Alzheimer’s Association Comments on the National Institutes of Health’s Alzheimer’s Disease Fiscal Year 2019 Bypass Budget

The Alzheimer’s Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the National Institutes of Health’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 Bypass Budget. We are grateful for the National Institute on Aging’s (NIA) ongoing work and we support its research priorities. We offer the following for NIA’s consideration as it develops the FY 2019 Bypass Budget.

- The Association recommends that the FY 2019 Bypass Budget reflect a pragmatic approach, aligning funds with priorities that will lay the groundwork for long-term gains and that are practical, realistic, and achievable.
- A better understanding of the science underlying both Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias is needed. NIA should prioritize these needs within the FY 2019 Bypass Budget.
- We note the ongoing need for the development of imaging and fluid biomarkers to identify pathologies contributing to prevalence and incidence in diverse ethnic groups and age ranges. The FY 2019 Bypass Budget should reflect this need.
- The Alzheimer’s Association recommends that NIA prioritize the funding needed to create longitudinal clinical, biological, and imaging resources from the earliest stages to autopsy studies to improve the accuracy of detection and diagnosis of related dementias, as many more goals and milestones may follow from the development of these resources.
- The Alzheimer’s Association recommends that NIA prioritize funding for translational research to enable the advancement of candidate therapeutics from pre-clinical through Phase I/II clinical trials.
- The Alzheimer’s Association supports NIA’s inclusion of caregiving-focused research in the FY 2019 Bypass Budget.

The Alzheimer’s Association looks forward to our continuing partnership and is pleased to serve as a resource to NIA and all the centers and institutes within NIH working to treat and prevent Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.