CENTER ON AGING
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Legislative Funding Request for the
Utah Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Background

- Nearly 6 million Americans have Alzheimer's Disease or other dementias (ADRD).
- Driven by the average life expectancy of its population and a rapidly growing aging population, Utah is confronting an ADRD epidemic. It is estimated that 33,000 Utahns are impacted by ADRD in 2019 and the number will grow to 42,000 by 2025. Utah has one of the highest per capita rates of dementia in the country.
- The costs to our health care system and related to caregiving are significant – details are on the reverse.
- Deaths related to ADRD in Utah have increased by 190% since 2000. ADRD will soon surpass cancer and become the second leading cause of death for adults over age 65 in Utah.

Proposal

The University of Utah's Center on Aging has applied for grant funding from the NIA (National Institute on Aging) to create the Utah Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). The ADRC will focus on *cognitive resilience* and contribute unique and fundamental advances to Alzheimer's disease research. **It will build on recent evidence indicating that there are effective strategies to *prevent* ADRD.** The ADRC development will be supported with an institutional commitment ($3 million) from the University of Utah (UofU). The center will serve the entire state of Utah and include its other academic institutions and their research. It will leverage existing UofU strengths in genetics, informatics, neuroimaging, vascular aging and population-based data sources including the Cache County Study of Memory and Aging, that are linked to the Utah Population Database (UPDB).

We are requesting the Utah Legislature contribute $1,000,000 to support the ADRC's development. Ongoing funding would be preferred.

Benefits to the State of Utah

- Substantial savings to the Medicaid program. Projecting recent research evidence, if the onset of ADRD were delayed for 20% of the affected population, it will save the state of Utah over $36,000,000 per year in long term nursing home costs.
- Increased awareness of caregiver needs through community outreach and education.
- Synergize the State's current investment in the Utah State Plan for ADRD and support its aim to expand ADRD research in Utah.
- Additional faculty will at least double the $11. 2 million dollars of federally funded research grants received at the UofU for related AD research.