

Research News

Alzheimer's disease public-private partnerships: Update 2014

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The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease highlights the need for coordinated public-private partnerships. In recent years, the number of collaborations and consortia have expanded and grown in Alzheimer's research. The Alzheimer's Association compiles this annually updated compendium to centralize this inventory of partnerships in an effort to synergize these activities. This manuscript reflects the 2014 landscape of non-profit organizations who engage in public-private partnerships to promote and support dementia research.

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1. Introduction

With >5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease (AD) [1] and >35 million people worldwide living with AD or related dementia [2], global concern about the escalating AD crisis continued to grow in 2013. In April, delegates from >60 countries attended Alzheimer's Disease International's (ADI) 28th International Conference in Taipei. In July, the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) convened >5000 researchers from nearly 70 countries to discuss future strategies for Alzheimer's science, including the International Genomic Alzheimer's Project, the Worldwide Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (WW-ADNI), and a host of other international research efforts. In November, the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), in conjunction with the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease (CEOi) and the National Institute on Aging (NIA), hosted a summit focused on accelerating the development of therapeutics and diagnostics through international partnerships. Finally, in December, public health experts, academic and industry researchers, and government officials from the G8 countries (Canada,

France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) gathered in London for a global summit dedicated to dementia. These efforts signify the beginnings of a mounted global response to what is increasingly viewed as a global public health and economic threat.

Last year, the Alzheimer's Association led an effort to publish a compendium of global private-public partnerships of nonprofit organizations invested in the AD research landscape [3]. As momentum continues to build, this manuscript represents the first annual update of the compendium and is intended to highlight collaborations among international nonprofit organizations in a centralized location. The following sections include organization mission statements and a focus on partnerships (i.e., governmental, global, and industry collaborations) and priority areas of consortium/collaborative efforts (i.e., improving clinical trials, obtaining and sharing data, supporting individuals with dementia and caregivers, and research funding).

2. Organizations and mission statements of participants in AD public-private partnerships

In this updated compendium, there are 20 nonprofit organizations represented in the following sections with their mission summaries.

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2.1. Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease

<http://act-ad.org/>.

As a coalition of >50 nonprofit organizations, Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease (ACT-AD) works to accelerate research into transformational therapies to better treat and potentially slow, halt, or reverse the progression of AD. ACT-AD members include organizations that represent patients, providers, caregivers, consumers, older Americans, employers, and health-care industries.

2.2. Alzheimer Nederland

<http://www.alzheimer-nederland.nl/>.

As the Alzheimer's society of the Netherlands, Alzheimer Nederland aims to prevent or cure dementia, improve the quality of life for patients and caregivers, and mobilize society, citizens, caregivers, and patients in the fight against dementia.

2.3. Alzheimer Society of Canada

<http://www.alzheimer.ca/en>.

The Alzheimer Society of Canada aims to alleviate the personal and social consequences of AD and other dementias and to promote the search for causes, treatments, and a cure.

2.4. Alzheimer's Association

<https://www.alz.org/>.

The Alzheimer's Association is the world's leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support, and research. Its mission is to eliminate AD 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.

2.5. Alzheimer's Australia

<http://www.fightdementia.org.au/>.

Alzheimer's Australia provides support and advocacy for Australians with dementia and their caregivers and champions research aimed at better understanding of all forms of dementia, developing new interventions and treatments, and rapidly translating relevant research into better dementia care.

2.6. Alzheimer's Disease International

<http://www.alz.co.uk/>.

A confederation of 84 (as of April 30, 2014) international Alzheimer's associations, ADI was founded to facilitate the sharing and exchange of information, resources, and skills among worldwide organizations seeking to improve the quality of life for people with dementia and their families.

2.7. Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

<http://www.alzdiscovery.org/>.

The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) aims to rapidly accelerate the discovery of drugs to prevent, treat, and cure AD, related dementias, and cognitive aging by providing seed funding for early-stage research to academic centers and biotechnology companies.

2.8. Alzheimer's Research UK

<http://www.alzheimersresearchuk.org/>.

Alzheimer's Research UK, the largest dedicated funder of dementia research in the United Kingdom, supports research toward a world free of dementia, from basic research through clinical studies.

2.9. Alzheimer's Society (United Kingdom)

<http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/>.

As the largest dementia care and research charity in the United Kingdom, the Alzheimer's Society looks to lead the fight against all forms of dementia through research, campaigns, and influencing policy and to be the central point of contact for people with dementia in the United Kingdom, providing care services, support, and information for those affected by the condition.

2.10. American Federation for Aging Research

<http://www.afar.org/>.

The American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) supports education, basic, and translational research dealing with specific geriatric disorders, including AD and related dementias.

2.11. Brain Canada

<http://braincanada.ca/>.

Brain Canada is a national charitable organization with the goal of funding research aimed at understanding the brain in health and illness to improve lives and achieve societal impact. Brain Canada is achieving its vision by increasing the scale and scope of research funding; creating a collective commitment to brain research across the public, private, and voluntary sectors; and delivering transformative, original, and outstanding research programs.

2.12. BrightFocus Foundation

<http://www.brightfocus.org/>.

Formerly the American Health Assistance Foundation, BrightFocus Foundation is committed to advancing knowledge that saves mind and sight through support for health research and public education.

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