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National Alzheimer's Project Act Advisory Council Selects Alzheimer's Association Representation

Washington, D.C. (September 14, 2011) –As part of the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), which was signed into law in January by President Obama, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has announced the members of the [Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care and Services](#). Ronald Petersen, PhD, MD, a top researcher from Minnesota at the Mayo Clinic, was appointed chair of the Advisory Council.

The Advisory Council is charged with developing recommendations to improve the health outcomes for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias and their families, and to reduce the financial impact of Alzheimer's disease on individuals, families and the nation. The council will provide an annual assessment of all federally funded efforts in Alzheimer's research, care and services along with their outcomes.

Dr. Petersen is the Cadieux Director of the Mayo Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Mayo Clinic Study of Aging. He has authored over 400 peer-reviewed articles on memory disorders, aging and Alzheimer's disease and edited four books on related topics. His current research focuses on the study of normal aging, mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Petersen serves on the Medical-Scientific Advisory Council at the Alzheimer's Association National Office and at the Minnesota-North Dakota chapter.

Harry Johns, president and CEO of the Alzheimer's Association, was also selected to serve on the Advisory Council.

"Today, an estimated 5.4 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's. They are supported by nearly 15 million caregivers. Until the enactment of the National Alzheimer's Project Act, government attention to the Alzheimer's crisis has not reflected the rapidly growing human and economic burden of the disease for families and the federal budget," said Johns. "I am honored to serve on this council and contribute to developing a national plan with outcome-driven objectives, recommendations and clear accountability to comprehensively address Alzheimer's disease and its devastating effects."

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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