



Banner
Alzheimer's
Institute

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For information, contact:

Susan Karesky, Banner Alzheimer's Institute
(602) 625-3250, susan.karesky@BannerHealth.com

Kate Enos, GYMR
(202) 745-5071, kate.enos@gymr.com

**NIH Awards Grant to Banner Alzheimer's Institute for Major Study
Evaluating Prevention Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease in At-Risk Older Adults**

Alzheimer's Prevention Registry Will Drive Trial Enrollment

Phoenix, AZ (Sept. 18, 2013) – In collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) announces a major prevention trial to evaluate a treatment in cognitively healthy older adults at the highest known genetic risk for developing Alzheimer's disease at older ages. An NIH grant, expected to total \$33.2 million, will support this research.

The study is part of the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative (API), an international collaboration led by BAI to accelerate the evaluation of promising but unproven prevention therapies. It will test an anti-amyloid treatment in about 650 adults, ages 60-75, who have two copies of the apolipoprotein E (*APOE4*) gene, the major genetic risk factor for late-onset Alzheimer's. None of the participants will have impairments in memory or thinking at the time they enter the study.

"Once again, we are extremely grateful to the NIH for the opportunity to help accelerate the evaluation of treatments to prevent the clinical onset of Alzheimer's and find ones that work as soon as possible," said Dr. Eric M. Reiman, BAI Executive Director. "This trial will allow us to extend our work to individuals at greatest risk at older ages."

The randomized, placebo-controlled trial, which will take place at BAI and other U.S. sites, will test the treatment's ability to stave off the memory and thinking declines associated with Alzheimer's. It will also assess the treatment's effects on different brain imaging and cerebrospinal fluid measurements of the disease. The specific compound to be evaluated has not been decided.

The trial will test what is often called the amyloid hypothesis, which suggests that accumulation of the protein amyloid in the brain plays a key role in the disease's progression. Major funding from

philanthropy and industry will also support the trial, and its leaders expect to provide data and biological samples to the research community after the trial's conclusion to help in the scientific fight against Alzheimer's.

Individuals in the study will learn their *APOE4* status. To help them prepare for this information, BAI has convened an expert committee to develop a comprehensive genetic testing and disclosure plan and to assess the impact of this disclosure during the trial.

"Under the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, our goal is to prevent and effectively treat the disorder by 2025," said Dr. Neil Buckholtz, of the National Institute on Aging, which leads Alzheimer's research at the National Institutes of Health. "We are delighted to support Dr. Reiman, Dr. Tariot and their team in this innovative clinical trial aimed at preventing the onset and progression of this devastating disease."

The research is intended to complement API's initial trial, which is primarily focused in Colombia and involves about 300 people from an extended family with a rare genetic mutation that typically triggers Alzheimer's symptoms around age 45. That work also is focusing on an anti-amyloid therapy and its potential in slowing or blocking the disease while preserving cognitive abilities. The investigation, including a smaller U.S. companion study, dovetails with prevention trials that have been planned or started by other research groups during the past 16 months.

"We are now looking at potential treatments to prevent both the early and late onset forms of the disease," said Dr. Pierre N. Tariot, BAI Director. "This kind of comprehensive approach could prove the tipping point in our long, arduous effort to find a way to end this devastating disease."

The new trial will draw participants mainly from the Alzheimer's Prevention Registry (www.endALZnow.org), an online community of people who are committed to helping in the fight against Alzheimer's. The Registry provides regular updates on the latest scientific advances, as well as information on overall brain health. To overcome one of the biggest obstacles to clinical research, the Registry supports enrollment in a variety of Alzheimer's prevention studies within members' communities.

Alzheimer's is a debilitating and incurable disease that affects more than 5.2 million Americans, with a new diagnosis every 68 seconds. Without the discovery of successful prevention therapies, the number of U.S. cases is projected to nearly triple by 2050.

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About Banner Alzheimer's Institute

Through its research and care, Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) is dedicated to the goal of ending Alzheimer's disease without losing another generation. It is helping to launch a new era of Alzheimer's research—treatment and prevention at the pre-symptomatic stage—and to establish a new comprehensive model of care. Established in 2006 by Banner Health, one of the country's largest

nonprofit health care systems, BAI has a three-fold focus: to conduct revolutionary studies in the detection, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's; to set a national standard of patient and family care; and to forge scientific collaborations that bring together institutions and disciplines internationally. For more information, visit banneralz.org.