

Currently, 4 million persons in the United States have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.¹

By the year 2040, an estimated 9 million persons will be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the United States alone.²

"...All I could think was...here is this mind that taught me as a child...and now the mind is not there. How can this be?"

Gale Watson, a teacher, in honor of her teacher who has Alzheimer's disease

Now you have the opportunity to be a part of finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

1. Baskin, S. A., Morris, J., Ahronheim, J. C., Meier, D. E., & Morrison, R. S. (1998). Barriers to obtaining consent in dementia research: implications for surrogate decision-making. *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 46: 287-290.

2. Rice, D. R., Fox, P. J., Max, W., et al (1993). The economic burden of Alzheimer's disease care. *Health Affairs*, 12(2): 164-176.

Additional Resources:

Alzheimer's Arkansas Programs & Services

501-224-0021
1-800-689-6090
www.alzark.org

Alzheimer's Association

Central Arkansas Regional Center
(501)265-0027
National Alzheimer's Association
1-800-272-3900
www.alz.org

For more information on Alzheimer's disease, related disorders, or the UAMS Memory Research Center, please contact:



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Memory Research Center
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Toll Free (866) 628-6001

Or visit the
UAMS Memory Research Center
Web Site: <http://alzheimer.uams.edu>

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DONALD W. REYNOLDS
CENTER ON AGING

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

Can You Imagine a World Without Alzheimer's Disease? Autopsy: A Gift of Hope



The UAMS Memory Research Center (MRC) is committed to research and education about normal aging, Alzheimer's disease, and other memory problems.

At this time, we understand very little about normal brain aging. In order to figure out why people develop Alzheimer's disease and other disorders we must first find out what is typical of brain tissue in healthy older adults. To do this, we need to compare the brain tissue of people with Alzheimer's disease with the brain tissue of people who do not have Alzheimer's disease.

We need to know how other diseases might make Alzheimer's disease worse, and doctors need to know how these diseases may affect treatment. There is little known about other diseases that may occur in Alzheimer's disease patients. For this reason, we need to examine other organs in addition to the brain.

An autopsy allows doctors to study organ tissue using many methods. When doctors examine organ tissue, they get new clues about what causes Alzheimer's disease. They may also find new ways to prevent and treat it. Autopsy is the most accurate way to diagnose Alzheimer's disease and other illnesses causing memory problems. Being in our autopsy program makes you a part of our research team.

Your autopsy donation will contribute to prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's disease. Future patients and families may benefit because of your help.

What is involved in an autopsy?

Autopsy techniques for removing organs have changed very little in the past 100 years, although there are new ways of examining these organs. During autopsy of the brain, for instance, a medical specialist removes the brain by making an incision in the back of the head. After the brain is removed, the incision is closed.

Who can give consent?

In Arkansas, the donor may give consent or the next of kin may give consent for donation following death. Next of kin would be a family member such as a spouse, child or sibling. A legal guardian or someone with durable power of attorney may also consent.

Will autopsy interfere with the funeral?

We work closely with funeral homes to avoid delays in funeral preparation, and the autopsy is performed in such a way that it is not visible if open casket viewing is preferred.

Can family find out the results of the autopsy?

Upon request, the family will receive a letter with the results a few weeks after the autopsy.

How much will this cost?

There is no cost to donors or their family members. Transportation for autopsy will be provided free of charge.

Religious concerns?

Most religions generally allow autopsy and donation of a person's organs. In fact, organ donation is encouraged among most religions. It is viewed as a way to help others. If you have concerns about this issue, you should check with your religious leader.

Who can participate?

Any person who lives in the state of Arkansas is invited to be a part of our autopsy donation program. If you would like to participate in our study, you are encouraged to sign an autopsy consent form. This gives us permission to do an autopsy at the time of death.

How do I enroll?

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Loretta Ducker, Clinical Coordinator of the Memory Research Center, at (501) 526-6500 or 1-866-628-6001.



Memory Research Center
(501) 526-5600 or 1-(866) 628-6001