

Paul Raia, Ph.D.

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Paul Raia, Ph.D. has worked in the fields of gerontology and psychology for twenty-eight years, the past seventeen as Director of Patient Care and Family Support at the Alzheimer's Association, Massachusetts Chapter. His interest in Alzheimer care grew out of his role as a caregiver for his aunt, a dementia patient who died in 1989. Since then, he has developed a systematic approach to dementia care called "Habilitation Therapy", a technique that focuses on the patient's emotions and their remaining capacities.

Dr. Raia is a consultant to several nursing homes, assisted living facilities and day programs around the United States, training staff on the application of Habilitation Therapy. Dr. Raia has also taught in an intensive summer program for Japanese psychologists for the past 5 years.

Dr. Raia has special interests in the management of problem behaviors, especially for those with frontal/temporal lobe forms of dementia, the environmental design of Alzheimer units and the special needs of those who are dually diagnosed with Down's syndrome and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Raia has been recognized by several organizations for his distinguished service receiving awards from The Massachusetts Gerontology Association, the Massachusetts State Legislature, the Alzheimer's Association, the Massachusetts Bar Association and the Massachusetts Homecare Association.

Over his career Dr. Raia has been awarded millions of dollars in grant money to provide direct services to elders or to conduct research in applied clinical geriatrics. Many of these projects, such as the development of specialized-programs for mentally retarded individuals with Alzheimer's disease have become best-practiced models and replicated nationally.

As a frequent contributor to various publications and journals, Dr. Raia has written primarily on dementia as a treatable condition. For the past several years he has served on the Editorial Board of the American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease.

Dr. Raia has appeared on most of the Boston based media outlets and on CBS, NBC, ABC, CNN and PBS national news programs. Recently, the *Boston Globe* ran a feature article in its Science and Health section on Dr. Raia and his work with patients and families. He has also served as expert witness in several legal actions. He sits on the Governor's Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Care in Massachusetts, a national committee on Ethics and Alzheimer's Care and a national committee of experts on community-based diagnostic screening techniques. He has helped several national long-term care and assisted-living corporate clients to design facilities, developed dementia specific policies and procedures and assess the quality of their Alzheimer's programs. He has written several curricula for nursing home and assisted living staff in Alzheimer's Care. He was the editor and a contributor to Guidelines to Assess and Improve the Quality of Care in Alzheimer's Special Care Units which has become a standard in the industry and Guidelines for the Care of Assisted Living Residents with Cognitive Impairments.

Dr. Raia has been an innovator in the field, starting the first support group in the country, seventeen years ago, for early-stage patients, and the first support group for young children aged seven to twelve who have parents or grandparents with AD. He also co-produced an award winning video for young children who have a loved-one with Alzheimer's disease.

Dr. Raia has served as a Board Member of Youville Hospital, his church, the National Alliance of Alzheimer's Program Directors, and a Trustee of the Perkins School for the Blind.

Education

B.S., Psychology, College of the Holy Cross

M.A., Child Development, Tufts University

Ph.D., Developmental Psychology, University of Maryland

Certificate in Gerontology at the Doctoral Level, University of Maryland