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ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION APPLAUDS THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH FOR AWARDING $45 MILLION TO INNOVATIVE ALZHEIMER’S RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Alzheimer’s Association Statement –

Washington, D.C., September 18, 2013 – The Alzheimer’s Association commends the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for dedicating additional funds to Alzheimer’s disease research. Today’s announcement was the fulfillment of a $45 million promise made by Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, to advocates attending the Alzheimer’s Association Advocacy Forum in the spring and all those who are impacted by Alzheimer’s every day.

“We’re very pleased to see additional federal dollars directed to particularly innovative clinical trials such as DIAN-TU and API/APOE4, as well as the identification and validation of new drug targets,” said Harry Johns, President and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association. “These studies are examples of the quality research in the pipeline that needs further funding in order to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer’s disease by 2025 as outlined in the National Alzheimer’s Plan.”

It is clear that significant federal commitment to disease research can lower Medicare and Medicaid costs, costs to families and ease the human toll. The creation of the first-ever National Alzheimer’s Plan with coordinated, measurable outcome goals was a critical step in the fight against Alzheimer’s. A disease-modifying or preventive Alzheimer’s therapy has the potential to save millions of lives and billions of dollars in health care costs. For example, if a treatment became available in 2015 that delayed onset of Alzheimer’s by five years (a concept similar to the impact of anti-cholesterol drugs on heart attacks), quality of life would improve significantly and savings would be seen almost immediately, with Medicare and Medicaid spending reduced by $42 billion just in the year 2020.

“The voices of our advocates are being heard, and they will continue to urge increased federal action on Alzheimer’s disease. The Alzheimer’s Association will continue to work with the Administration and Congress to pursue full implementation of the National Alzheimer’s Plan,” said Johns.

The researchers awarded these NIH grants are seasoned investigators on the cutting edge of science. The majority have also been funded over the years, and currently, by the Alzheimer’s Association.

For more information on Alzheimer’s disease or how to get involved in a clinical trial, visit alz.org.

Alzheimer’s Association
The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer’s care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. For more information, visit www.alz.org.

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