

Business Consortium

 **Mission of AABC**

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association Business Consortium (AABC) is to advance Alzheimer's disease research and innovation in small- and medium-size biotechnology, diagnostics, medical device and contract research organizations.

AABC members work in areas of common interest pre-competitively to advance both the field of Alzheimer's research and the goals of its member organizations. They provide leadership and direction to the group's areas of focus, which include, but are not limited to, collaborations, recognition and visibility, and knowledge and information sharing. AABC welcomes new members who are aligned in their commitment to research and innovation — to express interest in joining, please email co-chairs [Dr. Judy Walker](#) and [Dr. Joseph Araujo](#) or [Dr. Christopher Weber](#), facilitator.

 **Welcome New Members**

AABC is growing! We are pleased to welcome:

- » **Damion Boyer, CEO & Co-Founder, [Corvidane](#)**, which applies an engineering approach to drug development to investigate the Cardiovascular-Alzheimer's-Metabolic Disease axis.
- » **Bobby Stutz and Doug Kurshinski, [ATCOR](#)** which developed and markets SphygmoCor® technology, the global gold standard for non-invasive central blood pressure waveform analysis and arterial stiffness assessment.
- » **Matías Shulz, CEO, Gerardo Fernandez, CTO, and Mario Parra, CSO, [ViewMind](#)**, which develops digital cognitive biomarkers for detecting Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases in their pre-symptomatic stage. Using a VR headset with eye-tracking and with clinically validated algorithms, ViewMind's biomarkers can provide information on a person's cognitive abilities and related brain activity via a 10-minute, non-invasive, and automatized evaluation.
- » **Robert Alonso, Founder & CEO, and John Geisler, Founder and Chief Science Officer, [Mitochon Pharma](#)**. Mitochon Pharmaceuticals is a biotech company that focuses on developing drugs that target the mitochondria for a host of serious diseases with significant unmet medical needs.

 **News from AABC Members**

Mitochon Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a clinical stage biotech company, with an open IND and in Phase I testing. The company is focused on developing disease modifying drugs that target the mitochondria and attenuate neurodegeneration, with a focus on: Huntington's disease, ALS, progressive supranuclear palsy, MS and Parkinson's. Our programs to date have been shown to protect cells by modulating the mitochondria to reduce oxidative stress, improve calcium handling, and promote mitochondrial biogenesis. Together, these effects create stronger, healthier and more resilient cells whose natural compensatory mechanisms resist disease processes. The company is headed by a group of industry veterans, with broad scientific, clinical and managerial experience, including taking a drug through FDA approval, M&A and multiple financings. A recent virtual talk by Mitochon's CSO, Dr. John Geisler, Ph.D., titled "Protonophore Amelioration in Huntington's, Parkinson's MS and TBI Models, Emerging ALS Data: MP101 & Prodrug MP201," which also includes Alzheimer's work, can be found [here](#), or an in-depth review [here](#). Mitochon is in Phase I now, with successful completion and funding, and intends to run a series of separate Phase II biomarker target engagement studies in Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis, ALS and Huntington's disease patients in 2021.



AMX0035 Granted EMA Orphan Drug Designation

AMX0035 has been granted Orphan Drug Designation for the treatment of ALS by the European Medicines Authority (EMA). The press release is [here](#). The EMA grants Orphan Drug Designation status for products intended for the treatment, prevention or diagnosis of rare, life-threatening or chronically debilitating conditions where the product may represent a significant benefit over existing treatments. The designation comes with several important benefits, including additional scientific advice from the agency and 10 years' marketing exclusivity.



Athira Pharma Closes \$85 Million Series B Financing

Athira Pharma, Inc., a clinical-stage company developing innovative first-in-class regenerative therapies with the potential to restore brain function, [announced](#) the closing of an \$85 million Series B financing. The financing round was led by Perceptive Advisors and included participation from new investors RTW Investments, Viking Global Investors, Venrock Healthcare Capital Partners, Franklin Templeton, Rock Springs Capital, LifeSci Venture Partners, Surveyor Capital (a Citadel company), Highside Capital Management, Logos Capital, funds managed by Janus Henderson Investors, Sofinnova Investments, Avidity Partners, and existing investors including Rick and Suzanne Kayne and Sahsen Ventures.

In connection with the financing, Joseph Edelman, Chief Executive Officer and Portfolio Manager of Perceptive Advisors, will join the company's board of directors.

Proceeds from the financing will support a Phase 2/3 Alzheimer's clinical trial of NDX-1017. NDX-1017 is a small molecule therapeutic designed to enhance the activity of a naturally occurring repair mechanism that has the potential to restore neuronal health and brain function.

Membership Survey

Don't forget to take the [AABC Membership Survey!](#) The survey is 5-10 minutes long and will help us improve our membership.

Virtual Events

The [National Institute on Aging \(NIA\) website](#) features several free webinars on a range of topics, including "Supply Chain Disruptions: The Impact of COVID-19 on the Trucking Industry" and "Addressing Safety Matters Amid COVID-19." View the webinars for free through the NIA's [Training & Tools](#) webpage.

>> Join us virtually for AAIC 2020

Registration is now open for the virtual Alzheimer's Association International Conference® 2020 (AAIC®), July 27-31— free of charge.

Using a state-of-the-art virtual platform, AAIC will convene the world's leading basic scientists, clinical researchers, early career investigators, clinicians and the care research community to share breaking research discoveries that will lead to methods of prevention and treatment and improvements in diagnosis for Alzheimer's disease.

More details on the conference program will be available soon!

[Register now for AAIC.](#)

AABC will host a virtual meeting during AAIC on July 28 — stay tuned for more information.

i Past Events

AABC, in partnership with National Institute on Aging (NIA) [Office of Small Business Research \(OSBR\)](#), hosted a webinar on May 6 titled “Leveraging SBIR/STTR to Advance Alzheimer’s and Aging Innovations.”

[Download](#) the webinar presentation and review the content to see how the NIA SBIR and STTR programs might help support your organization. To view the webinar, visit the [AABC webpage](#). Following are resources and programs shared during the presentation:

- » Learn more about the [SBIR and STTR programs](#), [eligibility](#), [FAQs](#) and download the [fact sheet](#).
- » The next deadline for the Omnibus Solicitation and targeted funding opportunities is September 8, 2020, at 5 p.m. EST. Check out NIA’s open [funding opportunities](#), [tips for applicants](#) and [awardee resources](#).
- » For help determining if your research project is a good fit for NIA, contact [Michael-David A.R.R. Kerns](#). For general questions, contact [OSBR](#).

Check out OSBR’s [upcoming events](#).

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👤 General Postings to AABC’s Membership

To help AABC grow, please continue to introduce new members and/or companies to our group. We also welcome ideas or events for this newsletter so we can best serve you. Please send your suggestions to [Ashley Hansen](#).