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Research into Memory Loss Intervention Receives \$734,765 Grant

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University of San Diego

Office of Public Relations

News Bureau

RESEARCH INTO MEMORY LOSS INTERVENTION RECEIVES \$734,765 GRANT

A San Diego-based research project that explores how families can cope with memory loss in dementia patients has received a \$734,765 three-year grant from the National Institutes of Health.

The University of San Diego's Philip Y. Hahn School of Nursing, in collaboration with the University of California, San Diego's School of Medicine and the Alzheimer's Association of San Diego, will test four different non-drug treatment programs designed to help those with a family member diagnosed with dementia.

This new experimental study, entitled "Chronic Memory Loss: Home vs. Community Interventions," expands on the previous work of the USD Cognitive Intervention Study Team. That team has tested ways that families can take a direct, active role in stimulating memory problem-solving and communication skills.

The four programs in the new study expand on the cognitive stimulation approach, which proved helpful in the previous research. Although the four programs vary in their primary focus, each is also designed to provide emotional support to such families and to help their family relationships.

The research team is currently seeking families of people with diagnosed memory loss to participate in this new project.

Eligibility criteria are:

-- Both the diagnosed family member and the family caregiver must agree to take part in the study;

-- A family member (50 years of age or older) must have been medically diagnosed with a memory problem; and

-- Memory and problem-solving difficulties should be noticeable in the family member, but not severe.

Participation in the study will last three months. Should travel be necessary, participants will be compensated for expenses.

The new study is being funded by NIH's National Center for Nursing Research. The initial research leading up to this project was funded by NCNR and by the National Institute on Aging.

For information about participation, please contact the Project Director at (619) 491-4515 or (619) 260-4578.



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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

FAMILIES SOUGHT FOR MEMORY LOSS PROJECT

DO YOU HAVE A FAMILY MEMBER WHO SUFFERS MEMORY LOSS? OR DO YOU SUSPECT THAT A FAMILY MEMBER IS EXPERIENCING MEMORY LOSS?

IF SO, YOU AND YOUR RELATIVE ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO'S PHILIP Y. HAHN SCHOOL OF NURSING, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO'S SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO. THE PROJECT WILL FOCUS ON EMOTIONAL SUPPORT OF THE PARTICIPANTS, THEIR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS, AND MENTAL STIMULATION OF THE FAMILY MEMBER WITH MEMORY LOSS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, OR IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT BE, CONTACT THE MEMORY LOSS PROJECT DIRECTOR AT FOUR-NINE-ONE-FOUR-FIVE-ONE-FIVE. THAT'S 491-4515. OR CALL TWO-SIX-ZERO-FOUR-FIVE-SEVEN-EIGHT. THAT'S 260-4578.

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