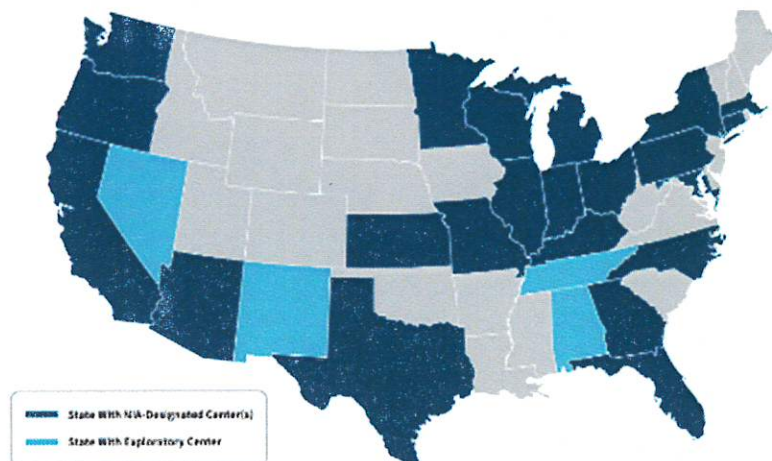


Alzheimer's Research Center Designation for South Carolina

- ▶ According to CDC data, **South Carolina has the 11th highest death rate as a result of Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias (ADRD)**, such as Parkinson's dementia, in the nation. **There are 111,818 South Carolinians currently recognized in the South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Registry. According to the Alzheimer's Association 2022 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, South Carolina is projected to reach 120,000 living with Alzheimer's disease by 2025. (Due to under-reporting, the number of South Carolinians suffering from AD may be closer to 150,000 now and will increase to 180,000 in three years.)**
- ▶ In the most recent figures available, SC is 3rd third largest neurology desert in the nation, facing a massive projected shortage of neurologists by 2025 for our dementia population. SC also has a high need for geriatricians, but only 66 are currently practicing in the state. To meet demand, an increase of 334% would be necessary.
- ▶ **The National Institute on Aging (NIA) funds 33 Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRCs) at major medical institutions across the United States.** This funding supports research focused on identifying new treatments or way to prevent Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia. Researchers also work to improve diagnosis and care for impacted patients. The nearest NIA ADRCs are in GA, NC, FL with pilot centers in TN and AL. There are none in SC.
- ▶ **Successful recent ADRC awards were funded to collaborative institutions rather than to an individual institution** (e.g. UNC, Chapel Hill and Duke University in NC).
- ▶ **NIA ADRCs give national recognition to states and facilitate recruitment of top talent (dementia care physicians and researchers), healthcare entities, and industry.** ADRCs also provide community outreach and education, and importantly greater access to innovative clinical trials in treatment for dementia, prevention, caregiver health and wellbeing, and more.
- ▶ The next NIA ADRC application cycle has begun in January 2023 with one application deadline per year for 3 consecutive years. New and renewal ADRC applications will compete for funding each year.
- ▶ **A South Carolina Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), awarded the NIA designation, if awarded in the 2023-2025 application cycle, would partner multiple SC institutions (Clemson, MUSC, and USC) and serve as a physical and virtual hub of clinicians, clinician-scientists, and scientists who are experts in fighting Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by collaborating on research projects, evaluating and providing continuous quality improvement for programs health care providers training and education and researchers, and providing clinical research locally for participation of South Carolinians to improve the lives of hundreds of thousands of people affected by this disease.**
- ▶ **South Carolina has 3 opportunities to apply for the ADRC application, beginning in June 2023, as the application cycle will go dormant after 2025 for two years before another cycle starts.** Applications that are not chosen for funding are provided comments from the NIH review panel on how to strengthen their application for the next year.
- ▶ **University of South Carolina, MUSC, and Clemson University have agreed to partner through this process to bring an ADRC designation to our state.**



- There are **required cores** for an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) designation from the National Institute of Aging (NIA). Of those required cores, no single entity has the expertise in all areas for a strong application. As such, having a ***multi-institutional application*** gives South Carolina the strongest application possible. Each entity engaged in the ADRC application has agreed to house the cores listed below in their institutions.:

Required Cores	University of SC	Medical University of SC	Clemson University
<i>Neuropathology</i>		✓	✓
<i>Cellular and Molecular Biomarker</i>		✓	
<i>Digital/Imaging Biomarker</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Researcher Education</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Clinical Core</i>	✓	✓	✓
<i>Administration Core</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Data Management and Stats</i>	✓	✓	
<i>Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement</i>	✓	✓	✓

- Each Core Component requires a highly recognized researcher or practitioner on to serve "Core Lead". This "core lead" is responsible for overseeing the work of their specialized core, communication between multi-institutional cores, and the grant applications and work under the ADRC designation, along with reporting to NIA. For just the application process, 2.5 months of "person's time" is required for each "Core Lead".
- For this intensive application work, which includes co-publishing research, hosting collaborative research forums, and funding the work of 19 core leads, we are asking for \$10 million to fund the work of the 2023-2024 application process for the ADRC NIA designation. We are asking this funding be decentralized and placed in the Department of Health and Human Services for each school to draw down an equal amount through 2023-2024.