



**National Institutes of Health**  
*Turning Discovery Into Health*

**Media Advisory**  
**For immediate release**

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**NIH launches DISCOVERY network to learn more about the causes of post-stroke cognitive impairment and dementia**

*NIH-funded study will investigate factors leading to post-stroke vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia (VCID)*

**WHAT:**

The Determinants of Incident Stroke Cognitive Outcomes and Vascular Effects on Recovery (DISCOVERY) Network will hold its public launch on February 19, 2020 at the International Stroke Conference in Los Angeles, CA.

Almost 30% of stroke patients go on to develop dementia. Yet researchers understand very little about why. In order to learn more about what causes post-stroke vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia or VCID, NINDS has launched a nationwide stroke research network, called DISCOVERY.

Researchers plan to enroll 8,000 patients in the DISCOVERY network with an emphasis on recruitment from a diverse population in the US, including two health disparities populations, African Americans and Hispanics. These groups experience a disproportionate number of strokes and stroke deaths. To ensure this diversity the investigators plan to set high target enrollments.

The patients will be followed for two or more years, and undergo cognitive assessments, brain imaging, genetic analyses, and fluid biomarker testing. Study leaders hope to advance the understanding of risk factors that lead to VCID, early stroke recovery, and approaches to prevention.

Through this large study, the researchers will attempt to determine which specific stroke events result in dementia and look at a variety of other clinical causes contributing to this condition.

The network, to be led by Natalia Rost, M.D., MPH, and Steven M. Greenberg, M.D., Ph.D., both professors of neurology at Harvard Medical School, consists of four core centers and 30 clinical sites from across the U.S.

The DISCOVERY network is jointly supported by the NIH's National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and the National Institute on Aging.

**WHO:**

Rod Corriveau, Ph.D., program director at NINDS, is available to comment on this study. To arrange interviews, please contact [nindspresssteam@ninds.nih.gov](mailto:nindspresssteam@ninds.nih.gov)

**WHERE:**

Rost et al. DISCOVERY Network launch, February 19, 2020, 3:00-4:00 pm PST, International Stroke Conference, Los Angeles Convention Center Room 152.

The network is supported by U19NS115388.

For more information:

[www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)

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**NINDS** ([www.ninds.nih.gov](http://www.ninds.nih.gov)) is the nation's leading funder of research on the brain and nervous system. The mission of NINDS is to seek fundamental knowledge about the brain and nervous system and to use that knowledge to reduce the burden of neurological disease.

**About the National Institute on Aging (NIA):** NIA leads the U.S. federal government effort to conduct and support research on aging and the health and well-being of older people. Learn more about age-related cognitive change and neurodegenerative diseases via NIA's [Alzheimer's and related Dementias Education and Referral \(ADEAR\) Center website](#). For information about a broad range of aging topics, visit the [main NIA website](#) and [stay connected](#).

**About the National Institutes of Health (NIH):** NIH, the nation's medical research agency, includes 27 Institutes and Centers and is a component of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. NIH is the primary federal agency conducting and supporting basic, clinical, and translational medical research, and is investigating the causes, treatments, and cures for both common and rare diseases. For more information about NIH and its programs, visit <http://www.nih.gov>.