

Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services

Spring 2026 Meeting

April 27, 2026

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Materials available at: <http://tinyurl.com/NAPAm meetings>



Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Research Update

Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services Meeting

Richard J. Hodes, M.D., Director, NIA

Amy Bany Adams, Ph.D., Acting Director, NINDS

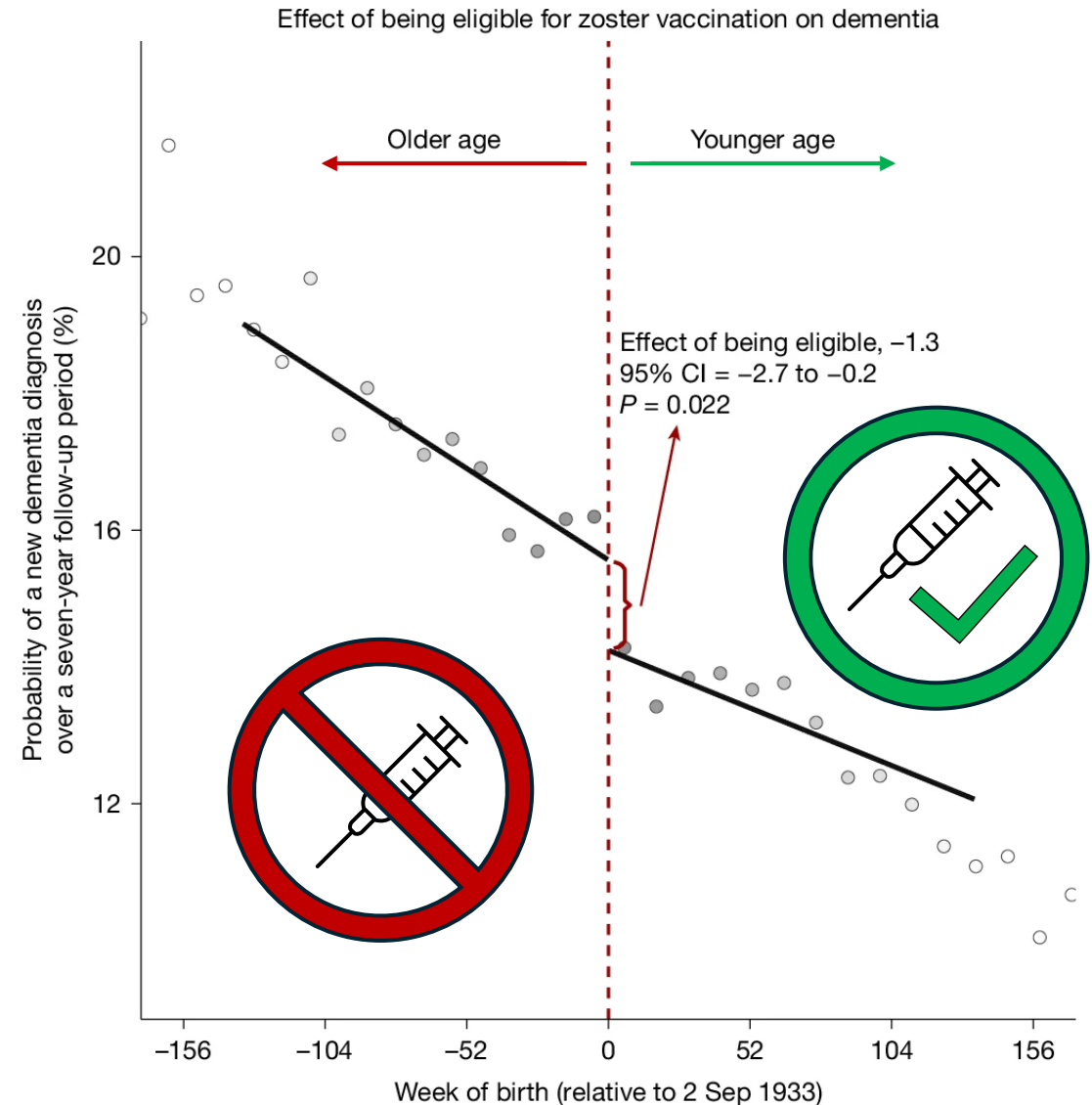


National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

April 27, 2026

Shingles Vaccination Appears to Protect Against Dementia

- In an NIA-funded study, **investigators took advantage of a natural experiment** in Wales, in which individuals born before September 2, 1933, were ineligible to receive **the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine**, whereas those born on or after that date were eligible to receive it.
- Results showed that **receiving the herpes zoster vaccine reduced dementia diagnoses by 20% over a 7-year follow-up period.**
- Further research found that herpes zoster vaccination significantly reduced:
 - **Diagnoses of mild cognitive impairment**
 - **Deaths among patients living with dementia**
- Another NIA-funded study leveraging a different natural experiment in Canada found similar results.



EUREKA Challenge for Early Prediction of AD/ADRD

- A challenge prize competition to **discover the best data, methods, and strategies for the early prediction of Alzheimer's and related dementias.**
- Engaged a broad research community, including participants **who are not the typical NIH applicants.**
- Prizes of up to \$100,000 for winning teams plus special prizes for clean code; **total prize pool of \$650,000.**
- Recently announced Phase 3 winners are developing promising new methods that leverage **speech patterns and demographic data from population-representative studies** to improve early detection of dementia.



PREPARE: Pioneering Research for Early Prediction of Alzheimer's and Related Dementias EUREKA Challenge

2026 Dementia Care and Caregiving Research Summit



- Held virtually March 17-19 with nearly 600 unique attendees
- Key sessions:
 - Economic Impacts of Dementia: Focus on Dementia Care & Caregiving
 - The Role of Community in Dementia Care Research
 - Rigorous Dementia Care & Caregiving Intervention Development
 - Advances in AD/ABRD Data Infrastructure to Support Dementia Care & Caregiving Research
 - Dementia Care Models and Care Coordination Strategies for Dementia Across Systems and States
- Recordings, Final Report, and Research Gaps & Opportunities are forthcoming on the Care Summit website.

Identifying New Therapeutic Targets to Protect Neurons

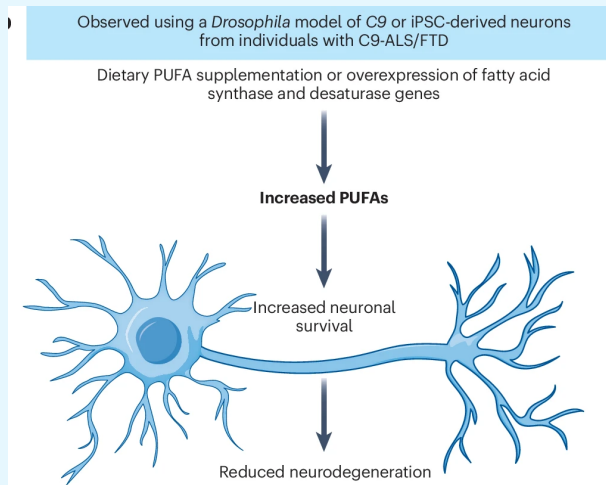
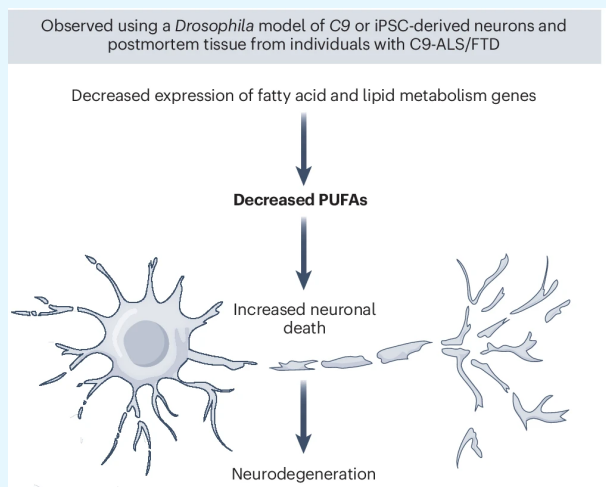


Restoring Polyunsaturated Fatty Acids (PUFA) levels protects neurons with ALS/FTD mutations

Observation:

Decreased levels of PUFA was a shared signature across all ALS/FTD models and tissue: flies, human iPSC neurons, and brain & spinal cord tissue.

Rescue: Restoring PUFA levels dramatically extend lifespan (up to 83% in flies) and protects human iPSC neurons



Ashling Giblin, et al. *Nat. Neuroscience* 28: 737–747 (2025)

Post-Injury therapy blocks long-term neurodegeneration

Observation:

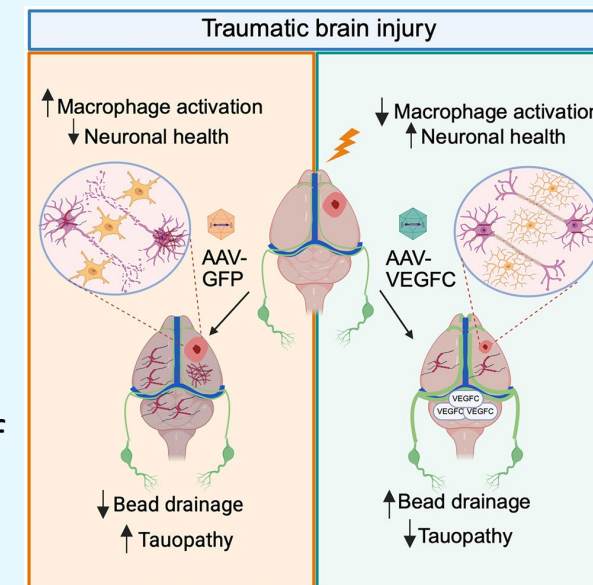
Traumatic Brain Injury:

- Increases risk of AD/tauopathies
- Impairs brain lymphatic drainage

Rescue:

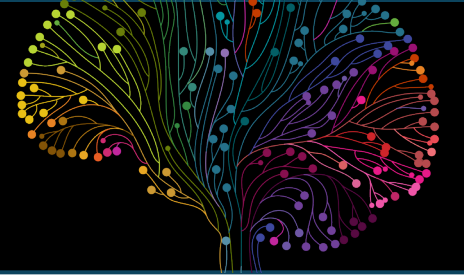
Delivering one viral dose of lymphatic vessel endothelial growth factor C (VEGFC) at 24 h:

- ↓ phospho-tau/tangles
- ↓ macrophage activation
- Preserves synapses
- Prevents atrophy
- Protects cognition

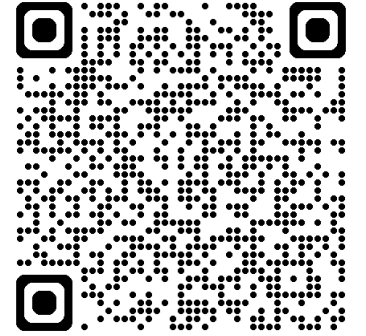


Ana Royo Marco, et al. *Cell Reports* 44, 116521 (2025)

Dr. Emmanuel Bilirakis and Honorable Jennifer Wexton National Plan to End Parkinson's Act



- Law calls for an integrated national plan to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure Parkinson's, ameliorate symptoms, and slow or stop progression
- Includes Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative parkinsonisms, such as multiple system atrophy, corticobasal degeneration, progressive supranuclear palsy, and Parkinson's-related dementia.
- **First meeting June 29th, 10AM-4PM ET** will be virtual and open to the public
- Contact us: nationalPDplan@nih.gov or find out more at on our webpage
 - <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/current-research/trans-agency-activities/national-plan-end-parkinsons>



Federal Members

- **Mary Lazare, M.A., M.B.A** – Administration for Community Living
- **Roger Klein, M.D., J.D** – Agency for Health Quality Research
- **Shari Ling, M.D.** – Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- **Leslie Beltran, Ph.D.** – Department of Defense
- **John Duda, M.D.** – Department of Veterans Affairs
- **Nancy Beck, Ph.D.** – Environmental Protection Agency
- **Teresa Buracchio, M.D.** – Food and Drug Administration
- **Maria Bellantoni, M.D.** – Indian Health Service
- **CAPT Gayathri Kumar M.D.** – Office of Minority Health
- **Stephanie Haridopolos, M.D.** – Office of the Surgeon
- **Floh Thiels, Ph.D.** – National Science Foundation
- **CAPT Fran Abanyie, M.D., MPH** – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Public Members

- **Bradley F. Boeve, M.D.**
- **Deborah W. Brooks, MBA**
- **Alice Chen-Plotkin, M.D.**
- **Jessi Keavney, MBA**
- **Michael Okun, M.D.**
- **Israel Robledo**
- **Jessica Shurer, MSW, LCSW**
- **David Standaert, M.D., Ph.D.**
- **Cathi-Ann Thomas, R.N., M.S., CNRN**
- **Sara Whittingham, M.D.**

Administration for Community Living

April 27, 2026

Erin Long, MSW

Team Lead, Alzheimer's & Dementia Programs

Administration on Aging

Administration for Community Living





MAY 2026

Older Americans Month

- Celebrating the contributions of older adults and reaffirms our commitment to serving them every May since 1963.
- The 2026 theme highlights prevention, wellness, and personal responsibility as cornerstones of healthy aging.
- It encourages older adults to take an active role in their health — advocating for themselves, accessing preventive care, and making informed decisions that support independence.



[ACL.gov/OAM](https://acl.gov/oam)



Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative Suite of Program Offerings

1. State, Community and Tribal Grant Programs
2. Developing Dementia-Capable Community Health Worker Programs in the National Aging Network
3. **NEW in 2026** *State Programs for Dementia Specific Respite*
4. Supporting State and Community Innovations in Dementia-Specific Respite Programs and Services
5. National Alzheimer's Call Center
6. [National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center \(NADRC\)](#)



Alzheimer's Disease Programs Initiative 2026 GRANT FORECASTS

- ❖ State and Community Grant Program
- ❖ Dementia Capability in Indian Country
- ❖ Developing Dementia-Capable Community Health Worker Programs in the National Aging Network
- ❖ State Programs for Dementia Specific Respite

Forecasts can be found at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)

NADRC Upcoming Webinars



Title: Can Do! Reframing Dementia Support and Education to Focus on Strengths and Resilience
When: Wednesday, April 29, 2026 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will provide participants with insight to a *NEW* strengths-based group support model, *Learning to Live with Dementia*, for people living with dementia and caregivers. The model promotes a shift in perspective — focusing on what people can do to live well with dementia and providing practical strategies to support that goal. This support and education program model combines a structured series of brief lessons with facilitated group sessions designed for people living with dementia and for caregivers to reflect on and share their experiences.

Participants will learn about this strengths-based support and education program, hear inspirational stories, and gain new perspectives designed to reframe both the dementia journey and the caregiving experience. Participants will also be introduced to the Learning to Live with Dementia Facilitator Toolkit, a resource developed to strengthen facilitator skills, confidence, and capacity to deliver structured, group-based education and engagement.

Register here: [April 29, 2026 NADRC Webinar Registration](#)



NADRC Upcoming Webinar

Title: *Addressing Cognitive Impairment and Dementia Among Homeless and Housing-Insecure Seniors*

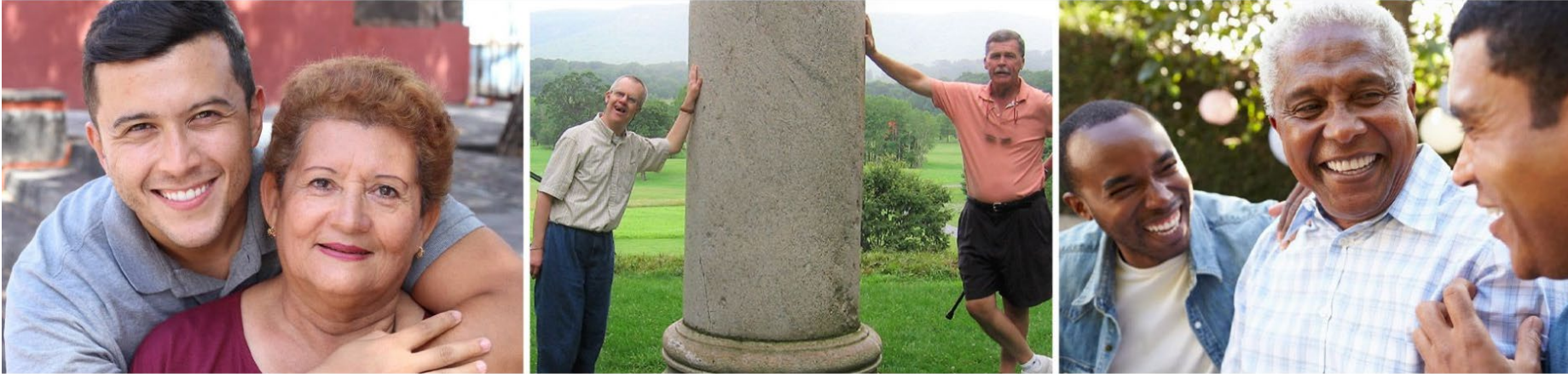
When: **May 14, 2026, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. ET**

This webinar focuses on supporting homeless and housing-insecure older adults experiencing cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Participants will learn how to recognize early signs of cognitive impairment in shelter/temporary housing settings and gain practical strategies for engaging seniors in ways that foster meaningful participation. The session will also explore effective referral and partnership approaches that help connect vulnerable seniors to supportive services and pathways to stable housing. This webinar offers actionable tools to improve outcomes for one of the most at-risk aging populations

Register here: [May 14, 2026 NADRC Webinar Registration](#)

Future 2026 Webinars

- **Bridging Healthcare And Social Services For People Living With Dementia And Their Caregivers** (June 24, 2026): As the number of people living with dementia (PLWD) grows, it is increasingly important to meet their complex and varied needs, and the needs of their caregivers, in a coordinated way. Bridging the social service supports provided through community-based organizations (CBOs) with the medical care that healthcare systems provide is an effective way meet those needs.
- **Meeting the Emotional Needs of Dementia Caregivers** (September 16, 2026): This webinar will provide an overview of mental health concerns in people living with dementia and how targeted programs can train caregivers to manage both dementia and mental health symptoms. A grantee example on how to address these mental health concerns would be provided by Oakwood Creative Care (OCC). OCC is providing Mental Health First Aid training specific to older adults with dementia for professional caregivers. They also provide clinical counseling for family caregivers of PLWD.



National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center

The NADRC provides expert technical assistance to AoA/ACL and its grantees, as well as making program information, program deliverables and resources available to individuals and organizations outside the Alzheimer's grantee community.

<https://nadrc.acl.gov/>



National Caregiver Support Collaborative (NCSC) National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers Upcoming Webinar

Title: Caregiver Navigation Innovations and Strategies

When: April 30, 2026 | 2:00-3:00 p.m. ET

This webinar will highlight innovative practices to help organizations support family caregivers in navigating and accessing vital services and sustaining their well-being. Presenters will deliver key insights from USAging – an NCSC grantee – and aging network providers on caregiver navigation across Area Agencies on Aging, State Units on Aging, Tribal partners, and community-based organizations. Attendees will learn about actionable steps that aging, kinship, and tribal network organizations can use to develop, implement, and strengthen caregiver navigation models.

Register here: [April 30, 2026 NCSC Webinar Registration](#)

Caregiver AI Prize Challenge



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living

- The ACL Caregiver AI Prize Challenge seeks responsible AI-enabled solutions that support caregivers and improve quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities.
- The competition will recognize and reward innovators who are developing, testing, and scaling AI-enabled tools to support both family caregivers and the direct care workforce.
- For Phase 1, up to **\$2.5 million** will be awarded across **up to 20 winners** who will continue to Phase 2.

Two Tracks, Three Phases

Track One: AI Tools for Caregivers

- Phase 1: Design
- Phase 2: Implementation and Testing
- Phase 3: Promise of Sustainability

Track Two: AI Tools for Extending the Caregiver Workforce

- Phase 1: Design
- Phase 2: Implementation and Testing
- Phase 3: Promise of Sustainability

Phase 1 Applications Due July 31, 2026

Learn more at: <https://acl.gov/caregiver-ai-competition>



**Caregiver AI
Prize Challenge**





THANK YOU!

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CDC Update 2026

1. Building Our Largest Dementia (BOLD) Infrastructure and National Healthy Brain Initiative (NHBI)

- *2026 Activity:* Deploying ~ \$41.5 million in FY2026 funding, the highest annual investment to date.
- *Local Impact:* Supporting 43 state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments in implementing their strategic plans.
- *Evidence to Action:* Working with three Centers of Excellence to improve early detection, risk reduction, and caregiving.
- *Building Strategic Capacity:* Launch of the 2026 Road Map Strategist and Champions cohort, providing agencies with up to \$50,000 for local implementation (*Alzheimer's Association*).
- *Strategic Milestone:* Celebrating 20 years of HBI progress with a 2026 national report on embedding brain health into core public health functions.
- *Expanded Impact:* Funding IA2 (International Association for Indigenous Aging) to adapt the "Road Map for Indian Country" for tribal elder services.

2. Data Collection & Surveillance

- *2026 Activity:* Integration of specialized modules for older adults into the 2026 BRFSS survey cycle to capture cognitive decline (32 states) and caregiving trends (27 states).
- *Infrastructure:* Expanding the Alzheimer's Disease and Healthy Aging Data Portal to include county-level risk factor "heat maps".
- *Innovation:* Hosting the 2026 BRFSS meeting to support the continued collection of surveillance data assessing brain health and related risk factors.



The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs Alzheimer's Research Program

Dwayne Taliaferro, Ph.D., Program Manager,
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April 27, 2026



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Mission

Responsibly manage collaborative research that discovers, develops, and delivers health care solutions for Service Members, their Families, Veterans, and the American public



<https://cdmrp.health.mil>

CDMRP FY26 Appropriations

Research Program	FY26 \$M	Research Program	FY26 \$M
Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders	\$4.0	Neurofibromatosis	\$25.0
Alzheimer's	\$15.0	Orthopaedic	\$20.0
Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis	\$40.0	Ovarian Cancer	\$50.0
Arthritis	\$10.0	Pancreatic Cancer	\$20.0
Autism	\$8.0	Parkinson's	\$16.0
Bone Marrow Failure	\$7.5	Peer Reviewed Cancer, 20 topics	\$165.0
Breast Cancer	\$145.0	Peer Reviewed Medical, 52 topics	\$370.0
Combat Readiness Medical	\$5.0	Prostate Cancer	\$75.0
Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy	\$12.5	Rare Cancers	\$17.5
Epilepsy	\$12.0	Reconstructive Transplant	\$12.0
Hearing Restoration	\$5.0	Spinal Cord Injury	\$33.0
Joint Warfighter Medical	\$10.0	Tick-Borne Disease	\$7.0
Kidney Cancer	\$15.0	Toxic Exposures	\$15.0
Lung Cancer	\$20.0	Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health	\$40.5
Lupus	\$10.0	Tuberous Sclerosis Complex	\$10.0
Melanoma	\$40.0	Vision	\$10.0
Military Burn	\$10.0		
Multiple Sclerosis	\$15.0		
		TOTAL =	\$1.27B

- » Initiated by Congress in FY11, CDMRP-managed FY14-present
- » **\$228M** in appropriations to date, including **\$15M** in FY25 and **\$15M** in FY26
- » **Vision:** Mitigate the impact of Alzheimer's and related dementias associated with TBI, military and diverse risks
- » **Mission:** Fund impactful, solution-oriented research to address critical needs and improve quality of life for Service Members, Veterans, their Families and the public who are living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

Incidence/Prevalence

- 6.9 million living with AD/ADRD today
- 1 in 9 over age 65 will develop and receive a diagnosis of AD/ADRD

Mortality

- Always fatal – no curative treatments
- Life expectancy after diagnosis is 4-8 years
- 7th leading cause of death in the U.S.

TBI Increases AD/ADRD Risk

- **70%** increased risk of dementia following TBI
- Veterans are **2X-8X** more likely to develop dementia post-TBI than the general U.S. population.



Costs

- \$335B annually plus \$340B in unpaid caregiver labor
- 11 million unpaid caregivers, 49% represent spouse/family

Risk Factors

- Genetics
- Sex
- Racial and ethnic background
- Age
- Cardiovascular disease
- Military service

FY26 AZRP Priorities



Anticipated FY26 Funding Announcements

Investigators at all career levels are eligible to be named as a Principal Investigator on an award.
 CIT - Career Initiation or Transition Partnership Option

The AZRP requires all clinical research awards to include **Community Collaboration** to promote high impact, culturally acceptable research



For more information, please visit:
cdmrp.health.mil



cdmrp.health.mil/azrp/





SOCIAL SECURITY

Alzheimer's Related Updates for April 2026

The content in this PowerPoint is informational and should not be distributed without SSA permission

National Academies of Science Engineering and Medicine (NASEM)

- On April 9, 2026, we met with the NASEM Standing Committee of Medical and Vocational Experts for the Social Security Administration's Disability Programs. We heard from expert speakers on recent advancements in the diagnosis, categorization, and prognosis of Alzheimer's disease, and implications for SSA's beneficiary capability determination procedures.
- We received updates on Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including:
 - Early diagnosis, biomarkers, and prognosis;
 - Classification, including recognition of mixed dementias; and
 - Changes in decision making capabilities over time, particularly in the context of early diagnosis.
- Professor of Neurology, Marilyn S. Albert, Ph.D., provided a comprehensive presentation and Jason Karlawish, M.D., of the University of Pennsylvania, and Nina A. Kohn, J.D., from the Syracuse University of College of Law, focused on Alzheimer's Disease and decision-making capacity.
- The presentations were followed by robust conversation related to the disability determination process.

* Presentation materials available upon request

Compassionate Allowances

Young-onset Alzheimer's Updates

- As noted at our last meeting, Compassionate Allowances (CAL) are a way to quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that, by definition, meet Social Security's standards for disability benefits.
- The CAL initiative helps us reduce waiting time to reach a disability determination by making expedited benefit decisions for individuals with the most serious disabilities.
- Based on suggestions from the Alzheimer's Association and our independent research, we revised the CAL impairment summary for Early-onset Alzheimer's Disease. The relevant policy has been updated to reflect current medical testing and terminology, including renaming the condition to Young-onset Alzheimer's Disease.

Compassionate Allowances Young-onset Alzheimer's Updates

- Besides updating the primary name to Young-Onset Alzheimer's Disease (YOAD) for the appropriate CAL impairment summary, we:
 - Updated the Alternate Names section;
 - Updated information in the Description section for YOAD;
 - Updated diagnostic testing and physical findings information;
 - Updated information in the Progression section;
 - Updated information in Suggested Medical Evidence of Record for Evaluation section; and
 - Added other information related to our disability determination process in the context of YOAD.