

# Research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias

At the Alzheimer Society, research is a key priority. We support research into the causes and cures for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. We also support research to improve the quality of life of, and care provided to people living with dementia.

## Risk factors, diagnosis, and treatment

Researchers are investigating factors that can help reduce the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. They are also developing treatments that can be used against the amyloid beta 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 reduce the risk of developing it, years before symptoms appear.

Researchers working to improve diagnosis examine 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 dementia, many researchers focus on understanding the processes that can cause dementia with the hope that improved medications and treatments will be developed.

## Quality of life

Quality of life research explores issues that impact the lives of people living with dementia and care partners, 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 quality of life for people in Canada affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and advance the search for causes and cures through research. We support research directed at both curing Alzheimer's disease and other dementias and enabling those affected to live actively and independently for as long as possible. Researchers in Canada consistently rank among the world's top dementia researchers. We are proud to have invested over \$83 million to date in their groundbreaking work. To learn more about the ASRP, please visit [alzheimer.ca/asrp](http://alzheimer.ca/asrp).

**Alzheimer Society**

**Alzheimer Society of Canada**

1-800-616-8816

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

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

