

Research Studies

Alzheimer's Disease Center UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas

11/09

RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS FOR CLINICAL TRIALS

PASSIVE IMMUNIZATION

Patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's who do not test positive for the *APOE4* gene are sought for a test of an antibody against beta-amyloid peptide. This antibody is intended to attack the peptide directly, bypassing the patient's immune system. This 18-month phase III study will entail infusion visits to the clinic approximately every three months. **Call Tamera Lake, 214-648-9310.**

IMMUNE GLOBULIN

Patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's are sought for a test of immune globulin (IGIV) against beta-amyloid peptide. IGIV is already approved in the U.S. for use with various immunodeficiency and autoimmune disorders. During this 82-week trial, participants will receive 36 intravenous infusions; the first three will be administered at the clinic and the remainder by a home-health care professional. **Call Tamera Lake, 214-648-9310.**

GAMMA SECRETASE INHIBITOR

Patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) are sought to test a drug that inhibits gamma secretase, an enzyme in the body that helps process a larger protein into beta-amyloid. This study involves 24 weeks of treatment plus a 28-week follow-up, with a 50 percent chance of getting the drug. There will be 13 clinic visits that will include physical, neurologic, cognitive and behavioral tests, plus brain imaging and sampling of cerebral-spinal fluid. **Call Kathy Koch, 214-648-9343.**

THE TENT STUDY

Patients with mild memory loss are sought for a two-month study on whether sleeping in an "altitude tent" and exercising at sea level can boost the levels of protective proteins in the brain and blood. **Call Kristin Martin-Cook, 214-648-9368.**

RECRUITING PARTICIPANTS FOR OBSERVATIONAL STUDIES

While these studies do not require or offer a new treatment, they are the foundation for future research and therapeutic trials.

LATE ONSET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (LOAD) GENETICS INITIATIVE

The goal of this national study is to enroll 1,000 families that have at least two siblings diagnosed with AD age 60 or older and at least one other family member also age 60 or older. All participants must be able to provide blood samples as well as health information. Through the blood samples, researchers hope to find the affected genes in families that may play a role in the development of late onset AD. **Call Barb Davis, 214-648-9367.**

IMAGING STUDY

People with mild cognitive impairment or early dementia are sought for a study on brain function during simple mental tasks. Participants will undergo magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and brain-wave study during a three-hour visit. The study is a collaboration between UT Dallas and UT Southwestern.

Call Neena Rao, 214-905-3007.

TELECOGNITIVE STUDY

This study compares the feasibility and reliability of doing cognitive testing using a computer monitor or TV screen versus a person-to-person standard test. The study involves one clinic visit for a 45-minute set of tests and similar testing via computer. Participants do not need to have a computer at home and will receive a \$25 Wal-Mart gift card. **Call Lara Graham, 214-648-4642.**

CORE RESEARCH GROUPS

Participants with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), early Alzheimer's disease, Dementia with Lewy Bodies or frontotemporal dementia are continually needed for observational studies, as are healthy people to serve as controls. The studies involve one to three visits a year for interviews, evaluations, brain imaging and blood sampling. **Call Kristin Martin-Cook, 214-648-9368, or Jackie Rabb, 214-648-9376.**

TARC STUDY

The Texas Council on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders has established a Consortium of Alzheimer's Disease Centers. Collaborating institutions will develop a large database of clinical information that will facilitate descriptive and analytical studies of Alzheimer's disease in Texas. The study is enrolling healthy adults age 50 or older with no cognitive complaints, and adults age 50 or older with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or Alzheimer's disease. There are two main components of the study, genetic analysis and identification of biomarkers. Participants provide blood samples and complete a paper and pencil neuropsychological test. This study involves a 2-hour yearly visit with follow-up visits every year. Participants will receive a \$100 check for participation. **Call Mac Miles, 214-648-9338.**