



Expert: Alzheimer's may not be solely brain-related.

Description

The search for a cure for Alzheimer's disease is getting more competitive. Recent controversies have raised questions about research integrity. In 2022, a study linking beta-amyloid to Alzheimer's was questioned for using fake data. And in 2021, a drug targeting beta-amyloid was approved by the FDA despite uncertain evidence.

Researchers have mainly focused on beta-amyloid, but new thinking is emerging. Some believe Alzheimer's is caused by the brain's immune system attacking itself. This mistaken attack leads to the loss of brain function and dementia.

Other theories suggest Alzheimer's may be linked to issues with mitochondria, brain infections, or metal handling. With over 50 million people affected by dementia worldwide, innovative ideas are needed to tackle this public health crisis.

Understanding Alzheimer's better is crucial for those living with dementia and for our healthcare system. More research is needed to find effective treatments and support those affected by this challenging disease.

Donald Weaver, Professor of Chemistry and Director of Krembil Research Institute, University Health Network, University of Toronto

Vocabulary List:

1. **Controversies** /'kɒn.trə.vɜː.siːz/ (noun): Disputes or disagreements often public about specific issues.
2. **Integrity** /ɪn'teg.rɪ.ti/ (noun): The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles.
3. **Dementia** /dɪ'men.fə/ (noun): A chronic or persistent disorder of the mental processes caused by brain disease or injury.
4. **Innovative** /ɪnə'veɪtɪv/ (adjective): Introducing new ideas or methods.
5. **Evidence** /'eɪdəns/ (noun): The available body of facts or information indicating whether a belief or proposition is true.
6. **Targeting** /'tɑːrgɪtɪŋ/ (verb): To direct a specific action or focus towards a particular goal or audience.

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What was a study in 2022 linking to Alzheimer's questioned for?
Option: Using fake data
Option: Lack of evidence
Option: Ethical issues
Option: Biased results
2. According to the text, researchers have mainly focused on which factor in relation to Alzheimer's?
Option: Mitochondria
Option: Brain infections
Option: Beta-amyloid
Option: Metal handling
3. What is suggested to be the cause of Alzheimer's by some?
Option: Brain's immune system attacking itself
Option: Mitochondrial dysfunction
Option: Brain infections
Option: Metal toxicity
4. How many people worldwide are affected by dementia, as mentioned in the text?
Option: Over 10 million
Option: Over 25 million
Option: Over 50 million
Option: Over 100 million
5. Who is mentioned as the Director of Krembil Research Institute in the text?
Option: Donald Weaver
Option: Ratan Naval Tata
Option: Albert Einstein
Option: Marie Curie
6. What is highlighted as crucial for understanding Alzheimer's better?
Option: Innovative ideas
Option: Effective treatments
Option: Research integrity
Option: More research



True-False

- 7. A drug targeting beta-amyloid was approved by the FDA in 2021 based on strong evidence.
- 8. Alzheimer's has only one suggested cause according to the text.
- 9. Understanding Alzheimer's better is considered important for our healthcare system.
- 10. Over 75 million people worldwide are affected by dementia.
- 11. Donald Weaver is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Toronto.
- 12. The search for a cure for Alzheimer's disease is decreasing in competitiveness.

Gap-Fill

- 13. In which year was a drug targeting beta-amyloid approved by the FDA despite uncertain evidence?

- 14. Alzheimer's is believed to be caused by the brain's immune system attacking itself, leading to the loss of brain function and _____.
- 15. Understanding Alzheimer's better is crucial for those living with dementia and for our
_____.
- 16. Some theories suggest Alzheimer's may be linked to issues with mitochondria, brain infections, or
_____ handling.
- 17. Researchers suggest that innovative ideas are needed to tackle Alzheimer's due to the scale of people affected by _____ worldwide.
- 18. More research is deemed necessary to find effective treatments and support those affected by



Alzheimer's disease for this _____ disease.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Using fake data 2. Beta-amyloid 3. Brain's immune system attacking itself 4. Over 50 million 5. Donald Weaver 6. More research

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

Gap-Fill: 13. 2021 14. dementia 15. healthcare system 16. metal 18. challenging

Answer

CATEGORY

1. Health - LEVEL2

Date Created

2024/11/26

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