



**Florida**  
Alzheimer's Disease  
Research Center



# Education Core

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# About our Center

- Initial funding, 2005
- Statewide partnership
  - USF (Tampa, Byrd Center)
  - U. Miami/Mt. Sinai (Wien Center)
  - Mayo (Jacksonville)
  - Sarasota Memorial Hospital

# Needs assessment (from RFA)

- “The core should provide an assessment of the outreach and educational needs that are unique to the center ... an outreach plan should address the needs identified, including both **strengths and barriers** (e.g., parking/transportation).”
- “Depending on the local needs as identified in the analysis, the education core may focus either on A) coordination with the clinical core for recruitment and retention of subjects...”

# Our priorities

- Very successful in recruitment, including minority recruitment
- Plentiful community outreach offered via Ed Core and other university programs
- “Young” Center with most participants Normal and MCI
- Retention and recruitment for autopsy consent

# Participant survey

- Administered by clinic social worker
- 3 pages including
  - 10 questions on satisfaction
  - Questions on reasons for participation and barriers to participation
  - Specific questions about whether they would like extra notification for appointments, and whether approached for brain bank

# Sample results

ITEM	Miami (N=110)	Tampa (N=87)
My participation in the ADRC study is valuable	4.62	4.54
Study visits are convenient for me	4.46	4.38
I have received a newsletter between study visits	2.59	2.20
Staff is friendly and welcoming at each study visit	4.94	4.92
I can ask the staff questions between study visits	4.64	4.45
I know transportation is available if necessary	2.83	2.70
I am comfortable participating in this study	4.83	4.76
I feel I will be able to complete this study	4.82	4.73

Participants rated their reactions to a number of questions on a scale of 1 (lowest agreement) to 5 (highest agreement).

# Other findings

- Open ended question revealed potential barriers with timing of return visits (snowbirds) and cost of travel (addressed)
- 90% of participants at each site wanted an extra reminder (implemented)
- Documented participants not approached about Brain Bank (addressed)

# Conclusions

- Simple survey allowed us to identify and quantify strengths and weaknesses
- Reassurance concerning consistency across sites
- Action plans for weaknesses identified
- Easy to either repeat questions to measure progress, or add new questions