

Greg O'Brien
FDA Advisory Committee Meeting
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Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

My name is Greg O'Brien, and I'd like to speak in support of Biogen's drug aducanumab from a perspective of someone living with Alzheimer's. The disease took my maternal grandfather, my mother, paternal uncle, and before my father's death, he too was diagnosed with dementia.

Then it came for me. I was diagnosed nine years ago with Early Onset Alzheimer's after experiencing the horrific trademark symptoms and after two serious head traumas that doctors say unmasked a disease in the making. I also carry the Alzheimer's gene APOE-4.

As you know, Alzheimer's is a disease that can take 20 years or more to run its demonic course. I know the frontline well.

I'm a career journalist, and wrote about my journey in a book, *On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's*. In the interest of full disclosure, I am a member of the Board of UsAgainstAlzheimer's, an organization that receives donations and program support from Biogen and others.

We have in this country some of the brightest minds in the world, but Alzheimer's has been a Rubik's Cube for which there (so far) is no winning solution.

The best we can do now is to slow the rate of cognitive and functional decline in persons, in the earlier stages of Alzheimer's. That is a significant step for them.

Biogen's drug aducanumab won't help me, in my journey now. But to those people in the early stages of the disease, it would offer hope where to date there has been no semblance of hope. It offers the chance to preserve independence in the early stage for a longer period. It offers more time to be us...more time in the moment with our families.

This may not be “victory-at-last” on the medical front for those of us on this serpentine journey. But even if aducanumab is not a perfect drug for everyone, it is a big step forward that offers more time and real hope to many with this disease.

After years of great disappointment in drug trials for those in the throes of urgency as our minds decline, please offer us some hope.

Please recommend approval of this drug therapy.

Thank You.