About the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Disease Research Center and Alzheimer Outreach Program

The University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) was established in 1985 with a grant from the National Institute on Aging (NIA #AG005133-28).

The Alzheimer Outreach Program is the community outreach entity of the ADRC. The mission of the Alzheimer Outreach Program is to increase the awareness of Alzheimer’s disease in African American and underserved communities.

The Alzheimer Outreach Program provides education and counseling for patients and families, referrals to community resources, support groups for caregivers, and opportunities to participate in research studies.

University of Pittsburgh
Alzheimer Disease Research Center
Alzheimer Outreach Program

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What is Alzheimer’s Disease?
Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is the most common type of dementia in older people. It is a medical condition that affects memory and thinking. It is important to note that this condition is not a part of normal aging.

What we know so far
• More than 5 million Americans are living with AD.
• The number of people with AD is expected to rise to 6 million by 2050.
• AD is more common among African Americans than among White Americans.
• Genetic and environmental factors may work differently to cause AD in African Americans, but the exact reason for the disease’s prevalence among African Americans is unclear.

How you can help
Information for research is collected from adults who do not have trouble with their memory or thinking. They are called healthy volunteers. We compare information collected from healthy volunteers with information collected from people who have AD. This research will help scientists learn more about the normal aging process and how AD is different from normal aging.

Working together to fight Alzheimer’s Disease
The University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Outreach Program is looking for African Americans age 60 or older to participate in research as healthy volunteers. By participating, you will be contributing to our understanding of how the normal aging process differs from the process of developing AD.

Becoming a volunteer
What are the benefits of becoming a volunteer with the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Outreach Program?
• You will receive an annual medical evaluation and tests of memory and thinking.
• You will have opportunities to talk with health professionals and to participate in additional research studies.
• With your consent, we can share the results of your evaluations with your primary care physician.

What are the requirements of becoming a volunteer with the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Outreach Program?
• Volunteers must bring a friend or relative with them to each study visit. This person is called a study partner and is someone who can answer questions about the volunteer’s memory and thinking.

What else do I need to know about becoming a volunteer with the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Outreach Program?
• Evaluations are conducted at UPMC Montefiore hospital in Oakland.
• Parking is provided during your annual visits.
• Your information will be kept confidential.