National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias
Hereditary Genomics Division
Health Information and Translational Sciences Building
410 West 10th Street • HS 4000
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3002

For more information, call the Alzheimer’s Association at (800) 272-3900.
Emily McKnight
July 19, 2018
With a grant from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Aging, Indiana University School of Medicine’s repository for biological samples will be more than doubling in size. The expansion will create an NIA-funded centralized laboratory research in Alzheimer’s disease.

Informed by a disease process that begins years before symptoms appear, scientists hope to develop a blood-based test for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Induced pluripotent stem cells are created by taking cells from skin or blood samples, reprogramming them into so-called “pluripotent” cells that can be “reset” to an embryonic-like state that do not change the underlying age-related changes to the genome (such as genetic and biofluid factors that modify these rates).

The National Institute on Aging renewed its support for the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias just two years ago, and is providing almost $200 million over five years to the repository’s staff. The National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias will move into larger, newly renovated biobanking facilities at IU School of Medicine.

The expansion of the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias will play a central role in the effort to reach the national goal of developing effective prevention and treatments for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias more than 5.5 million now.

“We’re centralizing resources at Indiana University to make it easier for scientists from around the world to draw on and to access these critically important biological samples for ongoing and new research,” said Tatiana Foroud, PhD, director of the repository and chair of the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics at IU School of Medicine.

The expansion of the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias was funded to support the growth in the nation’s Alzheimer’s disease research over the past two years. The National Institute on Aging: Funds Major Biobank Expansion

The repository’s resources have been used by more than 150 scientists and other biospecimens.

Formerly called the National Cell Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease (NCRAD), the repository collects, maintains and provides scientists access to more than 5.0 million biological samples, including DNA, cerebrospinal fluid, brain tissue and other biological specimens that are the tools of laboratory research in Alzheimer’s disease.

The expansion also will create a NIH-funded centralized repository that will collect and distribute induced pluripotent stem cell lines created by scientists to study Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Induced pluripotent stem cells are created by taking cells from frequently skin cells or blood cells – and activating genes that return the cells to a stem cell state. At that point, the cells are “pluripotent,” meaning they can be coaxed by scientists to differentiate into many types of cells, such as various neurons found in the brain. Jason S. Meyer, PhD, an associate professor of biology at the IUPUI School of Science, will serve as a co-vice president who is leading work related to induced pluripotent stem cells.

To accommodate the expansion, the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias will move into larger, newly renovated biobanking facilities at IU School of Medicine.

Since its creation in the early 1990s, the repository has collected more than 500,000 brain and spinal cord samples with the additional Alzheimer’s disease research funding. It is estimated that there will be 4 to 6 million more brain samples and over Alzheimer’s disease by 2025. It’s estimated that there will be 4 to 6 million more brain samples and over Alzheimer’s disease by 2025.

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“The new name reflects the significant expansion of the repository’s scope and interest since its creation in 1994,” said Tatiana Foroud, PhD, director of the repository and chair of the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics at IU School of Medicine.

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The repository’s resources have been used by more than 150 scientists and resulted in more than 560 scientific publications.

The National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias is supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health’s National Institute on Aging.
Emily McKnight
July 19, 2018

With a grant from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health, Indiana University School of Medicine’s repository that will collect and distribute induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) lines from people who have Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

The repository’s resources have been used by more than 150 scientists to study Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. Induced pluripotent stem cell lines are created by taking cells from people with Alzheimer’s disease, and reprogramming them to a state they can be cloned into many types of cells, such as neurons found in the brain. Jason S. Foroud, PhD, an associate professor of biostatistics and epidemiology at the IU School of Medicine, is the repository’s director and chair of the Department of Health, Genomic and Computational Sciences at the IU School of Medicine’s repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias.

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The repository’s resources have been used by more than 150 scientists and resulted in more than 500 scientific publications. NSF-UCR Funds Major Biobank Expansion at IU School of Medicine to Support Alzheimer’s Disease Research

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NCRAD is now on Twitter!

expansion of the National Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study’s Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (NCRAD) by $12 million, the National Institute on Aging announced today.

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This “reset” cell is termed induced pluripotent stem cell (or iPSC). The person’s unique DNA is “reset” by activating key developmental genes.

These iPSCs can serve as a complement to the use of traditional animal models of disease. This can help scientists to develop new treatment strategies and novel therapeutic compounds for Alzheimer’s disease.

The expansion of the National Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study’s Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias will move into larger, newly renovated space that will accommodate the expansion, the National Institute on Aging announced today.

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“Anticipating increased need for a central national biobank to serve as a complement to the use of traditional animal models of disease, the National Institute on Aging will support a $12 million expansion of the National Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study’s Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias,” said Tatiana Foroud, PhD, director of the IU Biobank (IB) at the IU School of Medicine.

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With a grant from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Indiana University School of Medicine will expand its National Cell Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease (NCRAD) to create a centralized resource called the National Centralized Repository for Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias.

The expansion will allow the repository to collect and distribute induced pluripotent stem cells, which can be used by researchers globally to better understand, treat and hopefully cure Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

"We’re committing resources to create a national biobank repository that will collect and distribute induced pluripotent stem cells, said Tatiana Foroud, PhD, Chancellor’s Professor of Biostatistics and Medical Genetics at IUPUI.

"What we really want to develop is a blood-based test. This person’s unique DNA is a key to tailoring a treatment to their needs and that is now possible thanks to the cells and data that we are able to collect," said Foroud.

Since its creation in the early 1990s, the repository has collected more than 300,000 biospecimens from more than 20,000 individuals, said Nina Silverberg, PhD, director of the repository and chair of the Department of Medical and Molecular Genetics at IU School of Medicine.

"It’s exciting to think that the work of our national biobank so it can continue to facilitate, with widespread, to allow researchers to build cutting-edge studies and big datasets," Silverberg said. "We’re hoping to use these resources, Dr. Foroud, and our partners at the Indiana University School of Medicine to Support Alzheimer’s Disease Modeling, Drug Screening, Genetic Screening and Disease Diagnosis.

Currently, the NCRAD collects, maintains and provides scientists access to more than 500,000 biological samples, including DNA, cerebrospinal fluid, brain tissue and other biospecimens.

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NCRAD Major Biobank Expansion at IU School of Medicine to Support Alzheimer’s Disease Research

Emily McKnight

Dr. Tatiana Foroud, PhD, Chair, Alzheimer’s Disease Modeling and Drug Screening, Genetics, Joe C. Christian Professor, Chancellor’s Professor, IUPUI

Dr. Sarah Olscherger

Skin Cells

Stem Cells

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NCRAD Welcomes Your Ideas and Suggestions

If you have any questions, feedback, or any ideas about the NCRAD, please feel free to share your thoughts. We would like to hear suggestions on future topics for articles, questions you would like us to ask on the NCRAD blog, or anything you would like to discuss with our readers about your family’s experience with Alzheimer's disease. Please send us your ideas or comments by email.

Email: info@ncrad.org

Research Opportunities:

4 Repeat Tauopathy Neuroimaging Initiative (4RTNI-2)

- Purpose: To identify the best methods of analysis for tracking 4R and 3R repeat accumulation and to test the hypothesis that the 4R-to-3R ratio is a better biomarker for tracking 4R repeat accumulation over time.

- Eligibility: Men and women ages 50 to 80, diagnosis of Progressive Supranuclear Palsy or Corticobasal Degeneration (CBD)

- Purpose: To identify the best methods of analysis for tracking PSP and CBD over time. The results from this study may be used in the future to develop new therapies for these diseases.

- Contact: Email: info@ncrad.org

Longitudinal Evaluation of Familial Frontotemporal Dementia Subjects (LEFFTDS)

- Purpose: To provide follow-up of families with a history of frontotemporal dementia (FTD) to identify risk factors and genetic markers that might be associated with FTD.

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The National Centralized Repository (NCRAD) is a data and biorepository that supplies healthy and diseased samples from individuals with and at risk for Alzheimer’s disease (AD) or serious memory loss. Families having two or more living individuals with the disease (AD) or serious memory loss are encouraged to participate. We would like to thank the hundreds of families nationwide who have already participating in the National Centralized Repository (NCRAD) for their invaluable contributions and advice from health care professionals. This information should be used in conjunction with advice from health care professionals.

Inside this issue:

- Articles:
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  - From novice to new grant
  - NCRAD has more news
  - NCRAD is now on Twitter

- Topics and Resources:
  - Research opportunities
  - Research Sources for Information and Support
  - All Signs of Alzheimer’s Disease

- News highlights from the conference can be found at: https://www.nia.nih.gov/content/aic-2018-media coverage.asp

NCRAD team members attended research sessions, and presented scientific posters describing the NCRAD, the hippocampal and a new NCRAD study called ANGI (Amyloid Neuroimaging and Genetics Initiative). We also hosted a booth in the exhibition hall where we spoke with numerous academic and commercial researchers from around the world. Investigators we met are interested in both banking samples with NCRAD and also requesting samples from NCRAD to support their research. This was a great opportunity to raise awareness in the dementia research community about the studies and samples shared at NCRAD, and how they can be used to advance research for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

For more information, call the Alzheimer’s Association at 1-800-526-2839.
10 Signs of AD

1. Memory loss
2. Difficulty performing familiar tasks
3. Problems with language
4. Disorientation to time and place
5. Poor or decreased judgment
6. Problems with abstract thinking
7. Misplacing things
8. Changes in mood or behavior
9. Changes in personality
10. Loss of initiative

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Website: www.alz.org

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410 West 10th Street • HS 4000
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3002
Tel: 1-800-532-2333
E-mail: care@alz.org
Website: www.alz.org

Parkinson’s Disease Foundation (PDF)
Tel: 1-800-708-7676
Website: www.pdf.org

Society for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy
Tel: 1-800-394-3877
Website: www.spn.org

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD)
Tel: 1-800-932-6673
Website: www.rarediseases.org

Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP)
Tel: 1-800-341-1223
Website: www.cdc.gov

National Society of Genetic Counselors
Tel: 1-800-638-9060
Website: www.nsgc.org/

Creighton Medical Foundation Inc. (CJD)
Tel: 1-800-226-8474
Website: www.cjd.org

NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA)
Tel: 1-800-421-1222
Website: www.nia.nih.gov/Alzheimers

Alzheimer’s Association (AFTD)
Tel: 1-800-445-8106
Website: www.theaftd.org

The Association for Frontotemporal Dementias (AFTD)
Tel: 1-800-311-3435
Website: www.aftd.org

Indiana University School of Medicine
Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD) is a data and specimen repository for families with Alzheimer’s disease (AD) or serious memory loss. Families having two or more living individuals with memory loss are encouraged to participate. We would like to thank the hundreds of families nationwide who are already participating in the National Centralized Repository (NCRAD). Many family members have provided blood samples, which researchers use to study AD and other related diseases. Our hope is that through the efforts of our participants, we will one day unravel the mystery of devastating diseases like AD. We are always eager to accept new families to help us move toward this goal.

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