

THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION IS THE LARGEST NONPROFIT FUNDER OF ALZHEIMER'S AND ALL OTHER DEMENTIA RESEARCH IN THE WORLD

As the world's leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's and other dementia research, the Association's active impact on research includes more than \$430 million in over 1,100 active best-of-field projects in 56 countries. In 2024, this includes over \$76 million in new scientific investigations and over \$109 million in total research investment.

International Research Grant Program (IRGP)

The Alzheimer's Association received 1,467 letters of intent and 984 full proposals in response to requests for proposals (RFPs) issued via its International Research Grant Program. Grants were awarded to researchers whose proposals were ranked highest in a rigorous three-tier peer-review process. The Association engages a panel of international volunteer scientists to evaluate the merits of each proposal; nearly 650 individuals from 29 countries provided reviews in 2024.

With input from the IRGP Council and the Medical and Scientific Advisory Group (MSAG) to ensure overall portfolio balance across the entire spectrum of dementia science, the Association funded 25% of applications submitted in response to all RFPs. Of note, following the peer-review, approximately 34% of submitted applications were deemed meritorious if additional funding was available.

A total of 290 new grants in 2024 were awarded. Newly funded projects are advancing research on Alzheimer's and other diseases that cause cognitive decline and dementia across five essential areas:

Molecular Pathogenesis and Physiology of Alzheimer's and all other Dementia – 41% of funded projects are exploring processes including brain inflammation and immunity, cellular transport, genetics, and the production of proteins (e.g., beta-amyloid, tau, alpha-synuclein, etc.), as well as cellular functions that may normally protect and maintain nerve cells in the brain.

Diagnosis, Assessment and Disease Monitoring of Alzheimer's and all other Dementia – 15% of the projects are investigating tools and methods aimed at earlier diagnosis, timelier interventions, and more effective monitoring of disease progression. This includes studies that develop and expand the use of brain scans, fluid biomarkers such as blood tests, and clinical tools, as well as studies that combine these measures to further develop, standardize, and validate them.

Translational Research and Clinical Interventions – 13% of the projects explore novel treatment strategies for potential drugs (drug discovery, drug development, and human trials) and non-drug interventions for Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Dementia Care and Impact of Disease, including Population Studies – 16% of the projects are studying potential factors that may impact risk for dementia and ways to improve care (such as with new technology) for people at all disease stages.

Epidemiology (Dementia Risk Factors and Prevention) - 15% of the projects study potential factors that may impact risk for dementia, such as lifestyle factors.

Grant types, including the number of grants per type in parentheses:

(28) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants (AARG) and (15) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants to Promote Diversity (AARG-D) to fund investigations by scientists in dementia research who are less than 15 years past their advanced or terminal degree.

(12) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants – New to the Field (AARG-NTF) and (10) Alzheimer's Association Research Grants to Promote Diversity – New to the Field (AARG-D-NTF) to fund investigations by scientists who are new to dementia research.

(23) Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowships (AARF) and (29) Alzheimer's Association Research Fellowships to Promote Diversity (AARF-D) to support investigations by researchers in dementia research who are engaged in post-graduate work (i.e., postdoctoral fellows or early-career researchers).

(9) Alzheimer's Association Clinical Fellowships (AACSF) and (4) Alzheimer's Association Clinical Fellowships to Promote Diversity (AACSF-D) to support training in dementia research for clinicians who have completed their residency (M.D.), postdoctoral fellowship (Ph.D.) or both and actively see patients.

(5) Advancing Research on Care and Outcome Measurement 2.0 (ARCOM) is offered in partnership with the NIH-funded initiative for Leveraging an Interdisciplinary Consortium to Improve Care and Outcomes for Persons Living with Alzheimer's and Dementia (LINC-AD). The funded investigations address significant gaps in care and outcome measurements to advance research for care and support.

(10) ISTAART Grant Program for Conferences and Convenings (IGPCC) to support initiatives that help foster and facilitate Professional Interest Areas (PIAs)-driven efforts to expand and accelerate research discussions.

The **Alzheimer's Disease Strategic Fund (ADSF)** initiated as a collaboration between the Alzheimer's Association and an anonymous foundation to fund innovative research through consortia-based team science projects and open funding calls. With new philanthropic partners in 2024, the ADSF supported fourteen (14) grants were awarded to collaborative team science proposals addressing questions related to the immune system, APOE and lipid biology and the endolysosomal system. In addition, **nine (9) ADSF Endolysosomal Activity in Alzheimer's (E2A)** grants were awarded to advance research on alterations to endolysosomal system activity, a common feature of neurodegenerative disorders. An additional five (5) grants were awarded via the **ADSF APOE Biology in Alzheimer's (ABA) Program**, which focuses on increasing understanding of APOE biology and contributions to disease.

(1) Alzheimer's Association WorldWide FINGERS Network Fund Program (ALZ WW-FNFP) to support multidomain lifestyle intervention trials from different geographical, cultural and economic settings with the goal of prevention in individuals at greater risk for cognitive decline. Projects funded through this program apply, test and optimize the FINGER model around the world.

Strategic Research Initiatives

Leveraging insights and a global network of dementia scientists, philanthropic partners, and other movement stakeholders, the Alzheimer's Association proactively identifies, accelerates, and enhances Strategic Research Initiatives with elevated potential for advancing the entire field of dementia research. The Association awarded new support for twenty-eight (28) Strategic Research Initiatives in 2024. Examples of these high-impact projects include:

The Alzheimer's Association U.S. Study to Protect Brain Health Through Lifestyle Intervention to Reduce Risk (U.S. POINTER) Alumni Extension will assess the long-term impact of the U.S. POINTER lifestyle interventions on cognition. This new funding from the Association will allow the study team to follow participants for two years and will include alumni activities and events in communities, leveraging the ongoing work and community engagement of the Association chapters throughout the year.

The **Dissemination and Implementation of the Care Ecosystem Across Diverse Health Systems** study will expand

an existing Care Ecosystem program at University of California, San Francisco with the aim of addressing the challenges faced by persons living with dementia and their caregivers in navigating the healthcare system. This care model brings a collaborative and comprehensive approach by integrating dementia specialists, primary care and community resources with Care Team Navigator to face the evolving challenges of dementia care. The goal of this funding is to refine, evaluate and improve the Care Ecosystem model across diverse settings throughout the US.

The Biomarkers linking SARS-CoV2 Infection to the Risk of ADRD study will leverage an ongoing NIH-funded U19 titled "Interactions between SV-2 Infection and Ancestral Genomic Variations in the Risk of Alzheimer's Disease (ISAVRAD)" that is looking at the impact of COVID-19 on cognitive function and incidence of Alzheimer's and other dementia in 4,300 older adults of under-represented ancestries. This funding will support the infrastructure for collection and storage of biospecimens from study participants as well as the study of Alzheimer's, neurodegeneration and inflammatory biomarkers in conjunction with data obtained as part of the larger study (imaging, clinical, genetic measures).

The Study of the Clinical Effect of the Implementation of a Blood Biomarker Into Memory Clinics in the Department of Veterans Affairs in the United States, with funding in partnership with GHR Foundation, will evaluate the use of well-validated and highly accurate blood tests in Veterans Affairs memory clinics to determine whether they can be used as a stand-alone test for diagnosis in primary care settings. This study will include 800 participants to determine whether use of a blood test will aid in diagnosis and improve the process of care compared to standard procedures.

The Alzheimer's Plasma Extension (APEX): Underrepresented Group Biomarkers and Structural and Social Determinants of Health study, with funding in partnership with GHR Foundation, will include 1000 participants to evaluate brain imaging and Alzheimer's disease blood biomarkers in individuals from racial and ethnic underrepresented groups. The research team will also compare social determinants of health to blood biomarkers to understand how this relates to trajectories of the disease.

The ongoing Longitudinal Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Study (LEADS) aims to explore the development of early-onset Alzheimer's disease and how it compares to the more common late-onset Alzheimer's variant. **International LEADS (iLEADS)** will expand this work to include global participation from teams in Europe and South America.

Note: For more details visit alz.org/research.