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Answers to your Questions

For more information contact:

Shirley E. Poduslo, Ph.D.
Director of DNA Bank/Alzheimer's Research
Professor, Institute of Molecular Medicine
and Genetics and Department of Neurology
Medical College of Georgia
1120 15th Street
Augusta, GA 30912-2620

Phone: (706) 721-0609
Toll-free: 1-866-207-1267
Fax: (706) 721-8727
E-mail: spoduslo@mail.mcg.edu



Alzheimer's DNA BANK

www.mcg.edu/alzres/

What is Alzheimer's Disease?

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurological disorder characterized by profound memory loss. The patient cannot remember what he had for lunch or whether he had lunch. The patient may forget how to handle money or may get lost going to work or church. The patient can look quite healthy. Yet in the end stages of the disease, the patient must be cared for as one cares for a child. The burden of care is with the family, usually the spouse.

What is the DNA Bank?

The DNA bank is a collection of DNA samples from patients and their family members. The DNA is taken from the blood given when a person enrolls in the DNA bank. The DNA is used in genetic research to ultimately find the cause of Alzheimer's disease. The bank includes samples from the

patient and the patient's spouse, siblings, children and grandchildren. If the parents are still alive, we try to have them participate as well. We are also interested in patients with other neurological diseases, such as Parkinson's disease or Multiple Sclerosis.

How will the DNA be used?

We are searching for the cause of Alzheimer's disease. Since the disease can exist in several members of a family, there is probably a genetic basis. Finding the genes involved will enable us to devise tests to identify patients early before symptoms start. Only then can we establish methods that will prevent the disease from happening.

Why should I participate in the DNA Bank?

The more people that enroll in the DNA bank, the better the chances are of finding the cause of the disease.

Will this research help me?

Yes. Even though finding genes involved in causing the disease will probably not help the patient, it will help other family members, especially the children and grandchildren.

How can I participate?

Participants must complete a detailed family history, sign consent forms, as well as medical release forms, so that we can obtain medical information on the patient to confirm the diagnosis. All information obtained will be kept completely confidential. Finally we take two tubes of blood from each participant.

Is this a test for Alzheimer's Disease?

No. There is no test for Alzheimer's disease. When the genes that cause Alzheimer's disease are identified, then a test can be devised.

What else can I do to help the DNA bank?

Memorial and benevolent contributions in support of the DNA bank for Alzheimer's research can be directed to the address on the back. Volunteer support is appreciated.

Where can I get more information?

For more information, please call our office.

IF YOU HAVE AN ALZHEIMER'S PATIENT IN YOUR FAMILY OR KNOW A FAMILY WITH A PATIENT, PLEASE ENCOURAGE THEM TO JOIN THE DNA BANK.