

Business Consortium

Mission of AABC

The mission of 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.

The members of AABC work in areas of common interest pre-competitively to advance both the field of Alzheimer's research and the goals of its member organizations. AABC members 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. To join the membership mailing list, please email [Kira Sheinerman](mailto:kira.sheinerman@alz.org), co-chair; [Leen Kawas](mailto:leen.kawas@alz.org) co-chair; or [Rebecca Edelmayer](mailto:rebecca.edelmayer@alz.org), facilitator.

Leadership Change

Jim Hendrix has left the Association and Rebecca Edelmayer, director, Scientific Engagement, is the new AABC facilitator. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association, Rebecca spent more than six years as a pharmacologist in the neuroscience and immunology drug discovery divisions at Abbott and AbbVie.

Welcome New Members

AABC is growing! We welcome these new members:

» **Michael Zarreii – Axon Medical Technologies**

Axon Medical Technologies has developed the objective device Intellig-EYES™ to assist doctors in early diagnosis of neurodegenerative diseases. [Read more.](#)

» **Dan O'Connell – Acumen Pharmaceuticals**

Acumen is dedicated to the discovery and development of effective therapeutics and diagnostics for treating Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative conditions. [Read more.](#)

» **Marcel Alavi – 712 North**

712 North is a pre-clinical stage pharmaceutical company that develops modulators of the mitochondrial network for patients with Alzheimer's and other diseases. [Read more.](#)

» **Casey Lynch – Cortexyme**

Cortexyme is targeting a specific, undisclosed pathogen tied to neurodegeneration to develop therapeutics for Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative disorders. [Read more.](#)

» **Codi Gharagouzloo – Imaginostics**

Imaginostics develop vascular imaging biomarkers for early AD detection using clinical MRI scanners. The company acquires data in a new way, which enables quantification of the physiological blood volume per unit space throughout the brain using a technology called QUTE-CE MRI. [Read more.](#)

News from AABC members and growth AD companies

Neuronascent Awarded \$2.25 Million NIH Grant to Develop a Regenerative Therapeutic for Alzheimer's Disease

Neuronascent Inc. a privately-held neuron regeneration therapeutics company, announced that the National Institute on Aging (NIA), part of the National Institutes of Health, has awarded the company an 18-month R01 award. The grant award is expected to total just over \$2.25 million and will fund the further development, including Phase 1 clinical trial of Neuronascent's lead small molecule therapeutic NNI-362, an oral drug for mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease (AD).



News from AABC members and growth AD companies (Contd.)

The new award continues earlier NIA support of NNI-362 development, where previous funding supported IND-enabling safety testing. The present award provides support for the completion of the IND submission to the FDA, and a first-in-human Phase 1 safety and tolerability clinical trial in healthy aged volunteers. “Neuronascent appreciates the invaluable support from the NIA for the continued development of our lead therapy aimed at reversing age-related disorders, specifically, Alzheimer’s disease,” said founder and CEO, Judith Kelleher-Andersson, Ph.D. “This award, following a rigorous R01 academician peer-review process, provides compelling validation of our first-in-category therapeutic program, with the potential to improve the lives of so many patients with this mind-robbing disorder. [Read more.](#)

Accera rebrands as Cerecin

Biopharma company and founding member of AABC, Accera, announced that it has rebranded as Cerecin and established a new global headquarters in Singapore. Cerecin will build its global clinical operations, manufacturing and commercial teams as it expands its presence in the Asia Pacific region.

Cerecin also announced the first close of an investment round. This first close raised funds from long term investor Inventages, the life sciences and healthcare-focused private equity fund backed by Nestlé group, as well as from new investor Wilmar International. Further support will be provided by Singapore’s Economic Development Board. This has led to a USD \$50 million injection into the company as it builds its team in Singapore, prepares its newly reformulated investigational drug, tricaprilin, for global pivotal studies, and launches Axona®, Cerecin’s medical food, in Asia.

Rebranding as Cerecin marks the start of a new chapter and the company’s continued commitment to managing some of the world’s most devastating brain diseases. The new name, Cerecin, is a combination of the words cerebrum, Latin for brain, and medicine, affirming the company’s commitment to brain health. [Read more.](#)

DiamiR Announces Two Publications on microRNA Biomarkers and Mechanisms of Aging

DiamiR, a developer of innovative, minimally invasive diagnostic tests for neurodegenerative and other diseases, announced two publications in aging:

- [Experimental paper](#): Age- and sex-related changes in levels of circulating brain-enriched microRNAs during normal aging
- [Theory paper](#): Aging and aging-associated diseases: a microRNA-based endocrine regulation hypothesis

The study reported in the experimental paper was conducted in collaboration with the New York Blood Center and supported by a Small Business Innovation Research grant from the National Institute on Aging. Levels of specific brain-enriched and inflammation-associated microRNAs were analyzed in plasma samples from individuals of different ages ranging from 26 to 75 years old. Dynamic changes in the plasma concentrations of certain microRNAs occurred at different ages in females and males, with peaks in the 46-55-year-old and 56-65-year-old groups. The findings suggest that the changes in microRNA levels could reflect centrally regulated processes, including changes in hormone levels during menopause. [Read more.](#)



AABC Translational Animal Models Think Tank

The AABC Translation Animal Models group, chaired by Joseph Araujo, Intervivo Solutions, and facilitated by Rebecca Edelmayer, Alzheimer’s Association, in collaboration with MODEL-AD members, has organized a think tank. The new think tank seeks to understand the history of AD animal models and explore the current state of the science to identify gaps and recommend specific actions to develop the next generation of AD animal models.

The Translational Animal Models for Alzheimer’s Disease Think Tank will be held as a shoulder meeting to the Alzheimer’s Association Research Roundtable from November 28-29 at the Park Hyatt Hotel, Washington D.C. AABC members are invited to attend.

Date: November 28-29

Location: Park Hyatt Hotel, Washington, D.C.

[Agenda and Logistics](#)



Schedule of Events for Q4 2018

Webinar: AABC Ask the Expert – Cliff Jack, MD, Mayo Clinic

Wednesday, November 14, 2 p.m. ET

NIA-AA Research Framework: Towards a biological definition of Alzheimer's disease

TO JOIN THE MEETING:

<https://bluejeans.com/936121156>

Meeting ID : 936121156

TO JOIN VIA PHONE:

1) Dial:

+1.888.240.2560 (US Toll Free)

+1.408.317.9253 (US (Primary, San Jose))

(see all numbers - <http://bluejeans.com/numbers>)

2) Enter Conference ID: 936121156



Call for Nominations

Nominations are open for AABC co-chair. This position will replace Kira Sheinerman and will serve with current co-chair Leen Kawas beginning in January.

The responsibilities for co-chair include:

1. Take part in monthly calls with Alzheimer's Association staff Rebecca Edelmayer and April Ross to plan future events, propose new webinar topics, suggest speakers and discuss new directions.
2. Participate in webinars and F2F events.
3. Review and edit the quarterly newsletters.
4. Provide leadership and guidance on AABC topics and issues, as time allows.

Co-chair nominations are due to [April Ross](#) by November 30. Self-nominations are accepted and all nominated candidates will be asked if they will agree to serve in this role.



Q3 2018 Past Events

Webinar: AABC Ask the Expert: Janice Hitchcock, Ph.D., Hitchcock Regulatory Consulting, Inc.

On August 29, Janice Hitchcock, Ph.D., Hitchcock Regulatory Consulting, presented information on the new FDA guidance on early Alzheimer's disease. Slides from the webinar are available on the [AABC webpage](#).

AAIC Events

AABC held a meeting on Monday, July 23 during AAIC 2018 in Chicago, Illinois. Read the meeting summary [here](#). AABC members were also invited to attend ISTAART's membership reception and AAIC's reviewers' reception.



General Postings to AABC's Membership

To help grow AABC, please continue to spread the word about the group. We also welcome ideas and events for this newsletter so we can better serve you. Please send your suggestions to [April Ross](#).