ALZHEIMER DISEASE affects approximately five million people in the United States and is the most common form of severe memory loss (dementia). It destroys parts of the brain that control memory, thinking, language, and judgment. Currently although treatments are available, there is no cure for Alzheimer disease. Research studies show that individuals with a family history of Alzheimer disease have a greater chance of developing the disease.

For over two decades, investigators who are part of the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics (HIHG) have played a role in helping to understand the genetics of Alzheimer disease.

In 1993, a team led by HIHG Director Margaret A. Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., discovered the first major genetic risk factor for Alzheimer disease. They found that people who inherit a version of the apolipoprotein-E gene (APOE) are at significantly increased risk for developing the disease. The HIHG Alzheimer disease team continues to pursue the answers to the following questions:

- What causes Alzheimer disease?
- Are there better ways to diagnose Alzheimer disease?
- Can better treatments be developed?

This study is conducted with support from the National Institutes of Health and the Alzheimer's Association.

This University of Miami IRB-approved (20070307) research study is conducted in accordance with Federal guidelines and current US laws.
WHAT IS OUR RESEARCH GOAL?
HIHG researchers strive to identify the genetic causes of Alzheimer disease. As we identify the genetic components underlying the disease, we will be able to improve diagnostic and treatment options. With your help, the HIHG can continue this search.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?
Alzheimer disease results from many genetic and environmental factors. These contributing factors may differ among individuals or families with Alzheimer disease. Our studies require the participation of many individuals to speed the pace of discovery.

Both men and women who are at least 60 years old are invited to take part in this study. They include:
• Individuals with memory loss and thinking problems, dementia, or Alzheimer disease. Based on the family tree, other family members may also be asked to participate in the study.
• Individuals without memory loss or thinking problems to serve as controls.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?
• Reading and signing a consent form
• Giving a detailed family and medical history
• Taking an evaluation of memory and thinking
• Completing a brief neurological examination
• Providing a blood sample

DO FAMILIES GET STUDY RESULTS?
Although we are unable to provide individual results to families, we do send periodic newsletters about research progress to participants. We hope this research will help develop better methods for diagnosis and treatments for Alzheimer disease.

STUDY PARTICIPATION FACTS
• Participation is voluntary
• All information is confidential
• There is no cost to participate
• Travel to the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine is optional, but not required
• Joining the study will not affect your healthcare or insurance

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

Margaret A. Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., is the director of the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics and is the principal investigator of this genetic study of Alzheimer disease.

CALL OUR TOLL-FREE NUMBER
(1-877-686-6444)