FALL 2015

WISCONSIN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER
HEADLINES

ADRC Shifts Visit Schedules and Procedures to Meet Research Goals

In line with the national mission of finding promising new therapies for Alzheimer's disease, the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) is studying the origin, nature and course of the disease. Along the way, researchers are learning how to study Alzheimer's disease in ways that support the development of prevention strategies.

In keeping with an emphasis of prevention, study participants are being invited to do additional MRIs (brain scans) and lumbar puncture procedures. For our current participants, these procedures remain optional. Additionally, the number of visits for participants 45 to 65 years old with healthy memory will be reduced. Instead of annual visits, these participants will visit the Center every other year.

Why are we making these changes? We value your time and effort, and when possible, we want to reduce the burden associated with participation. At the same time, we want to monitor for change occurring over time. To do this, we will ask our participants to complete an MRI brain scan and lumbar puncture *every other year.*

With these "longitudinal biomarker" data, we can monitor for early changes in brain structure and metabolism, brain cell function, and brain-levels of important Alzheimer's-associated proteins (*see sidebar*). But we can only accomplish this with repeated (longitudinal) measurements.

We hope you will consider our request to complete these additional and essential research procedures. Either way, we thank you for your continued participation in Wisconsin ADRC research.

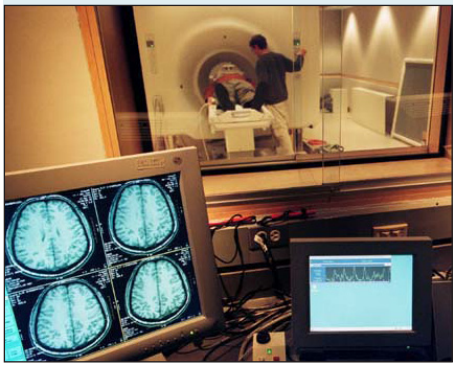
For more information and a short video on how the Wisconsin ADRC is addressing future research needs, go to adrc.wisc.edu and click on "Addressing Future Needs."

BIOMARKER FACTS:

What are Longitudinal Biomarkers?

Just as the name implies, biomarkers are biological markers of an underlying medical condition. For example, cholesterol levels in the blood and blood pressure can tell us about a person's risk for heart disease. They are indirect but important measures of disease processes. Biomarkers are most useful when we want to monitor a disease before clinical symptoms are present. In the case of Alzheimer's disease, we use biomarkers to evaluate underlying disease before someone has memory loss.

Repeating the same test over time, or longitudinally provides highly value information. This is especially true for Alzheimer's disease biomarkers, because seeing a change over time may be our best indicator of risk.



Participant Group	Study Visit	Biomarker Visit (MRI and lumbar puncture)
Mild cognitive impairment (all ages)	Annual (no change)	Every other year (optional)
Alzheimer's disease (all ages)	Annual (no change)	One time optional (no change)
Healthy memory: 45 – 65 years old	Every other year	Every other year (optional)
Healthy memory: 66+ years old	Annual (no change)	Every other year (optional)

Bringing the Center to the Community: UW South Madison Partnership Office Opens

The UW Madison has launched a new initiative to better support mutually beneficial community partnerships. The University has acquired space in the Villager Mall on South Park Avenue in Madison. Our Wisconsin ADRC was one of the first campus groups to be given space in the mall.

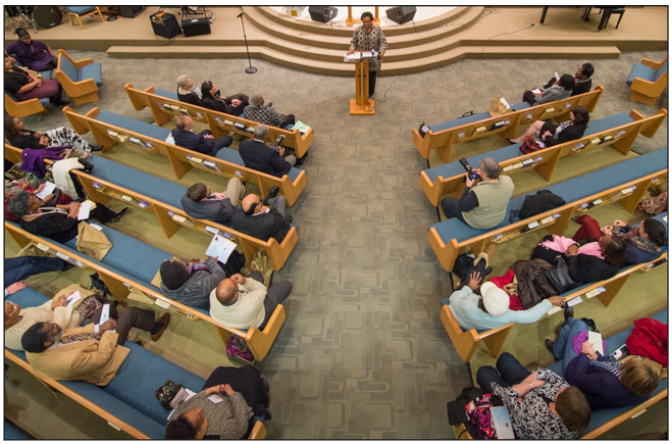
"We are thrilled to have a stronger presence in the community," says Dorothy Farrar-Edwards, Leader of both the Outreach, Recruitment, and Education Core and the Minority Recruitment Satellite Program. "We plan to work with our community partners to offer education programs and research activities that will be more accessible to the African American community."

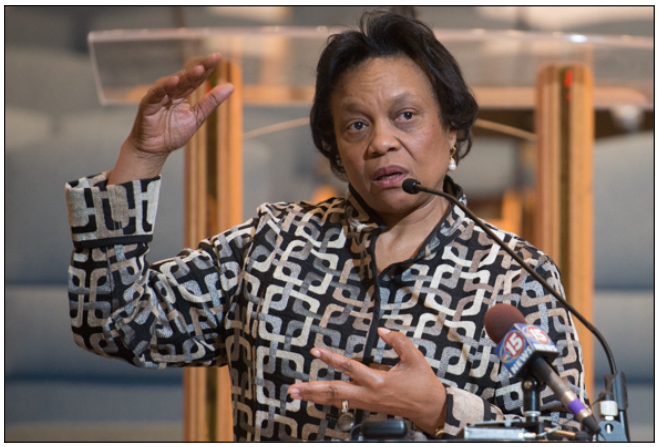
Fabu Carter, Diversity Outreach Specialist with the Wisconsin ADRC, works out of the office on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and can be reached at (608) 417-0887.

Solomon Carter Fuller

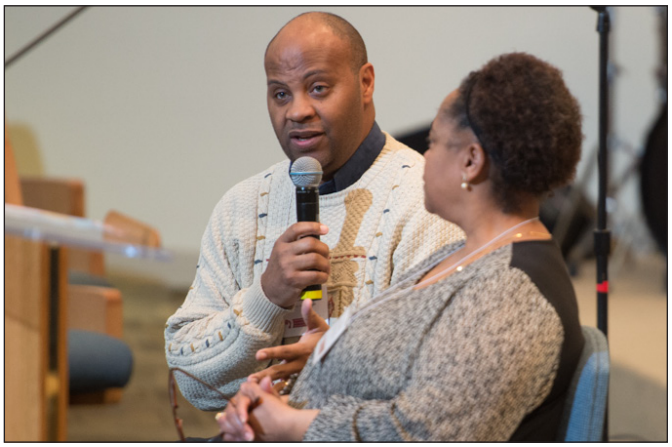
The Solomon Carter Fuller event was held Friday, February 27, at Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Madison. It was followed on February 28 with a memory screening at the Urban League. Our thanks to event sponsors: The Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, the Urban League, and 100 Black Men.

Guests to Mt. Zion Church learned about brain health and the need for more African Americans to join the study.





Guest speaker Dr. Goldie Byrd, Dean of Arts & Sciences at North Carolina A&T University, talks passionately about the need for African Americans to join the research effort.



Rev. David Smith of Faith Community Baptist Church and Pam Bracey, Cultural Diversity Specialist with the North/Eastside Senior Coalition, answer questions from the audience.

At-A-Glance | The Wisconsin Idea

The Wisconsin Idea is the principle that the university should improve people's lives beyond the classroom. It spans UW–Madison's teaching, research, outreach and public service.

Actively Recruiting Studies

AD = Alzheimer's disease; MCI = Mild Cognitive Impairment

Study Title	Currently Recruiting	Study Description
Clinical trial for those with mild to moderate AD (SAMM)	AD	This clinical trial examines the effects of an investigational drug in subjects with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease who are on a stable daily dose of Donepezil. The study's aim is to improve the effects of Donepezil.
Lundbeck (Starshine)	AD	Randomized, double blind, placebo controlled, fixed dose study of selective serotonin receptors in patients with mild to moderate AD. The aim of the drug is to improve the effects of serotonin and, in turn, improve memory, thinking and reasoning.
Clinical trial for those with MCI due to AD (APECS)	MCI	This clinical trial examines the effects of an investigational drug in subjects with amnestic Mild Cognitive Impairment due to Alzheimer's disease (Prodromal AD). The aim of the drug is to reduce amyloid plaque formation and modify the disease progression.
Brain Changes with Game Training	Healthy people 50-80 years old, MCI, mild AD	This study seeks to detect brain changes associated with learning and memory from playing a racing video game over a short training period. Participants will have one visit consisting of two MRI brain scans spaced 10-90 minutes apart. Some participants will play a race car video game between scans. Prerequisites: Must be a member of the Clinical Core Study with previous MRI scan.
Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Registry (Clinical Core study)	MCI, Healthy people 45-65 years old, with no parental history of AD	People who join this study attend a yearly visit in which their memory and thinking abilities are evaluated. They also participate in other ADRC-affiliated studies. Interested volunteers may join this important registry if they can attend a yearly visit with a study partner and either have MCI or are healthy, 45 to 65 years old, and have no parental history of AD.
Predicting Alzheimer's from Metabolic Measures and Sleep (PAMMS)	Healthy 40 and older, either with or without a parent who has/had AD	PAMMS evaluates brain changes over time that might be related to developing AD by examining metabolic measures and sleep to see how they affect the brain. Prerequisite: Must be a member of the Clinical Core Study.
Solanezumab Clinical Trial for Those with Preclinical Memory Complaints (A4)	65-85 with healthy memory	This clinical trial examines the effects of Solanezumab in patients with preclinical memory complaints, but who have not been diagnosed with AD dementia. Volunteers are asked to come to the UW Hospital once a month for 3 years. Interested people may be eligible if they are between 65 and 85 years old and have a study partner who can attend the initial visit and one annual visit.

Interested?

Contact a Wisconsin ADRC outreach specialist at (608) 265-0407 or adrc@medicine.wisc.edu.

Center Updates

Study Participants Needed

The ADRC is currently recruiting people with Alzheimer's disease or mild cognitive impairment (MCI) for five medication studies. Three of the five studies are aimed at slowing disease progression; the other two seek to modify symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Study participants active in the ADRC Clinical Core study will be given preference, but all are encouraged to call the Center, if interested.

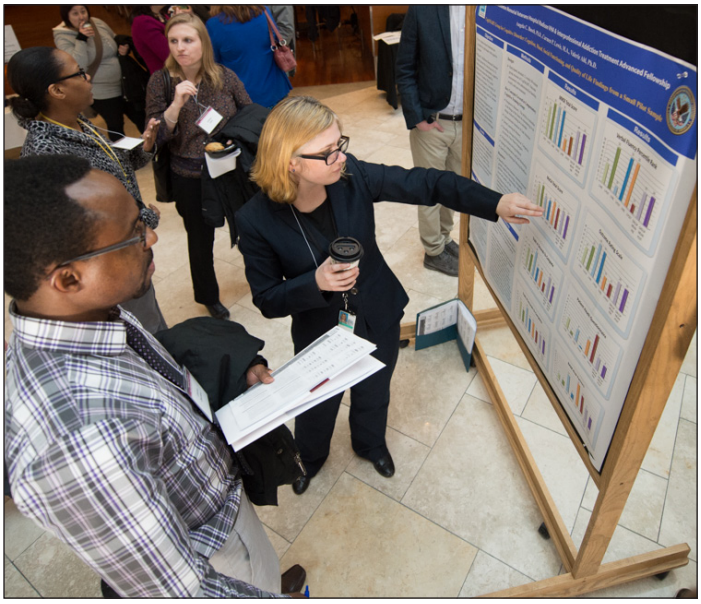
The Importance of Brain Donation

When diagnosing memory disorders, clinicians and researchers rely on memory testing. Many people may not realize that brain autopsy remains the "gold standard" of diagnosis. If you are a participant in the Clinical Core, please consider registering with the Wisconsin ADRC Brain Donor Program. Not only does it bring together years of data for research, but information from the autopsy provides personal and definitive diagnostic information that can help your family plan for the future. Call Manager Jay Fruehling or Coordinator Rachel Krause at (608) 256-1901, ext. 11767 to learn more.

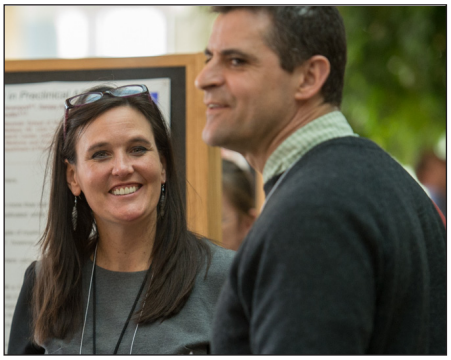
Seeking Volunteers Whose Parents Did NOT Have Alzheimer's

Many of our research participants join our studies because they have a parent with Alzheimer's disease. But to really understand risk associated with parental history, we need a comparison group. In other words, we need volunteers who do not have a parental history of the illness. Can you help us find and enlist middle-aged adults whose father lived to the age of 70 and whose mother lived to age 75 without signs of dementia? To learn more, call the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

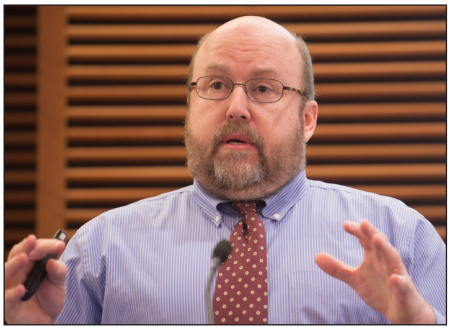
Alzheimer's Disease & Parkinson's Disease Research Day



Nearly 200 people shared their research at the Alzheimer's/ Parkinson's Disease Research Day on March 5, 2015, at the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery. The annual event brings together researchers from across the UW-Madison.



Faculty judges Carey Gleason and Brad Christian confer over the posters on display.



Thomas Montine, MD, PhD, Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Washington, was the event's keynote speaker.

At-A-Glance | Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

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