

The forefront

Update from the Garrison Institute on Aging Research Division

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GIA Brain Bank program benefits families and researchers

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center's Garrison Institute on Aging has launched an innovative program to help families of dementia patients, as well as qualified researchers studying dementia-related diseases such as Alzheimer's.

The GIA Brain Bank Program provides families of dementia patients a free brain autopsy, which is the only way to confirm clinical diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. The exam will determine a patient's precise type of dementia. Results typically are available in six to nine months.

"We are seeking tissue donations from individuals who have had an age-related neurodegenerative



disease like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's or Lewy Body, as well as tissue from patients with no dementia," said Ruben Gonzales, program director, noting the importance of collecting control tissue.

The brain tissue also will be available to qualified scientific

researchers across the country who are studying diseases related to dementia.

"By working together, patients, families and researchers can help us understand the origins of neurodegenerative disease and eventually improve the treatment and care of dementia," said Paula Grammas, Ph.D., executive director of the Garrison Institute on Aging and a renowned Alzheimer's disease researcher.

The program, funded solely through private contributions, emphasizes proper planning for families considering making tissue donations to the GIA Brain Bank. For more information, contact Gonzales at (806) 743-3612.

NIH awards Institute \$1.5 million grant

The Garrison Institute on Aging Research Division has received a \$1.5 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for "Vascular-mediated Neuronal Cell Death in Alzheimer's."

Paula Grammas, Ph.D., executive director of the Garrison Institute on Aging, is lead investigator. The study, funded through 2012, focuses on angiogenesis and includes testing cognitive impairment in animal models of Alzheimer's disease. The project will include behavioral studies and administration of drugs.

The Garrison Institute on Aging has launched the Aging Interest Research Group consisting of interdisciplinary investigators from Texas Tech University and Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

The group meets monthly to discuss collaborative opportunities in research, grants and shared resources.

Did you know?

GIA scientists are at the forefront of cutting-edge research linking blood vessel dysfunction in the brain to the development of Alzheimer's disease. This work opens new targets for development of therapies and serves as the basis for a clinical drug trial to be conducted at TTUHSC in Lubbock.



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