



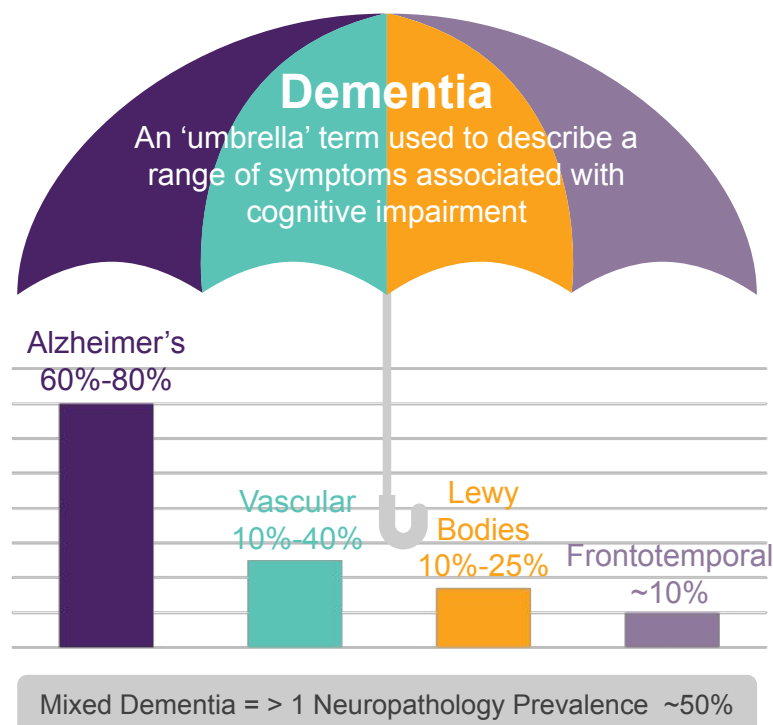
# A Bit about Dementia: Partnering with Donors with Memory Loss & Cognitive Decline

## Kelly Osthoff & Dr. Rebecca Chopp

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## Dementia is a Syndrome

- Dementia is a collection of symptoms related to cognitive decline
- Can include cognitive, behavioral and psychological symptoms
- Due to biological changes in the brain
- Alzheimer's is most common cause
- Mixed dementia is very prevalent
- Some causes of cognitive decline are reversible and not truly dementia



## 10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's



1

Memory loss that disrupts daily life

2

Challenges in planning or solving problems

3

Difficulty completing familiar tasks

4

Confusion with time or place

5

Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships

6

New problems with words in speaking or writing

7

Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps

8

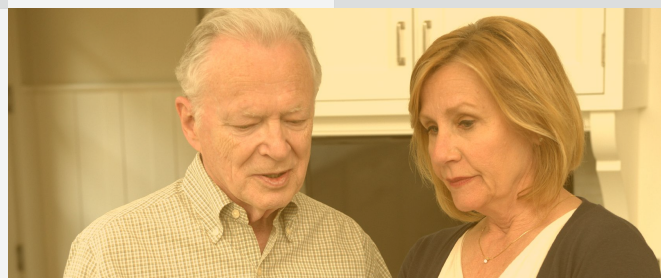
Decreased or poor judgement

9

Withdrawal from work or social activities

10

Changes in mood and personality



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## Alzheimer's Disease is a Continuum

### Asymptomatic

No cognitive symptoms but possible biological changes in the brain

### MCI due to Alzheimer's disease

Symptoms of cognitive ability loss begin to appear

### Mild dementia (early stage)

Typically involves symptoms that interfere with some daily activities

### Moderate dementia (middle stage)

More pronounced symptoms that interfere with many daily activities

### Severe dementia (last stage)

Symptoms that interfere with most daily activities

Dementia due to Alzheimer's Disease

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# Changes in Communication & Reasoning

Changes in the ability to communicate and one's ability to make reasonable decisions can vary and are based on the person and where he or she is in the disease process. Changes you can expect to see throughout the progression of the disease include:

- Difficulty finding the right words or using familiar words repeatedly
- Describing familiar objects rather than calling them by name or forgetting what something/someone is called
- Easily losing a train of thought or fixating on a particular topic
- Difficulty organizing words logically
- Speaking less often
- Relying on gestures more than speaking
- Making unusual decisions or uncharacteristic financial decisions



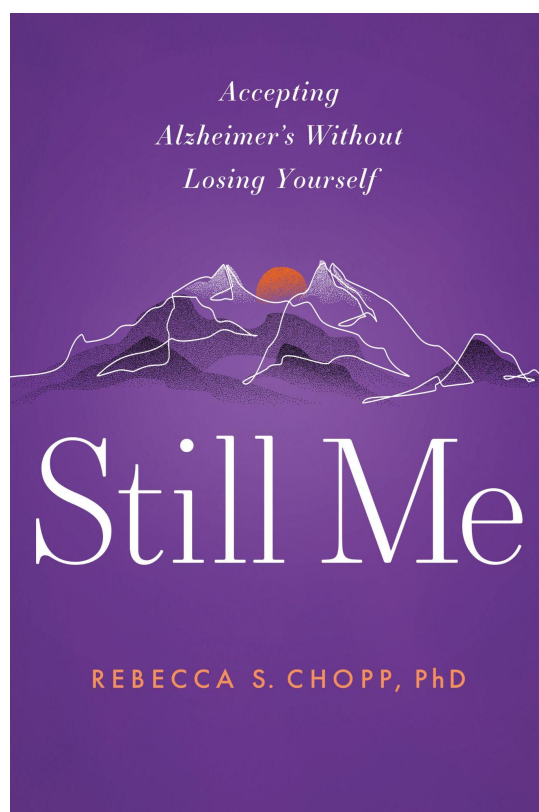
## A Person-Centered Approach

- Always include the person, never talk about them without them.
- Kindly ask them their preferences:
  - Would you like me to offer a guess word or just give you a minute to retrieve the word?
  - Is there a trusted person you consult with in making philanthropic decisions or financial contributions?
- Avoid open-ended or quizzing questions. Instead use option questions or the “tell me about” approach.
- Be brief but patient, take notes, and follow up with a summary.

# Signs of Financial Exploitation

- Sudden changes in bank accounts or banking practices, including an unexplained withdrawal of large sums of money by a person accompanying the older adult
- The inclusion of additional names on an older adult's bank signature card
- Unauthorized withdrawal of the older adult's funds using their ATM card
- Abrupt changes in a will or other financial documents
- Unexplained disappearance of funds or valuable possessions
- Provision of substandard care or bills left unpaid despite the availability of adequate financial resources
- Discovery of a forged signature for financial transactions or for the titles of the older adult's possessions
- Sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming their rights to an older adult's property or possessions
- Unexplained sudden transfer of assets to a family member or someone outside the family
- The provision of services that are not necessary
- An older adult's report of financial exploitation

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# Panel Discussion

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# Q & A

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