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Rhode Island Hospital Recruiting for Alzheimer's Disease Phase 3 Clinical Trial

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Study to explore new method of halting Alzheimer's disease by dissolving Tau tangles in the brain

Rhode Island Hospital is recruiting local participants for Phase 3 of a global clinical trial to explore a new method of identifying and halting development of Alzheimer's disease. This trial will evaluate if a common compound, methylene blue, can dissolve the Tau tangles in the brain, which contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease. The study is an 88-week trial during which participants will be given oral medication for 78 weeks. Participants must have been given a formal diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease, and be under age 90.

"We are taking various approaches to identifying the most pervasive contributors to Alzheimer's disease," said Brian Ott, MD, director of the Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center at Rhode Island Hospital. "Many studies focus on amyloid, including those at Rhode Island Hospital, but this study is taking a unique approach, looking closely at the tangles in the brain to determine if dissolving the tangles will halt their harmful effects on memory, and ultimately stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease."

Phase 3 of the trial will be conducted in the U.S., Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, Spain, Netherlands, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and the U.K.

Alzheimer's disease affects more than 20,000 people in Rhode Island, 5 million people in the U.S., and 35 million people worldwide. It is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the only cause of death among the top 10 in the United States that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

For more information on the study, or to find out if you qualify, please contact Kerstin Calia, 401-444-9861, kcalia@lifespan.org.