



# Alzheimer's Disease

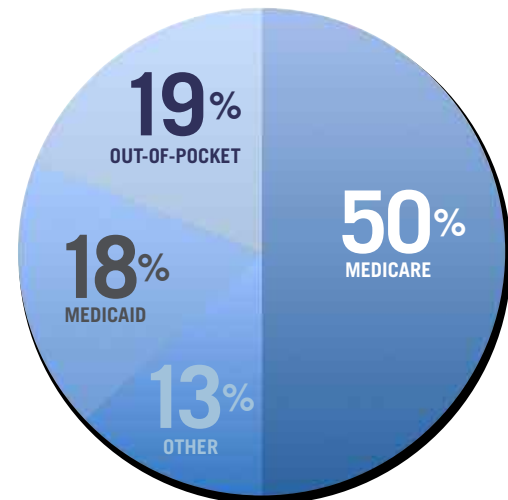
**A GIVING SMARTER GUIDE TO ACCELERATING RESEARCH PROGRESS**

*An Executive Summary*

**LACK OF DISEASE-MODIFYING TREATMENTS.  
INADEQUATE PRECLINICAL MODELS.  
RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN SILOS.  
NO CURE.**

There are a number of challenges and unmet needs that stand in the way of desperately needed progress in Alzheimer's disease (AD) research. In January 2015, the Philanthropy Advisory Service, a program of the Milken Institute, convened 12 world-renowned Alzheimer's experts to discuss the state of science relevant to AD and the challenges currently impeding research progress. In a new Giving Smarter Guide, the Philanthropy Advisory Service presents the key issues that were prioritized by the group and recommendations on how strategic philanthropic investments could address these challenges.

**BREAKDOWN OF ALZHEIMER'S  
\$226 BILLION IMPACT ON THE  
U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**



This new Giving Smarter Guide for Alzheimer's disease aims to empower patients, supporters, and other stakeholders to make strategic and informed decisions with respect to directing their philanthropic investments and energy into research and development efforts. Readers will be able to use this guide ultimately to pinpoint research solutions aligned with their interests.

“If dementia care were a country, it would be the 18th largest economy in the world. If dementia care were a company, it would be the largest in the world. There is tremendous cost associated with caring for these patients. We need to be spending more, and investing more, in developing cures.”

MELISSA STEVENS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MILKEN INSTITUTE'S CENTER FOR STRATEGIC PHILANTHROPY  
IN AN INTERVIEW WITH AL JAZEERA ENGLISH

## THE NEED IS STAGGERING.

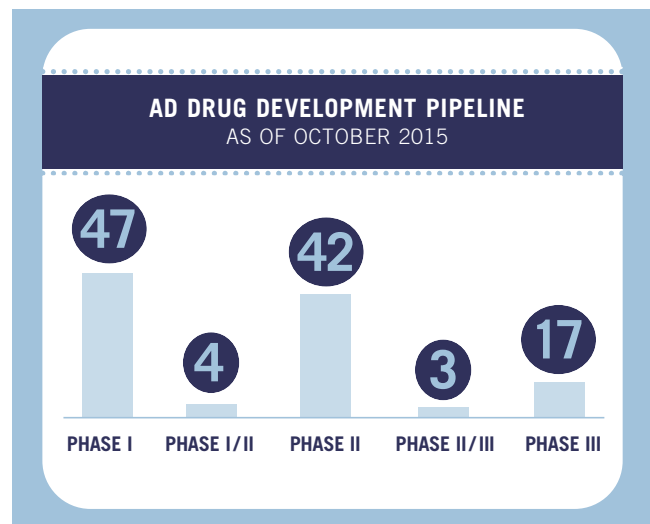
Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and claims the lives of more than 500,000 people in the United States alone each year. Currently, more than 5 million Americans are living with this disease. The economic impact of AD is significant, costing the United States \$226 billion in 2015 and on pace to escalate to \$1.1 trillion in 2050.

While the epidemic of AD is widely recognized by individual nations as well as by the World Health Organization, progress in AD clinical research and integrated care has been modest at best. Key challenges to combating this disease include:

- poor understanding of disease onset and progression,
- gaps in funding to support high-risk research efforts,
- insufficient research tools and companion resources,
- lack of disease-modifying treatments, and
- limited public awareness of its societal impact.

In order to avoid the economic and social catastrophes caused by AD, we must address these deficiencies. Strategic focus on funding high-impact research and critical infrastructure to support both AD research and patients are essential to achieving this goal.

At present, there is no cure for AD. Current treatments only temporarily alleviate symptoms of AD rather than modify the underlying disease to slow, halt, or reverse its progression.



The guide helps to answer the following questions:

- What are key facts about the disease?
- Why is it important to invest in AD research?
- What is the current state of care?
- What is the current state of research?
- What are major barriers to progress?
- How can philanthropy advance a cure for AD?

**FOR THE FULL GIVING SMARTER GUIDE, VISIT [PAS.FASTERCURES.ORG/REPORTS](http://PAS.FASTERCURES.ORG/REPORTS)**

The Philanthropy Advisory Service, a program of the Milken Institute, counsels philanthropists, family offices, wealth advisors, and foundations seeking to make transformative investments in medical research. We provide comprehensive, digestible information that helps philanthropists evaluate research efforts and funding opportunities in various disease areas. Our analysis is shaped by scientific advisory boards, in-depth due diligence, and an objective framework for evaluation.

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