Recruiting Older Adults into Research (ROAR)
Engage older adults about research participation

Deliver message through trusted networks

Help accelerate scientific discovery

(starting with Alzheimer’s research)
Objective: Low cost, high impact

- Utilize existing networks & resources
- Easy action step
- Measureable impact
Why This Project?

U.S. National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s top goal: Prevent and effectively treat the disease by 2025

Major push to conduct research to test emerging prevention and treatment strategies
Collaboration among government agencies to support efforts
Urgent Need for Research Participants

• ~150 Alzheimer’s and MCI trials currently recruiting
• Seeking 70,000+ participants
• Will likely need to screen 5-10 people for every participant enrolled in a trial
• Pre-symptomatic trials

• Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association: Recruiting and retaining clinical trial participants is “currently the greatest obstacle to developing new Alzheimer’s treatments.”
Challenges to Recruitment for Alzheimer’s Trials

- Participation of a study partner/caregiver often required
- Issue of consent/assent for people with dementia
- Studies likely to involve invasive procedures
- Barriers for older adults (e.g., co-morbidities)
- Barriers for under-represented communities (e.g., mistrust)
- Reluctance of primary care physicians to diagnose cognitive impairment (in the absence of treatment)
- Reluctance of PCPs to refer patients to research
Research Participation

Positive attitude

• Only 16% of Americans report that they or a family member have participated in research.

• However, 76% feel that clinical research is very important and would be very or somewhat likely to participate in a trial.

Need more information

• Lack of information a top-cited barrier to participation in research.

• After physicians, federal government considered second most responsible to educate the public about clinical trials.
Collaboration with local research groups and National Registries
ROAR materials

NIA Resources

www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/volunteer
Overview of Topics

• Why research is important to healthy aging
• What you need to know about research studies
• How YOU can make a difference for yourself and future generations by participating
Research Studies Need *All Kinds* of People – Including YOU!

- Men and women
- Of all ages
- Of different racial and ethnic backgrounds
- Who are healthy or who have health problems
Benefits of volunteering for research

*Help* others, including future generations of your family who may be at risk

*Learn more* about your health conditions from experts

Get *information* about support groups and resources in your community

Receive *regular monitoring* by health professionals
Join in to make a difference

There are many research studies going on right now that are urgently looking for volunteers.

Can you help?
One *easy* way to make a difference

Sign up with a research registry or matching service.

- You will be contacted when studies are looking for people like you.
- You can learn more about a study and decide if you would like to participate.
- It’s always *your choice* whether or not to take part in a study.
- Your information will remain confidential.
Resources in our community

Placeholder here for any local registries, resources or research studies currently recruiting
What’s next with ROAR?

• Working to bring together Aging Services, Public Health, Alzheimer’s Research Centers in selected areas/agencies who have expressed interest
• Wider dissemination, outreach
• Train the trainer activities
• Translation/adaptation of materials into Spanish and Chinese
ROAR Team

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