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## IAGG GARN News Release n°2014-02

Toulouse, September 16, 2014

Dear Colleague,

We are happy to update you with the most recent actions setup by the IAGG GARN Network. It highlights IAGG's interest in older people's health and the need to promote research in many geriatric fields. Alzheimer's disease is a specific syndrome that can easily be identified. With the assistance of appropriate specialists and with a few tools, Alzheimer prevention should be available in all health facilities around the world. We hope that these actions will raise awareness and help you implement them into clinical practice in your country.

### **1. Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, New York, NY, USA**

Alzheimer's disease and other age-related dementias afflict over 35 million people worldwide. The societal cost of care in 2010 was estimated at over \$600 billion, 1% of the world's aggregated gross domestic product, with 89% of those costs incurred by high-income countries. Mounting evidence suggests that modifiable factors in mid-life will alter an individual's risk of dementia in later decades. For example, one analysis concluded that almost half the statistical probability of getting Alzheimer's disease may be accounted for by seven modifiable risk factors - diabetes, midlife hypertension, midlife obesity, smoking, depression, cognitive inactivity or low educational attainment, and physical inactivity - and reducing the prevalence of these risk factors by 10% could prevent up to 1.1 million cases of the disease worldwide. How can we optimize the existing data particularly for low-risk long-term interventions on modifiable risk factors? Meta-analyses of randomized controlled trials currently are viewed to provide the highest level of evidence for causal inference and intervention efficacy. However, sole dependence on randomized controlled trials is not a feasible solution. While observational studies have inherent limitations, they can provide evidence complementary to RCTs. The goal of this paper just published in the JPAD (following the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation Task Force in New York, with the participation of an IAGG expert) is to recommend strategies to maximize the utility of observational data for low-risk health choices that may protect against dementia. "Dementia Prevention: optimizing the use of observational data for personal, clinical, and public health decision-making" by Penny A. Dacks et al, J Prev Alz Dis 2014;1(2):117-123 <http://www.jpreventionalzheimer.com>

### **2. Interview of Prof Michael WEINER, MD, PhD (UCSF, USA)**

Dr Michael WEINER is Professor in Radiology and Biomedical Engineering, Medicine, Psychiatry, and Neurology at the University of California, San Francisco, USA. He is Principal Investigator of the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI). Since

2005, the longitudinal study has been validating the use of biomarkers including blood tests, tests of cerebrospinal fluid, and MRI/ PET imaging for Alzheimer's disease (AD) clinical trials and diagnosis.

1. *What are the most important results from ADNI?* The widespread validation of amyloid phenotyping by either cerebrospinal fluid A beta levels (which go down as amyloid plaques accumulate) or amyloid PET scanning which shows increased intensity as plaques accumulate. ADNI provides all data without embargo, greatly accelerating the use and acceptance of ADNI data worldwide. Website: <http://www.adni-info.org>

2. *What is the "Brain Health Registry Program"?* The goal of the <http://BrainHealthRegistry.org> is to accelerate development of effective treatments to slow progression of Alzheimer's disease by recruiting, assessing, and longitudinally monitoring subjects who join this internet-based registry. This website consists of an informed consent form, a series of questionnaires, and on-line neuropsychological tests to obtain information about brain health and function. The Brain Health Registry has over 9000 registrants and is expected to grow rapidly, and facilitate enrollment of subjects in neuroscience studies including clinical Alzheimer's disease treatment trials. Read the paper on <http://www.jpreventionalzheimer.com/current-issue.html>

### **3. The Journal on Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease (JPAD)**

The JPAD's objective is to federate global research from academy and industry in the field of Alzheimer's disease prevention and thus contribute to future positive trials. The JPAD aims to stimulate research and publication on methodological and operational aspects of preventive trials for Alzheimer's disease and cognitive decline. The JPAD will publish reviews, original research articles and short reports to improve our knowledge in the field of Alzheimer's prevention including: neurosciences, biomarkers, imaging, epidemiology, public health, physical cognitive exercise, nutrition, risk and protective factors, drug development, trials design, and health economic outcomes. Should you wish to submit a paper, discover the editorial board, read instructions for authors etc., you can visit the dedicated website at <http://www.jpreventionalzheimer.com>

### **4. Upcoming meetings**

#### **• The 10th Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD2014) Conference, November 20-22, 2014 in Philadelphia, USA**

This year's conference will tackle the necessity to develop the next generation of Alzheimer's disease drugs, essential to face up Alzheimer Prevention. CTAD2014 will present new data from ongoing drug trials with monoclonal anti body in Pro Dromal AD.

Website: <http://www.ctad-alzheimer.com>

#### **IAGG's 7th Latin American & Caribbean Congress (COMLAT), April 9-11, 2015, in Belém do Pará, Brazil.**

Website: <http://www.sbgg.org.br>

The Irish Gerontological Society will host IAGG's 8<sup>th</sup> European Congress at Dublin's Convention Centre. The 1<sup>st</sup> call for abstracts is launched and concerns the following themes: Unlocking the Demographic Dividend, Policy, Design and Environment, Biology of Ageing, Social Gerontology, Gerontechnology, Cultural Gerontology, Health and Social Care, Psychology of Ageing.

Abstract submission deadline: **October 15, 2014** for individual papers and posters  
Contact: [abstracts@irishgerontology.com](mailto:abstracts@irishgerontology.com) Website:  
<http://www.iaggdublin2015.org>

After Toulouse, Orlando and Barcelona, the ICFSR2015 conference will take place in Boston, USA on April 23-25, 2015. Keynotes lectures will include:

1. "Drug trial design for Sarcopenia" by Shalender BHASIN (Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA)
2. "End point for Sarcopenia drug trails" by Jack GURALNIK (National Institute on Aging, Baltimore, USA)
3. "Frailty intervention: what we have learned from the LIFE trial" by Marco PAHOR (Gainesville, USA)
4. "Definition of Sarcopenia" by Stephanie STUDENSKI (National Institute on Aging, Baltimore, USA)
5. "Biological aspects of aging" by Jeremy WALSTON (Baltimore, USA)
6. "Frailty and Sarcopenia, two sides of the same coin" by Matteo CESARI (Gérontopôle, Toulouse, France)

Abstract submission deadline: **November 18, 2014** for symposium, oral communication or poster presentations.

Website: <http://www.frailty-sarcopenia.com>

The conference theme is "Healthy Ageing Beyond Frontiers". Calls for submitted symposia will occur in the near future. The call for submitted abstracts will close on 20 December 2014.

Deadline of symposium submission: October 20, 2014

Deadline of abstract submission: December 20, 2014

Early registration before March 30, 2015

Contact: [info@iagg2015.org](mailto:info@iagg2015.org)

Website: <http://iaggchiangmai2015.com>

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) will host this event that is held every four years. It will be dedicated to "Global Ageing and Health: Bridging Science, Policy, and Practice." Call for abstracts will be available on Spring 2016 and registration will open beginning 2017.

Contact: [info@iagg2017.org](mailto:info@iagg2017.org)

Website: <http://www.iagg2017.org>

## 5. IAGG GARN website

Visit the IAGG GARN website and see all the centers involved in Alzheimer's disease

research <http://www.garn-network.org>

Best regards,

Constance de SEYNES

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