

Megathon participant guide

Joining the MEGATHON on Citizen Science Day 2019? Here's everything you need to know!

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Email us at megathon@eyesonalz.com if you need any additional guidance or support!

Getting ready

- ❑ Sign up [here](#) if you haven't yet.
- ❑ Check out the SciStarter's event finder (SciStarter.org/citizen-science-day) to find megathon meetups happening in your area. If you can't find one or prefer to participate from home - no problem, the event is available online! You can also host your own meetup. Find the step-by-step instructions for that [here](#).
- ❑ Register or sign in to [Stall Catchers](#) and check out the game ahead of time. Don't worry - it's easy to grasp, and we walk you through in the beginning!
- ❑ Check out the **tutorial** and other intro materials [here](#).
- ❑ Participate in the Megathon on April 13, 1:30 to 3:30 PM EST (timezone converter [here](#)), and help us make a dent Alzheimer's research!

optionally:

- ❑ Consider **creating a team** and inviting your friends, family and/or coworkers! [Here's](#) the instructions to create a team on Stall Catchers.
- ❑ **Spread the word about the Megathon** on social media! You can use materials and media on SciStarter.org/citizen-science-day in your messaging. Use the #CitSciDay2019, #CitizenScience, and #Megathon hashtags, and tag @SciStarter and @EyesOnALZ.

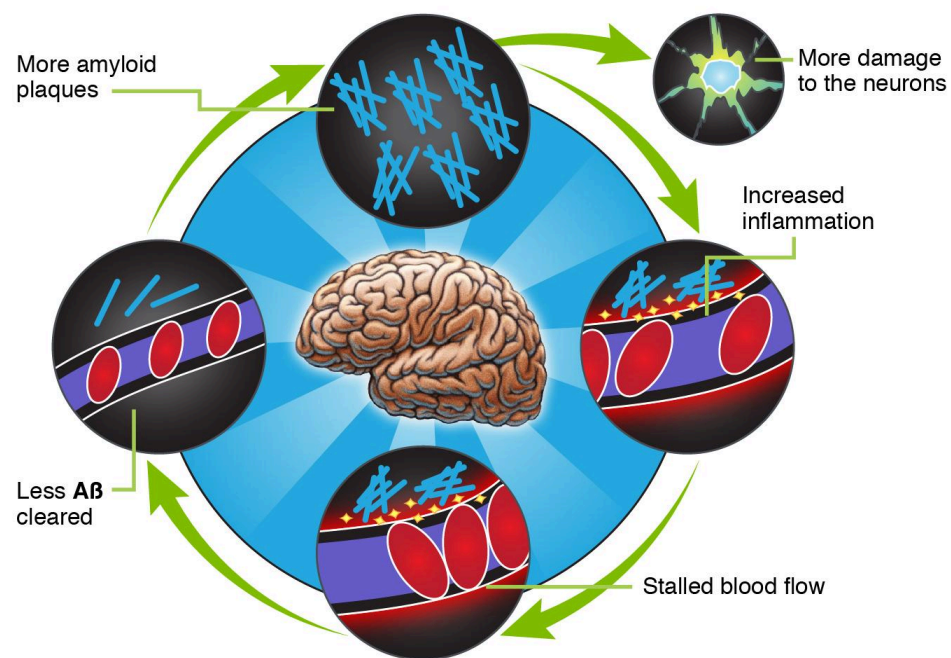
Stall Catchers fact sheet

- Stall Catchers is an online game that allows **everyone to contribute to Alzheimer's research**
- **Anyone can play Stall Catchers** - from kids to their grandparents, no specific knowledge or scientific background is required
- In Stall Catchers players are **helping researchers at Cornell University to analyze Alzheimer's research data** - players themselves are not studied
- Stall Catchers participants help analyze movies of blood vessels in **live mouse brains**
- By viewing microscope-acquired movies of a live mouse brain, players are helping to **find stalls - blocked blood vessels in the brain where blood is not flowing**
- **Don't be afraid to make mistakes!** We have methods in place to extract value from all your answers, right or wrong, so there is no way you can mess up the research

- Every contribution, large or small, helps researchers get closer to **understanding the relationship between stalls and Alzheimer's disease**. This fundamental understanding **could lead to a potential - and first ever - treatment for Alzheimer's disease**
- But to get to a treatment, **many more research questions need to be answered**. They cannot be answered fast enough if the researchers work on it alone, so need YOUR help!
- Stall Catchers is a chance for friends, families, caregivers & people living with Alzheimer's themselves to **directly fight the disease that affects them and their loved ones**

Stall Catchers science

- Vessel movies in Stall Catchers are generated from state-of-the-art two-photon microscope images
- Stalls have been demonstrated to occur in up to 2% of capillaries in AD-affected mice
- Stalls could be linked to ~30% reduced blood flow in the brain in AD patients
- Reversing stalls reduces AD symptoms in mice, including memory loss and mood changes
- One the ways stalls could drive AD is by reducing clearance of amyloid beta protein ($A\beta$) leading to accumulation of neurotoxic amyloid plaques



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Graphic by PachecoDesignLab.com

- Understanding the molecular mechanisms that drive stalls will help identify drugs that prevent or disrupt them without harming the organism
- Stall Catchers helps us look for the reasons behind stalls in the brains of mice, and test drugs that could prevent AD and/or reduce disease symptoms, at a much faster rate than in the lab
- Through Stall Catchers, we can test drugs that are already being used to treat other diseases, some of which could effectively reduce stalls, potentially enabling off-label use to treat Alzheimer's
- With the help of citizen scientists, we could reduce the time to discover Alzheimer's treatment targets from decades to just a few years

More Stall Catchers science resources can be found [here](#).