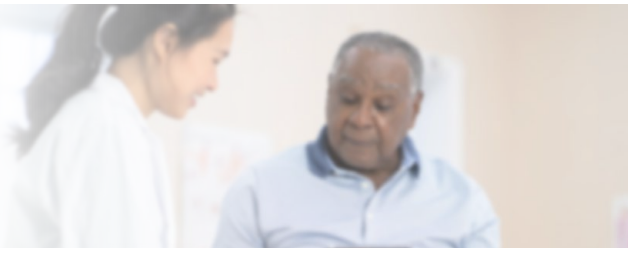
Alzheimer Society
TORONTO

Webinar: Advances in Dementia Research

Understanding the Complexity of Aging and Dementia

November 17th, 12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M. EST



Summary:

This webinar is presented by Dr. Sandra Black, who is a cognitive and stroke neurologist specializing in problems with memory and thinking due to brain disorders like Alzheimer's disease. In this webinar, Dr. Black will provide an overview of a research study called BEAM (Brain-Eye Amyloid Memory), which is open for participation across clinical sites in Toronto.

The BEAM study is investigating whether measurements of the eye can be used with other tests to detect dementia earlier. By comparing the results of non-invasive tests similar to those done in an eye doctor's office with established tests of cognition, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and a positron emission tomography (PET) scan, researchers can look for links between changes in parts of the eye in dementia. PET scans can detect amyloid that has deposited in the brain, which is a hallmark of Alzheimer's disease.

The study is enrolling people living with early Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson-Lewy Body Disease, or with brain small vessel disease, including a condition called amyloid angiopathy. All these disorders are being included because they can overlap; in fact, in brain autopsy studies in older patients diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, it is very common for other neurodegenerative diseases and small vessel disease to also be present. Given that there are now potentially effective disease modifying therapies in development that can remove amyloid deposits from the brain, it will be important to identify all the brain disorders that may be contributing. Healthy volunteers in their late 50's and in early 80's are also invited to participate for comparison purposes as the other age groups are filled.

You will have the opportunity to ask questions.

About the presenter:

Dr. Sandra E. Black is a Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, University of Toronto. An internationally known cognitive neurologist, actively engaged in clinical trials for >30 years, she uses standardized comprehensive neuroimaging, clinical measures, genetics, and neuropathology to study brain-behavior relationships in dementia, with a focus on small vessel disease. Dr. Black was the inaugural Executive Director of the Toronto Dementia Research Alliance (2012-20), and she became Scientific Director of the Dr. Sandra Black Centre for Brain Resilience and Recovery in 2020 at Sunnybrook. Recognitions include Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, U of T's Dean's Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award, American Academy of Neurology's Society of Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology's Lifetime Achievement Award, Thies Distinguished Achievement Award from the Alzheimer Association US (2022), and UBC's Margolese Brain Disorders prize (2021). In 2011, she was appointed Member in the Order of Ontario, and in 2015 became an Officer in the Order of Canada for her contributions to Alzheimer's disease, stroke, and vascular dementia.

For information about the BEAM study visit:

https://tdn.alz.to/research_study/brain-eye-amyloid-memory-beam-study/

To contact the BEAM study team, please email:

aparna.bhan@sunnybrook.ca

Register for the webinar here:

https://alz.to/event/tdra-webinars-advances-in-dementia-research/

TDRA

This webinar is presented in partnership with the Toronto Dementia Research Alliance