GAINING MOMENTUM TOWARD PREVENTION
A Q&A with Alzheimer’s Association Chief Science Officer Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D.

It is an exciting time in Alzheimer’s and dementia research with recent scientific advancements accelerating progress for families across the country facing this disease. To learn more, we sat down with Dr. Mara Carrillo, who answers donors’ questions about the current state of prevention — and what is on the horizon in this important research.

Q: Are there any clinical trials of drugs to prevent Alzheimer’s?
A: Yes! There are a number of innovative trials aiming to prevent Alzheimer’s. The Association is providing funding for several of these, including two groundbreaking trials that are testing therapies in people who do not yet show any signs of changes in memory, thinking or behavior. The teams will enroll study volunteers with confirmed early brain changes associated with Alzheimer’s — and specifically the presence of beta-amyloid plaques, a hallmark of the disease.

The AHEAD Study, under the leadership of Reisa Sperling, M.D., of Harvard Medical School comprises two phase 3 clinical trials testing the drug lecanemab, which targets beta-amyloid, in individuals as young as age 55 who have evidence of amyloid buildup in their brain but do not yet show symptoms. More than 1,000 study participants nationwide will be monitored to determine whether intervening early in the disease process can reduce the accumulation of amyloid plaques in the brain — and if doing so can delay, slow or stop late-stage Alzheimer’s, the more common form of the disease in which symptoms appear at age 65 and older.

The Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Trials Unit (DIAN-TU) Primary Prevention study is intervening even earlier. Led by Eric McDade, DO of Washington University in St. Louis, this phase 2/3 trial will test the drug gantenerumab in people as young as age 18 who have a genetic change that destined them to develop Autosomal Dominant Alzheimer’s, a rare form of the disease. Typically in their 40s or 50s.

Q: What has made these trials possible now, as opposed to several years ago?
A: Scientific understanding of Alzheimer’s has matured significantly enabling researchers to move earlier in the disease process and toward prevention. As the world’s largest nonprofit funder of

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THE ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION
The Alzheimer’s Association adheres to the rates set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. Rates for new gifts are subject to change. Charitable gift annuities may not be available in your state. The Alzheimer’s Association adheres to all local, state and federal regulations related to charitable gift annuities. Content is for educational/illustrative purposes only and is not professional tax or legal advice. It is important to consult with a tax advisor about your specific situation and whether your gift is deductible.

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GAINING MOMENTUM TOWARD PREVENTION

The Alzheimer’s Association will continue to fund the best recipe for dementia risk reduction. Blood pressure and high cholesterol — to create diet, physical activity, and management of high blood pressure and high cholesterol — to create the best recipe for dementia risk reduction.

In multiple countries, the Alzheimer’s Association is leading and funding studies designed to reduce risk of cognitive decline. U.S. POINTER is one of the largest of this kind in the world. Its goal is to identify the optimum combination and amounts of different behavioral interventions — including diet, physical activity, and management of high blood pressure and high cholesterol — to create the best recipe for dementia risk reduction.

The Alzheimer’s Association will continue to fund promising research and landmark clinical studies as we work to realize our vision of a world without Alzheimer’s and all other dementia.

To learn more about our ongoing research efforts, visit alz.org/Research.

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INVESTING IN A FUTURE WITHOUT ALZHEIMER’S

An Important Alzheimer’s and Dementia Research Funding Increase Signed Into Law

The Association is pleased to share that a $289 million increase for Alzheimer’s and dementia research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) was signed into law this year. In addition, the Association and the Alzheimer’s Impact Movement (AIM), a separately incorporated advocacy affiliate, secured $25 million to implement the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer’s Act. This increased funding ensures the continued, effective implementation of this important law.

Added to the existing NIH spending, annual Alzheimer’s and dementia research funding by the federal government will be more than $3.4 billion. This is a more than seven-fold increase since the National Alzheimer’s Project Act (NAPA), legislation championed by the Alzheimer’s Association, was signed into law in 2011, when annual funding was just $448 million. This remarkable growth in funding is only possible because of your leadership support.

“The thank you to our tireless advocates and our congressional champions for demonstrating the need for research in the fight against Alzheimer’s and all other dementia,” says Robert E. Egge, AIM executive director and Alzheimer’s Association chief public policy officer. “With the sustained investment by the federal government, we will continue to see breakthroughs in treatment, prevention and, ultimately, a cure.”

To learn more about supporting our important public policy efforts, visit alz.org/Advocacy.

IMPROVING LONG-TERM CARE FOR THE ALZHEIMER’S COMMUNITY

A Comprehensive Approach to Implementing Person-Centered Care

The Alzheimer’s Association was recently highlighted in a U.S. News & World Report article about what constitutes quality memory care in assisted living communities. We are proud to share that the piece cites our Dementia Care Practice Recommendations — a set of 56 evidence-based best practices for person-centered care.

As one of our loyal supporters, you may already know that the Association has been implementing a variety of strategies over the past several years to facilitate adoption of our practice recommendations by long-term care providers. With your help, we have:

• Convened the Dementia Care Provider Roundtable — a consortium of thought leaders from the long-term care industry representing assisted living, nursing home and home-based services — to discuss mutual challenges and priorities.

• Developed the Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care ECHO® Program and Care Community Coaching — virtual and in-person training programs, respectively, for long-term care staff — and have been offering them in communities across the country thanks to philanthropic funding provided by generous supporters.

• Partnered with the Joint Commission — the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care — to update its Memory Care Certification requirements to align with our practice recommendations.

Thanks to you, the Association is leading the way to improve long-term care for those living with Alzheimer’s and all other dementia.

To learn more about how we are working to maximize quality care and support for people impacted by Alzheimer’s, visit alz.org/Help-Support.

Q: What other research is underway to prevent dementia?

A: We see a lot of potential in risk reduction. According to The Lancet Commission, 12 potentially modifiable risk factors account for an estimated 40% of dementia cases worldwide. Preliminary research testing lifestyle interventions has yielded promising results.

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