

Investment in research saves lives and money



facts about:

Alzheimer's Disease Today

"If you think research is expensive, try disease."

- Mary Lasker 1901-1994

- ❑ In 2014, 11% of Americans 65 or older were living with Alzheimer's disease.[‡]
- ❑ Women are increasingly more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease than men. The disease also disproportionately affects Hispanics and African-Americans.[‡]
- ❑ Research conducted in 2015 found there could be as many as 13.5 million Americans living with Alzheimer's disease by 2050 if no medical breakthroughs addressing the incidence of Alzheimer's are discovered.[‡]
- ❑ As of 2015, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death for Americans. Between 2000 and 2010, deaths attributed to Alzheimer's disease increased by 68%.^{‡*}

‡ ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION <WWW.ALZ.ORG>

* CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION <WWW.CDC.GOV>

SAVING LIVES

SAVING MONEY

HOW RESEARCH SAVES LIVES:

- ❑ More than 60% of individuals with Alzheimer's will wander and become lost. Half of these individuals will become seriously injured if not found within 24 hours. A professor at George Mason University who specializes in Alzheimer's care aided in the creation of the "GPS shoe," which allows caretakers to locate patients using their phone.[^]
- ❑ While highly effective drug interventions remain elusive, other forms of therapy have been shown to greatly reduce Alzheimer's patients' level of aggression, agitation, and psychosis. Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania and the Neuropsychiatric Research Center of Southwest Florida collected data on the effect of "Art Therapy" in 2014. They found it had positive results for Alzheimer's patients, including reducing anxiety and improving concentration.[‡]

HOW RESEARCH SAVES MONEY:

- ❑ Research conducted in 2014 discovered community based screening for dementia could reduce the cost of dementia care by nearly 10% over 10 years. Researchers hypothesize the cost savings was due to a reduction in the premature need for a caretaker. While there are no truly effective interventions, with proper care and education early in the disease progression, the severe stages of the disease can be postponed to later in the individual's life. This would then reduce the total time spent in this emotionally, physically, and economically exhausting state.[‡]
- ❑ In 2015, the Alzheimer's Association estimated the impact over time of a treatment that delayed the onset of Alzheimer's by five years. They calculated that by 2050, annual savings associated with this treatment would reach \$376 billion, and families alone would save \$87 billion in out of pocket costs.^{*}

* ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION <WWW.ALZ.ORG>

^ GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY <CHHS.GMU.EDU>

‡ CHANCELLOR B, ET AL. J ALZHEIMERS DIS; 2014.

‡ SAITO E, ET AL. INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE; 2014.

The Cost

- ❑ More than 15 million Americans provided 17.7 million hours of unpaid care to family members or friends with Alzheimer's disease in 2014. This care is valued at over \$220 billion.[‡]
- ❑ In 2014, the direct medical costs of treating individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia was estimated at \$214 billion.[‡]
- ❑ Researchers estimate that by 2050, the annual cost of caring for Americans with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia will reach \$1.1 trillion.[‡]
- ❑ On average, individuals with Alzheimer's disease paid nearly \$10,000 in out-of-pocket medical expenses in 2014.[‡]

patient advocate:

NAME: Ron Grant
 AGE: 62
 CONDITION: Alzheimer's Disease



Ron Grant was completely unprepared when he was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's disease at age 55. A diagnosis which forced Ron into an early retirement from his loved career as a prison chaplain. A highly academic man, Ron could see himself decreasing in function, soon losing the ability to read his hundreds of books. While still a highly capable man, Ron recognizes he and his family are the few people who understand what this disease has taken from him. Both Ron, and his wife and caretaker Vicky, began to adapt their lifestyle to better accommodate Ron's rapidly changing condition.

Part of this adaptation occurred in 2008, when Ron and Vicky began a support group for early stage Alzheimer's patients. This support group soon branched off as the caretakers created an impromptu support group of their own. These two support groups now run concurrently, and both Ron and Vicky can see the positive effects of their attendance. Ron truly understands the importance of an optimistic outlook and believes his and Vicky's ability to accept and adapt has made all the difference in his remarkably slow disease progression.

However, the support group is only one way the Grants have contributed to a more positive future for Alzheimer's. Ron enrolled in a phase III clinical drug study for 18 months, until the trial was halted. He is still very ready and willing to enroll in another drug trial, and is constantly researching current investigations. Unfortunately, he has had trouble successfully enrolling in one, as it is difficult for Vicky to accompany him to all of the appointments, as most trials require, while also working full time.

Ron and Vicky frequently advocate for increased federal funding for medical research with the Alzheimer's Association. In March of 2015 they traveled to Washington, D.C. to encourage action from Capitol Hill. They note that within the top 10 causes of death in the U.S., Alzheimer's disease is the only cause which is increasing in prevalence annually. Ron and Vicky strongly believe the current researchers have the knowledge and intelligence to treat Alzheimer's disease, but are being limited by resources. All the Grants want to see is "an increase in funding which equals the dire emergency" of Alzheimer's disease.

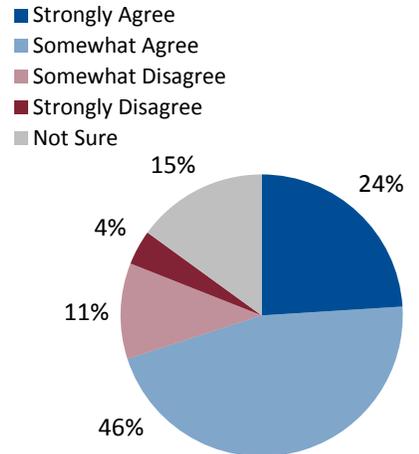
facts about: } Alzheimer's Disease

Hope for the Future:

- In 2015, the National Institutes of Health is funding 25 clinical trials testing different potential therapies for Alzheimer's disease.*
- Researchers have identified many different exposures and conditions that are associated with an increased risk for developing Alzheimer's disease. With this knowledge, individuals are able to take preventative measures such as treating their depression and hypertension early in life, ceasing tobacco use, and increasing the amount of cognitive stimulation they receive.†
- Indiana University and the National Institute on Aging began recruiting individuals with Alzheimer's in 2015 to take part in a clinical study to investigate the genetic factors associated with the disease. Researchers hope the resulting data will lead the way to effective interventions.‡

National Poll: Majority of Americans Agree Basic Research is Critical

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Even if it brings no immediate benefits, basic scientific research that advances the frontiers of knowledge is necessary and should be supported by the federal government."



SOURCE: RESEARCH!AMERICA POLL OF US ADULTS CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ZOGBY ANALYTICS IN JANUARY 2015

The Bottom Line:

Alzheimer's disease is a chronic, debilitating, and fatal disease that primarily affects individuals age 65 and older, but surfaces decades earlier in some patients. As Baby Boomers age, Alzheimer's disease will reach epidemic proportions and put an enormous strain on American families, our healthcare system, and the U.S. economy. Research is the key to improving the lives of the millions of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their caretakers.

* U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES <WWW.HHS.GOV/BUDGET/FY2016>
 † ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE INTERNATIONAL <WWW.ALZ.CO.UK>
 ‡ CLINICALTRIALS.GOV <CLINICALTRIALS.GOV>

Prevalence and Projected Number of People with Alzheimer's in 2014 and 2025

