



stopping the progression of Alzheimer's disease

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE NEUROIMAGING STUDY

## **The Northwestern CNADC joins National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI)**

Over 4 million people in the US have Alzheimer's disease (AD), and a very substantial number have other dementias. The cost to the US economy is well over \$100 billion a year. The incidence of dementia is expected to double during the next 20 years. No existing treatment has yet been shown to slow the progression of AD but a large number of potential treatments are under development. Once such treatments for patients with AD are approved, the next obvious step will be to perform prevention trials on those at high risk for AD, such as subjects with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), family histories of dementia, or genetic risk factors for AD. Many elderly have memory problems, or other risk factors for AD. Once effective treatments for AD emerge, it will be very important to identify subjects at risk for cognitive decline and dementia at the earliest stage possible. The Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative is the most comprehensive effort to date to identify neuroimaging and other biomarkers of the cognitive changes associated with MCI and Alzheimer's Disease AD.

This study will test whether serial magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET), other biological markers, and clinical and neuropsychological assessment can be combined to measure the progression of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and early Alzheimer's disease (AD). The information obtained by studying changes in the brain images of MCI and AD patients and healthy individuals, as well as other assessment tools, will be used to determine the best methods for measuring treatment effects in patients with MCI and AD.

Approximately 800 participants nationwide, ranging in age from 55 to 90, will be recruited for the study: 400 persons with MCI, 200 with early AD, and 200 healthy older adults. Persons with MCI and healthy individuals will be followed for 3 years, and those with AD will be followed for 2 years. Further information will be provided once the study is underway.

"The ADNI is a landmark investigation that will not be surpassed for decades to come," said M. -Marsel Mesulam, MD, director of the CNADC. "It will be based on a coalition of 50 Centers throughout the US, the National Institutes of Aging, and the pharmaceutical industry. The CNADC is proud to be part of this national effort. The goal of ADNI is to develop novel technology for the early detection of Alzheimer's disease and for the rapid determination of drug response. This national initiative is likely to bring us closer to our ultimate dream of preventing AD."