

 **Mission of AABC**

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association® Business Consortium (AABC) is to advance Alzheimer's disease research and innovation in small- and medium-size biotechnology, diagnostics, medical device and contract research organizations.

AABC members work in areas of common interest pre-competitively to advance both the field of Alzheimer's research and the goals of participating organizations. They provide leadership and direction to the group's areas of focus, which include, but are not limited to, collaborations, recognition and visibility, and knowledge and information sharing. AABC welcomes new organizational partners who are aligned in their commitment to research and innovation. To express interest in joining, please email Dr. Jacob Donoghue (jake@beacon.bio) or Dr. Codi Gharagouzloo (codi@imagingnostics.com), co-chairs, or Dr. Christopher Weber (cweber@alz.org), facilitator.

 **Congratulations to the New AABC Co-Chair**

Congratulations to Dr. Ornit Chiba-Falek, who was elected as the new AABC co-chair for a two-year term. Dr. Chiba-Falek is the co-founder of CLAIRIgene, an early-stage startup company that committed to bring gene-targeted epigenome therapies for unmet medical needs in central nervous system disorders with a focus on age-related neurodegenerative diseases. We are delighted to have her serving in this role.

The Alzheimer's Association extends its gratitude to outgoing co-chair Dr. Gharagouzloo for his service to AABC. Under his leadership, AABC has grown in membership and hosted events that have advanced our mission. We look forward to working with the two co-chairs, Dr. Donoghue and Dr. Chiba-Falek, in the upcoming year and would like to thank everyone for their continued participation.

 **Welcome to our New Members**

AABC is growing! Welcome to:

- » **Knut M. Wittkowski, Asdera:** Asdera is a discovery company using a platform patented at The Rockefeller University to identify interventions against aging-related diseases from GWAS data that others had found inconclusive. The lead program ASD-005 (US patent granted), an HP-alpha-cyclodextrin (HPaCD) compound, is intestinally absorbed for oral administration and constant blood levels. It filters out non-essential phospholipids from serum to reduce endocytosis (systemic and in CNS) and, thus, to prevent lysosomes with aging-related functional decline from disrupting A-beta and tau clean up by autophagy. Being too small to fit sterols and steroids, it avoids cholesterol-related ototoxicity of larger CDs. As a nano-device, it is IND-ready for ph3 under 505(b)(2). ASD-NP6 is a GRAS version (nutraceutical) based on a CD to reduce endocytosis to fasting levels.
- » **Sébastien Lange, Firalis S.A.:** Firalis S.A is a French company that has been specialized for more than 15 years in multi-omics biomarker research and development. Funded by ADDF and Gates Ventures, the company developed a first-in-class blood-based CE-marked IVD kit targeting 7494 brain-enriched long non-coding RNA (lncRNA). The company is currently looking for partnerships to strengthen its database, refine its algorithms and provide a signature for early-stage AD. Its subsidiary Firalis Molecular Precision supports external samples bioanalysis for research and clinical programs.
- » **Solène Guillot, Medesis Pharma:** Medesis Pharma is a France-based biotechnology company developing a drug-delivery platform called Aonys® enhancing active ingredient bioavailability. The combination Aonys®-Active ingredient is administered buccally, absorbed through the mucosa and transported in HDL lipoproteins, which then deliver the active ingredient directly inside all cells of the body by lipoprotein receptors. Medesis Pharma is a R&D platform licensing assets at preclinical POC or phase II (proof of concept) clinical stage. The fundamental, pre-clinical and clinical data generated with development of each asset nourish the body of evidence of Aonys® enabling faster development. Active ingredients currently being studied include metal ions, siRNA, ASO and peptides. Medesis Pharma has been working in neurodegenerative diseases with metal ions such as lithium for the past 20 years, with its lead program Nanolithium currently in phase 2 clinical trial in Alzheimer's disease. Nanolithium has demonstrated pharmacological activity with 400 times less lithium in animals than in the historic drug

and without toxicity. Nanolithium has the potential to treat neuropsychiatric symptoms as well act on profound pathological pathways and reverse cognitive symptoms.

- » **Chris Minar, Dr. Kip Ludwig, Dr. Justin Williams, Tamara Bratland, NeuraWorx Medical Technologies, Inc.:** NeuraWorx Medical Technologies, Inc. is a startup company developing a first-in-class bioelectronic solution for enhancing the brain's glymphatic system function, to improve central nervous system homeostasis and the clearance of metabolic waste linked to diseases like dementia. The solution uses patented neuromodulation technology, with a mechanism of action that enhances arterial pulsation and cerebral spinal fluid flow during sleep. Their initial focus is Alzheimer's Dementia (AD).

News from AABC Members



Perceiv AI announced an investment of \$1.5 million from strategic and institutional investors to support the expansion of Foresight™, Perceiv AI proprietary AI/ML-driven prognostic platform, that predicts disease progression.

The round was composed of strategic and institutional investors, including CABHI (Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation), Plug and Play Ventures, Boreal Ventures, IKJ Capital, Red Abbey Labs, Investissement Québec, as well as angel investors.



CognICA™ Platform Successfully Monitors Cognitive Performance in Alzheimer's Patients Receiving Disease-Modifying Therapy

Here is link to the news: <https://www.biospace.com/article/cognetivity-neurosciences-cognica-platform-successfully-monitors-cognitive-performance-in-alzheimer-s-patients-receiving-disease-modifying-therapy/>

Cognetivity's digital platform (CognICA) was used at Mediclinic Parkview Hospital in Dubai, UAE, where AD patients are being treated with Aducanemab. They used CognICA to screen for AD patients and then monitor those who received treatment on a monthly basis. The results have been encouraging so far. Professor Derk Krieger, Director of the Cognitive Health Clinic at Mediclinic Parkview, who has overseen the research, commented on the announcement: "These are extremely exciting results, given the wider global clinical and regulatory context. Powerful, life-changing drugs are coming to market, targeted towards early-stage cognitive decline. But so far, there has been a lack of tools offering high sensitivity and ease of large-scale rollout, sufficient to support mass testing for early-stage impairment. We have shown that CognICA can function as the missing link in the chain, enabling these therapies to be connected to the millions of people who can benefit from them as we need to be smart in choosing our patients for such treatment programs."



Treventis Corporation, a privately held biotechnology company, announced today that their proposal to preclinically develop a small molecule anti-tau misfolding drug has been awarded funding totaling \$2,977,166 by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP), part of the DOD.

Treventis' proposal, "Development of a small molecule anti-misfolding drug for frontotemporal degeneration," was submitted in response to the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program – Technology/Therapeutic Development Award (PRMRP-TTDA), which was solicited for the Defense Health Agency (DHA) J9, Research and Development Directorate, by the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity (USAMRAA).

The award aims to complete manufacturing of a Treventis anti-tau small molecule in a manner consistent with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) and to collect additional efficacy, pharmacology,

and safety data according to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) in ultimate support of an Investigational New Drug (IND) application to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This work will be undertaken by Treventis and a network of selected contract research organizations overseen by Treventis.

“We are pleased and gratified by the DoD’s funding and the feedback from their scientific review. Treventis believes that a small molecule targeting tau has significant potential as a therapeutic for protein misfolding diseases such as FTD,” said Dr. Christopher Barden, CEO of Treventis. Dr. Donald Weaver, PI on the study and Chief Medical Officer of Treventis added, “This funding will allow Treventis to bring important new hypotheses about targeting protein misfolding disease into a new stage of validation, which brings an anti-tau small molecule that much closer to making a difference in the lives of dementia patients and their caregivers.” [View Press Release](#)

SeptaTherapeutics

Preclinical Trials Initiated for new drug candidate to treat Alzheimer’s Disease

Septa Therapeutics Inc. is a biotechnology company devoted exclusively to a new approach in the development of a therapeutic to treat Alzheimer’s Disease. We are pleased to announce that we have initiated trials with the Boston-based, Charles River Discovery Research Services, Finland, Ltd., under the supervision of Dr. Toni Ahtoniemi, Director Clinical Trials. Initial data obtained from a six-week pilot study will confirm dosing and administration parameters before starting efficacy trials.

The company believes that it has identified the “trigger” that initiates events leading to AD pathology. Specifically, we have identified and patented an activity associated with the amyloid beta molecule itself which may lead to the inflammation characteristic of AD. Our new drug candidate is designed to block this inflammation. Our approach is new. While other studies have attempted to remove amyloid beta, we will leave the amyloid in place, while inhibiting its inflammatory activity.

This work represents the culmination of UCSD graduate Dr. Diane Van Alstyne’s 20 years of academic research in Biochemistry at McGill University, Medicine/Neurology at the University of British Columbia and in Neuroimmunology at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda. Her work focused on chronic viral infection in the central nervous system. After leaving academics to found Insight Biotek Inc., Dr. Van Alstyne applied her academic research to developing platform technology underpinning the concept of a universal vaccine for bacterial meningitis, and ultimately to the identification of the Alzheimer’s disease trigger.

AAIC 2023 Annual Meeting

Registration is now open for the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference® 2023 (AAIC®), July 16-20, 2023, in Amsterdam, Netherlands, and online.

AAIC is the largest and most influential international meeting dedicated to advancing dementia science. Each year, AAIC convenes researchers, clinicians and dementia professionals from all career stages to share breaking research discoveries that will lead to methods of prevention and treatment and improvements in diagnosis for Alzheimer’s disease. From basic science to dementia care, every aspect of the field’s growing knowledge of dementia is incorporated into this world-class conference.

Visit alz.org/aaic for abstract submission guidelines, program announcements and more. Save on registration through May 12 with early bird rates.

Social Media

Join our new [LinkedIn](#) page! As discussed during the AABC meeting at the AAIC 2023, please visit our page and request to join. We look forward to using the page to foster partnerships and communications.

Join our new Slack channel! We have launched a Slack Channel to have open and direct communications between all members. If interested in joining, please reach out to Ashley Hansen [Ashley Hansen](#).



Alzheimer's Association Science Hub App



Science Hub provides the latest news right in the palm of your hand. This trusted tool distributes research, spreads awareness and delivers accurate information directly to your phone.

Learn more at alz.org/sciencehub, or search “Science Hub” in your app store.



Spread the Word

To help us grow AABC, please continue to introduce new members and companies to our group. We also welcome ideas or events for this newsletter so we can better serve you. Please send your suggestions to Ashley Hansen at [Ashley Hansen](#).