



**Dr. Maria C. Norton, Professor**  
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Dr. Maria Norton is the leading principal investigator or co-investigator on several projects with over \$20 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health, the Alzheimer's Association, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Vice President for Research (USU). She holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in statistics, and a Ph.D. in Psychology.

Dr. Norton served as project manager then later as study director at USU of the NIH-funded Cache County Study on Memory and Aging (1994-2011). This was a landmark study of the genetic and environmental factors influencing Alzheimer's disease (AD) risk. She is lead or co-author on over 95 refereed journal articles and has given over 100 presentations at national and international conferences. From 2008-2013, Dr. Norton led another NIH funded study investigating how psychological adversity through the lifespan affects risk for AD, a mechanism with biological underpinnings related to chronic exposure of the brain to stress-related hormones.

Dr. Norton is the recipient of many distinguished awards and honors, including

- **2012 Research Scholar of the Year** (Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services at USU)
- **2012 Lifetime of Exceptional Achievement award** (Alzheimer's Association, Utah Chapter, along with Cache County Memory Study colleagues).
- **2013 Sunrise Session address "Healthy Aging—Healthy Society"** (Salt Lake City, August 2013).
- **2013 Fellow** (Gerontological Society of America)

She is currently leading an AD prevention behavioral intervention program called **The Gray Matters Study**, that has been pilot tested in Cache County, Utah, along with another pilot study underway in Rome, Italy.

