

## **Dementia & Alzheimer's Research Initiative (DARI) – Executive Summary**

May 2025

Texas A&M Health formally launched the Dementia & Alzheimer's Research Initiative (DARI) with an inaugural symposium on May 7, 2025, which is co-led by University Distinguished Professors Dr. Farida Sohrabji, Dr. Israel Liberzon, and Dr. Marcia Ory. DARI reflects a bold, multidisciplinary commitment to advancing high-impact research, building collaborative infrastructure, and translating discoveries into real-world solutions for aging and underserved populations.

The DARI symposium convened 138 participants—including faculty, researchers, and graduate students from all 17 Texas A&M colleges and schools, and three Texas A&M System partners. Thirty-four scholars were selected to deliver “3-Minute Pitches” on their dementia-related work, followed by matchmaking sessions to catalyze new collaborations. The event concluded with a networking reception and discussion of structural challenges such as access to clinical populations and funding gaps.

To support early-stage research, Texas A&M Health and the Texas A&M University Division of Research jointly announced a \$1.25 million Seedling Grant Program. A Request for Proposals will follow this summer to fund innovative, cross-disciplinary ideas with potential for external funding and long-term impact.

DARI is guided by four core pillars:

1. Advancing innovative research in prevention, detection, and intervention.
2. Strengthening infrastructure for cross-disciplinary collaboration.
3. Investing in early-stage, high-potential projects.
4. Translating research into practice across clinics, classrooms, and communities.

The initiative has already begun to foster strategic alignment and institutional momentum. Early feedback has been strongly positive, with media coverage from The Eagle and forthcoming features in Vital Record. A dedicated communications platform has been launched at <https://health.tamu.edu/dari>, with inquiries directed to [dari@tamu.edu](mailto:dari@tamu.edu).

DARI positions Texas A&M as a leader in the future of dementia research—uniting innovation, collaboration, and public impact. This inaugural symposium marks a starting point, not a conclusion. With growing faculty engagement, committed leadership, and institutional support, DARI is poised to drive transformative work across the state and beyond.