

The Alzheimer's Center uses advanced imaging techniques such as positron emission tomography (PET) to better understand the mechanisms that cause different forms of Alzheimer's and to reveal how specific changes in the brain correlate with changes in behavior. The Center also studies and provides access to promising new therapies for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

By implementing research successes in its Cognitive Disorders Clinic, the Center hopes to develop new and innovative approaches to dementia care that will immediately benefit the community.



At the Center's sub-specialty Cognitive Disorders Clinic, patients and their families have access to dementia expert neurologists and neuropsychologists, a health educator, a specialist social worker, the latest technology, and the Memory Loss and Caregiving Resource Center. The Clinic collaborates with primary care physicians to provide definitive diagnosis and personalized management.

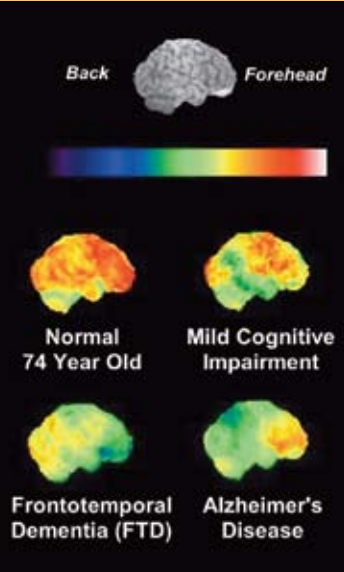
Patients must be referred to the Clinic by their primary care physician. For appointments, patient care inquiries and treatment advice, please contact the Clinic at the number below.



Center for Alzheimer's Care,
Imaging and Research

Imaging the Brain

These positron emission tomography (PET) images illustrate how different diseases affect the brain. The images show energy use in the brain on a color scale, shown at top. The "hot" colors at the right of the scale reflect the highest activity, while green and blue show low levels of activity. *Photo credit: Norman L. Foster, MD*



Contacting the Clinic

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Department of Neurology
School of Medicine



The Premier Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource in the Intermountain West



The University of Utah
Center for Alzheimer's Care, Imaging & Research

Meet Our Faculty Members

Established in 2005 through a generous gift from a private donor, the Center for Alzheimer's Care, Imaging and Research (CACIR) provides training to University of Utah students and local health professionals, building the next generation of dementia specialists.

By developing and implementing a revolutionary care model that combines cutting-edge research, diagnostic imaging and the latest treatment innovations, the Alzheimer's Center hopes to improve region-wide standards of dementia care.

Early Detection *is the* Key

The Center hopes to raise public awareness about the symptoms of Alzheimer's and related dementias. If dementia is recognized and treated in its early stages, available treatments are much more effective.

Better Care *through* Education

In partnership with the Utah Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, the Center's Health Educator can help patients and caregivers understand their diagnosis, plan everyday coping strategies, and suggest community resources. Adjacent to the Cognitive Disorders Clinic, the Center's new Memory Loss and Caregiving Resource Center is stocked with educational materials and a computer for online research.



Norman L. Foster, MD

Professor, Department of Neurology
Director, CACIR
Senior Investigator, The Brain Institute

Dr. Foster is Director of CACIR, which he founded in 2005. Before moving to Utah, he was Associate Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at the University of Michigan, where he first joined the Department of Neurology in 1984 and later established the first dementia clinic in the state of Michigan.

He has studied dementing and neurodegenerative diseases for over 25 years. His research has focused primarily on clinical drug trials and brain imaging, particularly the study of dementia's clinical features and pathophysiology using PET.



Edward Zamrini, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Neurology
Director of Clinical Trials, CACIR
Member, The Brain Institute

Dr. Zamrini joined CACIR as Director of Clinical Trials in early 2006. Dr. Zamrini will lead the way in testing promising new treatments for Alzheimer's disease.

He came to Utah from the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he was Director of the Clinical and Information Transfer Cores of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. While there, he worked on over 40 clinical trials, each exploring new therapies for Alzheimer's administered during various stages of the disease.



James A. Levy, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology
Neuropsychologist, CACIR
Member, The Brain Institute

Dr. Levy joined CACIR in 2006. He came to Utah from the National Institute of Mental Health in Maryland, where he supervised neuropsychological services for the intramural Branch of Geriatric Psychiatry and gained a diverse background in rehabilitation medicine, neuropsychology, cognitive psychology, and cognitive neuroscience.

His research seeks to explain how attention and executive functions affect learning. His broad experience makes him well-suited to transfer research into real-world programs.



Gordon J. Chelune, PhD

Professor, Department of Neurology
Senior Neuropsychologist, CACIR
Member, The Brain Institute

Dr. Chelune joined CACIR in 2006 as Senior Neuropsychologist. He was recruited from the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where he founded the Section on Neuropsychology and was Director of Neuropsychological Services at the Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis Treatment and Research.

For over 25 years, he has focused on refining ways to detect subtle cognitive difficulties associated with neurological illness, including pioneering methods for assessing cognitive changes after surgery, anesthesia and drug interventions.