



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT ON

Dementia and Cognitive Impairment

As older adults make up an increasing percentage of the U.S. population, the rates of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of severe cognitive impairment are also going up. The need for research into diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of dementias and other age-related conditions is now more important than ever.

14 MILLION

Expected number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease in 2050

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

18 BILLION

Hours of care per year provided by family and friends to those with Alzheimer's disease

Source: Alzheimer's Association

Research Addressing Questions That Matter

PCORI funds **comparative clinical effectiveness research (CER)** to determine which healthcare options work best for which patients, based on their needs and preferences. CER produces evidence that helps people make better-informed healthcare choices.



PATIENT

I've been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment and I worry it may become

Alzheimer's disease. Can exercising or doing crossword puzzles slow down or prevent this progression?



CAREGIVER

I hesitate to make all the healthcare decisions for my husband who still has lucid days

despite his Alzheimer's disease. How do I know when to answer for him or let him talk to his doctor himself?

STUDY SPOTLIGHTS

Preventing or Delaying Dementia through Behavioral Interventions

Research shows that behavioral changes may reduce the risk of mild cognitive impairment progressing to Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. This study will compare five daily interventions, including memory support training and computer-based exercises, to see which are the most effective in preventing or delaying onset of dementia. Find more information about this project at

www.pcori.org/Smith012.

Advancing Dementia Care for Rural and Hispanic Populations

Antipsychotic medications are frequently used to treat behavioral and psychological symptoms in people with dementias, but they are not always used appropriately and carry some health risks. This study is assessing the effectiveness of a toolkit and online program designed to improve care and reduce reliance on antipsychotic drugs. It focuses on rural older adults, particularly Hispanic and Latino patients. More details about this project are at

www.pcori.org/Carnahan013.

Building Capacity for Patient-Centered Research

PCORI is investing in people and infrastructure to support high-quality patient-centered research for years to come. **PCORnet, the National Patient-Centered Clinical Research Network**, will



enable us to learn from the data and experiences of 100 million Americans. It is building capacity for research and other studies by supporting patient-driven networks and helping them connect with researchers who are studying similar topics, including dementia and cognitive impairment.

As part of PCORnet, the **National Alzheimer's & Dementia Patient & Caregiver-Powered Research Network** focuses on accelerating the evaluation of treatments on these diseases. This national network connects patients, caregivers, and researchers focused on developing, conducting, and disseminating patient-centered dementia research. PCORI has awarded nearly \$1.6 million to fund the development of this network.

Bringing Patients Together to Drive Research

The National Alzheimer's & Dementia Patient & Caregiver-Powered Research Network is a collaboration among

- UsAgainstAlzheimer's
- Mayo Clinic
- University of California, San Francisco's Brain Health Registry
- University of Florida

As of August 2018, PCORI has awarded

\$78 MILLION TO FUND 13

comparative clinical effectiveness research studies related to dementia and cognitive impairment.

BY THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS

Most Studied Populations of Interest

