Staying Stronger Longer: Promoting Brain Health Across the Lifespan

Kaci Fairchild, PhD, ABPP
VISN 21 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center
VA Palo Alto
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Stanford University School of Medicine



1

Dementia is Prevalent and Costly



Alzheimer's disease is the 6th leading cause of death in the United States



1 in 3 seniors dies with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia



This year, the United States will spend \$305 billion on ADRD.



3 in 4 persons with dementia live in the community

Alzheimer's Association, 2020



2

Changing the Odds



Risk Factors

Genetics
Familial History
Age



Reducing Factors

Exercise and Physical Activity
Cognitive and Mental Activity
Social Engagement



3

In Their Own Words....

"One of the big things I had come out of it was I lost 65 pounds and it got me back on the active road. In fact, I've continued on since then."

"Coming here and meeting you guys.. who are are concerned about us and want us to get better in this memory thing. It's something that effects all of us anyways."

"Actually, I have a better sense of wellbeing and contribution because what I'm doing helps other Veterans and people in the future. I'm happy and proud of what I do."



4

Acknowledgements

- Jerome Yesavage, MD
- Jon Myers, PhD
- Leah Friedman, PhD
- Ruth O'Hara, PhD
- Joachim Hallmayer, MD
- Booil Jo, PhD
- Laura Lazzeroni, PhD
- Tom Rando, MD, PhD
- Tony Wyss-Coray, PhD
- Peter Louras, PhD
- Shirit Rosenberg-Kamil, EdD

Research reported in this presentation was supported by the Department of Defense (W81XWH-12-1-0584), the Alzheimer's Association (NIRG-15-362171), and VA Rehabilitation Research and Development Service (I21RX001884)

5