



## **Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board**

Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program

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### **Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Report**

February 2026

Ron DeSantis

Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD

State Surgeon General

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## ED AND ETHEL MOORE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH PROGRAM

### INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia.<sup>1</sup> AD was officially listed as the sixth leading cause of death in the United States in 2019 and the seventh leading cause of death in 2020 and 2021. Between 2000 and 2019, deaths from stroke, heart disease, and HIV decreased, whereas reported deaths from AD increased more than 145%.<sup>2</sup> AD remains the fifth leading cause of death among Americans aged 65 and older.<sup>3</sup>

These AD numbers are estimated to be even higher as many cases go undiagnosed. As a result, greater screening for AD is needed. AD involves parts of the brain that control thought, memory, and language. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, AD is a progressive disease beginning with mild memory loss and possibly leading to the loss of one's ability to carry on a conversation and respond to one's environment. It can seriously affect a person's ability to carry out daily activities. Beyond the impact of the disease on the individual, AD also affects family members who often serve as caregivers.<sup>4</sup> AD can span up to 20 years and is emotionally, physically, and financially challenging to caregivers.<sup>5</sup>

To address the impact of AD in Florida, the 2014 Florida Legislature created the Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Program (Ed and Ethel Moore Program).

The Ed and Ethel Moore Program's long-term goals are to:

- a) Improve the health of Floridians by researching improved prevention measures, diagnosis methods, treatments, and cures for AD.
- b) Expand the foundation of knowledge relating to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure for AD.
- c) Stimulate economic activity in the state in areas related to AD research.

The Ed and Ethel Moore Alzheimer's Disease Research Grant Advisory Board's (Advisory Board) research agenda emphasizes the creation of intra-state research collaborations to further Florida's progress in becoming the premier state for AD prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately, cure for this disease. Currently, there are 102 active AD research grants administered under the Ed and Ethel Moore Program.

This 2024-25 annual report fulfills the Advisory Board's requirement to submit a fiscal year progress report by February 15, as required by section 381.82, Florida Statutes. Legislative changes effective July 1, 2016, require that this report also provide information regarding additional funding generated because of state-supported AD research grants from this program.

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board, authorized in section 381.82, F.S., comprises two gerontologists, two geriatric psychiatrists, two geriatricians, two neuroscientists, and three neurologists.

The Advisory Board advises the State Surgeon General as to the scope of the research program and submits funding recommendations for proposals to the State Surgeon General by December 15 of each year. Grants and fellowships are awarded by the State Surgeon General based on scientific merit after consultation with the Advisory Board.

Other responsibilities of the Advisory Board may include, but are not limited to, providing advice on program priorities and emphases; assisting in the development of appropriate linkages to non-academic entities, such as voluntary organizations, health care delivery institutions, industry, government agencies, and public officials; and developing and providing oversight regarding mechanisms to disseminate research results.

### NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH (NIH) STATE RANKING

Since the inception of the Ed and Ethel Moore Program in 2014, Florida has continued to increase its AD research infrastructure and, as a result, has also continued to receive increased federal funding that supports Florida researchers. Florida is currently positioned in the top ten for federal follow-on funding (Exhibit 1). Follow-on funding here means that researchers received federal funds due to the investment of state-level funding. Exhibit 1 shows the NIH-National Institute on Aging (NIA) grant funding in dollars for the top 20 states in Federal Fiscal Year 2025, where Florida ranks ninth in the nation to receive NIA grants.

**Exhibit 1: NIH-NIA Alzheimer's Disease Research Funding and Top Twenty State Rankings for Federal Fiscal Year 2025**

Rank	State	Number of Grants	Funding in Dollars
1	California	768	\$723,661,567.00
2	New York	431	\$359,748,621.00
3	Massachusetts	487	\$357,765,433.00
4	Pennsylvania	238	\$217,942,910.00
5	Texas	230	\$200,770,061.00
6	North Carolina	186	\$149,287,701.00
7	Missouri	118	\$145,519,545.00
8	Michigan	147	\$140,439,809.00
9	Florida	159	\$123,808,590.00
10	Minnesota	136	\$120,231,787.00
11	Illinois	143	\$118,683,981.00
12	Maryland	152	\$113,781,831.00
13	Arizona	66	\$98,376,802.00

## ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

14	Georgia	110	\$94,542,707.00
15	Wisconsin	84	\$87,869,561.00
16	Indiana	73	\$80,076,365.00
17	Washington	81	\$76,543,310.00
18	Tennessee	63	\$65,127,081.00
19	Ohio	100	\$55,699,216.00
20	Connecticut	78	\$54,036,544.00

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Institutes of Health 2024. [NIH Awards by Location and Organization - NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools \(RePORT\)](#)

## PROGRESS TOWARD PROGRAMMATIC GOALS

The Advisory Board's research agenda emphasizes the creation of intra-state research collaborations that advance Florida's progress in becoming the premier state for AD prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and ultimately, cure for this disease. In FY 2024-25, the Legislature provided \$5 million for research grants. The research agenda has six priority areas that are listed below and are also included in the annual AD Funding Opportunity Announcement:

1. Therapeutic strategies for dealing with behavioral and social needs of persons with AD and their caregivers.
2. The discovery and validation of a broad spectrum of potential therapeutic targets or novel therapeutic strategies that provide novel insights into the pathophysiology of AD or identify novel biomarkers.
3. To stimulate a consortium of clinical centers to conduct high quality clinical research studies.
4. Epidemiologic studies that improve our understanding of genetic, epigenetic, and acquired neurodegenerative, cardiac, and vascular disorders that result in impairment and AD and how these conditions affect Floridians.
5. To support postdoctoral fellowship training that fosters and advances clinical research training to develop expert health provider research skills focused on people with AD.
6. To stimulate the discovery and validation of the impact of daily vitamin use on cognitive disfunction among populations over the age of 65.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ADVISORY BOARD TO FURTHER THE MISSION OF THE ED AND ETHEL MOORE PROGRAM

During FY 2024-25, 18 grantees received AD research funding (see Appendix A). Without this funding, many important scientific advancements, and discoveries in AD would not be possible. The Advisory Board recognizes there is a growing need to address the concerns of AD in Florida. In response to this growing need, the Advisory Board recommends options to expand the reach of the Ed and Ethel Moore Program in the following areas listed below<sup>1</sup>.

1. **Increasing research funding:** Approximately 30% of all applicants receive Ed and Ethel Moore Program grant funding. Standard and pilot grants are most frequently funded. Additional funding would allow funding for consortium grants that could provide for increased collaboration on how to best combat AD.
2. **Increasing provider education:** In 2021, there were 362 geriatricians in Florida. Estimates suggest that a 277% increase in geriatricians will be needed to meet the demand by 2050.<sup>6</sup> The Ramping up Education of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia for You (READY) Act focuses on educating current providers on AD issues and resources. Currently, there is a lack of dedicated funding for Project READY, which limits program expansion. Increasing funding for Project READY would provide the opportunity to advance AD education through sharing state-funded AD research, determine a baseline of existing data, and establish Florida as a national leader in AD care.

Information about active and completed AD grants funded the past three fiscal years, including the funding amount, publications generated from funding, any patents or follow-on funding generated from this funding opportunity, are listed in the following appendices.

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<sup>1</sup> These recommendations are from the Advisory Board and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Florida Department of Health.

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

## Appendix A: Newly Awarded Active Grant Details Funded Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Grant #	Institution	Principal Investigator	Award Amount	End Date	Patents	Follow-on Funding	Publications
25A01	University of South Florida	Shalini Jain, PhD	\$350,000.00	07/31/2029	No	No	No
25A02	University of South Florida	Joshua Gamsby, PhD	\$350,000.00	07/31/2028	No	No	No
25A03	University of South Florida	Bradlee Heckmann, PhD	\$350,000.00	07/31/2027	No	No	No
25A04	University of Miami	David Loewenstein, PhD	\$350,000.00	09/30/2028	No	No	No
25A05	University of Miami	Tali Elfassy, PhD	\$349,948.00	09/30/2029	No	No	No
25A06	University of Miami	Nicolas Guerda, PhD	\$100,000.00	12/31/2026	No	No	No
25A07	University of Miami	Philip Harvey, PhD	\$66,847.00	09/30/2026	No	No	No
25A08	University of Florida	Rachael Seidler, PhD	\$349,602.00	07/31/2029	No	No	No
25A09	Mote Marine Laboratory	Kirstie Francis, PhD	\$100,000.00	09/30/2027	No	No	No
25A10	Mayo Clinic Florida	Yongjie Zhang, PhD	\$350,000.00	06/30/2026	No	No	No
25A11	Mayo Clinic Florida	Tingxiang Yan, PhD	\$66,847.00	07/31/2026	No	No	No
25A12	Mayo Clinic Florida	Pamela McLean, PhD	\$100,000.00	09/30/2026	No	No	No
25A13	Mayo Clinic Florida	Wilfried O. Rossoll, PhD	\$350,000.00	07/31/2027	No	No	No
25A14	Mayo Clinic Florida	Mariet Allen, PhD	\$350,000.00	07/31/2027	No	No	No
25A15	Mayo Clinic Florida	Ni Wang, MD, PhD	\$66,847.00	07/31/2027	No	No	No
25A16	Florida State University	Chris Martin, PhD	\$349,936.00	07/31/2028	No	No	No
25A17	Florida Atlantic University	Behnaz Ghoraani, PhD	\$99,973.00	07/31/2027	No	No	No
25A18	University of Central Florida	Kenneth Teter, PhD	\$330,127.00	07/31/2028	No	No	No

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

## Appendix B: Grant Details Funded Fiscal Year 2023-2024

Grant #	Institution	Principal Investigator	Award Amount	End Date	Patents	Follow-on Funding	Publications
24A01	Florida Atlantic University	Ruth Tappen, EdD, RN, FAAN	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	Yes	No
24A02	Florida Atlantic University	Mare Cudic, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	No	No
24A03	Florida Atlantic University	Qi Zhang, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2028	No	Yes	Yes
24A04	Florida State University	Choogon Lee, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	No	Yes
24A05	Florida State University	Ravinder Nagpal, PhD	\$100,000.00	2/28/2026	No	No	Yes
24A06	Mayo Clinic Florida	Wenhui Qiao, PhD	\$100,000.00	2/28/2026	No	No	No
24A07	Mayo Clinic Florida	Yonghe Li, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	No	No
24A08	Mayo Clinic Florida	Daisuke Ono, MD, PhD	\$100,000.00	2/28/2026	No	No	Yes
24A09	Mayo Clinic Florida	Minerva Carrasquillo, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2026	No	Yes	No
24A10	Mayo Clinic Florida	Pamela McLean, PhD	\$100,000.00	2/28/2025	No	No	No
24A11	Nova Southeastern University	Mary Holschbach, PhD	\$100,000.00	2/28/2025	No	No	No
24A12	University of Central Florida	Michal Masternak, PhD	\$349,999.00	2/28/2028	No	No	No
24A13	University of Florida	Jeremy Grant, PhD	\$95,556.00	2/28/2026	No	Yes	No
24A14	University of Florida	Abbas Babajani-Feremi, PhD	\$349,749.00	2/28/2028	No	No	No
24A15	University of Florida	Carla Fisher, PhD	\$99,991.00	2/28/2026	No	Yes	No
24A16	University of Miami	Philip Harvey, PhD	\$99,999.00	2/28/2026	No	Yes	No
24A17	University of Miami	Rosie Curiel Cid, PsyD	\$99,987.00	2/28/2025	No	Yes	No
24A18	University of Miami	Holly Cukier, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	Yes	No
24A19	Mayo Clinic Florida	Yonghe Li, PhD	\$165,241.00	2/28/2027	No	Yes	No

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

## Appendix C: Grant Details Funded Fiscal Year 2022-2023

Grant #	Institution	Principal Investigator	Award Amount	End Date	Patents	Follow-on Funding	Publications
23A01	Florida International University	Giri Narasimhan, PhD	\$99,783.00	2/28/2025	No	No	No
23A02	Florida State University	Julia Sheffler, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	Yes	No
23A03	Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Yunjung Jin, PhD	\$100,000.00	1/31/2025	No	No	Yes
23A04	Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Wilfried O Rossoll, PhD	\$350,000.00	1/31/2025	Yes	No	Yes
23A06	University of Central Florida	Susanny Beltran, PhD, MSW	\$99,883.00	2/28/2025	No	No	No
23A07	University of Central Florida	Jihe Zhao, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	No	Yes
23A08	University of Florida	Stephen Anton, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2025	No	Yes	No
23A09	University of Florida	Jie Xu, PhD	\$350,000.00	1/31/2026	No	No	Yes
23A10	University of Miami	David Loewenstein, PhD	\$349,983.00	2/28/2025	No	No	Yes
23A12	University of Miami	Oliver Bracko, PhD	\$350,000.00	1/31/2026	No	No	Yes
23A15	University of Miami	Elizabeth Crocco, MD	\$349,102.00	2/28/2025	No	No	Yes
23A16	University of Miami	Rosie Curiel Cid, PsyD	\$349,912.00	3/31/2025	No	No	No
23A17	University of Miami	Claes Wahlestedt, MD, PhD	\$349,995.00	2/28/2026	No	No	No
23A18	University of South Florida	Hongdao Meng, MD, MPH, PhD	\$350,000.00	2/28/2027	No	No	No

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH GRANT ADVISORY BOARD

## Appendix D: Grant Details Funded Fiscal Year 2021-2022

Grant #	Institution	Principal Investigator	Award Amount	End Date	Patents	Follow-on Funding	Publications
22A07	Mayo Clinic Jacksonville	Fabienne Fiesel, PhD	\$350,000.00	3/31/2026	No	No	Yes
22A10	University of Central Florida	Nichole Lighthall, PhD	\$742,833.00	3/31/2026	No	Yes	Yes
22A13	University of Florida	Jada Lewis, PhD	\$350,000.00	3/31/2025	No	No	No
22A17	University of South Florida	Hariom Yadav, PhD	\$743,661.00	3/31/2026	No	Yes	Yes

## Appendix E: Grant Details Funded Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Grant #	Institution	Principal Investigator	Award Amount	End Date	Patents	Follow-on Funding	Publications
21A04	Florida Atlantic University	Qi Zhang, PhD	\$247,620.00	2/28/2025	Yes	Yes	Yes
21A06	University of Central Florida	Suren Tatulian, PhD	\$247,620.00	6/30/2025	No	No	Yes
21A10	University of Florida	Stefan Prokop, MD	\$246,991.00	2/28/2025	No	Yes	Yes
21A24	University of South Florida	Laura Blair, PhD	\$247,620.00	6/30/2025	No	Yes	Yes

# ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

## REFERENCES

- <sup>1</sup> "Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia in older adults, affecting more than 5 million Americans ," *Alzheimer's Disease*. National Institutes of Health, [Alzheimer's Disease | National Institutes of Health \(NIH\)](#) (Last Accessed Dec 3, 2025); *Alzheimer's disease - symptoms and causes*. Mayo Clinic; Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research (MFMER), <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/alzheimers-disease> (Last Accessed Dec 3, 2025).
- <sup>2</sup> Alzheimer's Association. 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2023;19(4). [doi:10.1002/alz.13016](https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.13016).
- <sup>3</sup> 2022 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2022;18(4):700-789. [doi:10.1002/alz.12638](https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.12638).
- <sup>4</sup> 2023 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. [doi:10.1002/alz.13016](https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.13016).
- <sup>5</sup> Stages of Alzheimer's, Alzheimer's Association, <https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/stages> (Last Accessed Jan 18, 2024).
- <sup>6</sup> 2023 Alzheimer's disease facts and figures. [doi:10.1002/alz.13016](https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.13016), 52.