



What do we know about the disease and what can be done about it?

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Abstract:

Dementia is an umbrella term for several brain diseases affecting memory, other cognitive abilities, and behavior. It causes a long-term gradual decrease in the ability to think and remember, interfering significantly with daily living activities. Other common symptoms include emotional problems, language difficulties, and decreased motivation. Although age is its strongest known risk factor, dementia is not a normal part of aging. With increasing lifespan in the developed world, dementia has emerged as an increasing public health concern. It was uncommon in pre-industrial times and relatively rare before the 20th century. However, dementia is not an emerging disease! It has been referred to in medical texts since Antiquity. It remains to this day one of the most misunderstood diseases in medicine. The causal etiology of many types of dementia, including the most prevalent Alzheimer's, still remains unclear so that many theories (rather hypotheses) have therefore been advanced. Whereas much is known about the disease and the underlying and contributing factors, and much has been published on the subject, we still do not understand the deep biology of the disease. We have so far failed to find a cure and continue to be limited to symptomatic treatments that have limited or no effect. What is going on? Have we got the cause of dementia all wrong? I believe so. Recently, I have posited that the root cause (not a risk factor) of Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases is but an autoimmune disease having gone rogue. Following that discovery and writing a book on the subject, I will attempt to reorient our approach along a path that I am convinced will be more successful in leading us to a cure. At the same time, I will also try to fend-off this menacing disease and describe ways those already afflicted by the disease or fearing they might succumb to it, as well as their families, friends, and care partners/givers can do something about it in addition to seeking traditional medical treatment.

Biography:

Alex Baby Paul, PhD, PhD is a medical-physical scientist and an educator. He is the current President/CEO and Professor



at the Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences with a previous appointment as EVP/COO and Professor at the Amrita Institute of Critical Care Medicine, Kerala, India. He was formerly Professor of Radiology, Radiological Sciences, Radiation Oncology, Critical Care Medicine and Physics. Earlier, he was Deputy Director Department of Veterans Affairs (Office of Research Oversight). At the Loma Linda Veterans Affairs Medical Center, he was Scientific Director of Radiology, Director of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Center and, for a time, Acting Chair of Radiology. Previously, he was also Director of the Division of Biomedical and Biobehavioral Research at the University Of Amrita Institute of Medical Sciences at Los Angeles/Drew University of Medicine and Science. He is also Health Advisor to the American Heart & Stroke Association, Coachella Valley Division; He is a frequent Keynote Speaker and International Organizing Committee member at several international scientific conferences. He has lectured extensively in the U.S., Europe, Asia and Africa. He has published ~ 425 scholarly scientific publications and books. .

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