

# Research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

At the Alzheimer Society, research is a key priority. We support research into the causes and a cure for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias as well as research to improve the quality of life and care for people living with these diseases.

## Prevention, diagnosis, and treatment

Researchers are investigating factors that can help reduce our risk for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. They are also conducting studies that explore antibodies being used against the beta amyloid protein plaques that play a significant role in Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are also studying individuals living with rare genes which may make them susceptible to developing a form of dementia. The hope is to find evidence of the cause of the disease and treatments that could delay or prevent the onset of it, years before symptoms appear.

Researchers working to improve diagnosis study biomarkers which may help detect Alzheimer's disease earlier. Cognitive testing and neuroimaging techniques are used to better identify people with mild cognitive impairment that may lead to dementia. Scientists are also working on ways to differentiate between the various types of dementia that may show similar symptoms but for which the causes, effects and responses to treatments may differ.

While there is still no cure for Alzheimer's disease, many researchers are focusing on understanding the pathological processes underlying the disease with hope that improved medications and treatments will be developed.

## Quality of life

Quality of life research explores issues that impact the lives of people with dementia and their caregivers, including their physical, psychological, emotional, social and spiritual needs. This is a fast-growing area of research; investigators from different disciplines are addressing a range of issues and topics, such as nutrition in long-term care, driving and dementia and the impact of creative arts.

## About the Alzheimer Society Research Program

Launched in 1989, the Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP) is a collaboration of Alzheimer Societies across Canada and our partners and generous donors. Together, we are working to improve the quality of life for Canadians affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and advance the search for the cause and cure through research. We support research directed at both eliminating Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and enabling those affected to live actively and independently for as long as possible.

Canadians consistently rank among the world's top dementia researchers. We are proud to have invested over \$43 million to date in their groundbreaking work. To learn more about the ASRP, please visit: [www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca).

**Alzheimer Society of Canada**

416-847-8920

1-800-616-8816

[info@alzheimer.ca](mailto:info@alzheimer.ca)

[www.alzheimer.ca](http://www.alzheimer.ca)



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