible for participation. Study related evaluations include laboratory, comprehensive neurological examination, neuropsychological assessments, and Amyloid and Glucose PET imaging. Study participation will include follow-up visits to Burke Medical Research Institute every 3 months and there are no costs associated with participation in this study.

This trial is supported by the National Institute of Aging (NIA) and the Alzheimer's Disease Discovery Foundation (ADDF).

For more information on study criteria, visit burke.org/research. If you are interested in participating in the trial, please contact Rosanna Cirio, MA at 914-597-2476 or rcirio@burke.org.

About Burke Medical Research Institute
Burke Medical Research Institute is part of the Burke Rehabilitation Center, which also comprises the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital. The hospital is a private, not-for-profit, acute rehabilitation hospital that is the only hospital in Westchester County dedicated solely to rehabilitation medicine. Founded in 1915, Burke offers both inpatient and outpatient programs for those who have experienced a disabling illness, traumatic injury or joint replacement surgery. Along with the hospital’s world-renowned doctors and therapists providing state-of-the-art-treatment, Burke Medical Research Institute scientists explore the frontiers of rehabilitation medicine. All share the Burke mission to ensure that every patient makes the fullest possible recovery from illness or injury regardless of their ability to pay. For additional information on Burke Rehabilitation Center, please visit burke.org.

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