



Research News

Alzheimer's disease public-private partnerships: Update 2017

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Introduction: The National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease stresses the need for public-private partnerships to be coordinated and cooperative to accelerate the state of research and reach the ultimate goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by the year 2025.

Methods: The Alzheimer's Association, in collaboration with the International Alzheimer's disease Research Funder Consortium, compiles this annually updated compendium to centralize this inventory of partnerships in an effort to synergize these activities.

Results: This article reflects the 2017 landscape of nonprofit organizations who engage in public-private partnerships to promote and support dementia research.

Discussion: The private-public partnerships in the Alzheimer's disease community continue to increase, addressing much needed complex challenges in the field.

Keywords:

Alzheimer's disease; Collaborations; Private-public partnerships; Public policy; International efforts; Neuroscience

1. Introduction

There are greater than five million Americans living with Alzheimer's dementia and more than 35 million people worldwide [1], and without a way to stop or slow the progression, there will be nearly a tripling of individuals affected by 2050 (13.8 million) [1]. The urgency to develop an intervention to stop or slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease (AD) [2,3] is driving collaborations both within and between federal/governmental agencies, industrial/for-profit organizations, and nonprofit entities. Since 2013, the Alzheimer's Association has taken the lead on working with the global nonprofit community to compile and publish compendium on the landscape of the changing landscape of private-public partnerships between these organizations and other stakeholders [4]. This compendium of global and regional private-public partnerships between governmental/federal entities, industrial/for-profit organizations, and nonprofit organizations invested in the

AD research landscape was updated in 2014 [5]. Given the continuing growth of the landscape, the compendium requires update of the rapidly growing number of organizations involved, their varied goals, and their relationships with one another. The following sections include the mission statements of 25 nonprofit/charity organizations and their collaborative partnerships with governmental, global, and industrial entities, with an emphasis on the nature of collaborative efforts (i.e., improving clinical trials, obtaining and sharing data, supporting individuals with dementia and caregivers, and research funding).

2. Organizations included, mission statements and public web sites

There are 25 nonprofit organizations represented in the following sections with their mission summaries.

2.1. Accelerate cure/treatments for AD

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

Accelerate cure/treatments for AD (ACT-AD) supports accelerating research into transformational therapies to

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better treat and potentially slow, halt, or reverse the progression of AD.

2.2. Alzheimer Argentina

<http://www.alzheimer.org.ar>.

The goals of this organization are the performance of basic research in field of AD and related areas, as well as the training of researchers and technicians in the same discipline, either by direct or indirect means owned by the Association or by third parties.

2.3. Alzheimer Europe

<http://www.alzheimer-europe.org>.

Alzheimer Europe sees its mission as “changing perceptions, practice, and policy to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their carers”. The Organization aims to achieve this mission by providing a voice to people with dementia and their carers, making dementia a European priority, promoting a rights-based approach to dementia, supporting dementia research, and strengthening the European dementia movement.

2.4. Alzheimer Forschung Initiative e.V.

<http://www.alzheimer-forschung.de>.

This Initiative drives innovative national and border-crossing research and promotes awareness of AD as well.

2.5. Alzheimer Nederland

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

The mission of Alzheimer Nederland is to prevent and cure dementia. As long as dementia is still a progressive and fatal disease, Alzheimer Nederland strives to improve the quality of life of people with dementia and their (family) caregivers. The three stated aims of Alzheimer Nederland are to invest in research to bring about solutions to the problem, improve quality of life through better care and delivery of support services, and mobilize financial support for the fight against dementia.

2.6. Alzheimer Society of Canada

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

The Alzheimer Society of Canada identifies, develops, and facilitates national priorities that enable its members to effectively alleviate the personal and social consequences of AD and other dementias, promotes research, and leads the search for a cure.

2.7. Alzheimer's Association

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

The Alzheimer's Association aims to eliminate AD through the advancement of research, providing and

enhancing care and support for all affected, and reducing the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

2.8. Dementia Australia Research Foundation (formerly Alzheimer's Australia Dementia Research Foundation)

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

The Dementia Australia Research Foundation is the research arm of Dementia Australia which funds Australia's talented new and early career dementia researchers. The Foundation supports research into the causes of all forms of dementia as well as strategies to reduce dementia risk, provide accurate and timely diagnoses and improve treatment and care options for people living with dementia. The stated objectives of the Foundation are to support innovative Australian research that offers the best hope of defeating dementia, work with people with dementia to ensure that research reflects their concerns, and disseminate information about the progress of dementia research.

2.9. Alzheimer's Disease International

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

Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) is a federation of 85 national AD associations, which aims to exchange information, support emerging associations, and advocate for AD and dementia at the global level.

2.10. 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.

2.11. Alzheimer's Research UK

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

Alzheimer's Research UK, the largest dedicated funder of dementia research in the UK, supports fundamental and clinical research toward a world free from the fear, harm, and heartbreak of dementia. Alzheimer's Research UK also plays a central role in campaigning and energizing a movement across society to support, fund, and take part in dementia research.

2.12. Alzheimer's Society (United Kingdom)

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

The Society's vision is a world without dementia. Their mission is to change the face of dementia research, demonstrate best practice in dementia care and support, provide the best advice and support to anyone dealing with dementia, and influence the state and society to enable those affected by dementia to live as they wish to live. These goals are intended to mobilize people to reduce the impact of dementia on lives today and create a world without dementia tomorrow.

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