



# TORONTO DEMENTIA RESEARCH ALLIANCE

*DRIVING PROGRESS IN  
DEMENTIA RESEARCH  
AND CLINICAL CARE*

## ABOUT US

Established in 2012, the Toronto Dementia Research Alliance (TDRA) is a collaborative partnership between the University of Toronto and its affiliated academic hospitals, working together to better understand, prevent, and treat dementia. TDRA advances this mission by:

- Strengthening the link between basic science and clinical research
- Improving outreach and communication with the community
- Embedding research into clinical care
- Increasing the efficiency of collaborative research processes across Toronto
- Engaging in advocacy to improve the lives of those with neurodegenerative diseases

TDRA partners include the University of Toronto, Baycrest, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, and the University Health Network.

## 2020-2025 GROWTH AND NEW DIRECTION

In February 2025 TDRA welcomed its new Executive Director, Dr. Carmela Tartaglia, bringing a renewed focus on tackling both emerging and longstanding challenges in dementia research and care. Under her leadership, TDRA has developed a strategy emphasizing improved diagnosis, access to treatments, healthy aging, and dementia prevention. The TDRA continues to serve as a hub for innovative research, engaging hundreds of scientists across seven sites in over 20 studies, while maintaining infrastructure that accelerates recruitment and streamlines multi-site agreements.



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## LEARN MORE



Website [www.tdra.utoronto.ca](http://www.tdra.utoronto.ca)



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## OUR PARTNERS



# 2025 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS



## Clinical Care

- TDRA Clinical Table continued to focus on improvements to help build a more coherent and responsive dementia care system through the work of three clinical working groups
- Integration of Primary and Specialty Care Pathways, Regional Access to Specialized Dementia Care, and Investigations and Treatments clinical working groups developed work plans to outline practical steps that support better coordination, fair access, and consistent care for people at risk of developing dementia and living with dementia
- Memory Clinic Working Group integrated biomarkers into its embedded research in care to improve diagnosis and prognostication
- Neuropsychology Working Group developed two standard operating procedures: 1) outlining the steps for translation and cultural adaptation of cognitive assessments, and 2) norming and validation requirements for the Toronto Cognitive Assessment (TorCA)
- Long-term care working group created a framework to guide research in long-term care and retirement homes



## Research

- Research study portal supported recruitment across TDRA sites with 105 studies listed since 2021, 63 active studies in 2025, 185 referrals and 102 enrollments in 2025, and 577 referrals and 220 enrollments to date
- TDRA Dementia Clinical Research Database grew to over 5100 participants consented, and more than 5700 TorCA assessments completed
- Legal Research Working Group completed two agreements in 2025 with two more ongoing
- Major presence at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Toronto, with 15 oral presentation and nearly 100 posters by TDRA-affiliated researchers



## Education

- Expanded access to its University of Toronto–accredited MRI education courses for dementia care through a national partnership with the Alzheimer Society of Canada (ASC)
- Hosted finalists from the International Brain Bee at University Health Network
- Hosted a full-day Collaboration Retreat for the Slaughter Family Foundation Dementia Care Initiatives, bringing together 33 participants from seven funded organizations
- Supported medical trainees through U of T's Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students (CREMS) and Graduate Diploma in Health Research (GDipHR) programs, as well as through fellowships and awards such as the Sandra E. Black and Tarek K. Rajji Awards
- Established a Scientific Planning Committee to design CME courses aimed at enhancing understanding of biomarkers and key aspects of neurodegenerative diseases



## Advocacy & Outreach

- As of December 2025, TDRA published its 46th monthly newsletter
- Delivered five plain-language webinars in the Advances in Dementia Research series, with a total of 241 attendees
- The Lived Experience Advisory Partners (LEAP) Council shaped project review, proposal development, and knowledge sharing
- Attended 10 community outreach events to increase awareness of TDRA initiatives
- Continued to work closely with the Alzheimer Society of Toronto (AST) to share tools and co-promote initiatives