



## Medical Education and Research Grant Outcome Report

**Name:** Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute

**Principal Investigator:** Mark A. Sager, MD

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**Department:** Medicine

**Program:** Targeted

**Grant Duration:** 12-01-2004 to 11-30-2009 (60 months)

**Expenditures:** \$375,000 (100%)

**Use of Funds (Taxonomy):** Type 2 Translational Research

**Research Keywords:** Alzheimer's disease, early diagnosis, treatment, community engagement

► **Description:** The goal of this project was to develop systems to promote early recognition and treatment of people with Alzheimer's Disease. This initiative included treatment for those currently living with the disease and their families, as well as an emphasis on prevention, research, and educational efforts.

► **Contributions/Results:** This program has resulted in the creation of a nationally recognized statewide program. It has been highly successful in bringing research to practice, building health infrastructure, providing tangible benefits to Wisconsin families, and achieving sustainability.

The Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute (WAI) created a network of 33 rural and urban clinics around the state that serve more than 3,500 new cases of dementia each year. Personnel at these clinics train semiannually at the UW Memory Assessment Clinic to learn best practices in treating Alzheimer's. Using funds from the WPP and the state, WAI also has tested and implemented cognitive screening around the state. This has allowed people to gain treatment earlier and prevent the onset of dementia, ensuring better quality of life and reducing health care costs. The rate of undiagnosed impairment suggests that primary care system currently is doing an inadequate job of diagnosing dementia early.

The investigators also have developed an eight-week summer externship for students interested in treating dementia. Students visit centers around the state to gain experience in the diagnosis, treatment, and management of the spectrum of dementia.

► **Met Objectives:** Project complete

► **Timeline for Application of Results:** Less than three years.

► **New Partnerships or Collaborations:** This project mobilized a network of clinics around the state to treat dementing disorders in communities. The investigators are collaborating with health care organizations and minority community groups. The United Community Center in Milwaukee was pivotal to outreach in the Latino community. The grant also resulted in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Services.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** None.

► **Dissemination:** The Latino Dementia Diagnostic Clinic at the UCC was featured in the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, and has been featured in numerous public forums. The cognitive screening portion of the program has been presented to countless audiences in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

► **Additional Funding:** MERC's grant led to a \$750,000 award from Helen-Bader Foundation. All of the projects are sustained by practice income, new grants, or state funds through the regular budget process.