The Alzheimer’s Association is a world without Alzheimer’s. It is a place where no one has to worry about being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, or dementia, or even having a loved one who has Alzheimer’s or dementia. The Alzheimer’s Association is dedicated to advancing research, to providing and enhancing care and support for all affected, and to reducing the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Thank you again for your support of the Alzheimer’s Association.

The Alzheimer’s Association is a special organization and does so much more than providing funds to advance research,” Dana, who has participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s™ and the Alzheimer’s Association ALZ Stars event – caring for a mother with Alzheimer’s disease.

Dana’s mother, Jeanne, 83, with her painting, “Wild Flowers in Texas”.

If you have a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer’s or dementia, it is possible to have a special event where you can share your love and support for your loved one. The Alzheimer’s Association is part of the Alois Society, which is dedicated to helping people with Alzheimer’s and other related dementias. The Alois Society is a world without Alzheimer’s, where no one has to worry about being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, or dementia, or even having a loved one who has Alzheimer’s or dementia. The Alzheimer’s Association is dedicated to advancing research, to providing and enhancing care and support for all affected, and to reducing the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Thank you again for your support of the Alzheimer’s Association.

Dana Edwards, 41, of Texas, has been a member of the Alois Society for 10 years. Dana’s mother, Jeanne, 83, has been a member of the Alzheimer’s Association for 10 years. Dana wrote about her mother and her experiences with Alzheimer’s disease, “It’s so easy for those of us who have all of our faculties to want to argue with them, but that will only make things worse.”

Fortunately, Dana has been able to lean heavily on the Alzheimer’s Association for information and support, especially when he first realized the extent of his mother Jeanne’s illness and knew he would have to become her caregiver.

“I called the Helpline several times for assistance. I’ve also attended support groups sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association,” said Dana. At the facility where she lives, Jeanne is very involved in art therapy, something she not only enjoys, but is also a way for her to express herself creatively. She is such a talented artist that she even has one of her paintings on permanent display at Washington University in St. Louis.

Join the movement to end Alzheimer’s.
Visit alz.org/AloisSociety
join us on the longest day®
June 21, 2013

On Friday, June 21, join the Alzheimer’s Association and participate in the Longest Day®, a sunrise-to-sunset relay to raise awareness and funds for the fight against Alzheimer’s disease. Together, we’ll honor those with Alzheimer’s and their caregivers, who face every day with endurance, strength and love.

Sign up and organize a team to participate in this unique event, held on the summer solstice — the longest day of the calendar year. What you do on The Longest Day is up to you! If you’re into getting active, you can run, bike, walk or complete another endurance activity. Consider yourself a pro at cards? Host a poker tournament. If you like to paint, host a day of art at a local studio.

Each team is asked to raise $100 per hour of participation to further Alzheimer’s care, awareness and funds for the fight against Alzheimer’s disease. Together, we’ll honor those with Alzheimer’s, each in a different way.

Because this trial is run in people with rare, inherited gene mutations that cause younger-onset, familial Alzheimer’s, the choice of these amyloid-targeting drugs is strategic. Gene mutations lead to an increase in amyloid in the brain, making this rare type of Alzheimer's an amyloid disease. These drugs will test the impact of reducing production of amyloid or enhancing clearance of it from the brain. It is hoped that by changing the levels of amyloid in the brain, there will be a beneficial impact on delaying or preventing dementia symptoms.

The Alzheimer’s Association has provided $4.2 million in funding for DIAN to build the essential infrastructure for this pioneering trial. This is the Association’s largest ever grant.

While this trial is promising, we still must continue to test other drugs and treatment strategies as well as develop treatments for people with both early-onset and late-stage Alzheimer’s and those who are already experiencing such symptoms. To learn more about the DIAN Project and other Alzheimer’s Association research initiatives, visit alz.org/research.

The DIAN project update: three drugs selected for clinical trial

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dian project update: three drugs selected for clinical trial

Scientists have recently selected three drug targets to be evaluated in the first phase of an international clinical trial conducted by the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer’s Network – Trials Unit (DIAN–TU).

Each of these three drugs – galantamine, solanezumab and a beta-secretase inhibitor – target beta amyloid, the main ingredient in the brain plaques found in people with Alzheimer’s, each in a different way.

Memory loss that disrupts daily life may be a symptom of Alzheimer’s or another dementia. Alzheimer’s is a brain disease that causes a slow decline in memory, thinking and reasoning skills. There are 10 warning signs and symptoms. Every individual may experience one or more of these signs in different degrees. If you notice any of them, please see a doctor.

1. Memory loss that disrupts daily life. One of the most common signs of Alzheimer’s is memory loss, especially forgetting recently learned information.

2. Challenges in planning or solving problems. Some people may experience changes in their ability to develop and follow a plan or work with numbers.

3. Difficulty completing familiar tasks at home, at work or at leisure. People with Alzheimer’s may have trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget or remembering the rules of a favorite game.

4. Confusion with time or place. Losing track of dates, seasons and the passage of time wouldn’t be unusual for someone with Alzheimer’s. Neither would be forgetting where they are.

5. Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships. For some men and women, having vision problems is a sign of Alzheimer’s.

6. New problems with words in speaking and writing. Someone with Alzheimer’s may struggle with vocabulary, either written or verbal, and have trouble following or joining a conversation.

7. Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps. Alzheimer’s can cause people to put things in unusual places.

8. Decreased or poor judgment. People living with Alzheimer’s may experience changes in how they make decisions or react to certain events and issues.

9. Withdrawal from work or social activities. An individual with Alzheimer’s may start to peel away from hobbies, social activities, work projects or sports.

10. Changes in mood or personality. Alzheimer’s can lead to confusion, suspicion, depression, fear and anxieties in those who have the disease.

Again, if you see any of these signs and symptoms of Alzheimer’s, don’t ignore them. Schedule an appointment with your doctor. With early detection, you can get the maximum benefit from available treatments and increase your chances of participating in clinical drug trials that help advance research. You have more time to plan for the future and participate in building the right care team and social support network. You can also find help for you and your loved ones by using the available care and support services. For more information, alz.org/tensigns.
medical alert® + Alzheimer’s Association Safe Return® improving the safe return of people with Alzheimer’s

It is common for a person with dementia to wander and become lost, many do repeatedly. In fact, over 60 percent of those with Alzheimer’s or dementia will wander at some point during the course of the disease. Wandering can be dangerous—even life threatening. The stress can weigh heavily on caregivers and family, especially during busy times like the holidays. At this time of year when shopping malls and public spaces are very crowded, a person with Alzheimer’s may be more likely to wander.

The Alzheimer’s Association offers programs designed to assist in the monitoring and return of those who wander. MedAlert® + Alzheimer’s Association Safe Return® is a 24-hour nationwide emergency response service for individuals with Alzheimer’s or a related dementia who wander or have a medical emergency. This service provides 24-hour assistance, no matter when or where the person is reported missing.

If an individual with Alzheimer’s or a related dementia wanders and becomes lost, always call 911 first. Then call 800.625.3789. MedAlert + Safe Return’s 24-hour emergency response line. A community support network will be activated, including local Alzheimer’s Association chapters and law enforcement agencies, to help reunite the person who wandered with the caregiver or a family member.

With this service, critical medical information will be provided to emergency responders when needed. If a citizen or emergency personnel finds the person with dementia, they can call the toll-free number listed on person’s MedAlert + Safe Return ID jewelry. MedAlert + Safe Return will notify the listed contacts, making sure the person is returned home.

Anyone who has memory problems and is able to walk is at risk for wandering. It’s important to plan ahead for this type of situation. To learn more and enroll, visit alz.org/safefor return or call 1.888.572.8566.

Alois member spotlight – caring for a mother with Alzheimer’s disease

Alzheimer’s is a devastating disease. It robs those who suffer from it of their precious memory, reasoning, motor skills and ability to take care of themselves. It’s not unusual for people living with Alzheimer’s to forget the names of their loved ones, or to not even recognize them. Dana Edwards, whose mother, Jeannie, 83, is in the late stages of the disease, has had this experience.

“My mother has the disease. And my grandmother suffered from dementia, too. I’m actually concerned about getting it myself,” added Dana.

At the Alzheimer’s Association, our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s and no one who wanders to be reported missing will wander anymore. At the Association, our vision is a world without Alzheimer’s so that someday no one will have to worry about being diagnosed with the disease.

“If you have a loved one who suffers from Alzheimer’s or dementia, it is crucial that you ask for help. As our population continues to age, support of the Alzheimer’s Association will become more and more critical. The Association has a variety of ways to get involved. I plan on requesting that donations be given to the Alzheimer’s Association in lieu of flowers at my mother’s funeral and as long as I am financially able, I will support the Association.”

Dana, who is currently participating in Alzheimer’s awareness events and has participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s®, is a very active volunteer for the Alzheimer’s Association through her Alois 5K Run, which she has participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s® and the Alzheimer’s Association ALZ. Stars 5K Run. “They support caregivers and family members and provide them with education so they can deal with Alzheimer’s disease, too.”

Dana’s mother, Jeannie, 83, with her painting, “Wild Flowers in Texas”

“The Alzheimer’s Association is a special organization and does so much more than providing funds to advance research,” Dana, who has participated in the Walk to End Alzheimer’s® and the Alzheimer’s Association ALZ. Stars 5K Run. “They support caregivers and family members with education so they can deal with Alzheimer’s disease, too.”

Fortunately, Dana has been able to lean heavily on the Alzheimer’s Association for information and support, especially when he first realized the extent of his mother Jeannie’s illness and knew he would have to become her caregiver.

“At the facility where she lives, Jeannie is very involved in art therapy; something she not only enjoys, but that is also a way for her to express herself creativity. She is such a talented artist that she even has one of her paintings on permanent display at Washington University in St. Louis.

The worst thing I ever experienced was when I went to visit my mother at the assisted living facility and she didn’t know me,” Dana said.

Dana understands that his mother Jeannie’s inability to recognize her only child is due to her Alzheimer’s. And because he has learned so much about the disease since Jeannie was diagnosed, Dana doesn’t always tell her who he is because he doesn’t want to upset her.

“Those who live with dementia and Alzheimer’s are often misunderstood,” Dana said. “It’s so easy for those of us who have all of our faculties to want to argue with them, but that will only make things worse.”

“At this time of year when shopping malls and public spaces are very crowded, a person with Alzheimer’s may be more likely to wander.”

Alois member spotlight – caring for a mother with Alzheimer’s disease (continued on page 4)