

## **Josephine and John Marr Alzheimer's Research Fund Runner FAQ**

### **What is the Josephine and John Marr Alzheimer's Research Fund?**

- The Marr Fund is a philanthropic fund based at Brigham and Women's Hospital. It fuels innovative research aimed at ultimately finding ways to prevent the disease. To meet this goal, the research team aims to tackle many elusive questions, including:
  - Who will develop Alzheimer's disease?
  - How can we detect signs of the disease at the earliest possible moment?
  - How can we improve monitoring of the disease, so that we can understand if therapies and interventions are working?
  - How can we successfully intervene and prevent the disease process?

### **Why is now the time for such research?**

- Thanks to 30+ years of research, we know brain abnormalities responsible for Alzheimer's disease begin decades before the onset of clinical symptoms.
- Historically, large scale clinical trials in Alzheimer's have always occurred at the stage of dementia or later. While this research is vital, we must go earlier in the disease process if we wish to truly understand and prevent it. To accomplish such innovative work requires philanthropic support.

### **How does the Marr Fund work?**

- The Marr Fund supports early-stage Alzheimer's prevention research. Of importance, the philanthropic resources have allowed the research team to study younger people (age 50-64) before there are clinical signs of the disease. This group is referred to as the Marr Cohort and it is aligned with the Harvard Aging Brain Study.

### **What has happened since the launch of the fund?**

- The Marr fund is enabling the researchers to gather valuable clinical data from individuals with no outward signs of Alzheimer's. Ultimately, this work will help us gain insights about who is at highest risk and when is the earliest we can intervene.
- Support from the Marr Fund has been a significant catalyst, allowing the researchers to secure National Institutes of Health grants and additional philanthropy, such as a recent \$25 million gift from Andrew and Kate Davis and the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund.
- We encourage you to read our 2020 annual report at [www.bwhgiving.org/marr-fund](http://www.bwhgiving.org/marr-fund).

### **If someone is interested in participating in clinical research, who should they contact?**

- The Alzheimer Center for Research and Treatment (CART) website at [www.brighamandwomens.org/Research/labs/CART/research.aspx](http://www.brighamandwomens.org/Research/labs/CART/research.aspx) or contact the CART outreach coordinator, Nancy Coppelman, at 617-278-0383.