

Richardson explains that there's not a direct line connecting Alzheimer's disease and DDT exposure, but research is connecting the dots.

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[Richardson-audio.mp3]

*Some of the dots are starting to connect and that's kind of the third thing that we really want to take a look at, is take a step back into the laboratory and see if we can start to understand the mechanism — how exposures may contribute to Alzheimer's disease, how these exposures interact with genetic susceptibility. So, for example, in the paper we showed that people that have a genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's — and that's the apolipoprotein E4 allele and high levels of DDE in the blood — do much worse on a measure of global cognitive function, such as the Mini-Mental State Examination. So it suggests there may be people that may be more genetically susceptible to DDE or DDT, and that's something that we're interested in understanding how that works.*