



Summer 2020 Edition

## Clinician Partner Newsletter

### Updates for our collaborators

This newsletter serves to provide you with information about our programs, recent medical research field news and services our centers can offer to you, your patients and families.

For more information contact:

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### Adapting to Coronavirus and Re-opening Research Operations:

The Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center ([MADRC](#)) and affiliated groups have continued their important work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our study sites quickly adapted and utilized technology to move forward with virtual remote research participant visits and data collection. Clinical teams at the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital continued to perform both virtual and in-person patient visits during this unprecedented time. We are very proud of our staff, many of whom were temporarily re-assigned to support inpatient COVID-19 medical services.

As Massachusetts entered Phase Three of Reopening in July, some MADRC-affiliated research groups resumed in-person visits, on a limited basis, while some continue virtual visits.

The Brigham & Women's Hospital Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment ([CART](#)) resumed on site visits in July on a limited basis. Staff are eager to welcome back participants and study partners of ongoing clinical trials and are taking precautions to keep everyone safe, including: wearing masks; limiting the number and duration of exposures; screening staff and participants and study partners for COVID-19 symptoms 24-72 hours prior to visits; and sanitizing exam and testing rooms before and after every visit. For a list of other precautions being taken at CART click [here](#).

### Research Participation Opportunities

MADRC-affiliated research sites continue to actively pre-screen for studies in anticipation of bringing in participants for new studies later this summer and fall. We have several studies available for older adults with preclinical Alzheimer's disease, mild cognitive impairment and mild Alzheimer's disease dementia:

[The AHEAD Study](#) which seeks cognitively normal adults ages 55-80 who may be at increased risk of memory loss associated with Alzheimer's disease, will begin enrolling soon at the BWH Center for Alzheimer Research and Treatment. This is the first Alzheimer's disease prevention trial to enroll people as young as 55 years old.

For individuals who cannot or do not want to come into the research clinic but are interested in participating in studies, there are two studies that can be done from home:

[APT Webstudy](#)

[COVID- 19 Study](#)

For more information on these studies contact Allyson Pulsoni: [apulsoni@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:apulsoni@bwh.harvard.edu)

### **Alzheimer's Association International Conference**

The virtual Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) held recently brought together thousands of researchers from across the globe to share their findings. We are proud of the many MADRC-affiliated staff who presented study results and updates that will help advance Alzheimer's disease and related dementia research!

A list of presentations made by MADRC team members\* at AAIC (\*in red) can be found here:

<https://bit.ly/MADRCAAIC>

### **Rapid Diagnostic Clinic**

A unique program located at CART in collaboration with the Center for Brain/Mind Medicine ([CBMM](#)) offers a one-time clinical visit for diagnostic support and access to research opportunities. This is in addition to the standard resources offered at our center. The second opinion, one-time visit is billable to insurance and conducted in our rapid diagnostic clinic setting. A highly trained physician assistant and a behavioral neurologist will work with you, your patient and their family to provide this diagnostic support. For more information or to make a referral: [BWHBehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:BWHBehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu)

### **E-Consulting Resources**

We work alongside our clinical collaborators in the community. We have an e-consulting service staffed by our behavioral neurologists who are available to answer questions about medication management, behavior management, access to caregiver support, research opportunities and any unique questions you need answers to. If you are within the Mass General Brigham system, a referral can be placed on Epic. Otherwise, please contact us at [BWHBehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:BWHBehavioralNeurology@bwh.harvard.edu)

### **Stay on Top of MADRC research news!**

You can help advance clinical research by helping to spread the word about MADRC research opportunities and updates! Learn more about the work taking place at MADRC sites by viewing our annual newsletter [here](#).

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest updates from our expert staff!

**If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us:** (857) 307-0708 or [BWHMADRCeducation@partners.org](mailto:BWHMADRCeducation@partners.org)