



### **Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Treatment Program**

Longleaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Center specializes in the treatment of Alzheimer's patients with aggressive and combative behaviors, serving the eastern half of North Carolina. We work with the Eastern North Carolina Alzheimer's Association and will provide information on local Alzheimer's support group meetings for families.

Alzheimer's is a disease of the brain that causes a steady decline in memory. This results in dementia - loss of intellectual functions (thinking, remembering, and reasoning) is severe enough to interfere with everyday life.

Today, Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, affecting 10 percent of people 65 years old, and nearly 50 percent of those age 85 or older. An estimated 4 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's disease usually begins gradually, causing a person to forget recent events and to have difficulty performing familiar tasks. The speed at which the disease advances varies from person to person, causing confusion, personality and behavior changes, and impaired judgement. Communication becomes difficult as the person with Alzheimer's disease struggles to find words, finish thoughts, or follow directions. Eventually, persons with Alzheimer's disease become totally unable to care for themselves.