ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH PROGRAM

CDMRP
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED MEDICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

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

Congressional Appropriations FY11-FY25:

$213M total



"I have immense gratitude for the clinicians and scientists who have dedicated their professional lives to this essential work. I am proud of the small part that I am able to play as a reviewer who can speak to the potential impact that a positive study outcome may have for persons living with a diagnosis, caregivers and families. I am honored to be an AZRP reviewer and look forward to the next opportunity to raise my voice for those walking the journey of a life lived with dementia."

Katie Brandt,
Massachusetts General Hospital,
FY21 and FY23 Consumer Peer Reviewer



SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM[1]

Alzheimer's disease and dementia in the U.S.

- **7th** leading cause of **death**
- **1 in 9 Americans**, or **6.9 milion** people, ***over the age of 65*** are living with Alzheimer's disease today

Per year:

- Alzheimer's disease costs ***exceed*** **$360B**
- **48%** of people ***caring for*** individuals with **dementia** are spouses or family members; unpaid caregiving accounts for **$250B**

RELEVANCE TO MILITARY HEALTH

Service Members face an elevated risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or related dementias compared to the general public[2]

Service Members with a TBI are 2-8X more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease and related dementias than those without a TBI diagnosis[2]

More than 515,885 Service Members received a TBI diagnosis over a 24-year period[3]

PROGRAM PRIORITIES

- Understand health disparities in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
- Understand risk factors to reduce and prevent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
- Improve availability of early and accurate diagnosis and prognosis now
- Increase quality of life for people living with dementia diagnoses
- Grow research capacity in critical areas, including military health, women's health and dementia care

[1] Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimers Dement, 20, no. 5, 2024.
[2] Powell WR., et al. 2023. Alzheimers Dement, 20, no. 2, 2023: 1468-1474.
[3] https://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Centers-of-Excellence/Traumatic-Brain-Injury-Center-of-Excellence/DOD-TBI-Worldwide-Numbers

For more information, visit: https://cdmrp.health.mil/azrp

PROGRAM IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH INVESTMENTS, FY11-FY22

DIAGNOSIS & PROGNOSIS
$40.9M • 40 Awards

EXAMPLE: A novel, scalable and cost-effective **tool for minimally invasive tests** for acute, substitute and **chronic biomarkers**. Combined with other factors, this tool **could improve early detection** of TBI and Alzheimer's disease.

EPIDEMIOLOGY & RISK FACTORS
$27M • 20 Awards

EXAMPLE: Analyzed genetic and socioeconomic data to examine **how specific risk factors**, including TBI, sex, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status, contribute to **developing cognitive decline and dementia** in Veterans and civilians.

QUALITY OF LIFE
$26.1M • 31 Awards

EXAMPLE: A **clinical trial** testing how **self-management skills** of coping, stress management, and problem solving for individuals living with moderate-to-severe TBI, chronic mild TBI and dementia diagnoses can **improve self-efficacy and quality of life**.

FOUNDATIONAL SCIENCE
$54.2M • 77 Awards

EXAMPLE: Analysis of **lipid metabolism** in preclinical models to understand how lipid imbalance contributes to cellular and behavioral changes and to inform **future treatment strategies**.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Maximizing translational and impact potential of AZRP-funded research

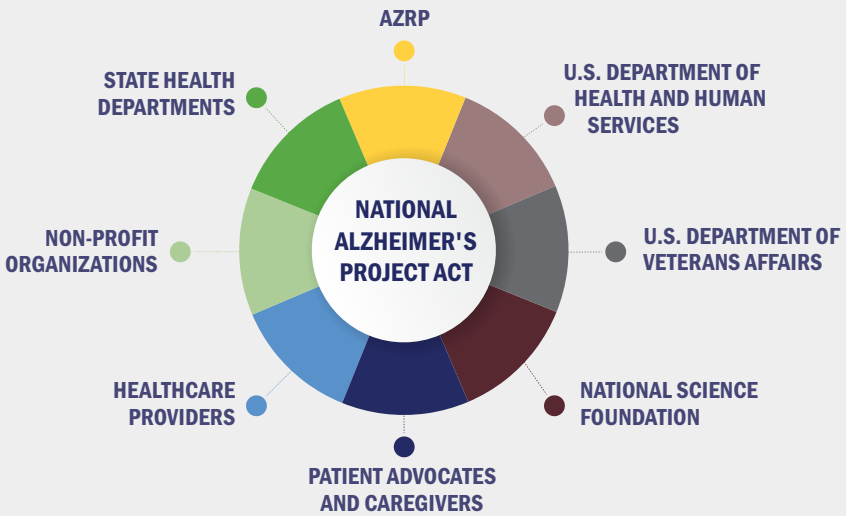
- The AZRP encourages all investigators to consider *equitable partnerships between researchers and community members and representatives*
- The AZRP **requires** community engagement and collaboration for all clinical research



COLLABORATION – THE NATIONAL ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT ACT

A federal and community-driven collaboration in which the AZRP participates and coordinates across federal agencies to maximize research impact for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

- Accelerate the development of treatments to improve early diagnosis and care coordination
- Reduce ethnic and racial disparities in rates of disease
- Participate in international efforts to fight these conditions



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