RESEARCHERS AND FAMILIES WORKING TOGETHER CAN FIND THE GENETIC CAUSES OF ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE.

WHAT IS OUR RESEARCH GOAL?
Researchers at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine’s John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics are working to identify the genetic risk factors for Alzheimer’s disease to improve diagnosis and treatment. With your help, the HIHG can continue this search.

WHAT IS ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE?
Alzheimer’s is the most common form of cognitive disorder. Alzheimer’s destroys parts of the brain that control memory, thinking, language and judgment. Many people are not diagnosed and go untreated for Alzheimer’s due to common misconceptions on aging, memory loss and senility. Often people think these symptoms are natural and a normal part of aging. Some people even refer to Alzheimer’s as “old-timers” disease. The brain damage caused by Alzheimer’s is irreversible and destroys an individual’s ability to remember the names and faces of family members. Experts now recognize severe memory loss as a symptom of serious illness. The cause of Alzheimer’s is not known. Although treatments are available, there is no cure for Alzheimer’s.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?
• Read and sign a consent form.
• Give permission to review the medical records of the individual with memory and thinking problems.
• Give family and medical history.
• Complete a brief neurological examination.
• Provide a blood sample.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
Alzheimer’s disease results from many genetic and environmental factors. These factors may differ among individuals or families. Our studies require the participation of many individuals to speed the pace of discovery. We are looking for African-American and black men and women who are at least 60 years old who may have Alzheimer’s or who do not have Alzheimer’s.

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WHY IS THIS STUDY IMPORTANT?
According to a study by the Alzheimer’s Association, Alzheimer’s occurs more often in African-Americans and black populations than among whites. Researchers at the University of Miami, North Carolina A&T State University, Columbia University and Vanderbilt University are working together to find the genes that may cause Alzheimer’s in African-American and black populations. Finding gene(s) and learning how they interact with one another and other factors such as diet and the environment will provide valuable insights into how Alzheimer’s develops in individuals. This knowledge will lead to improved diagnosis and eventually to better treatments for these disorders.

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER: 1-877-686-6444
STUDY PARTICIPATION FACTS
• Study participation is voluntary.
• Joining the study will not affect your healthcare or insurance.
• All informational is confidential.
• There is no cost to the family.
• A participant may withdraw from the study at any time.
• Travel is not required.
• Research progress reports will be sent to participants in newsletters.

THE RESEARCH TEAM
Margaret A. Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., is the director of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine’s John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics and is the principal investigator of this genetic study of Alzheimer’s disease.

Physicians, psychologists, and human geneticists are all working together to find the genes that cause Alzheimer’s disease. We would like you to join our team!

For over two decades, investigators at the Hussman Institute have been investigating the genetics of Alzheimer’s disease. In 1993, a team led by Dr. Pericak-Vance discovered the first major genetic risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease, the apolipoprotein-E (APOE) gene.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ENROLL YOUR FAMILY IN THIS RESEARCH STUDY.
Call our toll free number: 1-877-686-6444
Visit us on the web: www.hihg.org
Or write to us at:
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This University of Miami IRB-approved (20070307) research study is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current U.S. laws.