

Institute gets grant to study brain

By WENDY GREENFIELD

Research to determine the cause of Alzheimer's disease is under way at the Willowbrook Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities thanks to a \$600,000 federal grant.

The award, made by the National Institute on Aging, based in Bethesda, Md., will support a three-year project at \$200,000 a year. Dr. Henryk M. Wisniewski, neuropathologist and director of the institute, located at 1050 Forest Hill Rd., on the Staten Island Developmental Center campus, is the principal investigator of the project. He is responsible for coordinating the studies and making sure they are carried out.

"We are extremely pleased," Dr. Wisniewski said of the grant, for which many research facilities had competed. "This means we have been recognized as one of the frontrunners trying to find out the causes of the disease."

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive deterioration of brain cells resulting in loss of memory, confusion and eventually the inability to control normal body functions. It primarily affects men and women over 65, but has been known to occur in people between 40 and 65.

The goal of the project, divided

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