

Subject:

New research grants will bring much needed advancements in Alzheimer's disease

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Fall 2021



Alzheimer's Disease Research Gets \$56M NIH Infusion to Expand Aging-Brain Research

The National Institutes of Health grant will launch the 27-year-old Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) study into a new realm of investigation: discovering more effective prevention, treatments and ways to increase diversity and participation. Two of the six research cores will be led by UW Medicine's **Christine Mac Donald, PhD**, vice chair of neurological surgery, and **Dirk Keene, MD, PhD**, pathologist at Harborview Medical Center. **Thomas Grabowski, MD**, director of the UW Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the UW Medicine Memory and Brain Wellness Center, and **Jessica Young, PhD**, assistant professor of pathology, are investigators. Co-principal investigators are **Paul Crane, MD, MPH**, UW Medicine; **Eric Larson, MD, MPH**, Kaiser Permanente Washington Health Research Institute and clinical professor at UW School of Public Health; and **Andrea LaCroix, PhD, MPH**, University of California San Diego.

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Concussions and Adolescents: New Study Funded By \$10M NIH Grant

For adolescents who experience concussions, the risk of post-concussive symptoms is high. A new five-year study, to be led by UW Medicine's **Christine Mac Donald, PhD**, will evaluate 1,300 children ages 11 to 17 to discern whether biomarkers can help predict which children are more at risk of persistent post-concussion symptoms. The grant recipient is Four Corners Youth Consortium, a group of organizations that includes UW Medicine, Seattle Children's Hospital, University of California Los Angeles and Children's National Hospital.

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Researchers to Study the Mechanisms of Sex Differences in Risk of Developing Alzheimer's Disease with \$6M NIH Grant

Three researchers from the University of Washington Institute for Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine (ISCRM): **Jessica Young, PhD**, **Suman Jayadev, MD**, and **Christine Disteche, PhD**, and their labs will be used in this five-year trial. The Disteche Lab will generate unique hiPSC lines; the Young Lab will derive neurons, glia and brain organoids; and the Jayadev lab will define the molecular pathways that contribute to sex differences in Alzheimer's disease.

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IN THE NEWS

- [David Pitkethly, MD](#), becomes 66th President of the Western Neurosurgical Society.
- [Richard G. Ellenbogen, MD](#), receives Cloward Award from the Western Neurosurgical Society.
- [Sidney M. Gospe Jr. MD, PhD](#), honored for his 2021 Roger and Mary Brumback Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award from the Child Neurology Society.
- [Catherine Amlic-Lefond, MD](#), honored with the Sidney Carter Award in Child Neurology by the American Academy of Neurology.
- University of Washington is ranked #9 among pediatric hospitals in Doximity Residency Navigator of Child Neurology residency programs.

Welcome to UW Medicine's Memory & Brain Wellness Center

The UW Medicine Memory & Brain Wellness Center promotes the well-being of those living with memory loss and their families. Our team of neurologists provide exceptional patient care and focus on advancing scientific understanding in Alzheimer's disease research.

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