

The KU Alzheimer's Disease Center's Ongoing Efforts to Prepare the State

Testimony: Kansas Senior Care Task Force
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Background: Alzheimer's disease is a public health crisis. Nearly 60,000 Kansans are estimated to have Alzheimer's, and this is expected to increase nearly 20% by 2025. Along with the unmeasurable human cost, there is a tremendous financial impact: Alzheimer's is now America's most expensive disease, costlier than cancer and heart disease. Most of the costs, over \$250 billion, are paid by Medicare and Medicaid.

Alzheimer's disease is also a public health opportunity. There is demonstrated reason for hope: Prevention works and a cure is out there.

The KU ADC: The KU Alzheimer's Disease Center (KU ADC) is on the frontlines of research, training, and direct care. Since receiving national designation from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) in 2011 as one of the country's 31 Alzheimer's centers (Figure 1), the KU ADC has made tremendous strides in preparing the region for the rising prevalence of Alzheimer's disease. Our vision is to impact the lives of every patient and family dealing with Alzheimer's across the state of Kansas through our research, education, and clinical care with the goal of finding a cure.



Figure 1: The KU ADC is one of only 31 centers in the US designated by the National Institute of Aging as an Alzheimer's Disease Research Center based on its research, training, and clinical care programs.

Vision for the Future: The KU ADC is a national leader today in scientific achievements in our focus areas: lifestyle and prevention programming and the impact of metabolism on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Our vision is to transform the state into a national leader for scientific innovation and clinical care for preventing and curing brain disorders of aging.

- Our Cognitive Care Network is optimizing care for dementia patients across the state by better equipping primary care clinicians with the tools they need to care for their patients in their community.
- We are addressing gaps in education and services for dementia patients and leveraging the infrastructure and resources of the KU ADC to drive more value for everyone across the state.
- We are partnering with other organizations, such as OCCK, to win grants and contracts to enhance services and support for patients with dementia across the state.

These efforts are aligned with the Kansas State Plan for Alzheimer's disease. We have a tremendous opportunity to partner with the state to truly impact the lives of every Kansan dealing with Alzheimer's disease.

The KU ADC is poised to help the state of Kansas enact the recommendations of the Kansas State Plan by aligning our resources and infrastructure around driving progress to the following goals:

Enhance outcomes

- Attract top scientific and medical talent to Kansas, where patients and families can be confident they are receiving the best care available.
- Focus on brain health and dementia prevention, engaging people in proven brain wellness offerings and incorporating prevention practices into more community programming.
- Expand services for caregivers to help them support patients without neglecting their own health and well-being.

Extend access to care

- Offer sorely needed resources through a network of medical professionals, patients, and caregivers across our region.
- Take full advantage of the KU ADC's resources and prestigious designation to add providers, enhance service offerings, and increase the number of patients who receive specialized care.
- Provide expanded education, resources, and services for patients and caregivers through programming and partnerships.

Pioneer innovation

- Drive the scientific progress that leads to preventive interventions and revolutionary treatments.
- Extend the talent pipeline through the training of scientists, doctors, nurse practitioners, and social workers.
- Expedite the race to better prevention, treatments, and the cure of Alzheimer's disease.

The KU ADC is ready to partner with the organizations, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders across the state to ensure every Kansan has access to optimal care and the services they deserve while simultaneously accelerating our efforts to prevent and cure the disease.