



### **MEET DAVID HIGGINS, PhD.**

David Higgins earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology and genetics in 1987 from the University of Rochester in New York, followed by a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, before moving to San Diego to start a career in the biotech industry in 1991. He has a professional background in biotechnology research, project management, and business development.

Currently, Higgins is a member of the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee (ICOC), the governing body of the California Institute for Regenerative medicine (CIRM). He serves on the Public Policy Council of the Michael J. Fox Foundation and on the Executive Committee of the Center for Ethics in Science and Technology. He serves as Chair of UC San Diego's Movement Disorders Center's Advisory Board and is a Patient Advocate reviewer for the US Department of Defense Parkinson's Research Program. He leads one of the largest Parkinson's support groups in Southern California - with more than 120 members.

Parkinson's disease is a family legacy. His great grand uncle, his maternal grandmother, his uncle and his mother all suffered with Parkinson's disease and in 2011 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease himself. In the 1960's his grandmother was among the earliest Parkinson's patients to receive levodopa therapy. His experience as a researcher, having family members with Parkinson's, and being a Parkinson's patient himself, has created a Perfect Storm for his work as a Parkinson's patient advocate.

### **Westlake Parkinsons Support Group**

**TOPIC:** "Stem cells and Parkinson's disease. Are we any closer?  
progress report from CIRM"

**A**

**When:** Friday, September 1, 2017

**Time:** 10:15 am to 12:15 pm

**Where:** Westminster Presbyterian Church

**32111 Watergate Road, Westlake Village CA 91361**

**The Westlake Parkinson's Support Group meets on the first Friday of the month from 10:15 am to 12:15 pm. The group welcomes people with PD, their family members, and caregivers.**

