

THE ARIZONA GWEP MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



ABOUT

The mission of the Arizona Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (AZ-GWEP) is to provide the best possible care through an interprofessional approach to individual, system, community and population level education, training and models of care innovations.

The AZ-GWEP Newsletter is an important forum to share AZ-GWEP activities and highlight your valuable work. Please use this form by the 10th of each month to be featured in the next issue:

[SUBMIT INFO FOR
OUR NEXT ISSUE](#)



June is
**ALZHEIMER'S
& BRAIN
AWARENESS
MONTH**

June brings a timely reminder of one of the most pressing challenges in aging care as we recognize **Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month**. An estimated 55 million people around the world are living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, and that number is growing. Preparing healthcare professionals to recognize, respond to, and compassionately care for individuals living with dementia isn't just a clinical skill, it's a workforce imperative.

This month, we're highlighting resources and training opportunities that support our mission to improve dementia care across Arizona. Learn more about the [10 Early Signs and Symptoms of Alzheimer's and Dementia](#) from our partners at Alzheimer's Association. On [Page 5](#), you can learn more about how you can participate in Alzheimer's disease research. This information sheet, along with others, is available for download on the [University of Arizona Center for Aging's Care Partner Information Sheet page](#).

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PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

MEET BECCA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA CENTER ON AGING

Becca is an AZ-GWEP Program Coordinator at the University of Arizona Center on Aging, where she has worked since 2012. She supports the coordination and evaluation of federal and private statewide grants, all committed to improving care and outcomes for older adults.

Her passion for this work is personal. Becca's grandmother lived to 101½ years old, thriving with a sense of vitality and joy that left a lasting impression. She continues to be a powerful role model for what it can look like to age well and an example that drives Becca's interest in aging.

In her role, Becca helps advance grant objectives through reporting, evaluation, and supporting in the development of newsletters, educational materials, and community resource tools. She also supports partner meetings that foster meaningful collaboration across the AZ-GWEP community.

Her work includes contributing to Elder Care Interprofessional Provider sheets and coordinating the monthly Aging Grand Rounds Advances in Aging Lecture Series. Her background also includes experience in communications, marketing, and program development through roles with AmeriCorps and nonprofit organizations.

Born and raised in Tucson, Becca stays busy with her three young children. She enjoys spending time with family, hiking, reading, and cheering on her kids at their many activities.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



ADVANCES IN AGING LECTURE SERIES



We are taking a short break for the summer. We will resume on:

July 13th
12 - 1 pm (MST)

View archived presentations [here](#)



LinkedIn

Connect with our new [public facing AZ-GWEP page on LinkedIn!](#)

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Banner
Alzheimer's
Institute

Dementia Friends Champion Training

Does the Dementia Friends philosophy speak to you? Are you interested in being trained to facilitate sessions in your networks or the broader community? **NEXT TRAINING: AUGUST 26TH 10 AM - 11:30 AM MST**

[Register](#)

Join the GWEP-CC Online Community



GWEPOnline is the central hub for the GWEP-CC Age-Friendly Health Systems Continuous Action Community and for all GWEP directors, team members, and partners.

Members will have access to resources such as the American Geriatrics Society Age-Friendly Resource Library, GWEP CC Newsletter, GWEP-CC Coaching Calls (slides and recordings), Community Catalyst's 4Ms Consumer Tools, GWEP-CC Age-Friendly Health Systems Case Studies, and much more. You can view the last GWEP-CC Coaching Call, "Practicing the 4Ms as a Set": [recorded team webinar](#). Coaching Call slides are available under Tools and Resources on the GWEP Online Community site (see below on how to register).

NEXT CALL: JUNE 11TH AT 12:00 PM MST

If you would like to join the [GWEP Online Community](#) (login required) **please contact Lisa O'Neill at loneill@arizona.edu** who will submit your name for account creation.



[Register](#)

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Arizona Caregiver Coalition
— Serving the Needs of Arizona Caregivers —

AVAILABLE PROGRAMS

- **Lifespan Partners Program**
 - 150 hours in ADHC per year
- **Lifespan Respite Care Program**
 - Vouchers available per year: \$599, \$2400

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

- Cannot be receiving any other respite services paid with federal, state or insurance funds.
- Caregiver must live full-time with or within 5 miles of the care recipient.
- Care recipient must require constant care and cannot be left alone.
- Caregiver assists with two or more qualifying daily activities such as mobility, toileting or eating.

APPLY NOW

For more information,
call us or visit the
website below!

888-737-7494

www.azcaregiver.org



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THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

Center on Aging

alzheimer's  association®

Desert Southwest Chapter

Care Partner Information

Tips for Providing Older Adult Care

Participating in Alzheimer's Disease Research

What is Clinical Research?

Clinical research involves testing a new drug or treatment for a disease to see if it really works to help make people better. Many treatments we use today for most medical problems are the result of clinical research.

Why Is Clinical Research Important for Alzheimer's Disease?

Currently, there is no way to prevent or cure Alzheimer's disease. Clinical research is the way researchers can find treatments that work and are safe. There will never be any good treatments without research. More people are always needed to be part of research studies. Volunteers help researchers better understand or treat Alzheimer's disease. Most importantly, participating in research is a way to help others.

What Happens with Clinical Research?

There are many kinds of clinical research. Some types of research test new drugs. Other types test ways of giving care. Still others test things like physical activity or diet. In clinical research, people volunteer to be research "subjects." Some of the subjects will get the new treatment being tested. A "control group" will receive a placebo (sugar pill), or "usual care." The study then tests if the new treatment works better than the placebo or usual care.

Some research looks at people who already have Alzheimer's disease to see if the new treatment can make them better. Other studies test treatments to prevent Alzheimer's disease in people who don't yet have it.

Who Pays for Clinical Trials?

If you volunteer for research, the costs related to the study will usually be covered, but be sure to ask about it. Sometimes the research is run by a drug company. Other times it is run by a branch of the US government. Either way, covered costs usually include any drugs, lab tests, x-rays, and study visits with doctors and nurses.

This Care Partner Information page is part of a series on older adult caregiving tips. They are written to help family and community caregivers, direct care workers and community health representatives care for older adults. Available in English and Spanish at www.aging.arizona.edu

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Care Partner Information

Is Clinical Research Safe?

Because the treatments being tested are new, there is always a risk of problems. But, there are safeguards in place to keep the risk of problems as low as possible. There are often special experts that follow the study to quickly detect problems if they occur. Before you enroll in a study, you will be told about the risks, benefits, and costs. You will also be given time for questions. This process is called “informed consent.” Never sign up unless you are sure you understand. It may help to bring home the consent form to review so you don’t feel rushed into a decision.

What are the Risks of Being in Clinical Research?

The main risks include having bad effects from the treatment being tested or that the treatment might not work. After hearing about the risks, you can decide if it is right for you or the person you care for. If the person has advanced dementia and cannot give consent, their guardian or health care power of medical attorney will have to sign for them.

What are the Benefits of Being in Clinical Research?

- You help people in the future who might get Alzheimer’s disease.
- You may get a new treatment not yet available to the public.
- You may get expert medical care at leading health care facilities, related to the research study.
- If the treatment is effective, you or your loved one may be the first to benefit.
- You help researchers learn more about Alzheimer’s disease.

Can Everyone With Alzheimer’s Disease Be In Clinical Research?

Every research study is different. You will be checked to see if you fit the specific study. Whether someone fits depends on their medical condition and whether they have early or advanced Alzheimer’s disease. Some people may fit some research studies, but not others.

Where Can I Find Out About Clinical Research Near Me?

Alzheimer’s disease research is taking place in hundreds of locations around the country. For information about Alzheimer’s disease clinical research, contact the following:

- Alzheimer’s Association TrialMatch – visit alz.org/TrialMatch or call (800) 272-3900
- National Institute on Aging, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – <http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers/publication/participating-alzheimers-research/introduction>
- Banner Alzheimer’s Institute - <http://www.banneralz.org/clinical-trials>

Written By: Cynthia Vargo, Alzheimer’s Association, Desert Southwest Chapter
Alzheimer’s disease and Related Dementia ~ Care Partner Information

Edited by an interprofessional team from the University of Arizona Center on Aging,
Alzheimer’s Association - Desert Southwest Chapter and Community Caregivers

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