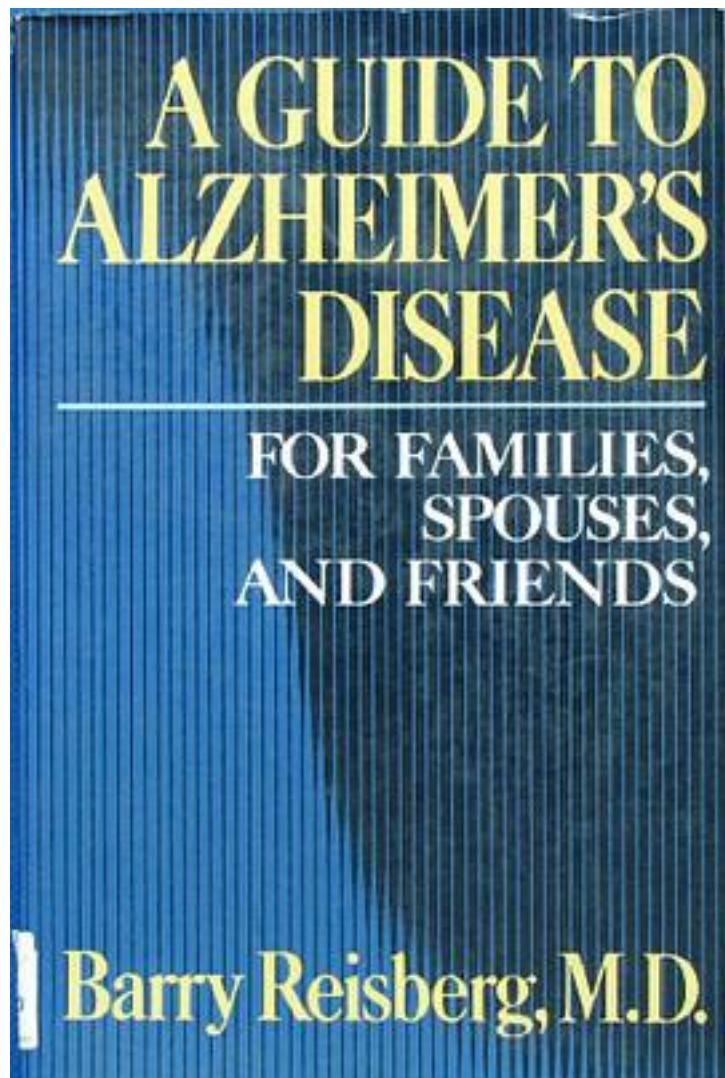


Guide to Alzheimer's Disease



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Foreword
by Robert N. Butler, M.D.
A(,IN(,; BEEN
MISTAKENlii¼EQUATED with disease and an in-
evitable &ii¼Ewnhill pattern
in both physical and mental tJnction.ing.
Nowhere is this more evident than in the
treatment~or rather lack of^{tr}tment--{}f mental impairment in the elderly.
It is currently estimated that between 500i¼000 and 1.5 milli~i~n per^sons suffcr
tr~m the more serious and irreversible forms of senile^dementia. Approxinlately 50
percent of all nursing home residents^have some degree of mental
impairmel~ti¼E with Alzheimer s disease be-^hing a major reasc~n for admissions
to nursing homes. Given that few^htrends are as evident or predictable as the aging
of the American^h populationi¼E th~se responsible for scientific research and
service de-^hivery are facing a series of challenges. A key element in our
prepara-^htion tor the thture and ior large numbers of persons surviving into old^h
age must be research aimed at increasing our knowledge of the causes^h and the
biological and behavioral nmchanisms at work in senile^h dementia. Such research
would improve our ability to treat and con-^htrol these devasta~i¼Ei¼Eg
conditions which take their toll primarily in the^h elderly populati~ni¼E and
perhaps eventually to prevent these diseases^h altogether.
The insidious onset
and progressive development of conditions^h

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