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**WARREN CENTER**  
FOR NEUROSCIENCE DRUG DISCOVERY  
at Vanderbilt University

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### Donor, Spencer Farley, Impacts the Research at the Warren Center

According to the Alzheimer's Association "an estimated 6.7 million Americans aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2023." This reality for patients and their families is one filled with adversities. New treatments and preventative interventions are needed to impact this disease. The Warren Center for Neuroscience Drug Discovery (WCNDD) is focused on addressing these needs and is motivated and supported by patients and their families seeking hope and long-term solutions. The impact of these supporters is immense for the WCNDD, which is fully committed not only to research, but also to its many real-life implications, and pushing forward to apply its research. One donor that is making a difference is Spencer Farley and his family.



Farley's wife had Alzheimer's and passed away from the disease. Farley said, "anyone who is close enough to someone who has Alzheimer's sees the devastation, and I would hope that more understanding about the importance of research to finding a cure, or something to mediate the difficulties people go through, would motivate people to help." Farley has generously supported research at the WCNDD and is passionate about its focus on understanding the biology of Alzheimer's to combat its worst symptoms, and hopefully, its root causes. Farley spoke to the reciprocal relationship he and his family have established with the WCNDD, and how impressed he has been with the interest the leaders and staff have taken to get to know them.

### "6.7 million American's aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's dementia in 2023!"

"To watch someone you love deteriorate mentally, physically, and lose their ability to speak is horrendous," Farley said. "If you can identify a problem as a problem itself, rather than just working on symptoms, and be able to get at the cause, then a cure could be found. I believe a lot of people would be interested in helping with that effort at the Warren Center due to the amount of suffering that comes with Alzheimer's." Farley is hopeful for a future where Alzheimer's can be prevented, cured, or managed without the current harsh realities faced by patients and their families. He believes the work at the WCNDD is an integral part in making this future a reality.

**Join with donors like Spencer and make a gift to the**  
**Warren Center today at [vu.edu/warrencenter/](https://vu.edu/warrencenter/)**

# WCNDD and Alzheimer's Disease



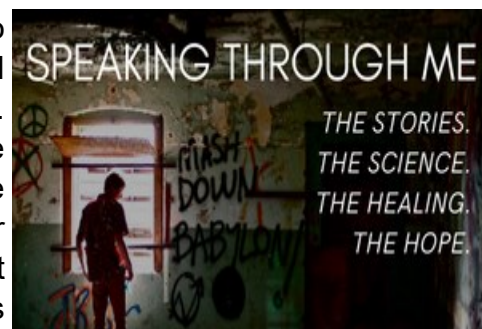
Dr. Craig Lindsley, Executive Director of the WCNDD and the William K. Warren Jr. Chair in Medicine said, "In the WCNDD, we are developing novel therapeutic strategies to not only treat the cognitive and behavioral symptoms of Alzheimer's disease, but to also modify the course and severity of the disease. Our approaches will give patients improved quality of life and give families more time with their loved ones. Philanthropy, from donors such as Spencer to establish the Pat Farley Endowed Alzheimer's Research Program, enable the

WCNDD to pursue novel, high-risk targets for disease modification in Alzheimer's disease, and validate new approaches. This support then allows us to de-risk these approaches with new small molecules that may one day lead to new drugs. Without philanthropic support, innovative ideas will not be pursued, and new treatments will not emerge."

WCNDD is developing a platform approach to the identification of new targets to inhibit the formation of phospho-Tau or p-Tau, the main protein believed to cause the formation of "tangles" in the brain responsible for dementias and neuron death seen in Alzheimer's disease patients. Our approach utilizes well-established techniques to rapidly build a data package that can answer the question, "Is this target responsible for the formation of p-Tau?" Our goal is to identify *new biological targets* and *create and develop new treatments* that can stop the formation and build-up of p-Tau to slow or halt the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Together, our united efforts are accelerating new discoveries.

## Advocacy and Outreach

The "Speaking Through Me" documentary film cast traveled to Tarzana, CA to represent the WCNDD at the Tarzana International Film Festival as a finalist in the Short Form Documentary category. Though we did not win the award, to watch our film screen at the Regal Cinema Theater Complex knowing how many people were hearing the message, made it all worth it. We still have other opportunities though - Speaking Through Me is a semi-finalist at several other film festivals including Detroit, Kansas City, Paris (France), and Sydney (Australia).



Our Director of Outreach, Kristen Gilliland, presented at a panel discussion for Williamson County Prevention Coalition along with TV personality, and Recovery Advocate Jason Wahler, and DEA Assistant Special Agent in Charge, Brett Pritts. The "You are Not Alone" event was designed to help those in the community who are struggling with substance use and mental health challenges. For the young students in Nashville, the program has been coming in full force to University School Nashville where we have been teaching the 5-8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders about brain health and substance use.

## Coming Soon....

The Online Drug Discovery Program has been renamed to Applied Drug Design & Development (AD3). We will begin filming one of the online courses, *Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry*, this month. The course will feature our Senior Director of Medicinal Chemistry, Dr. Bruce Melancon. Stay tuned for this amazing opportunity to learn about Medicinal Chemistry from the Warren Center for Neuroscience and Drug Discovery — a part of Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.