

Do you have the “NACC” to help science?



NACC (pronounced “nack”) refers to the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center, the major brain-aging research program sponsored by the National Institute on Aging (NIA).

NACC collects and compiles on-going individual data on cognition, physiology, family history, and neuropathology from volunteer participants at each of the 29 NIA-funded Alzheimer’s Disease Centers (ADCs) across the US.

The Penn Memory Center, a NIA-designated ADC since 1991 and the only such center in our tri-state area, has contributed data on participating patients and normal controls to NAAC Since its inception in 1999.

NACC data is used by scientists across the nation and the world. It is an invaluable resource for research into Alzheimer’s disease, mild cognitive impairment, and life-long brain health.

See more at
<http://www.alz.washington.edu/>



You could join the largest and most comprehensive research effort in the US aimed at better understanding Alzheimer’s disease, Mild Cognitive Impairment, and healthy brain aging — and ultimately, at achieving a healthier future for all.

Participants in the NACC research protocol at the Penn Memory Center receive the most comprehensive evaluation and ongoing study possible of their memory, thinking, and physiology.

- NACC participation may be offered to individuals with normal memory and thinking, or those who have been formally diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), or mild to moderate Alzheimer’s disease, and who have a spouse, child, friend, or other associate who knows them well, sees them regularly, and can provide back-up information to our research staff about the participant’s functioning. This person is known as an informant.
- A NACC research appointment is held once per year. It runs approximately 2 hours. The visit includes extensive cognitive testing, blood samples, a basic neurological exam, interviews about participant functioning, and input from the informant. You will be reimbursed \$20 for time and travel.

There is no charge to the participant or his or her insurance provider for any aspect of NACC activity.

- Data gathered from imaging studies, like MRI or PET scans, and other biomarker collection (studies of cerebrospinal fluid, etc.) are also important parts of NACC research. Persons participating in NACC must be willing to take part in one or more of these types of studies from time to time.
- And because brain tissue from individuals who have been thoroughly studied in life, like NACC participants, is so vital to science, NACC participants agree to consider that, upon their death, their contribution to this research will continue, through their gift of brain donation.

If you are eligible, the NACC research program will be explained to you at your diagnostic follow up visit.

To learn more, contact Ivy Mesa at the Penn Memory Center at 215-614-1829 or ivy.mesa@uphs.upenn.edu.