

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is dementia?

Dementia is a progressive deterioration of intellectual abilities which are significant enough to interfere with the social and occupational functioning of the individual. Dementia is *not* a normal part of aging regardless of the age of the individual.

### What is Alzheimer's disease?

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. Alzheimer's is a progressive, degenerative disease of the brain. It is not a normal part of the aging process or a mental illness. Alzheimer's causes abnormal proteins to accumulate in and around nerve cells throughout the brain, causing them to die. Loss of nerve cells results in memory loss, impaired thinking and behavior. The disease is progressive and will eventually impact a person's daily functioning.

Alzheimer's disease affects an estimated 4 million Americans, including one in ten persons over the age of 65 and nearly half of those over age 85. Patients with Alzheimer's disease may live up to 20 years after contracting the disease. However, in the final stages of the illness they lose the ability to care for themselves. Although many cases of Alzheimer's disease may have a hereditary component, family history is not a guarantee of developing the disease. The precise cause of this illness is unknown.

- ▶ There are many causes of dementia, some of which are responsive to treatment and slowing the advancement of the disease process. The Memory Center medical team has expertise in diagnosing and managing all memory related disorders.

## Unity Memory Center

2655 Ridgeway Avenue, Suite 420  
Rochester NY 14626

**(585) 723-7972**

[www.unityhealth.org/memorycenter](http://www.unityhealth.org/memorycenter)

## Unity Memory Center

How health care should be



## Caring for Memory & Cognitive Disorders

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## About Our Program

### What is the Memory Center?

The Memory Center at Unity Health System is staffed by a committed team of highly trained neurologists, neuropsychologists, nurse practitioners, social workers and specialized nurses. Our collaborative medical providers include geriatricians, psychiatrists, cognitive and physical therapists, palliative care, senior community support agencies and living services. This multidisciplinary team approach allows us to evaluate each patient in a very thorough manner to uncover all possible causes of memory or behavioral problems and provide a comprehensive management plan. At Unity, patients and families have easy access to the appropriate specialists for their individual needs which ensures seamless, thorough care.

### How can the Memory Center help those patients in need?

We assess and treat the most challenging problems, including unusual presentations of memory loss and dementia. The Memory Center also serves as a referral resource for physicians in the greater Rochester area. Physicians can refer patients for diagnostic evaluation, periodic consultation, or comprehensive ongoing care.

Because of our unique multidisciplinary approach, our program serves patients and families by:

- Performing initial evaluation of suspected memory complications.
- Being available as a “one stop” resource for referring physicians, patients and their families.
- Assessment and management of behavioral problems or psychiatric problems that often accompany memory disorders.
- Treatment recommendations that include consideration of all current research and the most effective drug therapies available.
- Serving as the comprehensive care source for patients with memory problems.

*At Unity, we understand that treating a memory related disorder is not simply a diagnosis and medication, but a collective effort by family, friends, medical providers and support staff to address and support all care components.*

## Our Team

### David Gill, M.D.

Cognitive Neurologist

Medical Director, Unity Memory Center

Specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of memory loss, dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and other memory related neurologic issues, Dr. David Gill is the Medical Director of our Memory Center at Unity Health System. He completed his fellowship in Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology at the University of Rochester School of Medicine & Dentistry in 2007, and is board certified in General Neurology, Behavioral Neurology, and Neuropsychiatry.

### Krista Damann, Ph.D.

Neuropsychologist

### Marc Gaudette, Psy.D.

Neuropsychologist

### Tanya Grace, Psy.D.

Neuropsychologist

### William Schneider, Ph.D.

Neuropsychologist

### Cherie Zicari, F.N.P.

Nurse Practitioner

## Our Services

- Neurological and neurocognitive evaluation and consultation
- Psychopharmacological evaluation and treatment
- Neurorehabilitative care and management
- Memory remediation
- Physical, cognitive and behavioral rehabilitation
- State of the art, on site brain MRI and CT facilities
- Neuropsychological testing
- Driving assessment
- Patient and family support for the social effects of illness
- Follow-up care for optimal management of memory and cognitive disorders

**?** Do you have more questions about memory loss or dementia?

We pride ourselves on providing our patients and their families with information and the resources to support and enhance quality of life.

for more memory center information visit:  
[unityhealth.org/memoryfacts](http://unityhealth.org/memoryfacts)

