

Business Consortium

 **Mission of AABC**

The mission of the Alzheimer's Association Business Consortium (AABC) is to advance Alzheimer's disease research and innovation in small- and medium-sized biotechnology, diagnostics, medical device and contract research organizations.

AABC members work in areas of common interest pre-competitively to advance both the field of Alzheimer's research and the goals of its member organizations. They provide leadership and direction to the group's areas of focus, which include, but are not limited to, collaborations, recognition and visibility, and knowledge and information sharing. AABC welcomes new members who are aligned in their commitment to research and innovation. To express interest in joining, please email Dr. Judy Walker (jwalker@cerecin.com), co-chair; Joseph Araujo (josepha@intervivo.com), co-chair; or Dr. Christopher Weber (cweber@alz.org), facilitator.

 **Congratulations to the New AABC Co-Chair**

Congratulations to Joseph Araujo who was elected as the new AABC co-chair. Mr. Araujo is the president and CEO of InterVivo Solutions. He serves as the chair of the AABC Translational Animal Models workgroup that previously hosted the 2018 Animal Models for Alzheimer's Disease Think Tank in Washington D.C. We'd also like to thank our other co-chair candidate, Dr. Codi Gharagouzloo of Imaginostics. We know he will continue to provide important contributions to AABC.

The Alzheimer's Association extends its gratitude to Dr. Leen Kawas for her service to AABC. Under her leadership, AABC has continued to grow its membership and host events propelling the mission.

We look forward to working with the AABC co-chairs Dr. Walker and Mr. Araujo in the upcoming year and would like to thank everyone for your continued participation.

 **Leadership Change**

Dr. Christopher Weber, director, Global and Scientific Initiatives, will be the new facilitator of AABC. Before joining the Alzheimer's Association, Dr. Weber served as a clinical scientist with MedAvante-ProPhase, where he led global management of clinical trials in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and sleep-related disorders. We would like to thank Dr. Rebecca Edelmayer for her service as the interim facilitator.

 **Welcome New Members**

AABC is growing! We are pleased to welcome:

- » **Michael Canney, Alexandre Carpentier, Carole Desseaux, and Frederic Sottolini, CEO, CarThera.** [CarThera](#) designs and develops innovative medical devices using the therapeutic potential of ultrasound to significantly improve the efficacy, comfort and cost of treating a range of medical conditions.



News from AABC Members



AiCure Host Podcast to Discuss the Potential of Artificial Intelligence in Clinical Trials

AiCure is an artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics company targeting the healthcare industry. [Listen to the podcast.](#)



cerecin

Cerecin Appoints Biotech Veteran Joseph S. Zakrzewski as its New Chairman

Cerecin, an innovative biopharmaceutical company focused on brain health, announced that Joseph S. Zakrzewski has joined the Company's Board of Directors as chairman. Mr. Zakrzewski is an industry veteran with more than 25 years of biopharma experience. [Read more.](#)



DiamiR Receives Award from Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation to Accelerate Development of microRNA Biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease

DiamiR, a developer of innovative blood-based diagnostic tests for neurodegenerative and other diseases, announced a \$492,000 award in support of the project "Circulating brain-enriched microRNAs as peripheral biomarkers of neurodegeneration." The award will accelerate the development of Diamir's targeted diagnostic technology for detection and prediction of Alzheimer's disease progression. The award is provided by the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation Diagnostics Accelerator, a fund set up in collaboration with Bill Gates and other philanthropic partners. [Read more.](#)



TELOCYTE
A FUTURE BEYOND ALZHEIMERS

Telocyte President Michael Fossel publishes "A Unified Model of Dementias and Age-Related Neurodegeneration" in Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association

Dr. Michael Fossel, president of Telocyte, a developer of telomerase therapy to treat Alzheimer's disease, recently published an article in *Alzheimer's and Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*. Dr. Fossel's model explains how and why age-related dementias occur, why animal models and human trials have failed, and the novel target that Telocyte investigates. [Read more](#) for the manuscript.



Funding Opportunity

The EU Joint Programme-Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) is currently having a transnational call for applications for novel imaging and brain stimulation methods and technologies related to neurodegenerative diseases. The pre-proposal deadline is **March 3, 2020**. The full proposal deadline is **June 30, 2020**. [Read more.](#)



Upcoming Events

Tau2020 Global Conference, February 12-13, 2020 | Washington, D.C.

Hosted in partnership by the Alzheimer's Association, Cure PSP and the Rainwater Charitable Foundation

Join leading tau experts from around the world for the Tau2020 Global Conference, February 12-13 in Washington, D.C. Collaborate with your peers from academia, industry, government and the philanthropic sector to discuss key issues impacting the tau research community, including:

- » Expanding awareness of recent advances in tau research.
- » Increasing support for research and emerging researchers.
- » Fostering global partnerships among academia, industry and other stakeholders.
- » And more!

[Register today for Tau2020.](#)

Neuro4D Conference May 11-12, 2020 | Mainz, Germany

The Neuro4D is an international conference on Neuro Degenerative Disease Drug Discovery, bringing together drug discovery companies, service and technology providers and academic innovators in the field of proteopathic neurodegenerative diseases in a highly interactive format. Online registration is now open. [Read more](#).

Alzheimer's Association International Conference® 2020 (AAIC®) | Amsterdam, Netherlands

Preconferences: July 24-25

Annual Conference: July 26-30

The [Alzheimer's Association International Conference](#) is the largest and most influential international meeting dedicated to advancing dementia science. AABC will hold an in-person meeting during AAIC. More details to follow.

Past Events

Alzheimer's Association Digital Biomarkers Workshop

The Alzheimer's Association hosted a Digital Biomarkers Workshop in November in Washington, D.C. The workshop highlighted the rapidly growing field of digital biomarkers across the entire continuum of Alzheimer's and other dementias. It focused on digital technologies being developed to assess cognition and function and the translation of these technologies in and outside the clinical setting. A manuscript on the workshop presentations is in progress.

Updates in Neuroimaging Webinar

Members of ISTAART's Neuroimaging Professional Interest Area (PIA), Liana Apostolova, M.D., MSc, FAAN, Indiana University; Beau Ances, M.D., Ph.D., MSc, Washington University in St. Louis; and Michael Ewers, Ph.D., Ludwig Maximilians-Universität München, provided updates on various topics and modalities within the neuroimaging space. Presentations were on functional connectomics to predict tau spreading and cognitive resilience in Alzheimer's disease; neuroimaging insights from the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Network (DIAN); and improving our understanding of Alzheimer's disease heterogeneity: LEADS neuroimaging component. Slides are available on the AABC website.



NEW Alzheimer's Association Science Hub App



Get the Latest News at Your Fingertips

Science Hub provides the latest news right in the palm of your hand. This trusted tool distributes research, spreads awareness and delivers accurate information directly to your phone.

Learn more at alz.org/sciencehub, or search "Science Hub" in your app store.

General Postings to AABC's Membership

To help us grow AABC, please continue to introduce new members and/or companies to our group. We also welcome ideas or events to include in this newsletter so we can better serve you. Please send your suggestions to Ashley Hansen at ahansen@alz.org.