

June 11, 2012

The Honorable Tom Harkin
United States Senate
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Senator Harkin,

As the Senate Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Subcommittee prepares to markup its Fiscal Year 2013 Labor HHS Appropriations bill, we are writing to urge you to include an increase for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for Alzheimer's research by \$80 million that was included in the President's FY 2013 budget.

As men and women of science on the frontlines of discovery, we are united by a simple but bold belief: It is possible to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease within our lifetimes, but only if our nation does what is necessary. Government must invest significant resources in Alzheimer's disease research and innovation, because our commitment to cures must match the scale of the challenge.

If government, private industry, and the research community unite with a common goal and purpose backed with the necessary leadership, resources and incentives, the power of scientific research can be unleashed to unlock new possibilities, to deliver new cures – and to prevent and treat Alzheimer's disease. In the past, we've seen how major investments in the research led to a cure for polio and delivered treatment options for victims of HIV/AIDS.

In May, the Obama Administration unveiled the final version of our nation's first ever National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. This plan, directed unanimously by Congress, sets a bold and ambitious goal of preventing and effectively treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025, a mere 13 years from now. While this goal may appear daunting given scientific challenges and the current lack of treatment and prevention options, the world's leading Alzheimer's researchers have expressed optimism that this goal could be achieved if the right resources and direction are brought to bear. For years, we have sorely lacked those resources. An \$80 million increase in Alzheimer's research at the NIH would be a first step and would support a number of meritorious and promising research projects.

We understand well the financial constraints facing the committee and the nation. But we also recognize the economic and fiscal challenges wrought by Alzheimer's disease today – in the form of annual costs of \$200 billion, 70 percent of which are borne by Medicare and Medicaid – and the specter of annual costs exceeding \$1 trillion by 2050 unless the disease can be modified, treated, and prevented. By allocating an additional \$80 million toward Alzheimer's disease

research in FY 13, you and your colleagues can help our nation make strides against this disease and move us closer to effective treatments and therapies before it is too late.

It has been estimated that development of an effective therapy that could even modestly delay the onset or progression of Alzheimer's could dramatically reduce associated Medicare and Medicaid costs by \$100s of billions over the next three decades. Thus, additional research investments now could both save lives and suffering as well as substantially reduce the anticipated costs to our society into the future.

If your staff would like to hear more from bench scientists and researchers who focus on the search for a cure for Alzheimer's please contact Dr. Bruce Lamb at ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's, btlamb1@researchersagainstalzheimers.org.

Sincerely,

Founding Members of ResearchersAgainstAlzheimer's

* Affiliations are for identification purposes only and do not necessarily represent the endorsement of the affiliated institution

Marilyn Albert, Ph.D.

Director of the Division of Cognitive Neuroscience in the Department of Neurology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Director of the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

David Bennett, M.D.

Robert C. Borwell Professor of Neurological Sciences and Director, Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center

Jeffrey Cummings, M.D.

Director, Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

Steve DeKosky, M.D.

Dean, University of Virginia School of Medicine

Rachelle Doody, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorder Center, Baylor College of Medicine

Howard Fillit, M.D.

Executive Director, Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation

David Holtzman, M.D.

Chair, Department of Neurology, Washington University, St. Louis

Bruce Lamb, Ph.D.

Staff Scientist, Department of Neurosciences, The Lerner Research Institute, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

David Morgan, Ph.D.
CEO, Byrd Alzheimer's Institute, University of South Florida

Ron Petersen, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Mayo Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Rudy Tanzi, Ph.D.
Director, Genetics and Aging Research Unit, MassGeneral Institute for Neurodegenerative Disease & Joseph P. and Rose F. Kennedy Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School

John Trojanowski, M.D., Ph.D.
Co-Director, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research and Director of the Alzheimer's Disease Center, University of Pennsylvania

Michael Weiner, M.D.
Director of the Center for Imaging of Neurodegenerative Disease, San Francisco Veteran's Administration Medical Center and Professor of Medicine, Radiology, Psychiatry, and Neurology, University of California, San Francisco

Additional Signatories of Researchers Against Alzheimer's

Adeboye Adejare, Ph.D.
Professor, University of the Sciences

Paul Aisen, M.D.
Director, Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study

Angels Almenar-Queralt, Ph.D.
Assistant Project Scientist, UCSD

Brian Appleby, M.D.
Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Steve Balsis, Ph.D.
Texas A&M University

James Bamburg, Ph.D.
Professor, Colorado State University

Steven Barger, Ph.D.
Professor of Geriatrics and Professor of Neurobiology and Developmental Sciences, University of Arkansas for Medicinal Sciences

Annelise Barron, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Stanford University

Randall Bateman, M.D.
Washington University School of Medicine

Martin Berg
Research Scientist, Nathan S. Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research

Ilya Bezprozvanny, Ph.D.
Professor of Physiology, Carl J. and Hortense M. Thomsen Chair in Alzheimer's Disease
Research, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Kiran Bhaskar, Ph.D.
Project Staff Scientist, Cleveland Clinic

Narayan Bhat, Ph.D.
Professor of Neurosciences, Medical University of South Carolina

Lester Binder, Ph.D.
Professor, Northwestern University

Gal Bitan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, UCLA

Darren Boehning, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Texas Medical Branch, Southwestern Medical Center

Adam Boxer, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neurology, UCSF Memory and Aging Center

John Breitner, M.D.
Director, Center for Studies on Prevention of AD, Douglas Mental Health Research Institute
(Canada)

Kurt Brunden, Ph.D.
Research Professor; Director of Drug Discovery, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease
Research, University of Pennsylvania

Guojun Bu, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Mayo Clinic

Jeffrey Burns, M.D.
Edward H. Hashinger Associate Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine

Banghwa Casado, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Maryland, School of Social Work

Gang Chen, Ph.D.
Professor, Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine (China)

Yuzhi Chen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

John Cirrito, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Washington University

Scott Counts, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Rush University Medical Center

Peter Davies, Ph.D.
Director, Litwin-Zucker Center, Feinstein Institute for Medical Research

Charles DeCarli, M.D.
Director, UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center

Chad Dickey, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute

Kelly Dineley, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Karen Duff, Ph.D.
Professor, Columbia University

Vicor Dyakin, Ph.D.
Scientist, NKI

Kirk Erickson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Patrick Flaherty, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Medicinal Chemistry, Department of Medicinal Chemistry, Mylan School of Pharmacy

Ken-ichiro Fukuchi, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Researcher, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria

Ari Gafni, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Michigan

Gunda Georg, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Minnesota

Othman Ghribi, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of North Dakota Medical School

Ezio Giacobini, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Geriatrics, University of Geneva (Switzerland)

Gary Gibson, Ph.D.
Professor, Weill Cornell Medical College / Burke Medical Research Institute

Stephen D. Ginsberg, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Nathan Kline Institute/NYU Langone School of Medicine

Allison Goate, Ph.D.
Professor of Genetics in Psychiatry, Washington University School of Medicine

Whitney Goebel
Washington University in St. Louis

Todd Golde, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease, University of Florida

Paul Gottschall, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Paul Grammas, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Garrison Institute on Aging, Texas Tech University, Health Sciences Center

Barry Greenberg, Ph.D.
Director of Strategy, Toronto Dementia Research Alliance

Richard Hartman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Loma Linda University

Denise Head, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Psychology Department, Washinton University

Elizabeth Head, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Kentucky

Theresa Heath,
Senior Director, BARC Global Central Laboratory

Stef Heylen, M.D.
Head, Janssen Alzheimer Immunotherapy

Diana Himmelstein, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Associate, Northwestern University

Oliver Holmes, Ph.D.
Brigham and Women's Hospital

Greg Hook, Ph.D.
VP Alzheimer's Research and General Counsel, American Life Science Pharmaceuticals

Joanna Jankowsky, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Neuroscience, Baylor College of Medicine

Shen Jie, Ph.D.
Professor, Harvard Medical School

Inga Kadish, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Jungsu Kim, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology, Washington University

Michael King, Ph.D.
Associate Scientist, University of Florida College of Medicine

David Knopman, M.D.
Professor of Neurology, Mayo Clinic

Radosveta Koldamova, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Walter Kukull, Ph.D.
Director, National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center; Professor of Epidemiology, University of Washington

Mary Jo LaDu, Ph.D.
Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology, University of Illinois at Chicago

Frank LaFerla, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, UC Irvine

Gary Landreth, Ph.D.
Professor, Case Western Reserve University

Kenneth Langa, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, University of Michigan

Orly Lazarov, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, The University of Illinois at Chicago

Edward Lee, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Gloria Lee, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Iowa

Hyoung-gon Lee, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University

Iliya Lefterov, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health

Cynthia Lemere, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Neurology, Center for Neurologic Diseases, Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Allan Levey, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology, Emory University

Harry LeVine III, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, University of Kentucky

Ling Li, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Minnesota

Mei-Chen Liao, Ph.D.
Post-doctoral Fellow, Brigham and Women's Hospital

Iris Lindberg, Ph.D.
University of Maryland

Constantine Lyketsos, M.D.
Elizabeth Plank Althouse Professor in Alzheimer's disease research, Johns Hopkins Medicine

William Lynch, Ph.D.
Associate Professor of Molecular Virology and Neuroscience, NEOMED

Ivan Maksimovich, M.D.
Professor, Clinic of Cardiovascular Diseases named after Most Holy John Tobolsky (Russia)

Philippe Marambaud, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist, The Feinstein Institute

George M. Martin, M.D.
Professor of Pathology Emeritus, University of Washington

Paul Massman, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Houston

Richard Mayeux, M.D.
Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology, Columbia University Medical Center

Ann Mayo,
Professor, University of San Diego

Lefkos Middleton, MD, FRCP
Professor of Neurology and Neuroepidemiology, School of Public Health, Imperial College
London (England)

Mervyn Monteiro, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Maryland

Enrico Mugnaini, M.D.
Professor, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

Shin Murakami, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Touro University California

Virgil Muresan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School

Vasavan Nair, M.D.
Director, Human Psychopharmacology Trials, Douglas Institute, McGill University (Canada)

Kevin Nash, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of South Florida

Peter Nelson, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, University of Kentucky

Ralph Nixon, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Center for Dementia Research, Nathan Kline Institute

ChristopherM Norris, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Kentucky

Eric Norstrom, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, DePaul University

Morris Notelovitz, M.D., Ph.D.
CogniFem LLC

Jaya Padmanabhan, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, USF Health Byrd Alzheimer's Institute

Sachin Patil, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Widener University

Michael Pierschbacher, Ph.D.
President and CEO, American Life Science Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Jagan Pillai, M.D., Ph.D.
Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health

Qitao Ran, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Texas Health Science Center, STVHCS

Stephen Rao, Ph.D.
Director and Professor, Cleveland Clinic

G. William Rebeck, Ph.D.
Professor, Georgetown University

P. Hemachandra Reddy, Ph.D.
Associate Scientist, Oregon Health and Science University

Jessica Restivo,
Senior Research Tech, Department of Neurology, Washington University in St. Louis

Lilia Rodriguez, Ph.D.
Research Fellow, Harvard Medical School

Catherine Roe, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Washington University School of Medicine

Emily Rogalski, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Northwestern University

Susan Rountree, M.D.
Alzheimer's Disease and Memory Disorders Center , Baylor College of Medicine

Lee Ryan, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Arizona

Stephen Salloway, M.D.
Director of the Memory and Aging Program, Butler Hospital and Professor of Neurology and Psychiatry, Alpert Medical School, Brown University

Michael Salvatore, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, LSU Health Sciences Center - Shreveport

Andrew Satlin, M.D.
Senior Vice-President, Head of Neuroscience Clinical Development, Eisai, Inc.

Stephen Scheff, Ph.D.
Professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology; Associate Director, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, University of Kentucky

Gerard Schellenberg, Ph.D.
Professor, Perelman School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Philip Scheltens, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, VU University Medical Center (Holland)

Dennis Selkoe, M.D.
Coates Professor of Neurologic Diseases, Harvard Medical School

Michael Shelanski, M.D., Ph.D.
Director, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Columbia University
Yong Shen, M.D., Ph.D.
Senior Scientist and Center Director, Roskamp Institute

Michael Sierks, Ph.D.
Professor, Arizona State University

Einar Sigurdsson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, New York University School of Medicine

Sangram Sisodia, Ph.D.
Thomas Reynolds Sr. Family Professor of Neurosciences, University of Chicago

Holly Soares, Ph.D.
Director, Bristol-Myers Squibb

Stephanie Soscia, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital

Reisa Sperling, M.D.
Director, Center for Alzheimer's Research and Treatment, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Patrick Sullivan, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Duke University

Charlene Supnet, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Researcher, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Jun Tan, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of South Florida

Cristina Tan Hehir, Ph.D.
Project Leader, GE Global Research

Pierre Tariot, M.D.
Director, Banner Alzheimer's Institute and Co-Director Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative

William Tay, Ph.D.
Postdoctoral Fellow, Mayo Clinic

Giuseppina Tesco, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Tufts University

Bruce Teter, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of California, Los Angeles

Nikolaos Tezapsidis, Ph.D.
President & CEO, Neurotez, Inc.

Gopal Thinakaran, Ph.D.
Professor, Neurobiology, The University of Chicago

Hiep Tran, Ph.D.
Chief Scientific Officer, Abzyme Therapeutics LLC

Raymond Turner, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor, Georgetown University

Saba Valadkhan, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Case Western Reserve University

Erik Miranda Valverde, M.D.
Geriatrician, Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social (Costa Rica)

Linda Van Eldik, Ph.D.
Director of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and Director, University of Kentucky
Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Thomas Van Groen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

William Van Nostrand, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Neurosurgery, Stony Brook University

Robert Vassar, Ph.D.
Professor, Northwestern University

Michael Vitek, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Duke University Medical Center

Tanya Wallace, Ph.D.
Program Director, SRI International

Michael Walters, Ph.D.
Research Associate Professor, University of Minnesota

Li-San Wang, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Qin Wang, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Daniel Martin Watterson, Ph.D.
John G. Searle Professor, Northwestern University

Colleen Webber,
Clinical Research Coordinator, University of Virginia Department of Neurology

Daniel Wesson, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Department of Neurosciences, Case Western Reserve University

Tim West, Ph.D.
VP of Research and Development, C2N Diagnostics

Donna Wilcock, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky Sanders-Brown Center on Aging

Ishan Williams, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Virginia

Jun Wu, Ph.D.
Senior Research Scientist, UTSouthwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Huaxi Xu, Ph.D.
Professor, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute

Xuemin Xu, Ph.D.
Professor, The University of Tennessee

Austin Yang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Maryland, Baltimore

Carla Yuede, Ph.D.
Research Instructor, Neurology Department, Washington University School of Medicine

Michael Zagorski, Ph.D.
Professor, Case Western Reserve University

Chris Zarow, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Research Neurology, University of Southern California

Bin Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.
Senior Research Investigator, University of Pennsylvania

Jianhua Zhang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Rong Zhang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Director of Cerebrovascular Laboratory, UT Southwestern Medical Center

Hui Zheng, Ph.D.
Professor and Director, Baylor College of Medicine

Michael Zigmond, Ph.D.
Professor, University of Pittsburgh

Danna Zimmer, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Center for Biomolecular Therapeutics, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Next-Generation of Alzheimer's Researchers

Christine Villegas
Student, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, UMDNJ

Anna Vorobyeva, Ph.D.
Ph.D. Candidate, Drexel University