

BIG SPRING HERALD

Tech recruiting for Alzheimer's research project

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LUBBOCK — Does someone you love suffer from Alzheimer's disease? Researchers at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center are seeking volunteers, age 50 years or older, who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Mild Cognitive Impairment as well as individuals without memory problems to participate in the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium.

The research, which is a part of the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium, is necessary to try to identify genetic and blood markers associated with Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Sid O'Bryant, director of Rural Health research for the F. Marie Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health, and assistant professor in the Department of Neurology, said it is exciting to be only one of five institutions in the state involved in the consortium, but most importantly to contribute to the possible research that will find answers to Alzheimer's disease.

"The state of Texas has taken a great step towards creating a better understanding of the underlying biological factors associated with Alzheimer's disease. Through our work, the Consortium is beginning to produce important new information relevant to this devastating disease," O'Bryant said.

More than 200,000 Texans and their families are coping with Alzheimer's disease today. That number is projected to more than double to about 500,000 cases by 2025.

"Some of the nation's top Alzheimer's researchers, from our institution and the four other member institutions of the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium, will use participant's genetic and blood data to help answer research questions about onset, triggers and progression of Alzheimer's disease," O'Bryant said.

Other member institutions of the Consortium are Baylor College of Medicine, The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, University of North Texas Health Science Center, and the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

All participants will receive \$100 for their time. Persons interested in this study should contact Larry Hill at 806-743-1575.