

# Latest in Alzheimer's Disease: The What, The How & The Hope

Heather M. Snyder, Ph.D.  
Medical & Scientific Relations

# Objectives

1. Name at least two possible risk factors for Alzheimer's
2. Discuss advances in the development of at least one type of biological marker
3. Describe current medications available for Alzheimer's
4. Name and describe two of the five prevention efforts in Alzheimer's disease

# Topics for Discussion:

- About the Alzheimer's Association
- Landscape of Alzheimer's disease
- Early detection and diagnosis
- Current therapies and what is in trials today
- Next generation of clinical trials

# Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's disease



## Our mission:

- ” Advance research
- ” Provide care and support
- ” Increase Concern & Awareness
- ” Public Policy & Advocacy Efforts

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**Research Roundtable**



International Research   
**GRANT PROGRAM**

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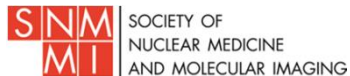


# The Alzheimer's Association is a **GLOBAL LEADER** in research.

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Amyloid Imaging  
Taskforce (AIT)



SOCIETY OF  
NUCLEAR MEDICINE  
AND MOLECULAR IMAGING

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the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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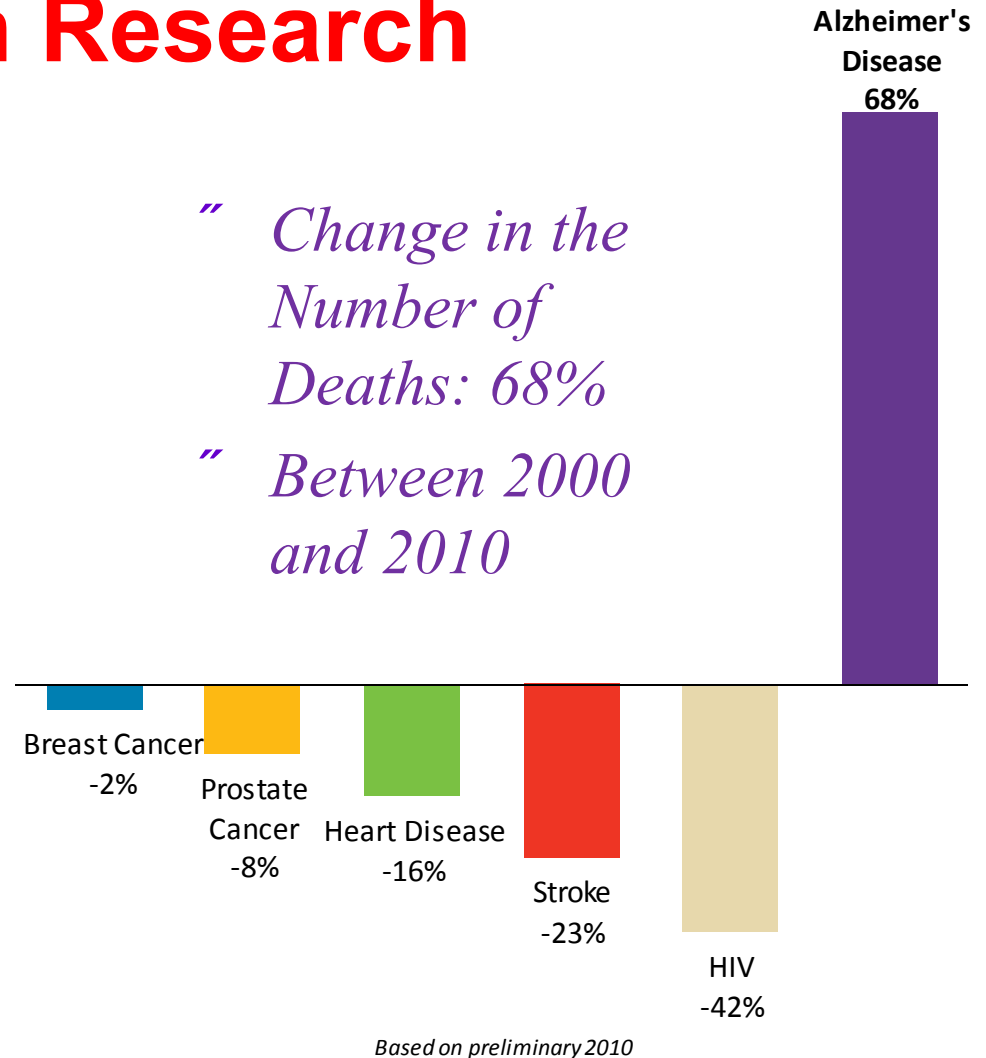
**Alzheimer's & Dementia®**  
THE JOURNAL OF THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



# Landscape of Alzheimer's Hope In Research

- “ 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death across all ages
- “ 5<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death for those aged 65 and older
- “ Only cause of death among the top 10 in America without a way to prevent, cure or even slow its progression.

- “ *Change in the Number of Deaths: 68%*
- “ *Between 2000 and 2010*



# National Plan to Address Alzheimer's disease

” Goal: Prevent and Effectively Treat Alzheimer's by 2025+



” Key strategies:

- . Increase clinical studies enrollment
- . Expand scale and scope of research
- . Accelerate drug development



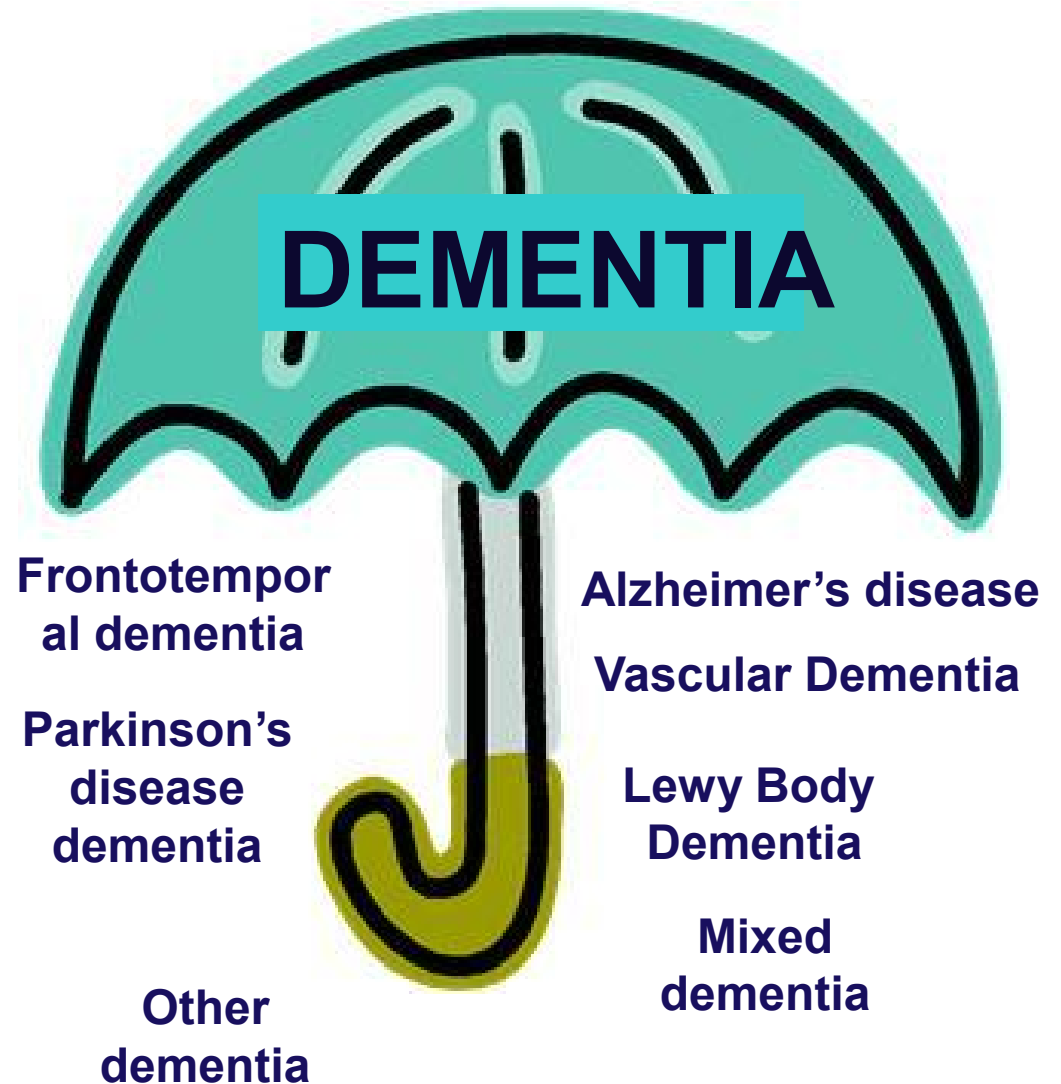


# Seth Rogen Testifies Before Senate Appropriations Committee

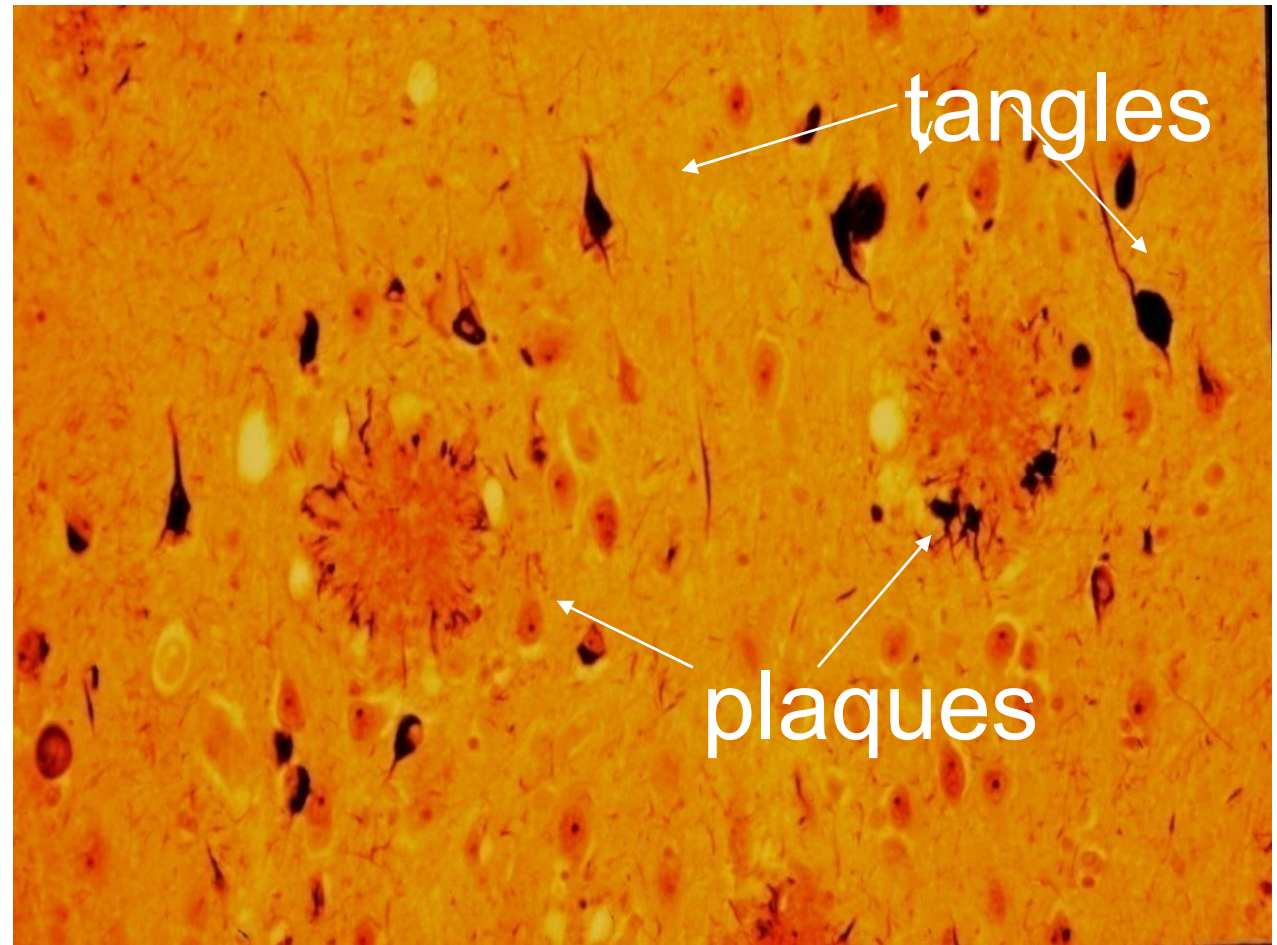


# Types of Dementia

- Dementia is the loss of memory due to changes in the brain
- Alzheimer's is the most common form
- Definite diagnosis used to require autopsy
- Many mixed cases
- Many memory disorders are reversible and not truly dementia

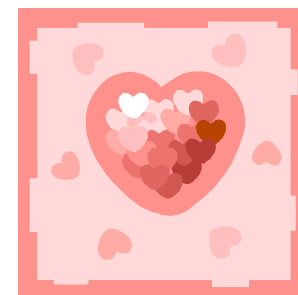


# History of Alzheimer's Disease



# Risk Related to Alzheimer's

- “ Age: The greatest known risk factor
- “ Heart-head connection
  - “ Increased risk suspected if high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and high cholesterol
- “ Head injury
- “ Family History
  - “ Risk and deterministic genes



# Understanding Genetics Linked to Alzheimer's

## LETTER

doi:10.1038/nature11283

### A mutation in *APP* protects against Alzheimer's disease and age-related cognitive decline

Thorlakur Jonsson<sup>1</sup>, Jasvinder K. Arwal<sup>2</sup>, Stacy Steinberg<sup>1</sup>, Jon Snædal<sup>3</sup>, Palmi V. Jonsson<sup>3,8</sup>, Sigurbjorn Björnsson<sup>3</sup>, Hreinn Stefansson<sup>1</sup>, Patrick Sulem<sup>1</sup>, Daniel Gudbjartsson<sup>1</sup>, Janice Maloney<sup>2</sup>, Kwame Hoyte<sup>2</sup>, Amy Gustafson<sup>2</sup>, Yichin Liu<sup>2</sup>, Yanmei Lu<sup>2</sup>, Tushar Bhangale<sup>2</sup>, Robert R. Graham<sup>2</sup>, Johanna Huttenlocher<sup>1,4</sup>, Gyda Björnsdóttir<sup>1</sup>, Ole A. Andreassen<sup>5</sup>, Erik G. Jönsson<sup>6</sup>, Aarno Palotie<sup>7</sup>, Timothy W. Behrens<sup>2</sup>, Olafur T. Magnusson<sup>1</sup>, Augustine Kong<sup>1</sup>, Unnur Thorsteinsdóttir<sup>1,8</sup>, Ryan J. Watts<sup>2</sup> & Kari Stefansson<sup>1,8</sup>



Views of the Earth, Copyright © 2010 by Christoph Hormann <http://earth.imagico.com/>

**ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION**

### Variants in the ATP-Binding Cassette Transporter (*ABCA7*), Apolipoprotein E $\epsilon$ 4, and the Risk of Late-Onset Alzheimer Disease in African Americans

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**Cynthia Lu, PhD**  
**Adam Naj, PhD**  
**Narula Vaghbhatkary, MPH**  
**Rafiq Narayan Varadhan, PhD**  
**Li-Sun Wang, PhD**  
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**Mark Lopez, PhD**  
**Christine T. Baldwin, PhD**  
**Robert T. Green, MD, MPH**  
**Lisa L. Barnes, PhD**  
**Laura B. Cantwell, MPH**  
**M. Daniele Fallin, PhD**  
**Stephen C. P. O'Keefe, PhD**  
**Patrick Griffin, MD**  
**Thomas G. O'Brien, MD**  
**Jennifer J. Manly, PhD**  
**Kathryn L. Lunetta, PhD**  
**M. Dina Kambh, PhD**  
**Oscar L. Lopez, MD**  
**David A. Bennett, MD**  
**Hugh Hester, MS, ChD, FRc**

**Importance** Genetic variants associated with susceptibility to late-onset Alzheimer disease are known for individuals of European ancestry, but whether the same or different variants account for the genetic risk of Alzheimer disease in African American individuals is unknown. Identification of disease-associated variants helps identify targets for genetic testing, prevention, and treatment.

**Objective** To identify genetic loci associated with late-onset Alzheimer disease in African Americans.

**Design, Setting, and Participants** The Alzheimer Disease Genetics Consortium (ADGC) assembled multiple data sets representing a total of 4826 African Americans (1968 case participants, 2858 control participants), 60 years or older that were collected between 1989 and 2011 at multiple sites. The occurrence of Alzheimer disease with genotyped and imputed single-nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) was assessed in case-control and in family-based data sets. Results from individual data sets were combined to perform an inverse-variance-weighted meta-analysis, followed by genome-wide analysis and subsequently with gene-based tests for preferentially reported loci.

**Main Outcomes and Measures** Presence of Alzheimer disease according to standardized criteria.

**Results** Genome-wide significance in fully adjusted models (sex, age, APOE genotype, population stratification) was observed for a SNP in *ABCA7* (rs11646640), allele C, frequency 0.09 cases and 0.06 controls; odds ratio (OR), 1.19 [95% CI, 1.07-1.32];  $P = 2.7 \times 10^{-8}$ , which is in linkage disequilibrium with SNPs previously associated with Alzheimer disease in Europeans (OR, 1.20-1.37). The effect size for this SNP in *ABCA7* was comparable with that of the APOE  $\epsilon$ 4-dominant SNP rs2738438 (allele C, frequency 0.30 cases and 0.18 controls; OR, 2.31 [95% CI, 2.19-2.42];  $P = 8.4 \times 10^{-9}$ ). Several loci previously associated with Alzheimer disease but not reaching significance in genome-wide analyses were replicated in gene-based analyses accounting for linkage disequilibrium between markers and correcting for number of tests performed per gene (CR1, BIN1, SPAN1, CD33, SORCS1-combined  $P < 0.01$ ).

**Conclusions and Relevance** In this meta-analysis of data from African American participants, Alzheimer disease was significantly associated with variants in *ABCA7* and with other genes that have been associated with Alzheimer disease in individuals of European ancestry. Replication and functional validation of this finding is needed before this information is used in clinical settings.

[www.nature.com/nature11283](http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature11283) [www.jco.org](http://www.jco.org)

**Kathleen S. Hall, PhD**  
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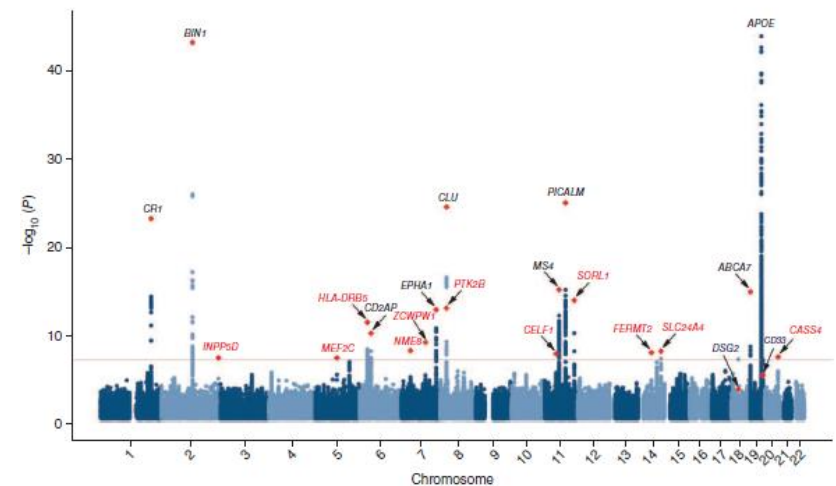
**BMJ, April 12, 2013, Vol 346, No. 11 1423**

# International Genomics Alzheimer's Program (IGAP)

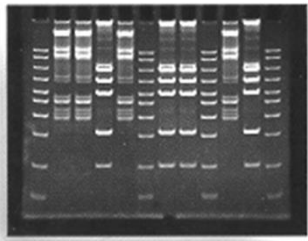
- “ In 2010, funded international collaboration of research groups in France, UK, & US
- “ Compiled nearly 75,000 individuals genetic data  
Goal to understand role genes play in Alzheimer's
- “ Confirmed 9 and identified 11 new genetic areas of interest

nature  
genetics

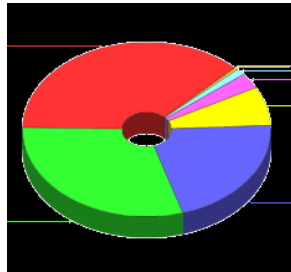
Meta-analysis of 74,046 individuals identifies 11 new susceptibility loci for Alzheimer's disease



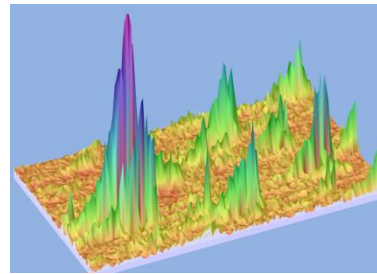
# Advances in Early Detection



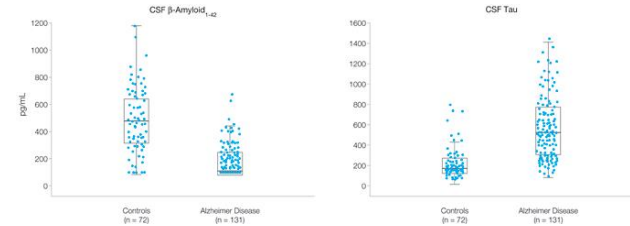
Genetics



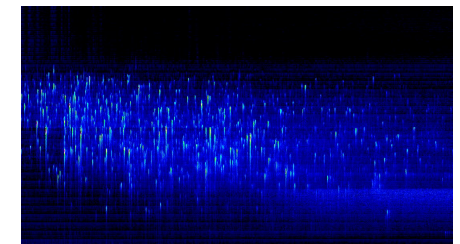
Epidemiology



Protein production & clearance rates



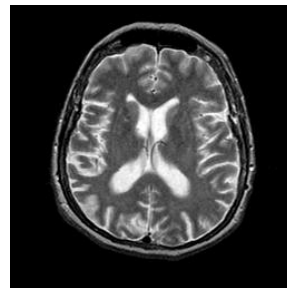
Targeted biochemical



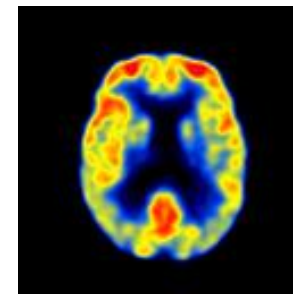
Proteomics

10-DIGIT SYMBOL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	SCORE															
SAMPLES	2	1	3	7	2	4	8	2	1	3	2	1	4	2	3	5	2	3	1	4	5	6	3	1	4
	1	5	4	2	7	6	3	5	7	2	8	5	4	6	3	7	2	8	1	9	5	8	4	7	3
	6	2	5	1	9	2	8	3	7	4	6	5	9	4	8	3	7	2	6	1	5	4	6	3	7
	9	2	8	1	7	9	4	6	8	5	9	7	1	8	5	2	9	4	8	6	3	7	9	8	6

Neuropsychometric tests



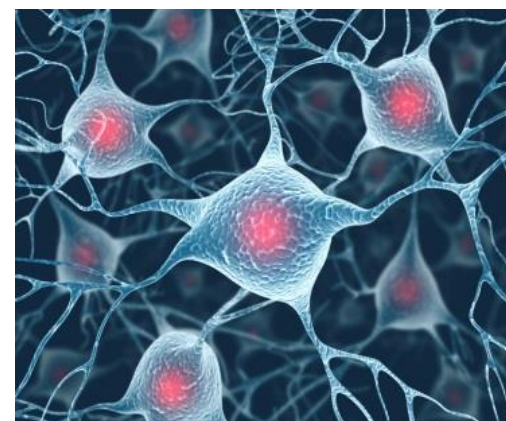
Structural Neuroimaging



Functional and Molecular Imaging

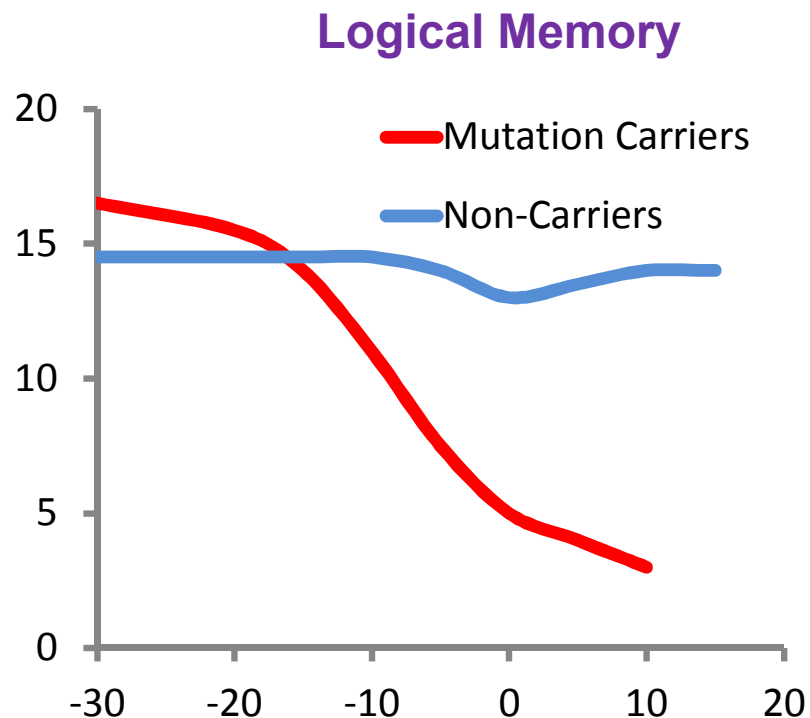
# What is a Biomarker?

- “ Biological marker to measure change
- “ Reliable predictor and indicator of disease and disease progression
- “ Examples include:
  - . Glucose for insulin resistance and diabetes
  - . T cell count for HIV/AIDS

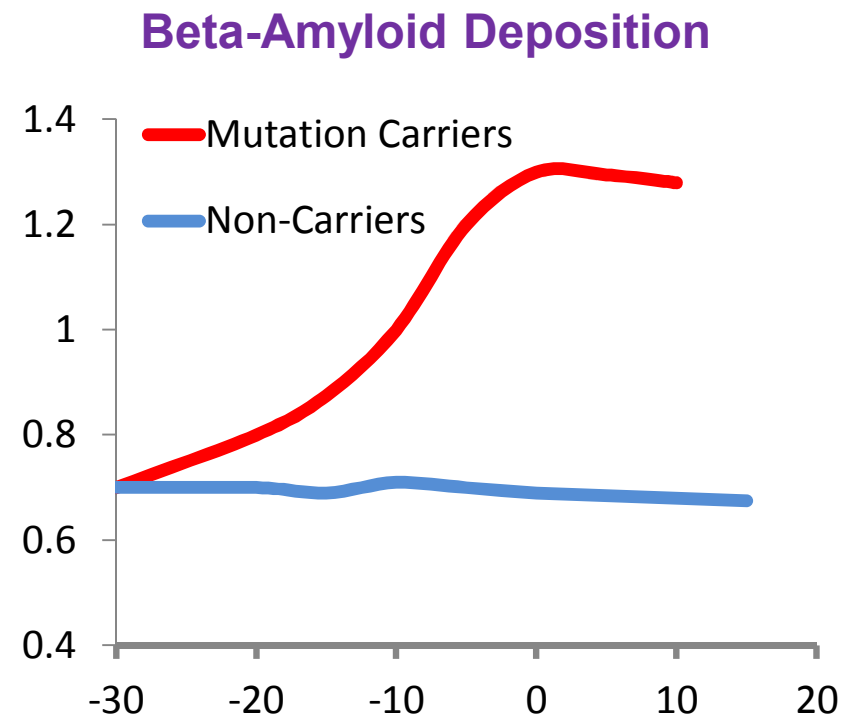




# Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN) Observational Trial



Est. Years Before Clinical Onset



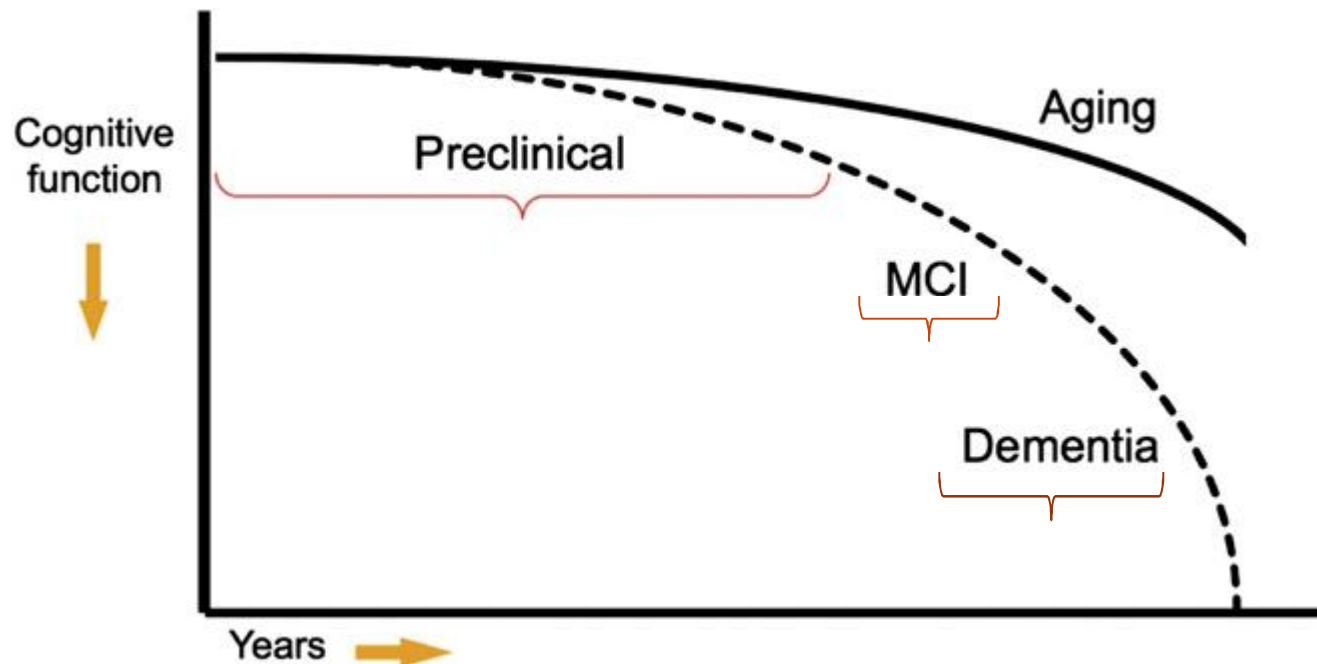
Est. Years Before Clinical Onset

Bateman et al. (2012) N Eng J Med 367: 795- 804

# Continuum of Alzheimer's Disease

Normal

Alzheimer's disease



Adapted from Sperling et al. 2011

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# Modernizing the Diagnosis of Alzheimer's Based on a Continuum

Normal

Pre-clinical

MCI

Alz dementia

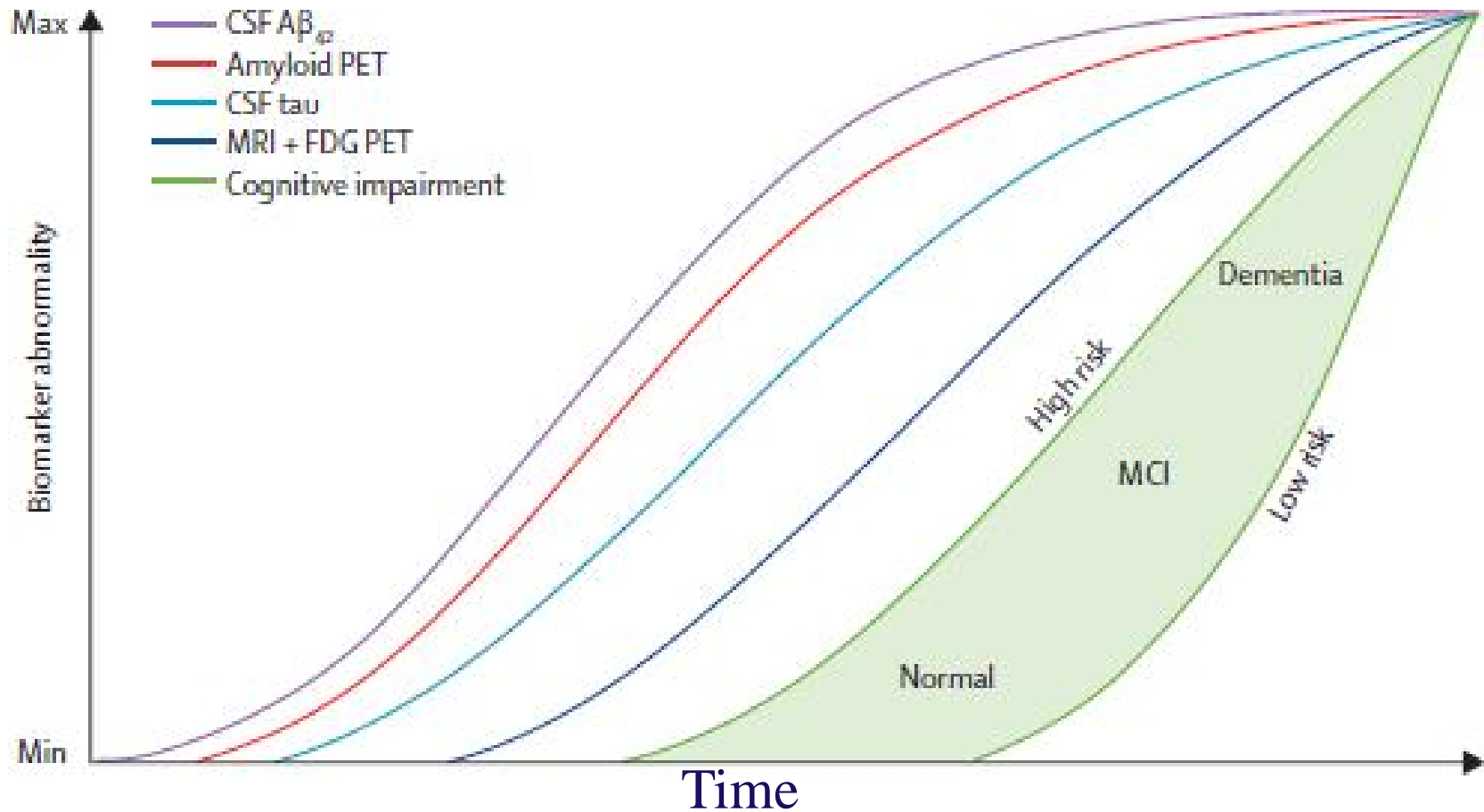


Changes that may indicate very earliest signs of disease using biomarkers.

Mild changes in memory and thinking, does not compromise independence/ everyday activities. Add biomarkers to determine MCI of the AD type.

Cognitive and behavioral symptoms impair an individual's ability to function independently. Add biomarkers to increase certainty

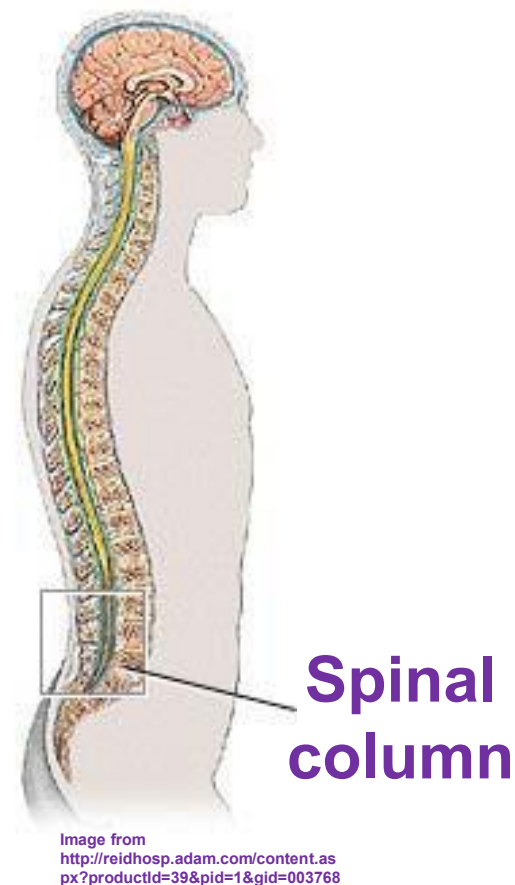
# Underlying Biology Begins 10+ Years Before Symptoms



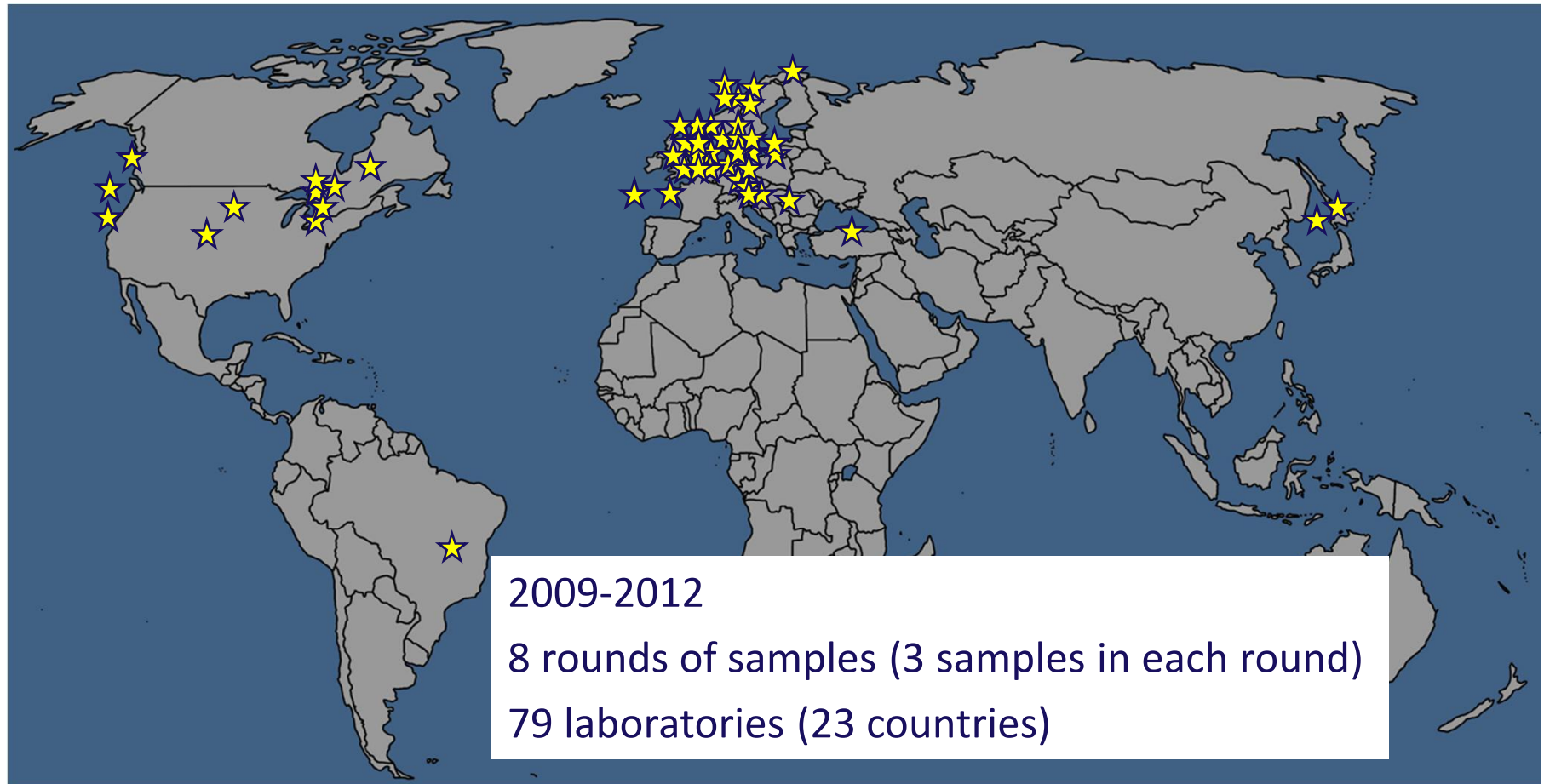


# CSF as a Potential Biomarker

- “ On-going research to improve diagnostic accuracy
- “ Potentially detects early biological changes
- “ Requires lumbar puncture (spinal tap)
- “ Identify and monitor the biochemical effect of a drug candidate in clinical trials
- “ Global Biomarkers Standardization Consortium

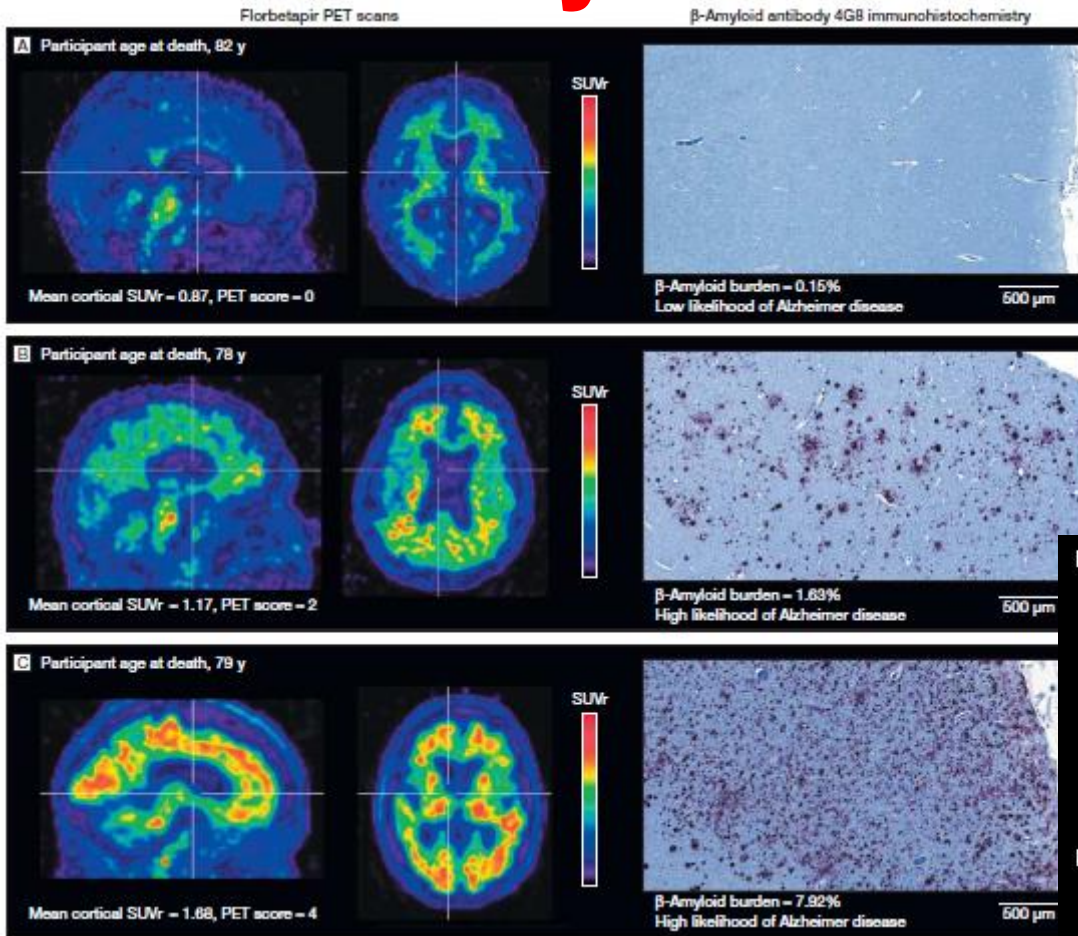


# Alzheimer's Association Quality Control Program for CSF biomarkers (ELISA, xMAP, MSD)



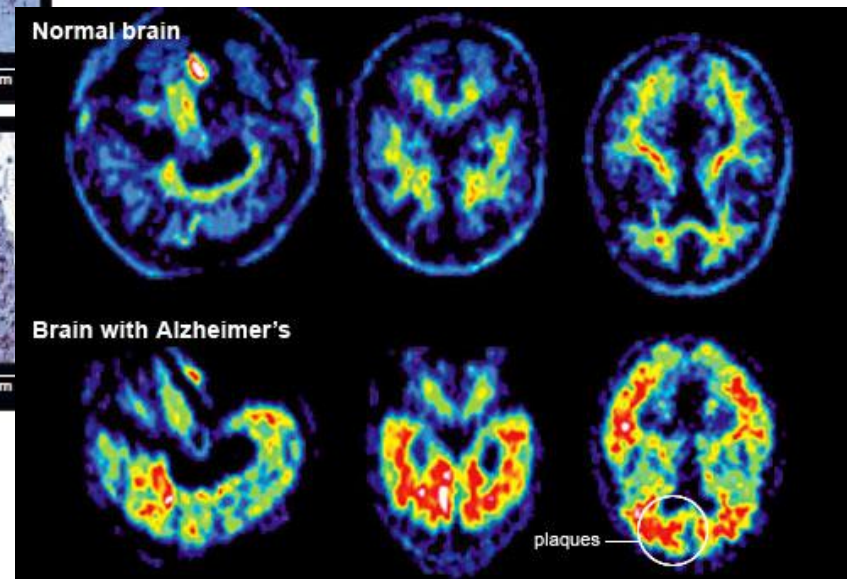


# Amyloid PET Imaging



RED = maximum uptake

VIOLET = minimum uptake



Clark et al. (2011) JAMA 305(1).

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## Appropriate use criteria for amyloid PET: A report of the Amyloid Imaging Task Force, the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, and the Alzheimer's Association

Keith A. Johnson<sup>a</sup>, Satoshi Minoshima<sup>b</sup>, Nicolaas I. Bohnen<sup>c</sup>, Kevin J. Donohoe<sup>d</sup>, Norman L. Foster<sup>e</sup>, Peter Herscovitch<sup>f</sup>, Jason H. Karlawish<sup>g</sup>, Christopher C. Rowe<sup>h</sup>, Maria C. Carrillo<sup>i,\*</sup>, Dean M. Hartley<sup>i</sup>, Saima Hedrick<sup>j</sup>, Virginia Pappas<sup>j</sup>, William H. Thies<sup>i</sup>

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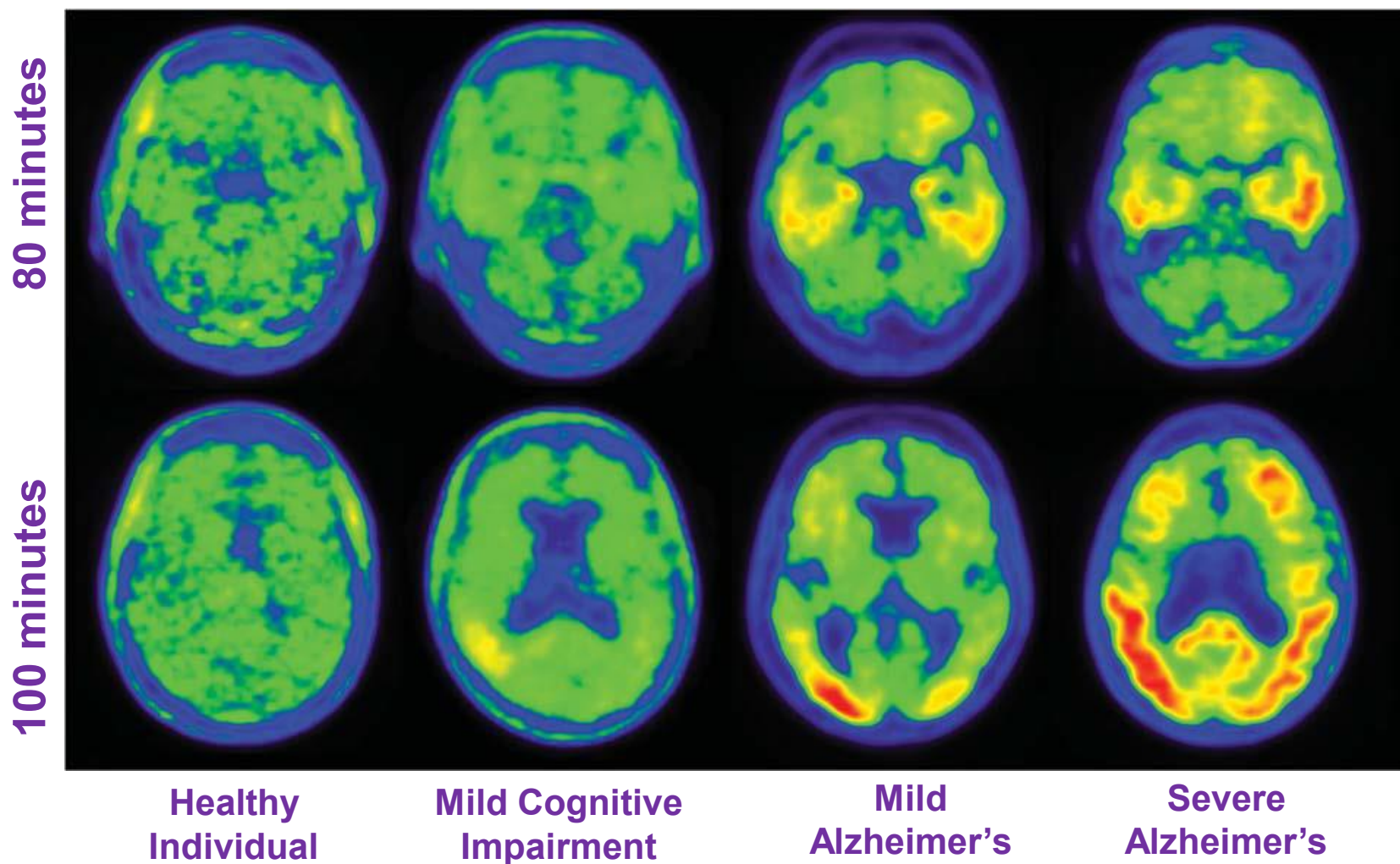
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<sup>h</sup>Department of Nuclear Medicine and Centre for PET, Austin Health, Victoria, Australia

<sup>i</sup>Division of Medical and Scientific Relations, Alzheimer's Association, Chicago, IL, USA

<sup>j</sup>Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging, Reston, VA, USA

# Alzheimer's disease: Tau Imaging



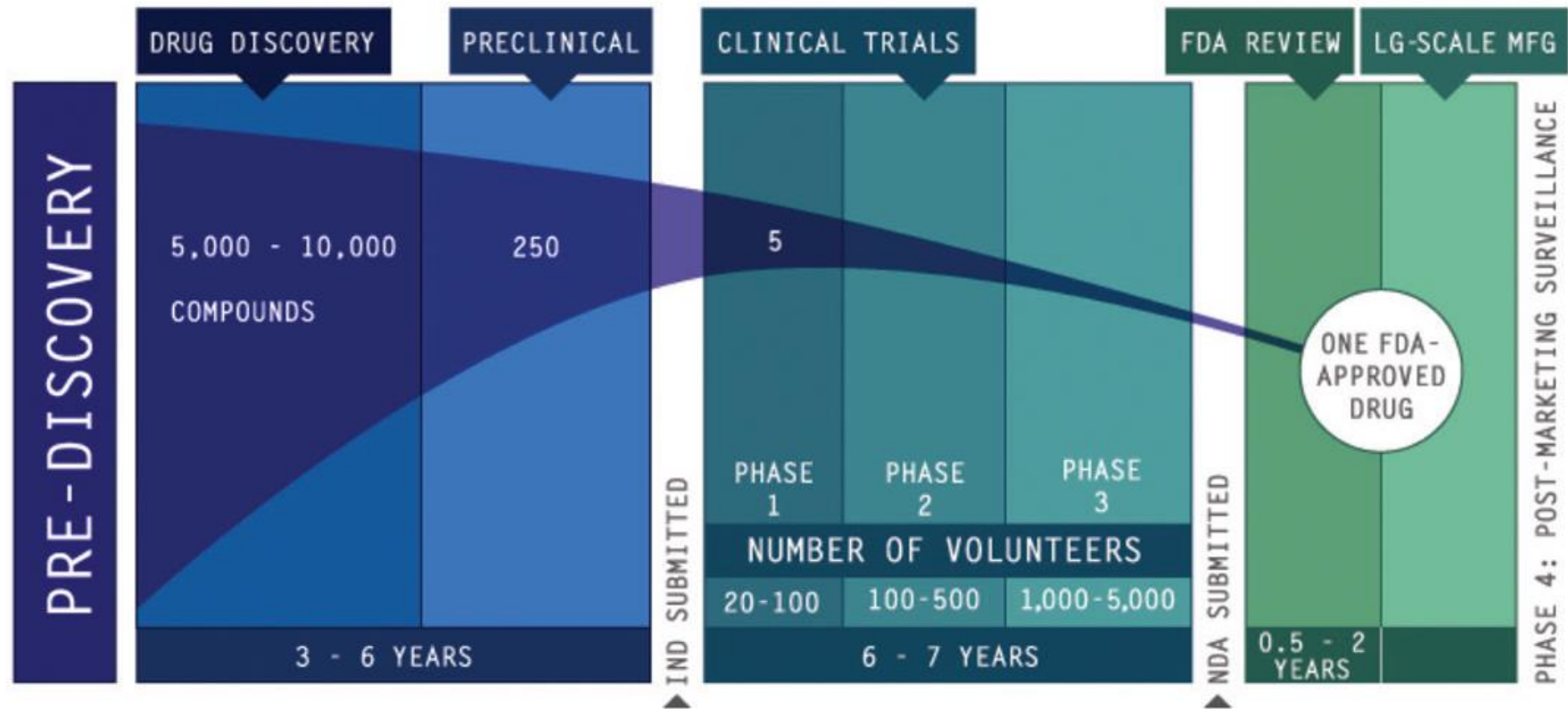
# Blood Test for Early Detection?

- “ Active area of research
- “ State of Science meeting .  
April 2013
- “ Recent study .
  - . Small, preliminary study suggests it may be possible to detect changes in the blood
  - . Needs validation in larger, diverse populations
- “ No blood test available for use



# Pathway to Your Medicine Cabinet

## Drug Discovery and Development: A LONG, RISKY ROAD



# Current Alzheimer's Therapies

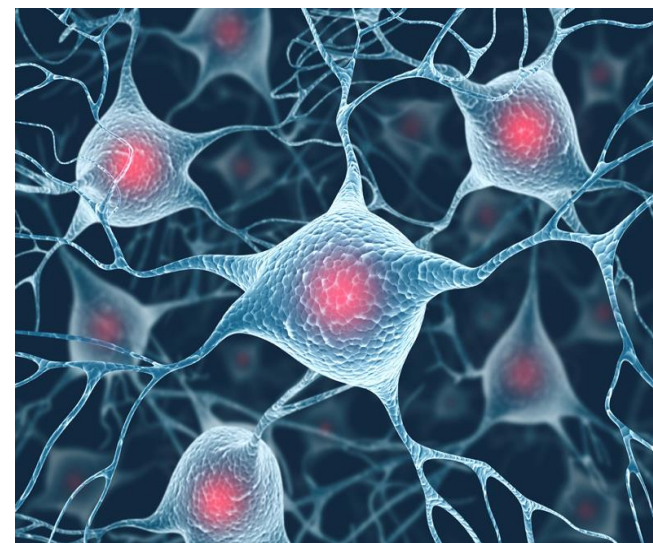
## Cholinesterase Inhibitors

tacrine (Cognex)

**donepezil (Aricept)**

**rivastigmine (Exelon)**

**galantamine (Razadyne)**

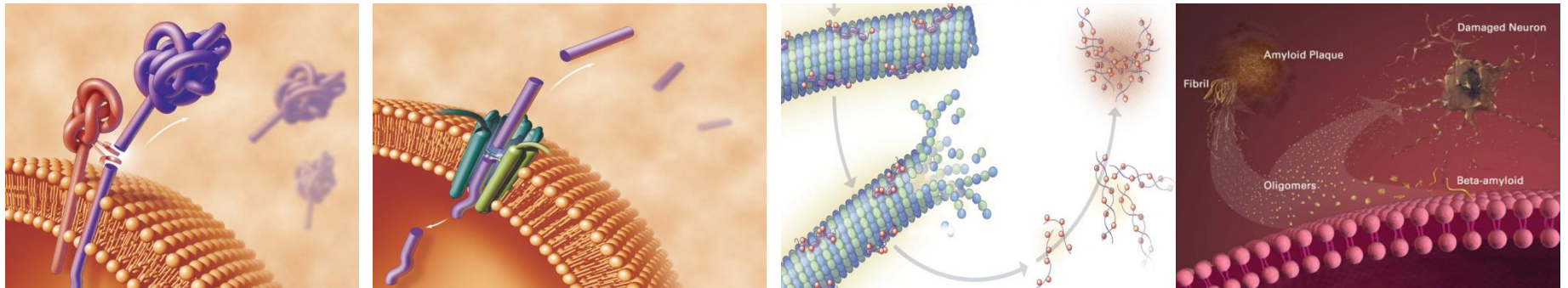


## Glutamate Moderators

**Memantine (Namenda)**

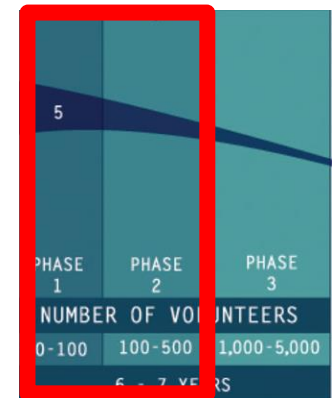
# Therapeutic Pipeline for Alzheimer's

- “ A broad range of drugs are in clinical trials
- “ These drugs impact biological processes associated with AD
- “ More than 100 clinical trials on-going across the US today



# Interventional Therapies in Phase I and II Clinical Trials Target Diverse Mechanisms

<b>AADvac1</b> ← Tau	(MABT5102A)	L-arginine	Saracatinib
ABT-126	DBS-f (Deep brain stimulation - fornix)	Lipoic Acid	Sargramostim
ACC-001 (vanutide cridificar)	Epothilone D (BMS-241027)	LY3002813	Simvastatin
AFFITOPE-AD02/03	EVP-0962	Mesenchymal stem cells	Sodium oligomannurate
Anatabloc	EVP-6124 (MT-4666)	<b>Metformin</b> ← Insulin	Tetrahydrobiopterin
Atomoxetine	Exendin-4	Minocycline	Thalidomide
AZD3293	Gantenerumab	MK-7622	Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)
AZD3480	GSK2647544	NIC5-15	
BAN2401	Insulin	Nicotinamide	
Bexarotene	Isotretinoin	Resveratrol	
BIIB037	IVIg	<b>RO4602522</b> ← Monoamine oxidase	
<b>CERE-110</b> ← NGF	Ladostigil	R-Pramipexole	
Crenezumab		SAR228810	

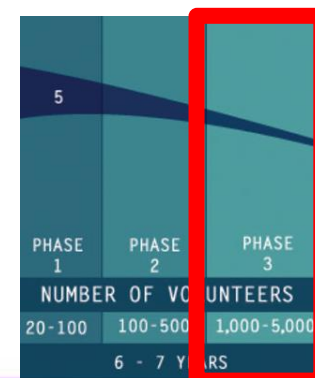


(Jan 1, 2014)



# Therapeutic Agents in Phase III Clinical Trials

- **EVP-6124 (MT-4666)**
  - EnVivo
  - Nicotinic receptor agonist
- **Gantenerumab**
  - Hoffman-La Roche
  - Monoclonal antibody against beta-amyloid
  - Part of DIAN-TU
- **IVIg and Albumin**
  - Grifols
  - Intravenous immunoglobulin
- **LU AE58054**
  - Lundbeck
  - 5HT6 receptor antagonist
- **Masitinib**
  - AB Science
  - Inhibitor of c-KIT cell signaling
- **MK-8931**
  - Merck
  - BACE inhibitor
- **Nasal insulin**
  - Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study
  - May correct insulin dysregulation in the brain
- “ **Nilvadipine**
  - Collaboration of European universities and pharmaceutical companies
  - Calcium channel blocker
- “ **Pioglitazone**
  - Takeda
  - PPAR-gamma activator
- “ **Solanezumab**
  - Eli Lilly
  - Humanized antibody against beta-amyloid
  - Part of DIAN TU
- “ **TRx0237**
  - TauRX
  - Tau aggregation inhibitor



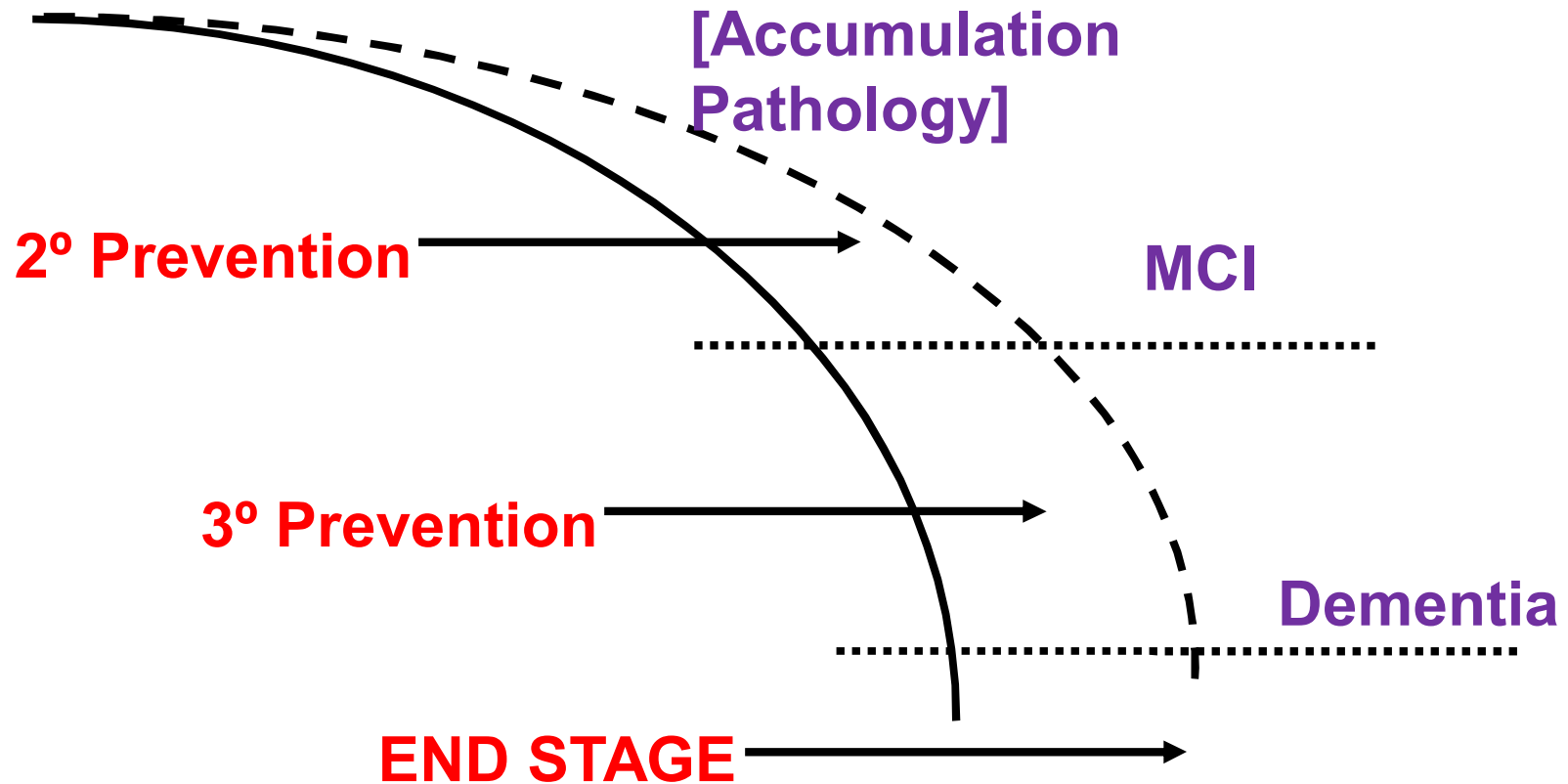
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trialmatch<sup>®</sup>

alzheimer's  association<sup>®</sup>

# Degrees of Prevention

**1° Prevention Preclinical**

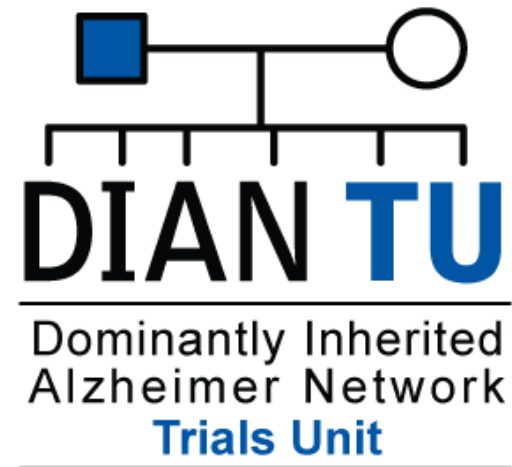


# Possible Alzheimer's Prevention



ALZHEIMER'S  
**PREVENTION**  
INITIATIVE

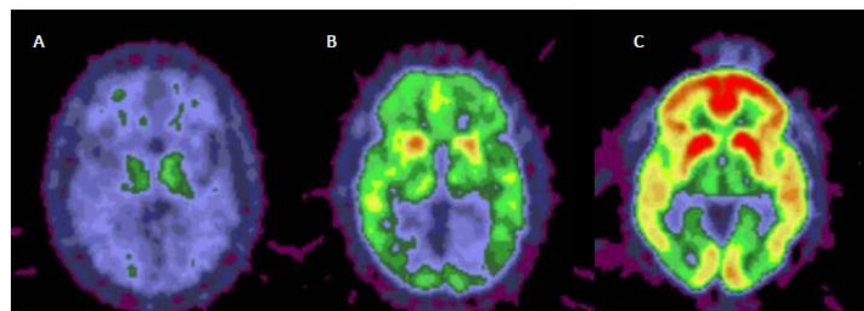
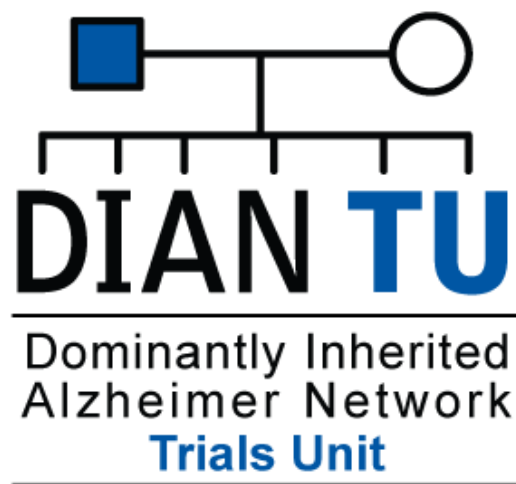
**TOMMORROW**



# Lead Funder of the DIAN-TU

“\$4.2M grant to DIAN-TU

- International studies in the US, UK, Japan, and Australia
- Expansion of DIAN database
- Three simultaneous trials to test potential therapies:
  - Gantenerumab (Roche, Monoclonal antibody to AB)
  - Solanezumab (Lilly, Monoclonal antibody to AB)
  - TBD



15 years prior to estimated symptoms

10 Years prior to estimated symptoms

~5 years after Alzheimer's disease symptoms

➤ Figures courtesy of Randall Bateman, MD, DIAN-TU

# Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative

## API . Colombian family

- Largest single kindred with familial Alzheimer's
- Crenezumab (Genentech)
- Received \$16 million from NIH

## ApoE Trial

- Risk gene for Alzheimer's
- 650 adults, age 60-75 with two copies APOE4
- Anti-amyloid therapy (TBD)
- Received \$33.2 million from NIH



ALZHEIMER'S  
**PREVENTION**  
INITIATIVE

# TOMMORROW Trial

- Takeda-Zinfandel Alliance
- 5,800 volunteers enrolled
  - End-point is conversion to Mild Cognitive Impairment
- Algorithm for enrollment:
  - APOE status
  - TOMM40
- Low dose Pioglitazone (Actos)



## TOMMORROW

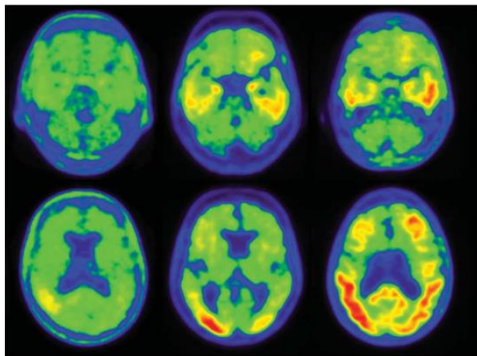
# Anti-Amyloid in Asymptomatic Alzheimer's (A4) Study

- Clinically Normal, Age 65+
- Positive Amyloid PET
- Testing Solanezumab (Lilly)
- Lead Investigator: Dr. Reisa Sperling
- Leveraged study: LEARN





# A4 Add On Project: LEARN



JT Chien et al. *Journal of Alz Dis* 2013


- “ Longitudinal Evaluation of Amyloid Risk and Neurodegeneration (LEARN)
- “ Natural history study of 400 people with low/intermediate levels of amyloid
- “ Focus on diverse populations
- “ ***Largest award ever given by Alzheimer’s Association***
- “ ***First funded tau imaging study!***  
***150 participants***

# Review of Objectives

- “ Possible risk factors for Alzheimer’s
- “ Significant advances in the development in area of early detection; moving to revised guidelines for diagnosis
- “ Current medications available for Alzheimer’s and advances in clinical trials, including prevention efforts
- “ Advocacy and awareness are key factors to advancing research
- “ There is HOPE through research!

# Alz.org/research

alz.org™ | research center  
advancing alzheimer's research worldwide

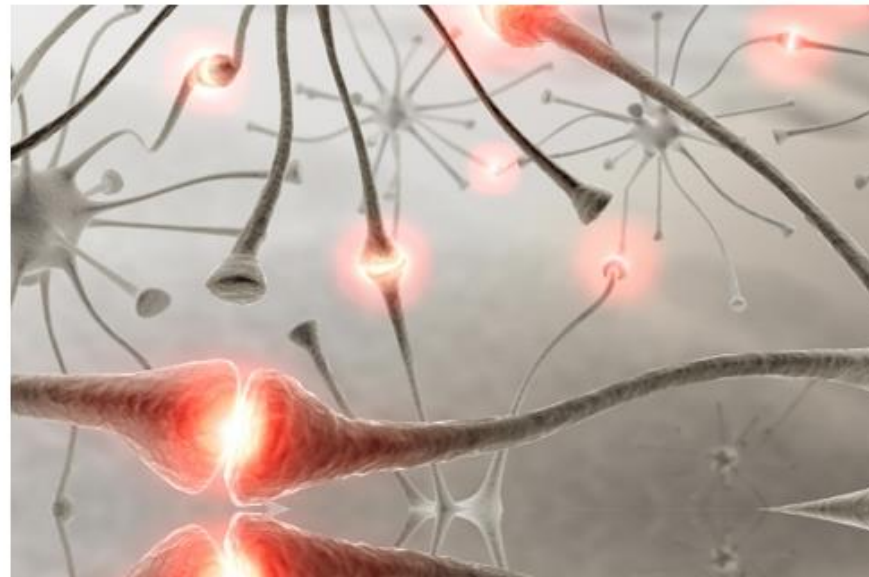


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## A future without Alzheimer's

The race is on. Alzheimer's and related dementias research is a dynamic field, and momentum builds each year. This site is for [professional researchers](#) and anyone interested in following the [progress in research](#). The Alzheimer's Association has been involved in every major advancement in Alzheimer's and related dementias research since the 1980's and is a [leader in the global fight](#) for a world without Alzheimer's.



### Boosting brain cell communications

The brain's power lies in its synapses — 100 trillion connections where nerve cells pulse information to one another. Current Alzheimer treatments temporarily support these vital cell-to-cell signals. But they don't prevent cell decline and death. The goal of new treatments is to keep cells alive and thriving.

[Learn more](#)

1 2 3 4 5

THE END OF  
ALZHEIMER'S  
**STARTS**  
WITH YOU

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