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 Joseph Araujo or Dr. Codi Gharagouzloo, co-chairs, or Dr. Christopher Weber, facilitator.

AABC is growing! Welcome to:

» Jean-Rene Belanger, Valerie Lacroix & Rebecca Wilson, Imeka, Inc. Imeka is a technology platform company that has brain imaging based translational biomarkers for neuroinflammation, demyelination, and axonal loss. These biomarkers are useful for pharmaceutical and biopharmaceutical companies that develop treatments for neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, as well as multiple sclerosis. Imeka is currently the only company in the world combining diffusion MRI and AI to map white matter integrity in the brain.

» John Chidlow & Kevin Pavlick, Innolyzer Labs, LLC. Innolyzer Labs specializes in the detection of hydrogen sulfide. Our SINC2 analytics detect and differentiate between the three biological pools of H2S; free, acid labile and sulfane bound sulfur. The company is seeking partners to clarify the role of H2S as a biomarker for Alzheimer’s and define the role it plays in disease pathology.

» Emil Fristed, Novoic. Novoic is an Oxford-founded digital medtech company that develops AI-based software to detect Alzheimer’s disease at its prodromal and preclinical stages by analyzing patterns of how people speak. Novoic’s first product is a short speech-based test that can be done in the doctor’s office, in a telemedicine visit, or self-administered remotely that detects both subtle cognitive impairment and being at risk for amyloid biomarkers.

» Luis Olmos & Andrew Stelzer, Unlearn. Unlearn is using novel AI approaches to create disease progression models for clinical research. By leveraging disease-specific machine-learning models, Unlearn generates Digital Twins, defined as predicted placebo outcomes for individual patients in clinical trials. For more information, please visit unlearn.ai or follow @UnlearnAI on Twitter and @unlearn-ai on LinkedIn.

» Jeff Thacher, Wherible GPS Inc. Wherible designs and markets wearable devices for seniors that diagnose and monitor dementia. We use dementia-related gait changes (DRGC) to diagnose and monitor dementia progression. The company creates a user’s baseline gait signature and then analyzes change indicators in daily gait.

Asha AI

Asha AI, a startup that empowers the elderly to age in place and keeps loved ones informed, is looking for participants to join their closed beta program. You can use Asha through simple verbal conversation through their iPhone app.

As part of a closed beta launch, Asha is opening doors to older adults and their caregivers for one month of free use. Through Asha, you can receive medication reminders, connect with your care team and loved ones, and more. Sign up and learn more at ashai.com/beta.
Septa Therapeutics

Septa Therapeutics Inc., a biotechnology company dedicated exclusively to new drug development for the treatment for Alzheimer’s disease (AD), has identified a series of homologous septapeptide sequences (“septas”), expressed by meningitis-causing bacteria and viruses. One of these septas has been observed in the Amyloid beta (Abeta) molecule. Based on this observation, they propose a unique approach in AD research.

They are pleased to announce they are raising the capital to proceed with the pre-clinical trials. “We are moving forward with cautious optimism to the initiation of preclinical trials before approaching pharmaceutical companies with our new drug candidate which will focus on blocking microglial population expansion while leaving the amyloid beta in place,” says Dr. Diane Van Alstyne, CEO.

Additional information may be obtained at SeptaTherapeutics.com.

Neuroimaging Software Solutions Provider QMENTA Announces Appointment of James Golando to Board of Directors

QMENTA, Inc. announced today that James (Jim) Golando has been appointed to the company’s board of directors. Mr. Golando joins the QMENTA Board of Directors with more than 30 years of experience in the pharmaceutical/biotech and services industries. Jim has overseen the operational and developmental planning and execution of global clinical trials in oncology, respiratory, endocrine, anti-infectives, cardiology and imaging. His expertise ranges from Phase I through late-stage development and lifecycle management, with particular strengths in imaging clinical trials, clinical research, clinical operations, procurement/outsourcing, project/team leadership, and project management.

Jim has held senior leadership positions as chief of operations at Ora Inc. and Median Technologies. Prior to that, Jim was vice president of Medical Affairs, Medical Imaging and Cardiovascular Services with BioClinica. Earlier leadership positions included roles at Piramal Healthcare Ltd., CoreLab Partners, Inc., Schering Plough Research Institute and Novartis Pharmaceuticals.

“As a highly respected and seasoned R&D executive, Jim’s extensive experience and network in the biopharma and CRO space and in growing companies from an operational point of view is very valuable to QMENTA at this time. We look forward to Jim’s expert guidance particularly as we accelerate growth in our global Clinical Trials services with early stage biotechs to mid- and large pharmaceutical companies and leading CROs,” says Vesna Prchkovska, Ph.D., CEO and co-founder at QMENTA.

712 North Inc.

712 North Inc., a California-based pharmaceutical company, announces the publication of a pioneering study in BBA – Molecular Cell Research titled “Tau phosphorylation and OPA1 proteolysis are unrelated events: Implications for Alzheimer’s Disease”.

712 North Inc. spearheads personalized mitochondrial medicines for individuals with Alzheimer’s and other aging-related diseases by developing OMA1 protease inhibitors. OMA1 is a key regulator of the OPA1 protein at the intersection of energy metabolism and apoptotic cell death. The study is a first step to decode deteriorating mitochondria in Alzheimer’s and focused on the functional interaction of tau with OPA1 and OMA1. View the publication.

“I am happy to share my results with the research community,” says Dr. Alavi, 712 North’s CEO and principal investigator. “We know about mitochondrial impairments in Alzheimer’s dementia for a half century. It is about time to do something about it.”

The study was supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIA). For more information please visit 712north.com.
Continuing to Serve Small Businesses During the Pandemic

The National Institute on Aging Office of Small Business Research (OSBR) is adapting and working hard to support small companies, entrepreneurship and innovation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The NIA OSBR offers opportunities to connect and learn about small business funding. Follow them on LinkedIn for additional networking opportunities for grantees and investors.

Register Today for APOE and Immunity

Join us at no cost for the virtual APOE and Immunity conference, October 18-21, to hear from leading neuroscience experts on the latest research findings and ideas about the roles of APOE and immunity in Alzheimer’s and other dementia. Register now to take part in a variety of sessions highlighting developments in neurodegenerative disease research.

Attend a Free Webinar on Aduhelm

Register now to join Qmenta on September 30 at Noon ET for the free webinar The Aduhelm FDA Approval: Fresh Insights and Opportunities.

The three months since the FDA’s approval for Aduhelm has seen heated debate, a label clarification and the initiation of a Congressional investigation. Above all, it has given hope and opportunity.

The speakers include:
Juan Domingo Gispert, Ph.D., group leader, Neuroimaging, Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center
Martin Tolar, MD, Ph.D., founder, president & CEO at Alzheon, Inc.
Duygu Tosun-Turgut, Ph.D., UCSF Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging
Vesna Prchkovska, Ph.D., CEO and co-founder, QMENTA
Moderated by: Glenn Thomas, CCO, QMENTA

Key takeaways:
» The opportunities ahead spurred by the landmark Aduhelm approval.
» What it means for the millions of people living with Alzheimer’s worldwide.
» Key steps academia and industry can take to accelerate the path ahead.
» Implications for other approaches and neurodegenerative disease areas.

Please bring your questions and share this registration link with a colleague.

Alzheimer’s Funding Opportunity

Part the Cloud: Translational Research Funding for Alzheimer’s disease (PTC)

In its nine iteration, the Alzheimer’s Association is pleased to announce the Part the Cloud Translational Research Funding initiative to increase the research efforts in Phase I and Phase II (Proof of Concept) clinical trials directed towards Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias internationally.

Applications will be accepted from academic investigators and small companies with lead candidate therapeutic agents that require early stage testing prior (Phase 1) to Proof of Concept (POC) Phase 2 or 3 efficacy studies, or with lead therapeutic agents that have already established human safety data and require a small-scale pilot Proof of Mechanism (POM) study in humans to begin proving the scientific concept in humans. This award will support Phase 1 studies or pilot small-scale Phase 2a studies for repurposed drugs
in normal individuals or individuals with preclinical or symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease (i.e. early human studies to set the stage for efficacy studies), including single and multiple dose studies to establish safety, brain penetration and/or target engagement and POM in preparation for larger proof of concept trials. In addition, proposals may be considered that are POC to validate biological marker(s) of disease progression in a clinical trial environment. Any proposal must have a clear focus on Alzheimer’s disease and related disorder and be translational in nature. All proposals should clearly and explicitly outline the measure to be investigated, the methods for study, and outcomes. Researchers from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply.

Both non-profit and small for-profit agencies are eligible. Applications will be accepted from organizations conducting studies around the world. Applications from post-doctoral candidates will not be accepted.

Learn more at alz.org/grants.

Key dates:
LOI is now open.
LOI deadline: October 1, 2021, 5 p.m. ET
Application deadline for those invited to submit a full proposal: November 15, 2021, 5 p.m. ET
Award notification: January 31, 2022

Social Media

Join our new LinkedIn page! As discussed at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference® AABC Meeting, please visit our page and request to join. We look forward to using the page to foster partnerships and communications.

Alzheimer’s Association Science Hub App

Science Hub provides the latest news right in the palm of your hand. This trusted tool distributes research, spreads awareness and delivers accurate information directly to your phone.

Learn more at alz.org/sciencehub, or search “Science Hub” in your app store.

Spread the Word

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