Many patients currently diagnosed with very mild or mild Alzheimer disease dementia could potentially be reclassified as having mild cognitive impairment (MCI) under revised criteria for that condition, according to a report published Online First by Archives of Neurology.

The National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer’s Association convened a work group to update criteria for MCI, and the revised criteria allow “considerable latitude” as to what represents functional independence, writes the study’s author, John C. Morris, MD, Principal Investigator of the Memory and Aging Project. For example, “mild problems” performing daily activities such as shopping, paying bills and cooking are permissible in individuals classified with MCI, as is dependency on aids or assistance to complete those tasks.

In the Morris study, the clinical and cognitive data of participants enrolled at federally funded Alzheimer’s Disease Centers was evaluated. A total of 17,535 people with normal cognition, MCI or AD dementia met eligibility requirements. The average age of the total sample was 74.6 years.

The study suggests that 99.8% of patients currently diagnosed with very mild AD dementia and 92.7% of those diagnosed with mild AD dementia could be reclassified as having MCI based on the revised criteria.

The difference between MCI and AD dementia in its earliest symptomatic stages has largely been based on whether cognitive impairment disrupts the activities of daily living. The revised criteria “now obscure this distinction,” Morris notes.

“The elimination of the functional boundary between MCI and AD dementia means that their distinction will be based solely on the individual judgment of clinicians, resulting in nonstandard and ultimately arbitrary diagnostic approaches to MCI,” Morris comments. “This recalibra-
Grant Awards

Randall Bateman, MD was awarded the 2011 Alzheimer’s Association Zenith Fellows Award, providing $450,000 over 3 years to support the project A Blood Isotope Labeled Amyloid-Beta Test for Alzheimer’s Disease, which will study how the body produces and disposes of beta-amyloid, and how changes in those processes affect the development of disease.

Chris Carpenter, MD, MSc, FACEP, FAAEM was awarded a $45,000 grant for his project Measurement Approaches to Capture and Evaluate Implementation Strategies through the BJHF/ICTS Funding Program.

Carlos Cruchaga, PhD received an Alzheimer’s Association 2011 New Investigator Research Grant for the project Exome Sequencing of Late-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease Families.

Incoming Knight ADRC Fellow Suzanne Schindler, MD, PhD received the AAN/Alzheimer’s Association Katzman Clinical Research Training Fellowship for 2012-14. This prestigious fellowship provides $55,000 per year for two years, plus $10,000 per year for tuition to support Schindler’s formal education in clinical research methodology.

Catherine Roe, PhD was awarded $41,964 from the Longer Life Foundation for her project Improving Presymptomatic Detection of Impending Alzheimer’s Disease. The project will examine how cognitive reserve and brain reserve factors combine with amyloid imaging and cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers to predict cognitive impairment and AD, and will build biomarker models that yield individual risk profiles predicting the time of onset of cognitive impairment and AD.

Congratulations to the Knight ADRC faculty and collaborators who received 2011 Hope Center Pilot Project Awards. The awards fund collaborative efforts and are made possible through funding from the Danforth Foundation Challenge.

- Quantitation of Amyloid-β Peptides in CSF of Alzheimer’s Disease Participants by Immunoprecipitation/Mass Spectrometry (IP/MS) and Solid Phase Extraction/Mass Spectrometry (SPE/MS). Principal investigators: Randall Bateman, MD and Anne Fagan, PhD
- Isolating Cell-Type Specific miRNAs from Mice. Principal investigator: Tim Miller, MD, PhD and co-investigator Joe Dougherty, PhD
- DNAJB6 in Protein Aggregation: Integration of Clinical Material, Mouse Models and Yeast Genetics. Principal investigator: Chris Weihl, MD, PhD and co-investigators Matt Harms, MD and Heather True, PhD

Professor and Participant Honored

The Knight ADRC is proud to share that longtime Memory and Aging research participant Zuleyma Tang-Martinez, PhD, was named one of the top eight Hispanic academics in the nation.

An animal behaviorist and the Founders Professor of Biology at the University of Missouri–St. Louis, Dr. Tang-Martinez earned the distinction from Hispanic Business Magazine, which highlighted her attempts to increase Latino participation in science and in her professional society, the Animal Behavior Society (ABS).

Congratulations are extended to Dr. Tang-Martinez for her well-deserved honor!
Awards and Honors

Randall Bateman, MD, was honored with the 2011 Alzheimer Research Forum Open Innovation Award. AlzForum said of Bateman and his work with the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer’s Network (DIAN): “you are pioneering what a growing number of scientists believe is a critically important project for the future of AD clinical trials. You do that despite having to tackle ethical, legal, logistic, funding and scientific challenges all at once, not to mention having to forge a public-private partnership around a goal that pushes beyond the boundaries of pre-competitive space. All along the way, you have openly shared information with the worldwide research community and other stakeholders via AlzForum. In every way, your work on DIAN embodies what we are trying to reward.” Additionally, Bateman was selected for membership for in the American Society for Clinical Investigation Council, and was also awarded the prestigious 2012 MetLife Promising Investigator Award. The award provides a $100,000 institutional prize in recognition of Dr. Bateman’s work in Alzheimer’s Disease, and will be presented in New York City in May.

Congratulations to Chris Carpenter, MD, MSc, FACEP, FAAEM, who received the WUSM 2012 Distinguished Educator House Staff Teaching Award. Dr. Carpenter is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine and the Director of Evidence Based Medicine at Washington University. Dr. Carpenter has most recently been researching the effectiveness of various clinical strategies for dementia care. Carpenter was also named Associate Editor of the Journal ACP Journal Club.

Congratulations to David B. Carr, MD; David Clifford, MD; John C. Morris, MD; and Gene Rubin, MD, PhD who were named to the 2011 Best Doctors In America list. Best Doctors in America uses peer-to-peer surveys to identify specialists considered by fellow physicians to be the most skilled in their fields and most qualified for reviewing and treating complex medical conditions.

David Holtzman, MD received a 2011 Alzheimer Research Forum Extra Mile Award. Of special note: having received an AlzForum award in 2002, Dr. Holtzman is the only statistician to win twice. The editors of AlzForum felt strongly about the award given the extensive amount of time, effort, and expertise Dr. Holtzman contributes to the forum, despite his busy schedule.

David Holtzman, MD; David Carr, MD; B. Joy Snider, MD, PhD; and John C. Morris, MD were all recognized by WUSM for FY11 Patient Satisfaction scores which ranked them in the top 10% of medical school faculty. The satisfaction survey polled patients on 5 key areas including: the caring and respect shown by your physician; the ability to communicate clearly about your condition; how well your physician explained your tests, procedures, and medications; the effort to include you in decisions about treatment; and how well concerns were addressed.

John C. Morris, MD was appointed to the Alliance for Aging Research Science Advisory Board. The Alliance’s Science Advisors are actively engaged in understanding the aging process, age-related disease, and the implications of an aging society. They offer the not-for-profit Alliance scientific insight, guidance, and expertise, and ensure that the organization’s public education and policy development efforts continue to meet the highest standards.

Catherine Roe, PhD and Nigel Cairns, FRCPath, PhD were selected to serve on the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center (NACC) Steering Committee’s Scientific Review Committee. Chengjie Xiong, PhD is phasing off the committee and was commended for his hard work and dedication.

Martha Storandt, PhD, Professor of Psychology and Neurology, received a Washington University Alumni Association Distinguished Faculty Award November 5th at the annual Founders’ Day dinner.

Allyson Zazulia, MD, Associate Professor of Neurology and member of the HASD Project 1 investigative team, was honored with the Class of 2013 Second-year Distinguished Service Teaching Award. Joel Price, MD, Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology, was honored with the Class of 2014 First-year Distinguished Service Teaching Award.

Volunteers Needed for Research Studies

Do you know someone who might like to volunteer for a research project on cognitive aging?

The Memory & Aging Project of the Knight ADRC enrolls persons aged 65+, both those with mild memory problems and those who are cognitively healthy.

If you know of a potential volunteer, please ask that person to call the ADRC at 314-286-2683. Thank you!
New Team Members

Rachel Chasse, BA – Psychometrician and Clinical Core. Rachel is a 2011 graduate of Baylor University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and experience in social psychology as a study coordinator and lab manager.

Nan Moore – Accounting/Purchasing Assistant I. Nan spent 21 years in the IT field before transitioning careers and spending 10+ years in administration and accounting.

Renate Reimers, MD – Clinical Research Specialist. Dr. Reimers will serve as clinician conducting MAP participant research interviews. Dr. Reimers graduated with a Doctor of Medicine Degree from the University of Dusseldorf, Germany and is licensed and board certified in Internal Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine in Germany.

Yvette Rockett, CNA – MDC Research Patient Coordinator - Yvette has 25 years of experience at BJH with registration and assisting with patients in the Surgical Care Center (Surgery, Trauma and Wound).

Linda Schimmoeller, RN, BSN, CCCRC – Research Nurse Coordinator, HASD Project 1. Linda’s extensive experience includes research coordination for several projects at WUSM, plus experience in radiology, cardiovascular, ICU, and acute medicine.

Suzanne Schindler, MD, PhD – Knight ADRC Fellow. Dr. Schindler will split her time between the Memory and Aging Project and conducting basic research in Dr. Marc Diamond’s laboratory. Future aspirations including becoming an academic biomedical researcher - combining patient care and basic research to develop mechanism-based therapies for neurological diseases.

Julia Siebert, RN, BSN – 2012 Ruth and Sam Hacker Graduate Nursing Research Fellowship in Aging. Julia is a graduate nursing student at the Goldfarb School of Nursing working toward her master’s degree in nursing.

Christy Stewart, MBA – Grants/ Budget Specialist. Christy previously worked in the areas of marketing research, medical publishing and continuing education, and sales before joining the Knight ADRC.

Cassandra Ward, MSN, CWS, ANP-C – Nurse Practitioner, Memory Diagnostic Center. Cassie brings 7+ years of experience with Acute Care Surgery/Trauma, and in the outpatient Wound Center at Barnes.

Fond Farewells

Cherese Fisher, MDC Research Patient Coordinator
Sue McCann, Accounting Assistant
Mary Weis, Knight ADRC and Friedman Center for Aging Administrator

Faculty and Staff Updates

Congratulations are extended to:

David Brody, MD, PhD, who was recognized with a Distinguished Junior Investigator Award in February. The prestigious award recognizes excellence in translational research as a young investigator.

David Carr, MD upon promotion to Professor of Medicine.

Jason Hassenstab, PhD upon promotion to Assistant Professor and the funding of his K-23 Award “Neural Response to Insulin Resistance Treatment in February 2012.”

Raphael Kopan, PhD upon being named the Wolff Professor of Developmental Biology.

Erik Musiek, MD, PhD, Knight ADRC Fellow, upon passing the Neurology boards.

B. Joy Snider, MD, PhD upon her recent United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties Certification in Geriatric Neurology.

Chengjie Xiong, PhD, upon receiving tenure in September, 2011.

The Knight ADRC hosted the 6th Annual Norman R. Seay Lecture in October.

Patrick A. Griffith, M.D., FAAN, Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief of the Division of Neurology, Morehouse School of Medicine, Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief of the Division of Neurology, Morehouse School of Medicine, provided the keynote presentation, “Are African Americans Part of the Alzheimer’s Disease Story”? Pictured from left to right: Griffith; Ida Goodwin Woolfolk, Chair of the Knight ADRC African-American Advisory Board (AAAB); AAAB Founding Chairman and civil rights leader Norman R. Seay; and John C. Morris, MD.
**Upcoming Events**

*Monday, April 30, 2012:*

**John Morris, MD** will present the Annual Friedman Lecture: “The Aging Mind: Realities and Myths.” 3 pm: Lecture, Graham Chapel, Washington University Danforth Campus, 5 pm: Reception, Washington University Danforth University Center. The lecture is sponsored by the Harvey A. Friedman Center for Aging.

*Tuesday, May 29, 2012:*

**John C. Morris, MD** will present the annual State of the Knight ADRC address at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in Connor Auditorium in the Farrell Learning and Teaching Center on the campus of Washington University School of Medicine. Everyone is welcome to attend and hear the latest news and updates from the Knight ADRC. We hope you will make plans to join us.

*Friday, September 28, 2012:*

**The 8th Leonard Berg Symposium** will be held from 7:30am to 5:00pm at the Eric P. Newman Education Center on the Campus of Washington University School of Medicine. The Symposium, “Prevention of Alzheimer’s Disease: Current Considerations,” features a field of international experts and qualifies for 7.75 hours of CME credit.

The event is free for members of the Washington University community, $40 for community guests, and $100 for any attendee who would like CMEs. A full schedule of events, including speakers, topics, and instructions on submitting abstracts for the poster session can be accessed at: [http://alzheimer.wustl.edu/education/berg/berg2012/](http://alzheimer.wustl.edu/education/berg/berg2012/)

**World Premiere of “A Life Unhappening”**

The Alzheimer’s Association and producer Adam E. Stone invite you to the world premiere of “A Life Unhappening,” on Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m., at the Touhill Performing Arts Center. This unique performance is a spoken-word ballet exploring the impact of Alzheimer’s disease on three generations of a family, while blending the beauty of the arts with the urgency of a critical public health crisis.

The performance is choreographed to an audio track, in which the narrative unfolds presenting an artist’s stunning perspective on the effects of Alzheimer’s disease. The performance features the voices of Grammy Award-winning musician and actress, Thirza Defoe and novelist, playwright and filmmaker, Diane Glancy. Lighting design is orchestrated by technical editor of “Lighting & Sound America” and “Lighting & Sound International,” Richard Cadena.

A wine and cheese reception will be held prior to the performance at 6:30 p.m. General admission is $27 and senior/student tickets are $25. There will be a short intermission after the performance, followed by a panel discussion with the writer, choreographer, lighting designer, dancers and a representative from the Alzheimer’s Association. For more information and tickets, visit [www.alz.org/stl](http://www.alz.org/stl).
HORIZONS is the newsletter of the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (Knight ADRC) — a research program in the Department of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine, funded by grants from the National Institute on Aging and private donations. The ADRC supports and promotes interdisciplinary research on Alzheimer’s Disease. The Memory & Aging Project (MAP) — the clinical research office of the ADRC — provides expert clinical assessments of cognitive functioning in normal aging and dementia.

John C. Morris, MD, Director, ADRC; Director, MAP; Administration Core and Clinical Core Leader; Education Core/Rural Satellite Interim Leader

Alison Goate, DPhil, Associate Director, ADRC; Genetics Core Leader

Eugene M. Johnson, PhD, Associate Director, ADRC

David M. Holtzman, MD, Associate Director, ADRC

Virginia Buckles, PhD, Executive Director, ADRC

Krista Moulder, PhD, Associate Executive Director, ADRC

Martha Storandt, PhD, Psychometric Leader

Nigel J. Cairns, PhD, FRCPath, Neuropathology Core Leader

Tammie Benzinger, MD, PhD, Imaging Core Leader

Chengjie Xiong, PhD, Data Management and Biostatistics Core Leader

Monique Williams, MD, MSCI, African American Satellite Leader

Anne Fagan, PhD, Biomarker Core Leader