

Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention

2001 - 2021

2001

November 2001

Study staff completes its first WRAP participant visit.

October 2002

WRAP recruits its 100th participant.

2004

WRAP expands recruitment to include a control group, i.e., participants without a parental history of Alzheimer's disease.

2005

Sager publishes first major journal paper about WRAP. This paper reported 452 baseline study visits. Average age of participants was 53 years old, and 45% were APOE4 carriers.

2008

The WAI Regional Milwaukee Office opens, establishing outreach and recruitment opportunities between WRAP and Southeast Wisconsin's African American communities.



2009

First WRAP participant enrolls in the Wisconsin Brain Donor Program.

2013

NIA renews WRAP R01 funding for a total of \$4.3 million over 5 years. Emphasis of research turns to neurobiology of preclinical Alzheimer's disease.

April 2014

Sager retires. In his retirement letter he says, "I have never viewed myself as having a career, only a passion." Johnson is named principal investigator of WRAP.



2016

Generations of WRAP, or the GROW study, launches and follows biological family members of WRAP participants.

2017

Johnson publishes review and current findings of WRAP. This journal paper reported 1,561 baseline study visits, of which 81% of participants remained active in the study and had a average age of 64 years old. The paper also reported that healthy lifestyle factors are associated with better cognition and brain structure, as well as lower Alzheimer's disease-related brain changes.

2020

Using the longitudinal data collected over many years, WRAP scientists discover that PET scan biomarkers of amyloid and tau are strongly associated with cognitive trajectories.

2019

The LIFE study, another NIA-funded linked study to the WRAP registry, examines the role of physical activity and fitness on brain health.

2021

WRAP researchers publish a paper defining and validating the term "cognitively unimpaired – declining" to describe research participants who have normal memory but are at risk for developing mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or Alzheimer's disease. Their research used PET imaging to confirm that slight changes in cognitive test data reflected Alzheimer's disease-related changes happening in the brain.

WRAP Founded

Mark Sager, MD, launches the Wisconsin Registry for Alzheimer's Prevention (WRAP) to study the adult children of people with Alzheimer's disease. Recruitment is open to people between the ages of 40 and 65 who have a parent with Alzheimer's disease.



2003

WRAP participant undergoes the study's first MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scan. This functional imaging study was about brain areas involved in forming new memories. The team continued to study brain function for the next decade, making major discoveries on how the brain learns and remembers.

2005

WRAP opens La Crosse location to expand research into rural Wisconsin.

February 2007

WRAP recruits its 1,000th participant.

2007

National Institute on Aging (NIA) awards Sager R01 grant funding in the amount of \$3.6 million over 5 years to support WRAP.

2008

2009

Sterling Johnson, PhD, launches the PREDICT study. WRAP participants undergo the study's first lumbar puncture and amyloid PET (positron emission tomography) scan, signifying a new era of biomarker research.



2014

The WAI Regional Milwaukee Office introduces the Amazing Grace Chorus®. The community supports people with memory loss and caregivers.

A documentary film team begins following three WRAP participants and filming their experiences as caregivers. Their independent film, *Determined*, debuts in 2020.

2013

A new era of philanthropic funding from individuals and families through the University of Wisconsin Foundation establishes scientist training programs and allows WRAP to pursue new research opportunities.

2015

The UW School of Medicine and Public Health identifies Alzheimer's disease and healthy aging research as top strategic priorities for the university.

2016

First WRAP participant undergoes a tau PET scan in the PREDICT study, further expanding biomarker research in WRAP.



2018

African Americans Fighting Alzheimer's in Mid-life (AA-FAIM) study recruits its first WRAP participants.

NIA awards WRAP more than \$19 million over 5 years for research into identifying early cognitive changes and biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease. The study is analyzing cognitive health and exploring the connections between vascular disease, Alzheimer's disease, and cognition.

WRAP begins international collaboration with five other Alzheimer's disease risk studies. The joint program is called the Preclinical Alzheimer's Consortium, or PAC. Researchers from PAC identify new genes for the disease.

20 YEARS

WRAP
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2021

2021 marks the 20th anniversary of WRAP.

2020

WRAP researchers publish a paper on amyloid chronicity, a measurement that allows researchers to determine how long a person has had elevated levels of amyloid in their brain, and thus estimate the age when amyloid levels first became abnormal.