#### Research America!

#### Anti-Amyloid Monoclonal Antibodies are Transforming Alzheimer Care and Research

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### Disclosures / Acknowledgements

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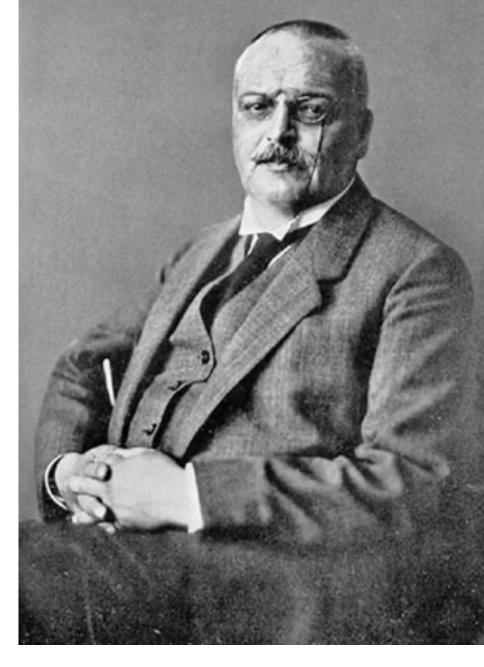
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Anti-Amyloid
Monoclonal
Antibodies are
Transforming
Alzheimer Care
and Research

- History of Alzheimer and amyloid research
- What are anti-amyloid monoclonal antibodies?
- What's next

# History of Alzheimer and Amyloid Research

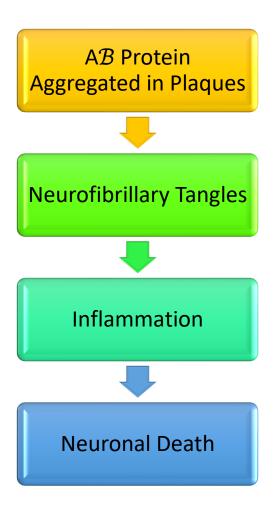
- Alois Alzheimer describes neurofibrillary tangles and "miliary foci" (amyloid plaques) in the brain of a woman with early onset dementia (1906)
- Named in honor of Dr. Alzheimer based on this early observation (Kraeplin, 1910)
- Sir Martin Roth discovers that the pathology of "senile dementia" is the same as that of Alzheimer's disease (previously thought to be characteristic of rare early onset dementia)(1968)
- Robert Katzman notes the aging of the population and the high prevalence of "senile dementia/Alzheimer's disease" and sees the coming epidemic
- Protein substance found to be amyloid (George Glenner, 1984)
- "Amyloid hypothesis" formulated (Hardy and Allsop, 1991; Hardy and Selkoe and Hardy, 2002)



Alois Alzheimer

#### Cytoplasm membrane Extracellular AB generation Oxidation Excitotoxicity $A\beta$ aggregation Tau hyperphosphorylation Inflammation Neuron Senile plaque with microglial Cognitive Cell and behavioral abnormalities

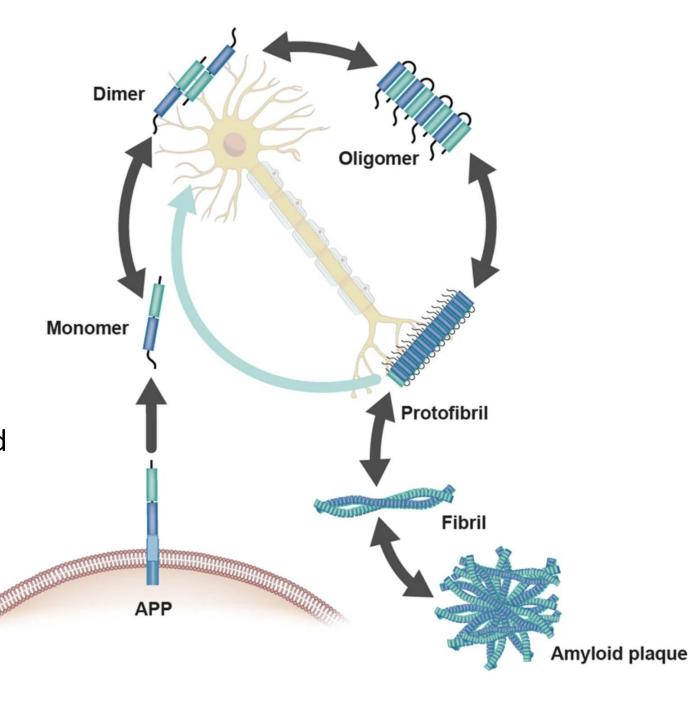
# The Amyloid Cascade Hypothesis



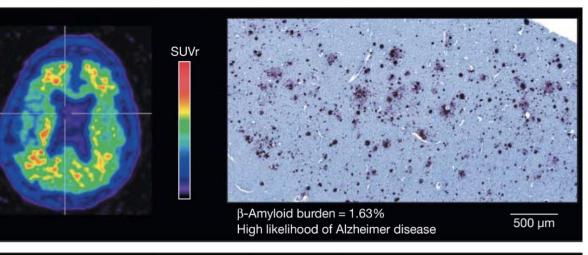
Cummings J. N Eng J Med 2004; 351: 56-67

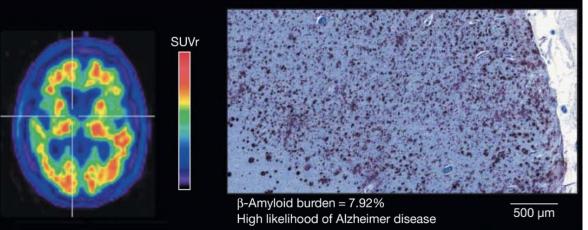
#### 2003-2016

- All clinical trials were negative
  - AB-directed
  - Non-AB-directed
- Enormous learnings about A $\mathcal B$  were accruing
- Molecular biology studies showed that there were several "species" of amyloid
- Species have different toxicities and different treatment implications



# SUVr $\beta$ -Amyloid burden = 0.15% Low likelihood of Alzheimer disease $\frac{500 \, \mu m}{}$





## Amyloid Brain Imaging: A Major Technological Advance

- First published 2005<sup>1</sup>
- First amyloid PET approved by FDA 2012<sup>2</sup>
- 2 more types of amyloid PET approved since
- All show amyloid plaque, not other species of amyloid

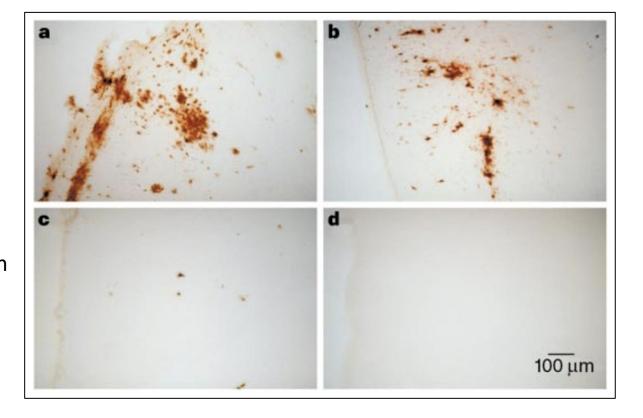
<sup>1</sup>Klunk W, et al. J Neurosci 2005; 25: 10598-10606; <sup>2</sup>Clark C, et al. JAMA 2011; 305: 275-283

#### Immunotherapy Emerges

• Vaccination with A $\mathcal B$  produces marked reduction of brain amyloid plaques 1

Upper panels; amyloid deposition in mouse model of Alzheimer's (no vaccination)

Lower panels; amyloid deposition in mouse model of Alzheimer's (vaccinated)





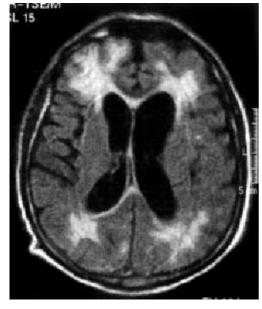
Dale Schenk (1957-2016)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Schenk D. et al. Nature 1999; 400: 173-177;

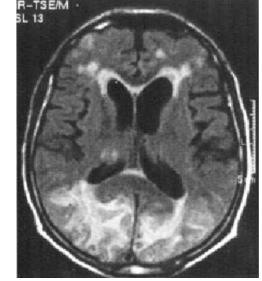
#### Human Immunotherapy Trials: A Learning Process

- First human vaccination study (AN1792) is terminated early; 6% of patients develop an immune encephalitis<sup>1</sup>
- Passive immunotherapy (with monoclonal antibodies targeting  $A\mathcal{B}$ ) trial with bapineuzumab is negative<sup>2</sup>
- Other antibodies fail to show a drug-placebo difference in trials, none are directed at amyloid plaques or protofibrillar species of amyloid<sup>3,4,5</sup>
- Study observations suggests the dose of the monoclonal antibodies is too low and that plaque reduction is important<sup>6,7</sup>

AN1792



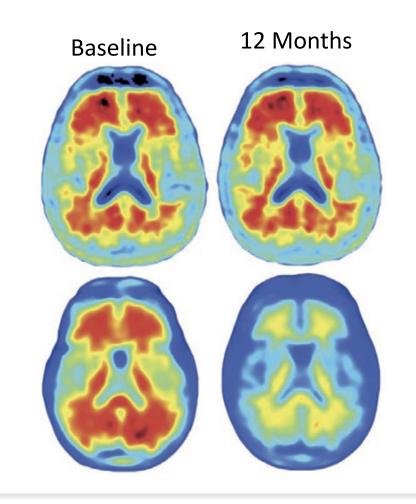
AN1792



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Gilman S, et al. Neurol 2005; 64: 1553-1562; <sup>2</sup>Salloway S, et al. N Engl J Med 2014; 370: 322-333; <sup>3</sup>Honig L, et al. N Engl J Med 2018l 378: 321-330; <sup>4</sup>Cummings J, et al. 2018; 90: 1889-1897; <sup>6</sup>Ostrowitzki S, et al. Alz Res & Therapy 2107; 9: 96-110; <sup>7</sup>Rinne J, et al. Lancet Neurol 2010; 9: 363-372

#### Aducanumab (Aduhelm®): The Turning Point<sup>1,2</sup>

- Plaque focused
- Dose range explored to high dose
- Phase 1
  - High dose produced marker A $\mathcal{B}$  reduction
  - Clinical measures supported disease slowing
- Phase 3
  - Trials prematurely terminated for erroneous interpretation of futility
  - Marked A ${\mathcal B}$  plaque reduction
  - Clinical benefit in 1 study (Emerge) not the other (Engage)
- Controversial accelerated approval by the FDA



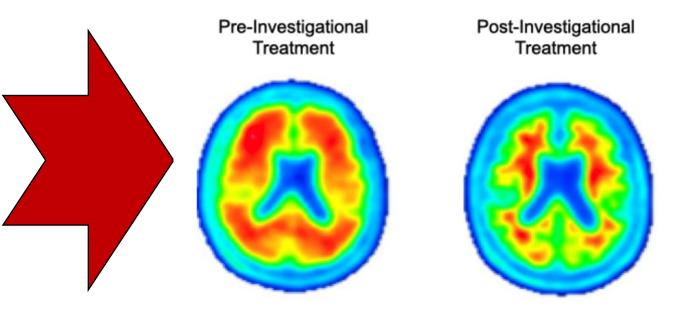
#### SUVr $\beta$ -Amyloid burden = 0.15% 500 μm Low likelihood of Alzheimer disease SUVr $\beta$ -Amyloid burden = 1.63% 500 μm High likelihood of Alzheimer disease SUVr

 $\beta$ -Amyloid burden = 7.92%

High likelihood of Alzheimer disease

500 μm

#### Consider This!



Clark C, et al. JAMA 2011; 305: 275-283; Klunk W, et al. J Neurosci 2005; 25: 10598-10606; figure courtesy of A3,45

#### Lecanemab (Leqembi®) and Donanemab Confirm the Relationship Between Amyloid Lowering and Slowing of Clinical Decline

- Lecanemab (Phase 3)<sup>1</sup>
  - Marked amyloid plaque lowering
  - Positive on primary clinical trial outcome (slowing of decline as measured by Clinical Dementia Rating Scale Sum or Boxes (CDR-SB))
  - Positive on all secondary outcomes (cognition, function)
  - Accelerated approval based on Phase 2; standard approval to be considered by FDA
- Donanemab (Phase 2)<sup>2</sup>
  - Marked amyloid plaque lowering
  - Positive on primary clinical trial outcome (slowing of clinical decline as measured by integrated Alzheimer's Disease Rating Scale (iADRS)
  - Phase 3 positive; details on yet published

#### ARIA: A Challenge that Must Be Managed

ARIA: amyloid related imaging abnormalities

Thought to result from amyloid removal from the blood vessel

Leakage of fluid or blood into the brain

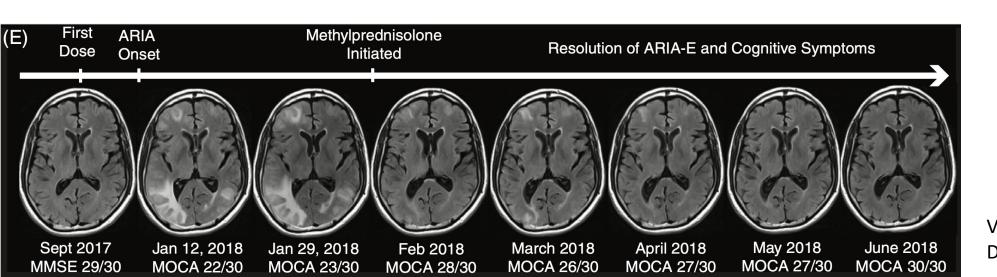
15-30% of patients

Symptoms in 3-5% of patients

Rarely can be serious or fatal

80-90% recover and treatment can be continued

Must be monitored with periodic MRI



VandeVrede L, et al. Alz & Dem: DADM 2020; 12: e12101

# Immunotherapies are Unprecedented Therapies that Make New Demands on Health Care

Early Alzheimer's: must be recognized and diagnosed Alzheimer's must be confirmed with lumbar puncture/spinal fluid studies or amyloid PET

Patients must have MRI prior to treatment to ensure they do not have excessive brain vascular disease

Treatments are given intravenously 1/m (donanemab) or 2/m (lecanemab)

MRI must be obtained periodically in first 6-12 months

ARIA can occur

Reimbursement by CMS is uncertain

#### Where are We Now?

- Anti-amyloid monoclonal antibodies slow the progression of AD!
- These agents are the first disease-modifying therapies for AD
- These drugs are approved by FDA for the treatment of early AD confirmed to have brain amyloid
- Monoclonal antibodies require infusion and MRI monitoring
- Monoclonal antibodies have rare but important side effects (ARIA)
- Reimbursement of treatment with monoclonal antibodies is uncertain

#### What's Coming Next?

- Monoclonal antibodies
  - Subcutaneous administration (to avoid IV requirement)
  - Diagnosis by blood test (to avoid lumbar puncture or amyloid PET)
  - Likely 2-3 year time frame
- Other types of treatment
  - Anti-tau ASO (administered through spinal tap every 3-6 months)
  - Anti-inflammatory agents
  - Synaptic agents
  - Metabolic agents





- Great demonstration of research and discovery leading to new therapies
- Illustration of the importance of breakthrough technology (amyloid PET)
- Reveals the need for health care system planning to incorporate unprecedented therapies for new (previously untreatable) patient populations
- Science forward!

# Thank you

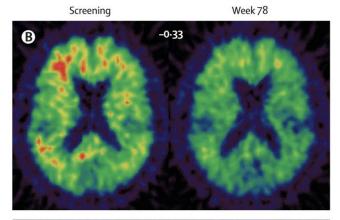
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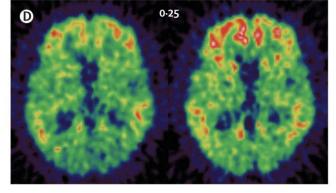
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Bapineuzumab

Placebo

- Passive immunotherapy (with monoclonal antibodies targeting A $\mathcal{B}$ ) trial with bapineuzumab is negative<sup>2</sup>
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2 mg/kg (now use 10 mg/kg for tx)7

<sup>1</sup>Gilman S, et al. Neurol 2005; 64: 1553-1562; <sup>2</sup>Salloway S, et al. N Engl J Med 2014; 370: 322-333; <sup>3</sup>Honig L, et al. N Engl J Med 2018l 378: 321-330; <sup>4</sup>Cummings J, et al. 2018; 90: 1889-1897; <sup>6</sup>Ostrowitzki S, et al. Alz Res & Therapy 2107; 9: 96-110; <sup>7</sup>Rinne J, et al. Lancet Neurol 2010; 9: 363-372