



the compassion to care, the leadership to conquer

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION EMPHASIZES URGENCY OF INCREASED GLOBAL RESEARCH EFFORT AT HILL BRIEFING ON UPCOMING G8 DEMENTIA SUMMIT

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 21, 2013 – The urgent need for additional research funding for Alzheimer's disease and other dementias worldwide was the core message delivered by representatives of the Alzheimer's Association during testimony today before the House Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations. The hearing was held in anticipation of the upcoming first-ever G8 summit on dementia.

The G8 summit "is a unique opportunity for international leaders to tackle dementia on a global scale, and it presents a historic opportunity to transform our commitment and approach," said Matthew Baumgart, Senior Director of public policy at the Alzheimer's Association, during his testimony. On behalf of the Association, Baumgart also commended Subcommittee Chairman Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Ranking Member Karen Bass (D-CA) on holding the hearing before the G8 summit.

"Specifically, it is vital that the G8 nations develop a shared vision for driving dementia research over the next decade to ensure the development of effective treatments for people worldwide. This vision should include a commitment by each country to increase its own funding into the cause, cure, and prevention of dementia to a level proportionate to the human and economic burden of the disease. It must include identifying additional, innovative funding models, such as public-private partnerships," Baumgart said.

The G8 summit will be held December 11 in London. If dementia were a country, it would be the 18th largest global economy, according to a report by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI); the global cost of dementia totaled \$604 billion in 2010. With the growing number of people living with the disease, economic pressures of dementia have increased throughout all G8 countries.

"The global Alzheimer's crisis requires an accelerated global response. While the Alzheimer's Association is a U.S.-based organization, we are committed to being a leader globally -

partnering with key government, industry, academic, and non-profit stakeholders around the world - to eliminate Alzheimer's disease," Baumgart said. "Collaboration can be a catalyst toward achieving disease-modifying treatments, prevention, and ultimately a cure."

More than 35 million people worldwide have Alzheimer's, with the number projected to double by 2030, according to ADI. According to the Alzheimer's Association 2013 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and 15.4 million Alzheimer's family caregivers provided more than 17.5 billion hours of unpaid care valued at \$216 billion. Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S.

In his testimony, Baumgart commended the Subcommittee for holding the hearing, and called for development of plans for collaborative action and also national Alzheimer's plans in all of the G8 countries. Baumgart also outlined the Alzheimer's Association's "formula for progress [which] rests on four pillars: funding, collaborating with investigators, sharing data, and overcoming barriers to progress."

- The first pillar is the Alzheimer's Association International Grant Program. The Association is the world's largest private non-profit funder of Alzheimer's disease and dementia research having awarded more than \$315 million to more than 2,200 projects.
- The second pillar is encouraging increased cooperation between scientists. The Association convenes the largest meeting of Alzheimer's scientists every year – the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC).
- The third pillar is the sharing of information. The Alzheimer's Association has the International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART), a professional society that encourages networking among Alzheimer's researchers. It also publishes *Alzheimer's & Dementia* – the highest impact dementia journal.
- The fourth pillar is investing in large-scale projects to overcome common barriers in the field of Alzheimer's. Projects include the World Wide Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (WW-ADNI) – an umbrella organization of neuroimaging initiatives being conducted around the world – and the Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Quality Control Program – which brings together laboratories across the globe with the aim of standardizing the measurement of potential Alzheimer's biomarkers.

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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