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ALZHEIMER’S DRUG TRIAL SHOWS COGNITIVE BENEFITS IN MILD CASES OF THE DISEASE; REINFORCES NEED FOR MORE RESEARCH INTO EARLY CAUSES AND MARKERS

- Alzheimer’s Association Statement from the  
Alzheimer’s Association International Conference -

Copenhagen, July 16, 2014 – Phase 2 clinical trial results for crenezumab (Genentech) were presented today at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC 2014) in Copenhagen. The test drug did not meet its primary endpoints for cognition and activities of daily living (function).

There was, however, a positive finding in a subgroup of the study population with mild Alzheimer’s disease who received the drug by intravenous (IV) infusion. The Alzheimer’s Association notes a key learning from the trial, and others with similar results, is that treating Alzheimer’s earlier in the disease process shows potential for effective treatment and prevention.

These results are an indication that Alzheimer’s disease prevention trials testing therapies in people who have Alzheimer’s-related brain changes but do not yet have symptoms of dementia have the potential to be more successful than those conducted on people who already are experiencing dementia symptoms.

Crenezumab is currently being tested in one of the Alzheimer’s prevention trials being led by Banner Alzheimer’s Institute (BAI), the Alzheimer’s Prevention Initiative Autosomal Dominant Alzheimer’s Disease Treatment Trial (API-ADAT). The study population is the extended family group impacted by young onset, genetic Alzheimer’s near Medellin, Colombia.

These results also reinforce the need for more research into early causes and biological markers for Alzheimer’s in order to make early intervention possible.

Current investigations into Alzheimer’s disease suggest there may be more than one “pathway” for the development and progression of the disease, specifically one instigated by amyloid as well as non-amyloid pathways. While much is being done to understand the onset and progression of Alzheimer’s disease, the Alzheimer’s Association stresses there is a critical need for new ideas in Alzheimer’s treatment and prevention. For example, these emerging non-amyloid pathways present a great opportunity for innovation.
In March 2014, the Alzheimer’s Association awarded its largest-ever research grant – $8 million over four years – to support the Longitudinal Evaluation of Amyloid Risk and Neurodegeneration (LEARN) study as a companion to the Anti-Amyloid Treatment in Asymptomatic Alzheimer’s Disease (A4) Study, a pioneering Alzheimer’s prevention trial.

A first of its kind study, one objective of LEARN is to follow a group of amyloid negative individuals to determine causes of cognitive decline besides buildup of amyloid beta in the brain. The Alzheimer’s Association’s goal with the LEARN grant, a goal shared with the A4 effort, is to jump-start the development of new detection methods, treatments, and prevention strategies for Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

With the support of the Alzheimer’s Association and the Alzheimer’s community, the United States created its first National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease in 2012. The plan includes the critical goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer’s by 2025. It is only through strong implementation and adequate funding of the Plan, including an additional $200 million in fiscal year 2015 for Alzheimer's disease research, that we’ll meet that goal.

About AAIC
The Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC) is the world’s largest conference of its kind, bringing together researchers from around the world to report and discuss groundbreaking research and information on the cause, diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders. As a part of the Alzheimer’s Association’s research program, AAIC serves as a catalyst for generating new knowledge about dementia and fostering a vital, collegial research community.

About the Alzheimer’s Association
The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer 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. Visit www.alz.org or call 800.272.3900.

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