

Commonwealth of Virginia's Comprehensive Virtual Center on Alzheimer's Disease

The Comprehensive Virtual Center on Alzheimer's Disease is a center without walls. The virtual center concept is a hybrid organization designed to leverage *intellectual assets*, rather than *physical assets*. The focus is to create a vibrant environment for discovery of knowledge by assembling a critical mass of talented and highly motivated professionals with different skills and perspectives.

The operational ethic is cross-disciplinary, involving experts from different disciplines and/or institutions working together on a common problem. In the same sense, the research philosophy is based on a systems approach to the solution of complex problems, where the emphasis is on building a multidisciplinary team of experts who individually have an in-depth knowledge of different parts of the problem.

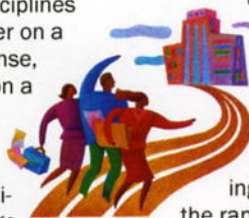
The Virtual Center will serve as a facilitator or a spawning ground for new ideas for solving specific problems. By establishing an efficient management organization, the Virtual Center expects to accelerate the process of discovering effective interventions and new methods of care aimed at reducing disability and extending independent functioning.

The Commonwealth of Virginia Commission on Alzheimer's Disease has formed several initiatives to:

- 1) address strategic problem areas as high priority targets in need of new initiatives and/or further development
- 2) help develop a strategic business plan for a virtual statewide Commonwealth of Virginia Comprehensive Alzheimer's Disease Center.

The workgroups attached to each of these initiatives are organized to identify some of the broadly defined generic challenges, problems, and opportunities related to capacity-building, services, social, financial, and scientific research issues that the Commonwealth of Virginia must address in order to avert the pending public health catastrophe due to the rapidly increasing numbers of people with Alzheimer's disease. The present roster of initiatives and workgroups includes:

- Training and Education
- Information and Referral
- Research
- Technology Transfer
- Services: Diagnoses, Care, and Support
- Databases
- Coordination



The mission of the Commonwealth of Virginia's Comprehensive Virtual Center on Alzheimer's Disease is to establish a much-needed organizational structure for coordinating purposeful activities and initiatives on Alzheimer's and other dementing illnesses within the Commonwealth. Whenever possible, the objective is to form partnerships among groups or organizations within the Commonwealth, to take advantage of their respective talents and resources, and to advance the public health goals of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

www.alzpossible.org

The Virtual Address



The Commonwealth of Virginia's Comprehensive Virtual Center on Alzheimer's Disease (*AlzPossible*) announces its new internet presence at www.alzpossible.org.

The website, conceived as a symbiotic portal for public and the Center's Initiatives (*Information & Referral, Education and Training, Research, Services, Databases, Technology, and Coordination*), will showcase the project's mission, objectives and accomplishments as well as serve as a virtual workspace for its members.

The private segment of the website will allow the workgroups to communicate effectively and initiate, develop and implement interde-

pendent strategies towards the accomplishment of their respective missions. In this sense, this area will consist of a keyword-searchable directory of resources, an extensive forum, a calendar of events and a polling "station." The output of the virtual center's work will then be filtered into the public site, where the public-at-large would be able to review, learn and provide feedback.

This model will eventually be used as a prototype in building the full-scaled Virtual Center, designed as a pioneering tool for the Alzheimer's disease community of patients, caregivers, researchers, healthcare professionals, etc.

Visit AlzPossible today at www.alzpossible.org and learn more about this unique concept, its initiatives and people!



AlzPossible's homepage