

# KU Alzheimer's Disease Center

Uncovering the cause. Discovering a cure.

The KU Alzheimer's Disease Center at the University of Kansas Medical Center is **one of 29 centers** nationally to be designated and funded by the National Institute on Aging, and is the only center of its kind in Kansas and Kansas City.

Led by Dr. Russell Swerdlow and Dr. Jeffrey Burns, two leading scientists in their field, KU's Alzheimer's program has long been at the forefront of discovery and has achieved significant success in understanding and treating the disease.

The researchers are aware of the challenges of the task at hand: Alzheimer's disease is the **sixth leading cause of death in the United States**, and one in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia.

Headquartered at the KU Clinical Research Center in Fairway, Kan., the center offers patients and families who are affected by Alzheimer's disease help with obtaining a diagnosis, opportunities to participate in drug trials, support groups, clinical research projects, information and resources about the disease, and other special programs.

## Why KU is a national leader

Each of the 29 National Institute on Aging centers of excellence plays a key role in advancing our understanding of the disease and has its own specialty. At KU, **scientists focus on the role diet and exercise can play** in preventing the disease, and how metabolism and energy can affect brain cells.

KU scientists already have a strong body of work in this field, receiving international attention for studies that found links between body weight and Alzheimer's, and that demonstrated how a high level of cardiovascular fitness was associated with less brain loss in early Alzheimer's patients.

A focus on prevention is important, because even if researchers were able to delay the onset of the disease by five years, it would cut the prevalence of the disease in half.

**29**

Number of National Institute on Aging designated and funded Alzheimer's Disease Centers in the U.S.

**12.5%**

People over age 65 who have Alzheimer's disease

**50%**

People over age 85 who have Alzheimer's disease

**5M+**

Americans living with Alzheimer's disease

**39**

Different researchers supported by the KU Alzheimer's Disease Center who are working on new approaches to fighting the disease

