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Meet the Face of Dementia: Edward Theodoru

World Alzheimer's Day – September 21st

Olathe, KS. August 25, 2011 – Look into the face of Edward Theodoru: angry, depressed, even delusional. He can't find his scissors – because he can't find his kitchen. “Kitchen? What's a kitchen? I don't have a kitchen.”

That incident could have been the beginning of the end for this brilliant lawyer and professor, a charming yet eccentric Romanian scholar and gentleman. For a time, his drinking increased. He was verbally abusive. He was increasingly confused. He slept most of the day.

“There can be hope amidst the darkness of dementia,” says Marie Marley, PhD, author of *Come Back Early Today: A Memoir of Love, Alzheimer's and Joy*. “Even though Ed was still demented, psychotropic medications helped transform him from an angry, depressed and delusional patient into one of the most contented, loving, adorable people you'd ever want to meet. Not the face of your typical Alzheimer's patient!”

The use of such medications is highly controversial. Years ago nursing homes often used them to drug patients into submission. They were given in high doses that sedated patients and typically turn them into zombies. “Families were aghast,” says Marley.

But today's medications can be used to treat non-dementia problems such as depression, obsessive compulsiveness, aggression, delusions and even psychosis – all, asserts Marley, in doses that do not sedate patients. As a result, these drugs can improve the overall quality of life for both the patient and the caregivers.

Every 71 seconds someone develops Alzheimer's. More than 5.4 million people in the U.S. suffer from its debilitating effects. Alzheimer's is a ravaging disease that robs victims of their memories, cognitive functioning and sometimes even their very personalities.

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Put a human face on the disease. As a lead up to World Alzheimer's Day on September 21, talk to Dr. Marie Marley about the final years she spent with Edward Theodoru, one of many faces of dementia. Learn how it's possible to find peace and renewed love amid the chaos.

“Marvelous! Superb! Wonderful!” That's what Theodoru would have said if he had found out you would be interviewing Dr. Marley.

About the Author: Marie Marley is available for interviews about her experience of caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's. She is a medical grant writer at the American Academy of Family Physicians. *Come Back Early Today* is available at Amazon.com and the book's web site, ComeBackEarlyToday.com. A press kit is also available at the book's web site, where a free PDF of the book can be downloaded from the Press page using the password _____.

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