Estimates vary, but our research suggests that Alzheimer's affects one in three people over the age of 65. Alzheimer's is currently ranked as the sixth leading cause of death in the US, but recent estimates indicate that the disorder may rank third, just behind heart disease and cancer, as a cause of death for older people.

Unless the disease can be effectively treated or prevented, the number of people with it will increase significantly if current population trends continue. That's because the risk of Alzheimer's increases with age, and the U.S. population is aging.

Since 2004, the longitudinal Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) has been validating the use of biomarkers including blood tests, tests of cerebrospinal fluid, and MRI/ PET imaging for Alzheimer's disease (AD) clinical trials and diagnosis.

Now in its fourth phase (ADNI, ADNI GO, ADNI 2 and ADNI 3), ADNI 3 is studying the rate of change of cognition, function, brain structure, and biomarkers among our ADNI volunteers.

Is there a common thread among ADNI participants? You bet. ADNI volunteers are the heart of study and the most prevalent characteristic among them may be altruism. Our participants make a multiyear commitment to a study that is providing the path toward treatment and prevention of AD while not offering any potential intervention. ADNI is seeking people over age 55, who are healthy, as well as those with mild memory problems and those who have been diagnosed with mild dementia due to Alzheimer's disease. If you are interested in volunteering for ADNI, current information can be found here.

ADNI also maintains an unprecedented data access policy intended to encourage new investigation and to increase the pace of discovery in the race to prevent, treat, and one day cure AD. All data is made available without embargo. Armed with better knowledge of the first indications of AD from ADNI and other studies, researchers are beginning to test potential therapies at the earliest stages feasible when there may the greatest promise for slowing down progression of this devastating disease.

This web site – adni-info.org – is currently being updated with information and is intended to provide an introduction of ADNI study basics. Scientists and researchers seeking access to ADNI data should visit USC's Laboratory of Neuroimaging ADNI database (ADNI LONI).

Sincerely,

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