

 **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 its member organizations. They provide leadership and direction to the groups' areas of focus, which include, but are not limited to, collaborations, recognition and visibility, and knowledge and information sharing. AABC welcomes new member organizations who are aligned in their commitment to research and innovation. To express interest in joining, please email co-chairs Dr. Jacob Donoghue ([jake@beacon.bio](mailto:jake@beacon.bio)) or Dr. Ornit Chiba-Falek ([ornit.chibafalek@clairigene.com](mailto:ornit.chibafalek@clairigene.com)), or Dr. Christopher Weber ([cweber@alz.org](mailto:cweber@alz.org)), facilitator.

 **Welcome New Members**

AABC is growing! Welcome to:

- » **Jeff Madden, David Bachsbaum, Olivier Jerry, Carmela Abraham, Achim Schneeberger and Agustin Fernandez III**  
ADvantage Therapeutics is based in Miami with a research subsidiary in Vienna. ADvantage Therapeutics is developing therapies to treat neurodegenerative conditions with a central focus on AD. The Company's lead compound AD04™ is a subcutaneous injectable therapy that has entered confirmatory Phase 2b clinical trials in Europe, to evaluate its safety and efficacy in early AD patients. The Company believes that AD04™ may function as an immunomodulator, stimulating and regulating the immune system to reduce AD pathology, rather than limiting therapy to attack the misfolded proteins, beta amyloid and tau. The Company conducts early research and drug development to explore additional approaches to mitigating neurodegenerative disease, among them increasing the levels of Klotho, a life and health extending protein which will have an overall impact on longevity.
- » **Akansha Bhargava and Nilomi Shah**  
LEXEO Therapeutics is a New York City based clinical-stage genetic medicines company dedicated to transforming healthcare by applying pioneering science to fundamentally change how disease is treated. Using a stepwise development approach, we leverage early proof-of-concept functional and biomarker data to advance our pipeline of cardiovascular and APOE4- associated Alzheimer's disease programs.
- » **Mythra Varun Nemallapudi, Carlos Zorraquino, and Ash Comar**  
PraanaTech is an early-stage startup building next generation radiation imaging technology for affordable early diagnosis of Alzheimer's. Their flagship product, FlexPET is the world's first compact and truly portable PET device which has been designed to perform organ specific, region-of-interest imaging, making it adaptable to a wide range of applications including Cancer diagnosis. PraanaTech's vision is to provide continuous monitoring to neurologists across the US that makes treatment effective. With a team of experienced scientists, researchers and engineers from some of the world's top institutions such as CERN, Academia Sinica and University of Chicago IL, this high resolution PET was developed with an objective to change the way patients are currently imaged. With a fully developed prototype in hand and a high potential emerging market, PraanaTech is now actively seeking business and clinical partnerships to take their technology into the world.
- » **Tee Lea Ong, Ellen Weiss and Trish Joyce**  
Since 2008, [PCM Trials](#) has led the way in mobile research. Our Certified Mobile Research Nurses are driving the shift to patient-centric, decentralized clinical trials that provide individuals the flexibility to engage in research studies in the ways that work best for them and expanding opportunities for participation. In addition to providing greater patient diversity, our innovative model delivers significant value to sponsors and CROs by leading to faster patient enrollment and higher retention rates, improved protocol compliance and faster study completion. Our GCP training program, coupled with robust protocol-specific training, ensures that patients have the best possible study experience while sponsors meet their strategic development goals in the United States and internationally.

### **ImmunoBrain Checkpoint Inc.**

ImmunoBrain Checkpoint Inc. (ImmunoBrain), a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company developing innovative disease-modifying immune therapies to combat neurodegenerative diseases, today announced the appointment of Dr. Sanjay Keswani, M.D., BSc, FRCP, as its President and Chief Executive Officer.

Dr. Keswani is an accomplished physician-scientist with executive leadership experience in both large pharma and small biotech companies. He is a former Neurology faculty member at The Johns Hopkins Hospital and an elected Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, United Kingdom. Sanjay was Senior Vice President of R&D at Hoffman La Roche, and Vice President of Exploratory and Clinical Translational Research at Bristol-Myers Squibb, where he was responsible for multiple therapeutic areas including Immunology, Neuroscience, Rare Diseases, Fibrosis and Virology. He has held CEO and CMO positions in biotech with experience of a successful Nasdaq IPO (Annexon), an acquisition (MiroBio by Gilead), venture fundraising (Series A, B, D rounds), and multiple industry partnerships. Sanjay has been instrumental in the development of several approved medicines, including Risdiplam, Emgality, Faricimab, Cymbalta, Aimovig and Deucravacitinib. Sanjay completed his residency in Neurology and fellowships in Neuroimmunology and Neurophysiology at Johns Hopkins. He graduated in medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital (UK's oldest hospital founded in 1123) and holds a First Class honors BSc degree from St. Mary's Hospital, London in Pathology & Basic Medical Sciences (Immunology). More information can be found [here](#).

### **Mon4t**

2023 was a very exciting year for Mon4t. Some of our notable achievements highlighting the depth and breadth of our neurological assessment solutions include leading medical conference presentations, peer-reviewed academic journals and growing clinical work at top institutions. Johns Hopkins Hospital presented our studies at the Hydrocephalus Conference in Germany, as well as Rabin Medical Center presented at the MDS Conference in Copenhagen. The NIH National Library of Medicine published two different studies which used Mon4t's technology with Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease: "Smartphone-based gait assessment for multiple sclerosis" & "Circadian profile, daytime activity, and the Parkinson's phenotype: A motion sensor pilot study with neurobiological underpinnings". We have also extended our clinical work in the U.S. at institutions including Columbia University, Vanderbilt University and Johns Hopkins University. They have utilized Mon4t's technology to assess various neurological conditions and made significant progress advancing their studies determining detailed and valuable digital data biomarkers. Beyond the U.S., Mon4t's pipeline includes partnerships in Africa, Europe, South America, and Asia. Lastly, we have signed a distribution contract with a European based CRO and will therefore be expanding our clientele in the region further. We are happy to organize pilots or product demos for any neurological or psychiatric condition in need. For partnerships, please contact us at [support@mon4t.com](mailto:support@mon4t.com). Mon4t looks forward to meeting new partners in 2024!

### **Mitochon**

Mitochon Pharmaceuticals recently published in Business Wire: [European Medicines Agency \(EMA\) Greenlights Mitochon Pharmaceuticals to Initiate Phase I/IIa Biomarker Study in Neurodegenerative Diseases](#).

"Accumulating data suggests that the mitochondria may be at the center of disease onset and progression for neurodegenerative diseases. To date, few such diseases have any specific or "disease-modifying" therapy. A host of neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, Huntington disease, ALS, FTD, etc., are associated with elevated cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) levels of free radicals derived from the mitochondria. The purpose of this study is to investigate possible neuroprotective effects of the mitochondrial modulator MP101, on a panel of relevant biomarkers in CSF of sporadic ALS, MS (SPMS), HD, and AD patients, all rooted in mitochondrial dysfunction. Mitochon's MP101 is a cGMP manufactured version of a never FDA approved ~100-year old drug, 2,4-dinitrophenol (DNP) originally used for obesity, now repurposed at weight-neutral/preserving micro-doses as treatment for insidious neurodegenerative diseases often associated with wasting. It is an oral brain penetrating once-per-day small molecule with broad neuroprotective pharmacology in reducing damage (ROS, calcium overload, etc.), while promoting repair (increased mitophagy and induction of cognitive factors such as cAMP, CREB, and BDNF)." MOA whiteboard: <https://www.mitochonpharma.com/mechanism-of-action/>

### **Qmenta**

Qmenta has released their Top 5 Trends in Neuroscience You Need to Know in 2024, the full article is [here](#). They also have posted an interview with Prof. Russ Hornbeck who shares insights on Alzheimer's research and imaging technology through his experience in medical imaging, discussing the DIAN study and challenges such as data harmonization, multi-site collaboration, and the need for an effective imaging platform. Find the full interview [here](#).

## PCM Trials

PCM Trials has recently acquired the Netherlands-based Clinical Trial Service (CTS), as announced by PCM Trials President Greg Austin in an interview with the Denver Business Journal. This expansion enhances PCM Trials' global presence by incorporating CTS's capabilities, notably in sending Certified Mobile Research Nurses to patients' homes, schools, or workplaces. This approach aims to make clinical trials more accessible and convenient, leading to more diverse participant groups and better representation of the patient population in studies for new drugs or treatments.

For more details, read the full article in the Denver Business Journal [here](#) and read more about the acquisition [here](#).

PCM Trials, in collaboration with GlobalData, recently presented a live webinar titled "The Past, Present, and Future of Mobile Visits in Decentralized Clinical Trials". This webinar featured insights from industry experts Craig Lipset, Ellen Weiss, and Deb Guattery as they discussed the evolution of decentralized clinical trials (DCTs), examining their past challenges and future potential. The speakers explored the origins and progress of DCTs, their current significance in research, and anticipated future roles in the clinical trial landscape.

To view the webinar on demand, please click [here](#).

## TELL

TELL is proud to be the tool of choice for a large-scale investigation of speech biomarkers in Latinos. Funded with an USD 8.3M grant from NIH-NIA, the project includes centers in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, and the US. TELL's CSO, Adolfo García, is one of the grant's PIs. We are excited to turn our technology into a vehicle for equitable dementia assessments in under-represented populations.

## Meet & Greet

AABC leadership will be at the AD/PD (International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases and related neurological disorders) on March 5-9, 2024 in Lisbon, Portugal. If interested, Dr. Christopher Weber, Director, Global Science Initiatives, will be at the conference at the Alzheimer's Association booth #29 on Wednesday, March 6 at 4:30-5:30pmWET (Lisbon local time)

Our AABC Members will also be represented at AD/PD:

Our AABC Co-Chair, Ornit Chiba-Falek, will be a speaker on March 7 at 4:30 p.m. (local time) APOE-TARGETED EPIGENOME THERAPY: TOWARDS PRECISION MEDICINE IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

CLAIRIgene, Boris Kantor- Poster: NOVEL EPIGENOME-EDITING PLATFORM FOR TREATMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

IntervVivo Solutions, Joseph Araujo- Poster: BIOMARKER CHANGES IN THE AGED BEAGLE DOG MODEL OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PROGRESSION

## AAIC 2024

Join us in Philadelphia, USA, and online July 26-Aug. 1 for the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® 2024 (AAIC®). AAIC is the largest 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 improvements in diagnosis, risk reduction and treatments for Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. From basic science to dementia care, every aspect of the field's growing knowledge of dementia is incorporated into this world-class conference. Registration opens in March.

## Co-Chair Nominations

The AABC is now having a Call for Nominations for the co-chair position. Members are allowed to nominate someone or self-nominate. Nominees will be asked to provide a headshot, brief bio and statement of your interest in the role and how you may contribute to the overall [mission of the AABC](#).

The new co-chair will replace Jacob Donoghue. This position will serve with current co-chair Ornit Chiba-Falek for two years beginning in May. Voting will take place in April, details will be provided with a list of candidates.

The co-chair responsibilities include:

- Monthly calls with Alzheimer's Association staff Christopher Weber and Ashley Hansen to plan future events, propose new webinar topics, suggest speakers and discuss new directions.
- Participate in webinars and in-person events.
- Provide leadership and guidance on AABC topics and issues, as time allows.

If you are interested, please send us your name today to [Ashley Hansen](#).

## Social Media

Follow our [LinkedIn](#) page! We look forward to using the page to foster partnerships and communications.

Join our Slack channel! We launched a Slack channel in 2022 to encourage open and direct communications between all members. If interested in joining, please reach out to Ashley Hansen ([ahansen@alz.org](mailto:ahansen@alz.org)).

## 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 ([ahansen@alz.org](mailto:ahansen@alz.org)).