

Preventing Alzheimer's Disease Before it Develops



Barbara B Bendlin
Associate Professor of Medicine

CURRENT RESEARCH

Using novel neuroimaging techniques to promote healthy aging and prevent memory loss

As we age, our risk for developing certain diseases increases. This is especially true of Alzheimer's disease (AD), a complicated age-related illness that results in dementia (memory loss) and altered mood. Researchers are beginning to understand that brain changes associated with AD begin long before a dementia diagnosis, including a loss of irreplaceable brain cells. Though current medications may alleviate some symptoms, they fall short of slowing the progression of AD. Dr. Barbara B. Bendlin, Associate Professor of Medicine at University of Wisconsin-Madison, is interested in understanding the preclinical (early) stages of AD in order to eradicate dementia and develop strategies that individuals can use to promote healthy brain aging.

Dr. Bendlin is looking to uncover potential mechanisms that could lead to treatment by identifying people at risk, detecting early brain changes, and recognizing modifiable factors that contribute to healthy or pathological aging. Her cross-disciplinary team comprises students from University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Neuroscience Training Program, Neuroscience and Public Policy Program, Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD program), undergraduate students aspiring to be scientists and physicians, study coordinators, and postdoctoral fellows. She and her team collaborate extensively with investigators in medical physics, radiology, medicine, sleep research, psychiatry, bacteriology, chemistry, and nursing. In addition, she works with international investigators, including at University College London and the University of Gothenburg.

Current research interests:

- Understanding Development - Dr. Bendlin and her team work with volunteers...

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AFFILIATION



University of Wisconsin-Madison

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2006, University of Arizona Tucson
- Postdoctoral fellow 2008, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Assistant Scientist 2010

RESEARCH AREAS

Life Science, Immunology / Inflammatory, Metabolic / Diabetes, Neurological / Cognitive

FUNDING REQUEST

Your contribution will support Dr. Bendlin's continued research on understanding and preventing Alzheimer's disease. Funds will support novel tests, which cost \$2-\$5K/per participant. Brain imaging costs \$1.5M/year. To conduct these tests long-term on all 2,000 participants of interest, laboratory and personnel costs total \$4M/year. Concrete answers are expected in 5-8 years for identifying the most potent risk factors and targets for prevention. Support the eradication of dementia; fund Dr. Bendlin.

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