

## **THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION IS THE LARGEST NONPROFIT FUNDER OF ALZHEIMER'S AND ALL OTHER DEMENTIA RESEARCH IN THE WORLD**

**At any given moment, research is happening.** The Association now has active funding commitments totaling more than \$212 million to 592 best of field projects in 31 countries. In FY2020, the Alzheimer's Association funded its largest-ever new research investment, committing more than \$47 million to 139 research projects, including 119 investigations funded via the International Research Grant Program (IRGP) and 20 Strategic Research Initiatives.

### **International Research Grant Program (IRGP)**

Through the IRGP, the Association received 406 proposals submitted from 865 letters of intent. Grants were awarded to researchers whose proposals were ranked highest through a competitive peer-review process. The Association engages a panel of volunteer scientists to evaluate the merits of each proposal; a total of 426 reviewers from 27 countries provided 1,175 reviews in 2020. The Association, with input from the IRGP Council and the Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG), awards funding to ensure overall portfolio balance across the entire spectrum of dementia science. The Association funded 32% of submitted applications, while approximately 44% of proposals received deserved funding. The Alzheimer's Association caps indirect costs at 10% on all grants awarded via the IRGP. Newly funded projects are advancing essential dementia research across the full spectrum of science:

**Molecular Pathogenesis and Physiology of Alzheimer's and other Dementia – 24%** of funded projects are exploring processes including brain inflammation and immunity, cellular transport, genetics and the production of proteins (i.e. beta-amyloid, tau, alpha synuclein and others) as well as cellular functions that may normally protect and maintain nerve cells in the brain.

**Diagnosis, Assessment and Disease Monitoring of Alzheimer's and other Dementia – 15%** of the projects are investigating tools and methods aimed at earlier diagnosis, timelier interventions and effective monitoring of disease progression. This includes studies that develop and expand use of brain scans, fluid biomarkers such as blood tests, and clinical tools, as well as studies that combine these measures to further develop, standardize and validate them.

**Translational Research and Clinical Interventions – 30.5%** of the projects are exploring novel treatment strategies for potential drug (drug discover, drug development and human trials) and non-drug interventions for Alzheimer's and other dementia.

**Dementia Care and Impact of Disease, including Population Studies – 30.5%** of the projects are studying potential factors that may impact an individual's risk for dementia and ways to improve care (such as with new technology) for people at all stages of Alzheimer's and other dementia.

### **IRGP grant types, including the number of grants per type in parentheses-**

**(18) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants (AARG)** and **(6) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants to Promote Diversity (AARG-D)** fund investigators in Alzheimer's and all other dementia research who are less than 15 years past their advanced or terminal degree.

**(7) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants – New to the Field (AARG-NTF)** and **(3) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants to Promote Diversity – New to the Field (AARG-D-NTF)** fund investigators who are new to dementia research.

**(17) Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowships (AARF)** and **(4) Alzheimer's Association**

**Research Fellowships to Promote Diversity (AARF-D)** support exceptional researchers in dementia research who are engaged in post-graduate work (i.e., postdoctoral fellows).

**(5) Alzheimer’s Association Clinical Fellowships (AACSF)** and **(2) Alzheimer’s Association Clinical Fellowships to Promote Diversity (AACSF-D)** support clinical research training in dementia research. Fellows have completed their residency (M.D.), postdoctoral fellowship (Ph.D.) or both and actively see patients.

**(21) Part the Cloud (PTC) Translational Research Funding for Alzheimer’s Disease**, including **(14) PTC Gates awards 2020** and **(2) PTC Gates awards 2021**, in partnership with Part the Cloud to increase research funding for Phase I and Phase II clinical trials worldwide. Part the Cloud, an initiative benefiting the Alzheimer's Association, partnered with Bill Gates for the PTC-Gates program focused on moving potential therapies for dementia that target biogenetics, cell clearance mechanisms and vascular contributions into human trials.

**(3) Zenith Fellows Awards (ZNTH)** support senior scientists who have made significant contributions to the field of Alzheimer’s and other dementia research and who continue to pursue promising lines of investigation in disease mechanisms, diagnosis and novel treatments approaches.

**(27) Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders (GBHL)**, a joint effort by the Association, the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) and the UK-based Alzheimer’s Society, support leaders focused on advancing innovative projects that create social change for improving health equity in dementia care.

**(8) Tau Pipeline Enabling Program (T-PEP)** awards, in partnership with the Tau Consortium of the Rainwater Charitable Foundation, to accelerate discovery of potential new therapies for diseases related to tau protein, including frontotemporal dementia, Alzheimer’s, progressive supranuclear palsy (PSP) and more than 20 other brain diseases collectively known as “tauopathies.”

### **Strategic Research Initiatives**

Strategic Research Initiatives are unique invitation opportunities to advance high-impact dementia research, to leverage insights and a global network of dementia scientists, philanthropic partners and other stakeholders to proactively identify, accelerate and enhance investigations with elevated potential for advancing the entire field of dementia research. Twenty (20) Strategic Research Initiatives received funding FY2020, examples of these projects include:

**MYHAT (Monongahela-Youghiogeny Healthy Aging Team) Blood Evaluation and HighSchool and Beyond**– These initiatives provide funding to (a) develop a sensitive procedure to quantify levels of beta-amyloid in the blood collected through the MYHAT study in the surrounding areas of Pittsburgh and (b) to initiate a pilot study to collect whole blood from participants of the HighSchool and Beyond survey study of individuals from across the country.

**Alzheimer’s Association and SABB (Standardization of Alzheimer’s Blood Biomarkers) and the Plasma Abeta Foundation for the National Institutes of Health initiatives**– These initiatives will develop a standard operating procedure for blood collection and processing across different studies and will further validate and compare the next generation of tests to measure levels of plasma beta amyloid in a living person.

**FHS (Framingham Heart Study) Retinal Eye Study** – This funding provides essential infrastructure to advance retinal imaging in the Framingham Heart Study and enable the leveraging of data from the study to characterize several sensory (vision, hearing and smell, among others) functions. Further, the study will examine long-term data, including education levels, social network, lifestyle, metabolic (such

as sugar, blood pressure), to ascertain their impact on cognitive function. Study data will be shared through GAAIN.

**DIAN-TU (Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network Trials Unit)** – The Association has made several commitments to the groundbreaking DIAN-TU. **DIAN-TU Next Generation (NexGen)** is testing the next generation of experimental therapies in clinical trials, with amyloid and tau imaging as well as other emerging biomarkers. **DIAN-TU High Dose Escalation (DIAN-TU-HDE)**, part of DIAN-TU NexGen, is testing an increased dose of an experimental treatment to maximize its therapeutic benefit. **DIAN LATAM (Latin America)** is an observational study that will establish multiple DIAN study sites in Latin American countries to grow the network and increase dementia awareness.

**PEACE-AD (Prazosin for Disruptive Agitation in Alzheimer's Disease)** – This clinical trial will establish a research network of community-based long-term care facilities that will generate lived experience and expertise for the Prazosin for Disruptive Agitation in Alzheimer's Disease (PEACE-AD) trial and for future trials in this care setting.

**AU-ARROW (AUstralian-multidomain Approach to Reduce dementia Risk by prOtecting brain health With lifestyle intervention)** – Building off the Association's leadership with U.S. POINTER and WW-FINGERS, AU-ARROW will evaluate the potential of a multicomponent lifestyle intervention on maintaining or improving cognitive function in older adults at risk of developing dementia.

*Note: For more details visit [alz.org/research](http://alz.org/research).*