



# WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com

**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Hearing The Tough Words Early Is Critical for Care of Dementia**

Telling a patient the truth about a diagnosis of progressive dementia caused by probable Alzheimer's disease or some other dementia-causing disease should be the usual practice. The Alzheimer's Association asserts that, in general, if a person is able to understand and comprehend, it is important to tell them the truth about their diagnosis in a supportive manner. Disclosing the diagnosis early in the disease process allows the individual to continue to live with a higher quality of life and play an active role in planning their future.

"Hearing news that will tragically change your life forever is not easy to accept," said Dr. Stephen Aronson of the Mood & Memory Clinic in Farmington Hills, MI. "Family members need to open their hearts and minds to the truth of a diagnosis. When it is given with compassion and total honesty, some of the challenges of the disease can be made easier as the disease progresses."

Telling the truth about the diagnosis allows the individual with Alzheimer's to take several beneficial steps towards their future including:

1. Plan for optimal life experiences in remaining years of comprehension and understanding
2. Participate in preparation of legal documents concerning care during more advanced stages of the disease
3. Consider possible enrollment in research programs, and
4. Participate actively in Alzheimer's support groups.

Advances in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are possible only if people participate in research. Everyone has their own reason for participating in research studies, but most of the time they just want to help. Research volunteers have made an enormous contribution to future generations and have greatly advanced our knowledge of Alzheimer's disease. One way to get involved is through the MADRC Clinical Research Studies. The MADRC is currently enrolling participants for many different clinical research studies. For more information about types of studies and enrollment, please see their website at <http://www.med.umich.edu/alzheimers/>

The Michigan Dementia Coalition is the coordinator of a statewide public awareness campaign focusing on dementia and memory loss. WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com is an education campaign showcasing the facts of memory loss and dementia and resources available in Michigan for patients and caregivers.

For more information online connect to [www.WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com](http://www.WorriedAboutMemoryLoss.com) or call 1-800 272-3900 for services in Michigan. For more information on the Michigan Dementia Coalition contact Micki Horst, Michigan Public Health Institute, at (517) 324-7318