

GAME PLAN!

**RESEARCH AT
MICHAEL REESE**

1990

ALZHEIMERS

As our population ages, the mission of the Alzheimer Center at Michael Reese grows ever more important: Not only to diagnose and treat the disease, not only to counsel family members, but to identify individuals vulnerable to Alzheimer's, and someday, to find a cure.

Key Player:

- Philip B. Gorelick, M.D., director of Michael Reese's Stroke, Neuroepidemiology, and Alzheimer's Services

Plan:

Launch a five-year, interdisciplinary study of Alzheimer's disease and multi-infarct dementia, the major organic causes of progressive and permanent mental impairment. Identify the causes for

dementia in the urban, black, and aged population.

"This study should shed light on the causes and progress of these diseases as well as contribute important information on the medical and psychosocial factors behind higher mortality rates for aging black Americans."

— Dr. Philip B. Gorelick

Key Player:

- Audrius V. Plioplys, M.D., staff clinician and basic researcher, Department of Neurology

Plan:

Conduct a two-pronged investigation into Alzheimer's disease. In one, determine whether long-term misregulation of nerve proteins sets

the stage for the disease. If this can be remedied with medication, it may halt the progression of Alzheimer's.

In the other, build on earlier research at Michael Reese which found that skin tissue taken from Alzheimer's patients shows abnormal fat-like deposits. Investigate whether these deposits serve as an easily detectable warning sign.

"Discovering an early indicator would make more accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's possible. It would also allow us to test medications and treatments before the disease has impaired a patient's mental ability."

— Dr. Audrius V. Plioplys



(l.) Philip B. Gorelick, M.D.
(r.) Audrius V. Plioplys, M.D.

The Alzheimer's Team

The Genetics Team

Research in Progress

Leadership