You may be eligible to participate in the annual evaluation program if you:

- Have a diagnosis of early stage Alzheimer's disease, Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), or are 80 or older and experiencing no significant memory problems
- Have a spouse, close friend, or relative whom you would allow to provide observations about your memory and act as a study partner
- Are fluent in English or Spanish

All potential participants must be pre-screened to assess eligibility. Participation requires two visits a year to our center for a total of a one and a half day commitment per year.

Clinical trial participation requirements vary. You may be able to enroll in a given clinical trial if you meet the eligibility criteria for that particular study.

**For further information, contact us:**

UCSD Shiley-Marcos ADRC
9500 Gilman Drive (0948)
La Jolla, CA 92093-0948
Phone: (858) 622-5800
Fax: (858) 622-1012
Website: http://adrc.ucsd.edu
The UCSD Shiley-Marcos Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (ADRC) began in 1984 as one of the original five of the now thirty federally funded Alzheimer’s Disease Centers. In collaboration with a number of national and international groups, the Shiley-Marcos ADRC conducts a wide variety of research dedicated to understanding the causes, clinical features, and treatments for Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Our goal is to discover ways to prevent, treat, and ultimately eradicate the disease.

The Annual Evaluation
The UCSD Shiley-Marcos ADRC annually follows approximately 350 seniors; 250 with AD or suspected dementia, and 100 age-matched participants with no memory problems. All receive thorough neurological, physical, behavioral, and neuropsychological assessments each year. Consultation with our social workers is available as needed. The yearly evaluation is completely free of charge.

Clinical Drug Trials
In October of 1991, the National Institute of Aging created the Alzheimer’s Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS), under the leadership of our former director, Dr. Leon Thal. The ADCS coordinates clinical trials across the nation to test new medications designed to improve thinking skills and daily functioning, slow the rate of decline, or delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease. The UCSD Shiley-Marcos ADRC is one of 35 nationwide university medical centers designated to carry out these clinical trials. As such, our research participants may be among the first to benefit from potentially promising new treatments.

Hispanic Outreach
Scientific interest about the incidence of disease and response to treatment in different cultural groups prompted our center to establish a Hispanic research program. This program provides annual evaluations to 100 Hispanic participants, half with dementia, and half without memory problems. The complete ADRC assessment can be performed in either English or Spanish by a bilingual and bicultural staff.

Programs to Enhance Quality of Life
We offer a variety of programs that provide meaningful activity and support for people with memory loss and their families.

Memory in Aging Project (MAP)
Focuses on memory change characteristic of Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI), change greater than expected for age, but not so great as to be a clear indicator of illness.

Diagnostics
Our investigators are working to develop better methods for accurate and early diagnosis of AD and related dementias.

Normal Aging Study
Our investigators are seeking to better understand the transition from normal aging to AD by identifying healthy older adults and those who may be at high risk for developing AD.

Imaging Research
Our investigators are using techniques such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), functional MRI (fMRI), and positron emission tomography (PET), to identify early changes in the brain associated with memory loss and track the progress of the disease.

Neuropsychological Research
Our investigators study changes in memory, language, attention, concentration, and other brain functions that are caused by AD.

Autopsy Program
Research participants who give prior consent to brain autopsy at the time of death provide an invaluable contribution to our understanding of the diagnosis, effects, and possible causes of AD and related dementias.

RESEARCH AND SPECIAL PROJECTS
Shiley-Marcos ADRC participants may choose to volunteer in other areas of research pursued by our team, including:

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