



Israel

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Alzheimer's Research, Prevention & Treatment

Researchers at the Hebrew university of Jerusalem, Israel, have focused on a destructive, inflammation-causing protein in the brain, as well as neurological conditions resulting from infections, autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis, or brain inflammation resulting from trauma or stroke.

Their work has been detailed in an issue of the American journal, Annals of Neurology and will leading to the development of more efficient drugs than are currently available.

The medicines administered today to Alzheimer's Disease patients focus on preventing the breakdown of acetylcholine, a chemical produced by brain cells which transmits information within the brain and is vitally involved in cognitive processes that include memory, attention and thought. In recent years it has been shown that another pathological process that occurs in the brain of Alzheimer's Disease patients is excessive immune activation and inflammation, which are induced by overproduction of an inflammation-producing protein called interleukin-1, as well as a few other related compounds.

Israeli research is leading the way to create anti-Alzheimer's Disease drugs by blocking the enzyme's harmful activity.

(Source: Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

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