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ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION STATEMENT
Solanezumab Phase 3 (EXPEDITION3) – Negative Results

CHICAGO, November 23, 2016 – This morning, Eli Lilly announced that a Phase III study (EXPEDITION3 trial) of the anti-amyloid drug solanezumab in people with mild Alzheimer’s did not meet its primary endpoint – it did not find a statistically significant slowing of cognitive decline in treated patients versus those who received placebo.

On behalf of the millions of people living with Alzheimer’s disease and their families that we serve and represent, the Alzheimer’s Association is disappointed with the negative results of this clinical trial.

We sincerely hope that the ongoing Alzheimer’s prevention trials (A4 Study, Alzheimer’s Prevention Initiative, DIAN-TU) that are testing solanezumab and other anti-amyloid agents will continue. These other programs have different ways of acting on the amyloid pathway and some are also addressing the disease at a much earlier stage when these drugs may still prove to be effective.

At the Alzheimer’s Association, we will not stop; we will not slow down in our fight against this terrible disease. The urgency is great, and the time is now.

There are many opportunities remaining to pursue for treatment of Alzheimer’s disease, and new ones need to be discovered. While we should continue to pursue amyloid as a therapeutic target for Alzheimer’s, we must redouble our efforts to better understand the causes of the disease, and to discover additional therapeutic targets – such as tau/tangles and inflammation. No stone can be left unturned in the pursuit of more effective treatments.

According to Alzheimer’s Association 2016 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report, more than 5 million people are living with Alzheimer’s in the U.S., plus 15 million people who care for them. This is estimated to triple by 2050, unless effective treatments to slow or delay Alzheimer’s can be found. Alzheimer’s is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S. It is the only disease among the top 10 causes of death that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed.

Alzheimer’s is a devastating disease not only for those who have it, but their families and communities as well. In 2016, Alzheimer’s and other dementias will cost the U.S. an estimated
$236 billion. Unless something is done, in 2050, Alzheimer's is projected to cost more than $1 trillion. Costs to Medicare will increase 360 percent.

Last year, federal Alzheimer's research funding received a historic $350 million increase at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for FY16. The Alzheimer's Association is advocating for an additional $400 million for the FY17 budget which the new Congress will consider when it convenes in January. These funds are urgently needed to advance research into Alzheimer’s treatment and prevention.

The Alzheimer’s Association is leading the way in efforts to investigate new treatment strategies with our recent Alzheimer’s Association Part the Cloud Challenge on Neuroinflammation. Soon we will announce our first grants in pursuit of combination therapies for Alzheimer’s. Combination therapy has been effective and often essential in treating many chronic health conditions – heart disease, HIV/AIDS, rheumatoid arthritis and cancer, for example. The initiation and progression of Alzheimer’s are not completely understood, but evidence suggests they are influenced by multiple factors. Targeting these pathways together, in combination, has the potential for synergistic benefit.

We must continue to talk about Alzheimer’s, and do all we can to reduce stigma, enable access to an early and accurate diagnosis, and promote participation in research trials. It is only through research that we will discover new ways to treat and eventually prevent Alzheimer’s and other dementias.

The results of this clinical trial highlight the importance of providing care and support to people living with the disease now and their caregivers and family members, and emphasize the urgency of our pursuit for more effective treatments for the disease. The Alzheimer’s Association works on a global, national and local level to enhance care and support for all those affected by Alzheimer’s and other dementias. We are here to help. Find out more at www.alz.org.

About the Alzheimer’s Association®

The Alzheimer’s Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer’s disease through the advancement of research, to provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s. For more information, visit the Alzheimer’s Association at alz.org or call the 24/7 helpline at 800-272-3900.

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