

**USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging Seeks Volunteers for New Study on Caregivers for Family or Friends with Memory Loss, Dementia or Alzheimer's**

*The Southern California Caregiver Study will focus on the needs of individuals caring for family members or friends with memory loss diagnoses through online surveys and classes.*

Los Angeles, CA. (December 18, 2020) – The USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging and the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work is seeking volunteer participants for a research study to be conducted online in 2021, focusing on comparing two [Savvy Caregiver interventions](#) offered by Alzheimer's Los Angeles for individuals who provide care or assistance to a friend or family member with memory loss, dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Participants must be over 18, able to read English and have access to the internet. The study will consist of four surveys over the course of seven months, and an online class attended for either three weeks or six weeks. Each survey will be 30 minutes in length and participants will receive a \$20 gift card per survey. Each online class will be two hours in length attended once a week. There is no fee to participate and interested volunteers should call 213.740.1887 or visit [roybal.usc.edu/socialcaregiver](http://roybal.usc.edu/socialcaregiver) for more information.

The Southern California Caregiver Study will be led by the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging in partnership with [Alzheimer's Los Angeles](#) and [St. Barnabas Senior Services](#). María P. Aranda, PhD, executive director of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging and associate professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, will lead the study as principal investigator. Dr. Aranda is an appointed member of the California [Task Force on Alzheimer's Prevention and Preparedness](#), a Fellow of The Gerontological Society for America, and a committee member for [Care Interventions for Individuals with Dementia and their Caregivers](#) of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine.

“Our study will help participants understand their roles as ‘caregivers,’ get the help they need, and be more prepared for the marathon in front of them,” Aranda said.

Funding for the Southern California Caregiver Study is provided through a grant from the California Department of Public Health, Alzheimer's Disease Program. Volunteer participants will be randomized into two groups to learn how participation in the different types of caregiver classes may improve the health and wellbeing of family or friend caregivers of persons with memory loss.

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**About Dr. María P. Aranda**

María P. Aranda is an associate professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the executive director of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging. She holds a joint appointment with the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology. Dr. Aranda specializes in developing and testing support programs for families affected by Alzheimer disease and other forms of memory loss. She has published extensively on the psychosocial aspects of family caregiving, and the importance of addressing disparities in brain health among disadvantaged groups in the United States.

**About the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

The USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work is a leader in social work and nursing education and research. The school integrates the science of social work with real-world practice to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable individuals and communities and advance social and economic justice on a local, national and global scale. The school is a recognized leader in academic innovation, experiential learning, online education and translational research. For more information, visit [dworakpeck.usc.edu](http://dworakpeck.usc.edu).