

BRIDGING THE DISCONNECT: Improving dementia diagnosis by promoting routine cognitive assessments

(continued from front)

Association is working with doctors to improve dementia screening and diagnosis and to connect more individuals to the Association's free care and support services. To help medical practitioners better evaluate memory, thinking and symptoms of dementia, the Association offers free continuing medical education courses, the Physician's Alzheimer's Disease Pocketcard interactive toolkit, clinical information and education packets.

The Association is also working with local chapters to establish relationships with physicians and clinical practices, and to increase

referrals to the Association's care and support services.

Thanks to the financial leadership of donors like you, the Association is able to offer programs that promote early detection and impact the lives of those living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. Visit alz.org/help-support to learn more.

"We are [helping to] educate physicians on best practices for conducting brief cognitive assessments and to ensure that all seniors understand what to expect from an assessment, as well as how to navigate an Alzheimer's diagnosis and care planning when needed."



Dr. Joanne Pike,
Chief Program Officer,
Alzheimer's Association



Join the fight for the first survivor of Alzheimer's

Join us for the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® — the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research.

Sign up as a team captain, join a team or register to walk as an individual at alz.org/walk.

2019 Alzheimer's Association International Conference® (AAIC®)

From July 14 –18, 2019, leading global researchers will gather in Los Angeles for the largest and most influential international meeting dedicated to advancing dementia science.

For more information and conference updates, visit alz.org/AAIC.



ALOIS
SOCIETY
alzheimer's association

To learn more about your Alois Society membership, visit alz.org/AloisSociety.

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BRIDGING THE DISCONNECT: Improving dementia diagnosis by promoting routine cognitive assessments

Physicians and seniors agree: Brief cognitive assessments — short medical evaluations of cognitive impairment — should be included in regular check-ups to screen for Alzheimer's and other dementias. But, how is this impacting what happens at the doctor's office?



Recent findings from the *Alzheimer's Association 2019 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures* report reveal a discrepancy: Though a large majority of seniors (82 percent) and physicians (94 percent) believe it is important for those 65 and older to have their memory checked, only half of seniors are being assessed for

thinking and memory issues, and far fewer (16 percent) say they receive routine assessments.

Ample evidence exists of the medical, social, emotional and financial benefits of early detection. And evaluations of cognitive function, a cornerstone of early detection, are a required component of Medicare Annual Wellness Visit. Yet, only 1 in 3 seniors are aware their check-ups should include this assessment.

These findings bring to light a need for a better understanding of cognitive assessments and more clarity on who is responsible for initiating them.

Through their Physician Outreach Program the

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WELCOME

to the new issue of *Alois Society Connector*, published exclusively for members of the Alzheimer's Association Alois Society. You belong to an extraordinary group of people who offer inspiration as well as financial leadership to support the Association's efforts to provide vital care and support programs, advance research and shape public policy that improves the lives of all those affected by this devastating disease. Thank you for your exceptional commitment.

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OUR WORK IS NOT DONE: Advocates take new legislative priorities to the Hill



During the Federal Priorities session on April 1, Rachel Conant, AIM senior political director, reviewed the Association's four federal legislative priorities for the year, which include two newly introduced pieces of legislation:

- **Increase Alzheimer's research funding** at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) by \$350 million.
- **Fully implement and fund the Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act.**
- **Improve provider education on Alzheimer's care planning** by supporting the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act, which would support provider education and outreach to improve awareness and utilization of comprehensive Alzheimer's and dementia care planning services covered under Medicare.
- **Improve access to services for individuals under 60 living with younger-onset Alzheimer's** through the Younger-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Act of 2019, which

Rallying behind a call to stay passionate and together until we reach our vision of a world without Alzheimer's disease, advocates gathered in Washington D.C. from March 31 – April 2 for the 2019 Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM) Advocacy Forum.

More than 1,200 Alzheimer's advocates came together to strengthen their advocacy skills and urge their congressional representatives to take action and make Alzheimer's a national priority. Advocates received inspiration from presenters including Dr. Maria Carrillo, Alzheimer's Association chief science officer, political analyst Charlie Cook, National Early Stage Advisor Rod Blough, and keynote speaker and Alzheimer's Association celebrity champion, Kate Mulgrew.

"We are building on [past] successes and making sure that Congress understands that Alzheimer's is a public health crisis. And it affects everybody."

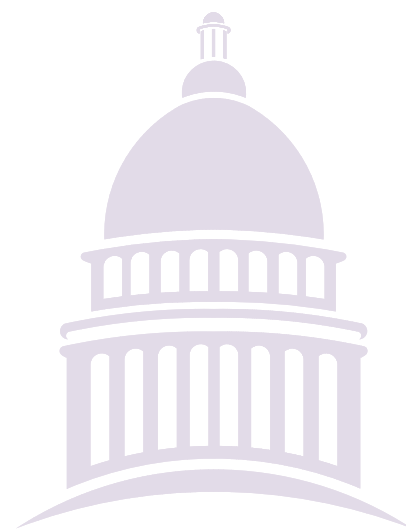
- Rachel Conant, Senior Political Director, Alzheimer's Impact Movement

would amend the Older Americans Act (OAA) to allow individuals under age 60 who are diagnosed with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease to access the OAA's support programs.

On April 2, the final day of the Advocacy Forum, advocates gathered on Capitol Hill for Hill Day, to share their personal stories with their members of Congress and to encourage them to support our legislative priorities.

"This is just the start," said Robert Egge, AIM executive director. "We have much more we need to do together, but with all of us working together, we know we can get there."

Dedicated leaders like you help advance the Association's important legislative priorities. Visit alzimpact.org/take_action to learn more.



LASTING IMPACT: With estate gift, major donor honors mothers and daughters



Adrienne Edelstein's gift is dedicated to Alzheimer's research.

For Adrienne Edelstein, the fight against Alzheimer's disease is personal. Her mother was only 64 when she was diagnosed. Over the next two decades, Adrienne and her family witnessed how Alzheimer's took everything: her mother's memories, relationships and life.

"At first, I noticed [Mom] was forgetting birthdays, eventually she barely recognized me," Adrienne says. "She died a month before her 80th birthday after

living with this awful disease for 16 years."

In 2004, determined to do something to end what she describes as a hideous and alarmingly expensive disease, Adrienne volunteered for her local Walk to End Alzheimer's® and her Alzheimer's Association chapter.

Since then, Adrienne has continued to battle Alzheimer's on multiple fronts, serving as a tireless volunteer for the Association and on the board of directors of the New York City Chapter. But Adrienne felt there was more she could do.

When updating her will, Adrienne's attorney asked if there was any other gift she wanted to leave. She did not hesitate. "I decided to make a significant gift to the Alzheimer's Association, dedicated to research for prevention or a cure," she says.

"I made my gift in honor of my mother and all the mothers and daughters in the world who may one day travel this path," Adrienne says. "It feels good to do my part to make their journey easier."

To learn more about gifts that can make a lasting difference in the fight against Alzheimer's, visit alz.org/plannedgiving.

5.8 MILLION Americans are living with Alzheimer's.

By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly **14 MILLION**



Between 2000 and 2017, deaths from Alzheimer's have increased by **145%**.



EVERY 65 SECONDS someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's.

