# Clinical Drug Trial #2

**Type of Project:** Multi-center Clinical Drug Trial  
**Methods:** Neurological and Neuropsychological Testing  
**Status:** Funding secured from Merck Pharmaceuticals  
**Study Period:** November 1, 2006 – October 30, 2007  
**In Collaboration With:** Merck  
**University of Utah Collaborative Units:** Department of Neurology  
**Investigators:** Edward Zamrini, M.D. (Site Principal Investigator), James A. Levy, Ph.D., Rebecca Mesley, B.S.

## Project Summary:
This is a phase III, multinational, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical trial to determine the efficacy of a new drug (MK-0249) for treating Alzheimer’s disease. Drug or placebo will be given to patients with mild dementia due to probable Alzheimer’s disease. Drugs called cholinesterase inhibitors (Aricept®) and NMDA receptor antagonists (Namenda®) are currently used to treat the memory problems associated with Alzheimer’s disease. A new class of drug, called an H3 receptor antagonist (MK-0249), is being studied in this trial. This drug works on a different receptor in the brain and may help memory problems by regulating chemicals that control thinking and reasoning.

## Potential Benefits:
This study could identify a new treatment for Alzheimer’s disease. It would have the advantage over current treatments by slowing the progression of memory loss and other symptoms. This drug is a member of a new class of drugs that may rapidly improved the symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease, but does so through a different method than currently FDA approved drugs.