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CONTACT: Alzheimer’s Association, 312.335.4078, media@alz.org
Michael Campea, Alzheimer’s Association public relations, 312.604.1659, mcampea@alz.org

ALZHEIMER’S AND DEMENTIA RESEARCH LEADERS JOIN ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION NATIONAL MEDICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHICAGO, OCTOBER 21, 2014 – The Alzheimer's Association announces the addition of five new members to its national Medical and Scientific Advisory Council (MSAC).

The new MSAC members are:

- Suzanne Craft, Ph.D., Professor of Internal Medicine in the Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, Research Director of the J. Paul Sticht Center on Aging, and Co-director of the Roena B. Kulynych Center for Memory and Cognition Research at Wake Forest University School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

- Bruce T. Lamb, Ph.D., Staff Scientist in the Department of Neurosciences in the Lerner Research Institute at the Cleveland Clinic.

- Cynthia Lemere, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School and at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston.

- Margaret Pericak-Vance, Ph.D., the Dr. John T. Macdonald Foundation Department Professor of Human Genomics and Director of the John P. Hussman Institute for Human Genomics at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.

- Kristine Yaffe, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco, and Chief of Geriatric Psychiatry and Director of the Memory Disorders Clinic at the San Francisco Veteran Affair's Medical Center.

Comprised of leaders in the global Alzheimer's and dementia research community, the MSAC serves in an advisory role for the Alzheimer’s Association research program, including the International Research Grant Program and other strategic scientific initiatives, such as identifying new areas of research that merit further development, with the goal of accelerating scientific progress. MSAC members also help guide the scientific accuracy of the Alzheimer’s Association’s public education, scientific publications and public policy matters. The new members will serve a three-year term; MSAC members may serve up to two consecutive terms.
“These five leaders in Alzheimer’s and dementia research bring an exceptional level of insight and expertise to the MSAC,” said Maria Carrillo, Ph.D., Vice President of Medical and Scientific Relations for the Alzheimer’s Association. “Their involvement on the council will prove invaluable to our efforts to advance research that we hope will lead to the discovery of effective methods for treating and preventing this devastating disease.”

The Alzheimer’s Association is the world’s leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia research, having awarded more than $335 million to more than 2,250 best-of-field scientific projects.

More than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, according to the Alzheimer’s Association 2014 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report. Alzheimer’s is the sixth-leading cause of death in the United States, killing more Americans each year than diabetes, and more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined.

Alzheimer's disease is the most expensive condition in the nation. In 2014, the direct costs to American society of caring for people with Alzheimer's will total an estimated $214 billion, including $150 billion in costs to Medicare and Medicaid. Despite these staggering figures, Alzheimer's will cost an estimated $1.2 trillion (in today's dollars) in 2050.

**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](http://www.alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.

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