

# Alzheimer's Disease: Observing the Diagnostic Evaluation

## Program Goals:

Offered by the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer Disease Research Center, **Alzheimer's Disease: Observing the Diagnostic Evaluation** provides an opportunity to learn the principles of working with families facing cognitive impairment, and to experience and understand current research in the field of Alzheimer's disease. This program enhances the quality of life for people facing Alzheimer's disease or another dementia by increasing awareness and understanding of the clinical, behavioral and research aspects of Alzheimer's disease in the professional community. It improves clinical, research, and advisory skills through an increased understanding and use of a multidisciplinary approach to patient care.

## Opportunities:

**Alzheimer's Disease: Observing the Diagnostic Evaluation** offers the opportunity to observe the evaluation process from the prospective of the patient as well as the family member or caregiver. It also provides the opportunity to attend a consensus case conference where healthcare professionals involved in the evaluation process discuss cases and arrive at diagnoses. Opportunities are also available for interaction with the ADRC professional staff.

## The ADRC:

The Pittsburgh Alzheimer Disease Research Center (ADRC) was established in 1985 by a grant from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). The overall objective of the center is to study the pathophysiology of Alzheimer's disease to improve the reliability of diagnosis in living patients, and ultimately to develop effective treatment strategies. The center has supported a vast number of projects investigating various aspects of Alzheimer's disease. Research ranges from genetic and biochemical studies to investigations of behavioral changes and the burden placed on caregivers of Alzheimer's disease patients. In addition, our clinic offers services directed toward optimizing the management of Alzheimer's disease patients and investigating possible modes of treatment. Education about Alzheimer's disease and related disorders is an important function of the ADRC. The Education and Information core assists in arranging conferences and presentations for the public throughout the Pittsburgh metropolitan area and Western Pennsylvania.

## Application:

This **two day program** is available for interested healthcare professionals such as: nurses, social workers, physician assistants, health care administrators, physical therapists, occupational therapists, medical students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

## For more information contact:

MaryAnn Oakley, MA  
Education and Information Coordinator  
Alzheimer Disease Research Center  
4 West UPMC Montefiore (421w)  
200 Lothrop Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
412-692-2721  
oakleym@upmc.edu