

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me / Date: October 2014

Alzheimer's Disease has been steadily encroaching into singer, song-writer Glen Campbell's life. Instead of retreating to deal with the challenges privately, Glen and his family decided to share their struggles with documentary filmmakers. The production, called Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me, by PCH Films, includes both heartwarming and candidly frank moments Mr. Campbell experienced during his visits to Mayo Clinic for care. Here's Dennis Douda for the Mayo Clinic News Network.

Video

Audio

Video	Audio
Mayo Clinic 150th Open animation	Opening animation
Title: Kim Campbell, Wife of Glen Campbell	“Starting about the year 2000 I noticed that we just weren’t really connecting like we used to.” “This is our guest of honor tonight, Glen Campbell.”
Title: Ronald Petersen, M.D. Ph.D. Mayo Clinic Neurologist	“Well, I think the fact that Glen Campbell and his family decided to come forward with his diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease is actually very important for the field.”
/// Music	/// Musical Bridge
Dennis Douda speaking	Mayo Clinic is known for being fiercely protective of patient privacy. But, when the family of legendary singer, song-writer Glen Campbell and a film company proposed making a documentary about Campbell’s condition, the medical institution agreed.
Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“And I think that’s incredibly powerful for making people aware of what the disease is, at the same time showing that you can live with it.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Dr. Ronald Petersen, was involved with Mr. Campbell’s care.
Dr. Ron Petersen speaking	“I found our interactions with him to be a lot of fun, and we enjoyed working with him throughout the year.”
Glen Campbell speaking	“Hi there. How ya been? Good to see you, Sir. God bless you.”
Dennis Douda speaking	Patients have obviously enjoyed the gregarious Glen Campbell’s presence as well.
Glen Campbell singing	/// Natural sound - singing “Like a Rhinestone Cowboy, remember

	that one? .. riding out on a horse in a star spangled rodeo .. “
Dr. Ron Petersen speaking	“I found him to be absolutely delightful. He was very cordial, had a good sense of humor, was fun to interact with.”
Dennis Douda speaking	The documentary also offers an unblinking look at what’s happening physically within an Alzheimer’s patient’s body.
Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“The pathological process, meaning what’s going wrong in the brain, the biology in the brain is really an accumulation of two items; the plaques and tangles. And all of these result in the destruction of the nerve cells in the brain.”
Unseen researcher speaking	“Some of the earliest places that you have Alzheimer’s-type changes is in this area, the trans-entorhinal and entorhinal area.”
/// Natural sound	“All done Mr. Campbell!”
Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“This is an MRI. So, this is your brain .. So, right in here is a structure called the hippocampus and that’s vital for memory. And, unfortunately, in Alzheimer’s disease, it starts to shrink.”
/// Natural sound Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“Glen, this is Kelly and I’ve asked her to do just a little memory testing and some general thinking exercises with you. Would that be okay? Sure! Alrighty.”
Dennis Douda speaking	To demonstrate the inevitable impact of the disease, Glen bravely allowed the cameras to roll as he struggled through a cognitive evaluation.
/// Natural sound	“I’d like you to use these two blocks and make the top of these look like the top of these.”
Glen Campbell speaking	“Like the top of this one, and the edge of this one. Is, ah, is this correct on the stuff?”
Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“He definitely had significant problems, particularly with his memory.”
Title: Ashley Campbell Glen’s Daughter	“We were sitting in the theater room watching Lord of the Rings and there were 2 doors and he would come in one door and say, “what are you watching?” He’d go away for a few minutes and he’d come through this door and he’d say, ‘what are you watching?’”
/// Natural sound Glen Campbell speaking	“ I have to use a pot now. What do you call that? Teleprompter. Teleprompter, yeah.” (Laughter)

Dennis Douda speaking	With the help of volunteers, Dr. Petersen and his research staff have learned a combination of genetics and environmental factors seem to play a role in the development of Alzheimer's, and that changes in the brain may progress for decades before being noticed.
Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	<p>But, we're hopeful, that in fact as the field moves forward we will be able to develop therapies, drugs, immunization therapies that may in fact have an impact on this underlying disease process.</p> <p>The real dilemma, of course, is trying to come up with the funding, the funding that's going to be necessary to do adequate research so that we stem the tide of this disease before the symptoms even develop."</p>
Dennis Douda speaking	One more reason, Dr. Petersen says, the documentary is a welcomed opportunity to raise awareness about Alzheimer's. The statistics by themselves are staggering. Five and a half million Americans struggling with the Disease; an estimated 44 million people afflicted worldwide. By sharing their story, Glen Campbell and his family make the challenge personal.
Glen Campbell playing guitar	/// Natural sound - guitar
150 th closing slide/music	150 th closing slide