

George Vradenburg
FDA Advisory Committee Meeting
November 6, 2020
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

My name is George Vradenburg, chairman of UsAgainstAlzheimer's, a patient-led non-profit with the singular mission to stop Alzheimer's. We are supported in that mission by thousands of individuals and scores of companies, including Biogen.

I joined this battle against Alzheimer's because my family has experienced three generations of Alzheimer's over 40 years. At this pace, my children — and grandchildren — are in the Alzheimer's bullseye.

But mine is just one family, among the tens of millions of American families who are and will be touched by this disease.

I speak today in support of all those families.

What matters to **US**? We know from our own scientifically rigorous studies that all 10 of the things that matter most to those early in the Alzheimer's journey are embodied in the endpoints in the aducanumab trial. But, for us, for example, an ADL scale is not an endpoint. It's more days, weeks and months of living independently. Of being safe when left alone. Of being able to use the shower. Or the toilet.

To get to the best-in-class drug, a cure, we must have a first-in-class drug, as we have learned with so many other challenging diseases. All of us who have been through cancer treatment, as I have, know that there's no sure thing for everyone—and for those cancer treatments the side effects are so much worse. With this Alzheimer's treatment, we aren't afraid of headaches, for goodness sake, we are dying.

Here's a sure thing. Probability of 100%: If we wait for the perfect drug or perfect data, we will descend further into the grip of this awful disease. We will not recognize

our family members sooner, we will become lonely and depressed sooner, agitated sooner.

For us—waiting for perfection is not an option. We are slowly dying, now. We can't wait.

The signal you send today will have a ripple effect far beyond this one drug. The signal you send today can stop the path to a cure for years, or it can sound the starting gun on innovation.

With approval, as sure as day follows night, drugs 2, 3, 4 will follow, faster.

With disapproval, our community will continue not to think about brain health, believing that nothing can be done to stop cognitive decline.

With approval, our community will know the Alzheimer's enemy has finally been engaged; we will know that science and time are now, finally, on our side. We will engage with our physicians to learn what can be done, with early detection, to slow this disease.

Action will replace denial.

Hope will replace despair.

I urge you to vote for hope over despair.

I urge you to recommend approval of aducanumab.

Thank you.