June 2022

NCRAD is Looking for Plasma Samples!

With the establishment of the Biomarker Assay Laboratory (BAL), NCRAD has expanded our services to include processing of well-established fluid-based biomarkers and is providing more support to research studies. The goal is to ensure standardized processing and reliable research biomarker results. This approach allows for longitudinal quality monitoring and consistent delivery of results over time, as well as the opportunity for cross-laboratory comparability studies.

Plasma assays currently* available in the BAL:
- P-tau 181
- NfL
- Aβ40
- Aβ42

*GFAP/NfL 2-Plex assay validation to occur in 2022

All assays processed at the BAL provide research-based results only that are returned to the contributing center.

While plasma samples collected through the Alzheimer's Disease Centers Fluid Biomarker (ADCFB) Initiative will routinely have biomarker data generated, we know that centers may have other plasma samples stored locally. **If you have previously collected plasma samples or are interested in prospectively collecting plasma samples at your center, you may request a quote and/or letter of support for the above assays through NCRAD.** Please complete the following form. For more information on the BAL, please visit our website here and contact the BAL Coordinator, Clairisa Stayton (cbstayto@iu.edu), with any questions.

NCRAD at AAIC 2022

NCRAD will once again host a booth at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in San Diego, CA from July 31 through August 3. Stop by to meet some of the NCRAD staff, ask questions, and pick up some NCRAD swag!

NCRAD's booth is #1014 and will be close to the booths for both NACC and NIAGADS.
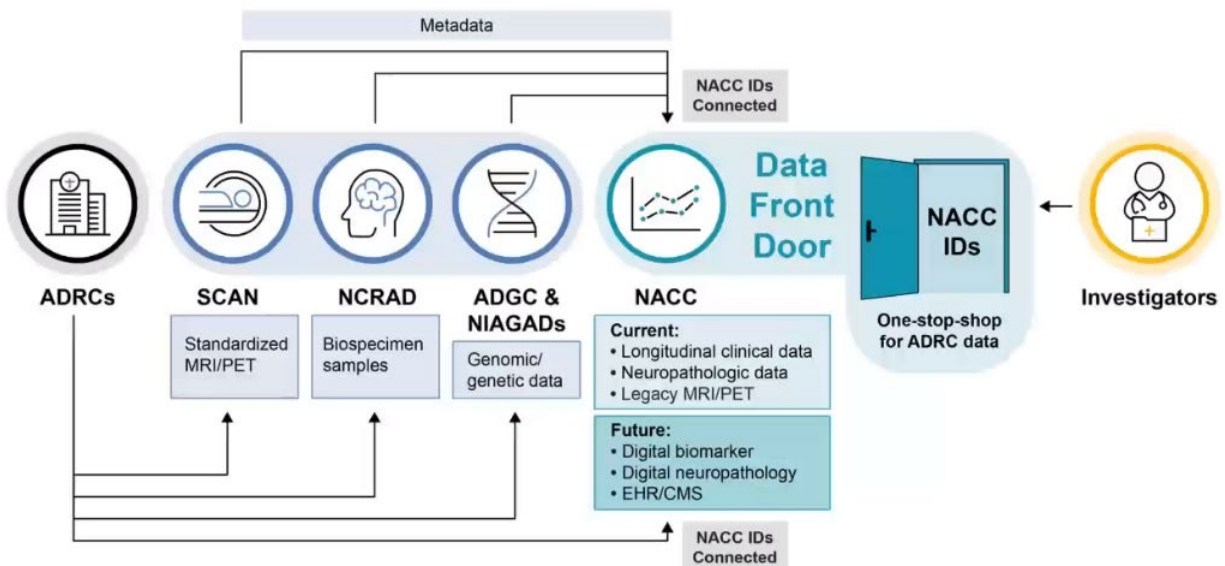
Data Front Door – Input Needed!

NACC, NCRAD, and NIAGADS are eager to partner with ADRD researchers and clinicians from across the Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers (ADRC) Program and beyond to build the "Data Front Door" (DFD), a one-stop-shop for all ADRC data. Our goal is to have this platform integrate and connect all ADRC data streams to NACC IDs and serve as an effective search, visualization, and access interface for this data. NCRAD and NIAGADS data will continue to be housed within the NCRAD and NIAGADS databases but biomarker and genetic metadata for all ADRC participants will be searchable through the DFD.

Our hope is that harmonizing these data streams and connecting them to NACC IDs will enable researchers to investigate and answer new questions in Alzheimer's disease.

We welcome you to share your input in two ways:
1. Sign-up to participate in one of our June/July focus groups with thought leaders from across the ADRC program
2. Take the survey on Data Front Door Requirement

Figure 1: Graphic of Data Front Door

List of AD Loci and Genes with Genetic Evidence now available

NIAGADS is pleased to announce access to a list of AD Loci and Genes with Genetic Evidence. The list was compiled by the Alzheimer's Disease Sequencing Project (ADSP) Gene Verification Committee (GVC) and can be found here - https://adsp.niagads.org/index.php/gvc-top-hits-list/.

A large number of publications report genetic evidence that a gene or genetic signal influences or causes AD. The quality of evidence presented in these publications is highly variable. To clarify which loci and genes are valid versus potential false positives, the Gene Verification Committee is reviewing published human genetic studies of AD and dementia to determine the quality of evidence supporting a genetic signal (locus) or a specific gene.

The information presented should be considered a work in progress and may change as additional evidence is reviewed.

Members of the Gene Verification Committee include: Ryan Corces (Gladstone Institutes), Anita DeStefano (Boston University), Lindsay Farrer (Boston University), Alison Goate (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai), Brian Kunkle, (University of Miami), Fanny Leung (University of Pennsylvania), Edoardo Marcora (Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai), Richard Mayeux (Columbia University), Gerard Schellenberg, chair, (University of Pennsylvania), and Badri Vardarajan (Columbia University).

Visit us at AAIC!

NIAGADS is excited to be exhibiting at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference this summer in San Diego. The conference will take place from July 31 - August 4.

The NIAGADS booth will have information about our datasets and the opportunity to ask the NIAGADS team questions.

Come visit us at booth #1017! We look forward to seeing you there.