

## **THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION IS THE LARGEST NONPROFIT FUNDER OF ALZHEIMER'S AND ALL OTHER DEMENTIA RESEARCH IN THE WORLD**

In 2023, the Alzheimer's Association invested a record-breaking \$100 million in research initiatives, including over \$75 million for new scientific investigations. This marks the first time the Association has invested more than \$100 million toward research in a single year. As the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's and other dementia research, the Association's active impact on research includes more than \$360 million in over 1,000 active best-of-field projects in 53 countries.

### **International Research Grant Program (IRGP)**

The Alzheimer's Association received 1,467 letters of intent and 984 full proposals in response to requests for proposals (RFPs) issued via its International Research Grant Program. Grants were awarded to researchers whose proposals were ranked highest in a rigorous three-tier peer-review process. The Association engages a panel of international volunteer scientists to evaluate the merits of each proposal; nearly 850 individuals from 31 countries provided 6,249 reviews in 2023.

With input from the IRGP Council and the Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) to ensure overall portfolio balance across the entire spectrum of dementia science, the Association funded 23% of applications submitted in response to all RFPs, with approximately 32% adjudicated meritorious funding. A total of 271 new grants were awarded. Newly funded projects are advancing dementia research across five essential areas:

**Molecular Pathogenesis and Physiology of Alzheimer's and all other Dementia** – 48% of funded projects are exploring processes including brain inflammation and immunity, cellular transport, genetics, and the production of proteins (e.g., beta-amyloid, tau, alpha-synuclein, etc.), as well as cellular functions that may normally protect and maintain nerve cells in the brain.

**Diagnosis, Assessment and Disease Monitoring of Alzheimer's and all other Dementia** – 11% of the projects are investigating tools and methods aimed at earlier diagnosis, timelier interventions, and more effective monitoring of disease progression. This includes studies that develop and expand the use of brain scans, fluid biomarkers such as blood tests, and clinical tools, as well as studies that combine these measures to further develop, standardize, and validate them.

**Translational Research and Clinical Interventions** – 15% of

the projects explore novel treatment strategies for potential drugs (drug discovery, drug development, and human trials) and non-drug interventions for Alzheimer's and other dementia.

**Dementia Care and Impact of Disease, including Population Studies** – 14% of the projects are studying potential factors that may impact risk for dementia and ways to improve care (such as with new technology) for people at all stages of Alzheimer's and other dementia.

**Epidemiology (Dementia Risk Factors and Prevention)** – 12% of the projects study potential factors that may impact risk for dementia, such as lifestyle factors.

**Grant types, including the number of grants per type in parentheses:**

**(44) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants (AARG) and (15) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants to Promote Diversity (AARG-D)** to fund investigations by scientists in dementia research who are less than 18 years past their advanced or terminal degree.

**(20) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants – New to the Field (AARG-NTF) and (7) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants to Promote Diversity – New to the Field (AARG-D-NTF)** to fund investigations by scientists who are new to dementia research.

**(40) Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowships (AARF) and (33) Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowships to Promote Diversity (AARF-D)** to support investigations by researchers in dementia research who are engaged in post-graduate work (i.e., postdoctoral fellows or early-career faculty).

**(12) Alzheimer's Association Clinical Fellowships (AACSF) and (5) Alzheimer's Association Clinical Fellowships to Promote Diversity (AACSF-D)** to support training in dementia research for clinicians who have completed their residency (M.D.), postdoctoral fellowship (Ph.D.) or both and actively see patients.

**(10) Alzheimer's Association Leveraging Model & Data Resources to Advance Alzheimer's and Dementia Discovery Program (ALZ Discovery Grant Program)** to support investigations that leverage and utilize data sets such as those now available through the MODEL-AD AD Knowledge Portal or MODEL-AD and related animal models available through The Jackson Laboratory to advance research. This commitment enhances transparency, research,

and reproducibility, and it increases our understanding of dementia, aligning with the goals of open science and FAIR data practices.

**(9) Advancing Research on Care and Outcome Measurement 2.0 (ARCOM)** is offered in partnership with the NIH-funded initiative for Leveraging an Interdisciplinary Consortium to Improve Care and Outcomes for Persons Living with Alzheimer's and Dementia (LINC-AD). The funded investigations address significant gaps in care and outcome measurements to advance research for care and support.

**(1) ISTAART Grant Program for Conferences and Convenings (IGPCC)** to support initiatives that help foster and facilitate Professional Interest Areas (PIAs)-driven efforts to expand and accelerate research discussions.

The **Alzheimer's Disease Strategic Fund (ADSF)** is a collaboration between the Alzheimer's Association and an anonymous foundation to fund innovative research through consortia-based team science projects and open funding calls. In 2023 **(6) ADSF Endolysosomal Activity in Alzheimer's (E2A)** grants were awarded to advance research on alterations to endolysosomal system activity, a common feature of neurodegenerative disorders. An additional grant was awarded via the **ADSF APOE Biology in Alzheimer's (ABA) Program**, which focuses on increasing understanding of APOE biology and contributions to disease.

### Strategic Research Initiatives

**Leveraging insights and a global network of dementia scientists, philanthropic partners, and other movement stakeholders**, the Alzheimer's Association proactively identifies, accelerates, and enhances Strategic Research Initiatives with elevated potential for advancing the entire field of dementia research. The Association awarded new support for thirty-two (32) Strategic Research Initiatives in 2023. Examples of these high-impact projects include

**The Alzheimer's Network for Treatment and Diagnostics (ALZ-NET)**, a voluntary healthcare provider-enrolled patient network that collects clinical and safety data for patients treated with new FDA-approved Alzheimer's disease therapies and tracks the long-term health outcomes associated with their use in real-world settings.

**The World Wide Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Genetic Initiative (WW EOAD Genetics Initiative)**, a collaborative study involving over 20 research groups globally to investigate Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease (EOAD) across diverse

regions in North America, Europe, and Asia. This work aims to bridge knowledge gaps in identifying genetic markers associated with EOAD. The initiative leverages the foundation laid by the Longitudinal Early-Onset AD Study (LEADS) and expands on it by conducting in-depth genetic analyses of individuals affected by EOAD. All data will be shared broadly with the research community.

**Primary Care-Based Screening Pathway and Care Bundle for Persons with Early Cognitive Impairment Using an EHR Algorithm, Remote Clinical Assessment, and Blood Biomarkers**, a study that brings together a team of researchers at Wake Forest University School of Medicine to validate and refine their unique innovative approach aimed at improving how individuals with early cognitive impairments are identified in primary care settings and facilitated into specialized care pathways. The researchers are leveraging electronic health records and novel blood tests in their screening, assessment, and care pathway strategy. The objective is to detect cognitive impairment early, offering a cost-effective model that can be scaled in large health systems.

**Prospective validation of high-performing blood biomarkers and digital cognitive tests in both specialist memory clinics and general primary care settings**, a study aiming to validate the effectiveness of biological markers (biomarkers) for use in primary care. The objective is to establish scalable, cost-effective methods that enable early and accurate diagnosis and prognosis of Alzheimer's in order to enhance patient care in primary care settings. This study is being conducted by leading global experts in Sweden.

Note: For more details visit [alz.org/research](https://alz.org/research).