





## Interpreting Recent Results in AD Drug Development



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# Lecture Outline

- Personal reflections on building a global AD research network and advances in AD biomarkers
- Discuss recent clinical trial results and emerging therapeutic targets to achieve meaningful impact on QOL







#### Building the Alzheimer's Army





# **Building a Global Research Network**



ADNI, DIAN, ACTC, GAP, LEADS, EPAD

#### Increase in NIH Funding for Alzheimer's Research



\*FY2020 number includes pending \$350 million increase proposed by Senate appropriators

# **Advances in Molecular Brain Imaging**



Courtesy of William Jagust

# Plaque build up begins early





## Amyloid PET IDEAS Study

- Recruitment of 16,008 participants with 11,409 amyloid PET scans
- Change in diagnosis from AD to non-AD 25.1% and from non-AD to AD 10.5%
- Change in management in 60.2% in MCI and 63.5% with dementia
- Amyloid PET is clinically meaningful but is not covered and rarely used in practice

## **Opening the Era of Alzheimer's Prevention Research**



70% of people get good news that they are at lower risk on amyloid PET

#### Tau PET as a Diagnostic, Prognostic and Outcome Measure



AKA [<sup>18</sup>F]AV-1451, [<sup>18</sup>F]T807





Brain Section from Alzheimer's Patient



Flortaucipir F-18 Autoradiography



Tau Pathology With AT8 Antibody

Pontecorvo, Brain 2019

#### Baseline Tau PET is Associated with Accumulation of Tau and Rate of Cognitive Decline

Baseline Tau



ΔTau



1<sup>st</sup> Quartile Very low tau

2<sup>nd</sup> Quartile Low tau 3<sup>rd</sup> Quartile Intermediate tau 4<sup>th</sup> Quartile High tau

Harrison, Annals of Neurology 2019, Pontecorvo, Brain 2019, Honig, NEJM 2018

# **Biomarkers for Staging AD**



Sperling, Neuron 2014 Jack Alz and Dementia 2018

### FDA Approved Drugs for AD



Courtesy N.Relkin

## Moving Toward Disease Modification





## Treatments Targeting Amyloid Beta



#### Salloway, Alz and Dementia 2008

## **BACE Inhibitor Trials**

- Appealing mechanism with good lowering of CSF ABeta42 with promise for primary and secondary prevention
- □ 4 BACEi produced cognitive worsening and a 5<sup>th</sup> lacked efficacy
- □ ? mechanism and duration of cognitive worsening, on or off-target
- Excellent collaborative response to analyzing, sharing and presenting data

## Anti-Amyloid Antibody Trials for Mild-Mod Dementia and MCI

- □ Bapineuzumab-Salloway, NEJM 2014
- □ Solanezumab-Doody, NEJM 2014, Honig, NEJM 2018
- Crenezumab-Cummings, Neurology 2018, Salloway, Alz Res and Ther 2018
- □ Gantenerumab-Ostrowitski, Alz Res and Ther 2017
- 20% had negative amyloid PET in Bapi and Sola
- Dosing limited by amyloid-related imaging abnormalities (ARIA)
- Evidence from phase 2 not compelling
- Disease stage may be too advanced to benefit from this approach

## **Aducanumab for Early AD**



Sevigny, Nature 2016



Activated Microglia Senile plaque amyloid core

### **TIME – Alzheimer's: New Hope**



Inside One Couple's Experimental Treatment to Battle Alzheimer's Disease





# Aducanumab, BAN2401 and Gantenerumab

- Dose matters
- Substantial dose-related amyloid lowering
- ARIA appears to be manageable
- □ Signals of efficacy in PRIME, BAN phase 2 and EMERGE
- □ ? Duration needed, can change in aPET help guide Rx, ? maintenance
- Responder analysis
- If sufficiently +, good first step for combination, would lead to coverage and use of amyloid PET

### Goal: Develop Treatments that Meaningfully Impact QOL

#### **Combination Treatment for HIV**



#### End of Study CHERISH Results Demonstrate Benefit in Patients with Later-onset SMA



#### SPINRAZA demonstrated a favorable safety profile



HFMSE = Hammersmith Functional Motor Scale Expanded; LSM = least-squares mean; \*From baseline to Month 15. Interim analysis: observed: sham procedure control, n=19; nusinersen, n=35; imputed: sham procedure control, n=23; nusinersen n=49. End of study analysis: observed: sham procedure control, n=34; nusinersen, n=66; imputed: sham procedure control n=8, nusinersen n=18.

Mercuri E, et al. Efficacy and Safety of Nusinersen in Children With Later-Onset Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA): End of Study Results From the Phase 3 CHERISH Study. Presented at: 69th Annual American Academy of Neurology Meeting; April 22-28, 2017; Boston, MA.

Market Realist

Source: Ionis Pharmaceuticals Investor Presentation

## 78 year old with gradual cognitive and functional decline

- Initial stage MCI due to AD-amyloid PET elevated, ApoE3,4
- Treated with donepezil
- Enrolled in a DB anti-amyloid monoclonal antibody trial including open treatment for 4 years
- His wife reports that his cognitive symptoms and daily functioning have been relatively stable



# **Milestones in AD Prevention Research**

- Recruitment of the Generation, Columbian, DIAN and A4 cohorts
  - 481 ApoE4 homozygotes and 1,145 mostly heterozygotes
- Pioneering AD platform trials and prevention registries
- □ Going earlier-A3,4-5 and DIAN Primary Prevention
- Multi-modal lifestyle intervention
  - FINGER, POINTER and Worldwide FINGERS





Does a recipe that combines lifestyle interventions prevent or delay cognitive decline in larger population?





# **Emerging Targets and Discovery Science**

- Tau-based treatments
- Gene modifying
  - ASO, viral gene transfer, gene editing
- Targeting mechanisms of cellular aging
- Inflammation, epigenetics, autophagy and mitochondria
- Blood biomarkers
- Combination Rx

# PART THE CLOUD







## Supporting Research Careers of Young Investigators







# What Will It Take to Succeed?

- Testing anti-amyloid drugs earlier in the disease
- Discovery science, combination treatment
- Platform trials
- Public-private partnerships with strong collaboration and data sharing
- Broad public engagement
- Establishing efficacy for a disease modifying target and building on this foundation