

Cure Alzheimer's FUND

Targeting breakthrough research



From the Chairman of the Research Consortium: Dr. Rudolph Tanzi

Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School
Director, Genetic and Aging Research Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital

Opportunity!

This is an auspicious time for accelerating Alzheimer's disease research. In this 100th year since the recognition of the disease by Dr. Alois Alzheimer, there is more hope for progress than ever before. A number of critical scientific advances have dovetailed over the past year that position us for a great leap forward.

- Thanks to the research into the human genome, scientists have the entire human genetic map at their disposal for the first time.
- Great strides have been made in the development of chip-based gene identification technology allowing researchers to work more productively than ever to identify genes associated with complex age-dependent diseases.
- A revolution in genetic analysis software has now made it possible to untangle the complex genetic underpinnings of common late-onset forms of Alzheimer's disease.
- A large and powerful data set from families afflicted with late-onset Alzheimer's disease has been collected for genetic research at Harvard/Mass General Hospital.

“Our lab at Mass General has now obtained the equipment and training we need to complete the entire Alzheimer's genome within the next 24-36 months in an effort we are calling the Alzheimer's Genome Project.”

To capitalize on this unique moment of opportunity for potential breakthroughs, Cure Alzheimer's Fund has brought together an international team of experts in the area of Alzheimer's disease research to accelerate progress along our Research Roadmap aimed at therapeutically slowing, stopping or reversing the disease. Read about their backgrounds and particular research foci at www.curealzfund.org. You'll find a diverse and highly accomplished group of researchers. Each plays his own role in determining which genes affect the disease process and in translating these findings into novel therapies for effectively preventing and treating AD.

And, there is already considerable progress, thanks to Cure Alzheimer's Fund support. Our lab at Mass General has now obtained the equipment and training we need to complete the analysis of the entire Alzheimer's genome within the next 24-36 months in an effort we are calling the Alzheimer's Genome Project. We have also begun to explore likely candidates among the genes we suspect affect the disease and can now accelerate that process.

In short, we are very well positioned to take perhaps the largest leap in understanding this disease since Alois Alzheimer described it 100 years ago. What we need now is even more of the support we are getting from Cure Alzheimer's Fund for this kind of targeted research. We need to take advantage of this 'science moment' and accelerate the process, ultimately leading to a cure.

Thanks to all of you who have already made such a difference in this great effort!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rudolph Tanzi".

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From the Chairman of the Board: Jeffrey L. Morby

Venture!

To capitalize on this rare 'science moment' as Rudy calls it, we are committed to focused, disciplined funding of targeted research, which we refer to as the venture approach. All of our Founders have strong business backgrounds, and two of us are long-time venture capitalists. We have made careers both from betting on people who rose to excellence and providing the best resources available to help them achieve their potential. That is the approach we are bringing to Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

I would like to share with you the comments from two of our donors who see the importance of bringing a business perspective to this task.

" . . . highly impressed with the people you have put together to focus on the genetics and following through to a cure." – Pennsylvania donor

" . . .after struggling with this disease in our family, we are thrilled to see you taking such a systematic approach to this and are confident you will prevail." – California donor

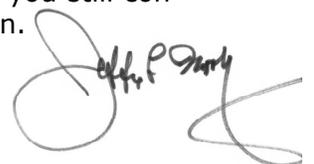
“With the stakes this high, we do not believe we can do business as usual.”

We believe that by accelerating research that propels us along a path from genetic discovery to finding effective means for therapeutic intervention we will have a better chance to slow, stop or reverse this terrible disease than by supporting a broader array of basic or translational research projects. Members of our Research Consortium, Science Advisory Board, as well as our Founders, Board of Directors and staff all have the same commitment to finding a cure. Almost all of us have a personal connection to this disease that drove us here in the first place, so this is far more than an academic, business or 'science project'. It is literally a life and death matter. And you know that.

So many of you have written to lend your support to what we are doing. Tim's fundraising report shows a tremendous outpouring of good will from our 'friends and families'. What it does not show are the notes of encouragement and compassion all of us have received as we begin this great adventure together.

With the stakes this high, we do not believe we can do 'business as usual'. We must use our own resources and those entrusted to us by you and others to move this research along much faster than it would without us and to keep the focus on the goal of slowing, stopping or even reversing the effects of the disease by 2016.

Over 350 of you have joined us in this approach, and we are deeply grateful for your generosity and your confidence. We welcome those of you still considering to call or write to us for more information or discussion.



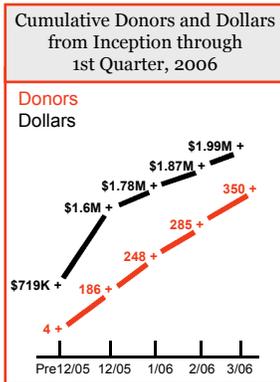
From the President: Tim Armour

Progress!

This marks our first quarterly newsletter, whose purpose is to keep you informed of our progress – and there has been great progress since our incorporation about a year and a half ago.

Most impressive is that over 350 contributors have provided about \$1 million – in addition to the Founders' commitments – to Cure Alzheimer's Fund since early December, 2005.

The Founders have also committed to paying the overhead expenses for the first two years, allowing 100% of other contributors' gifts to go directly to research. Overhead since inception has been under 10% of the total amount raised.



To keep this momentum, we have begun to reach out to more people and organizations for help. Thanks to those of you who have most graciously agreed to share Cure Alzheimer's Fund materials with your friends, family and associates. **Please let us know how we can help you spread the word!**

We have hosted small outreach and update sessions in Cleveland, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Stuart, Florida.

- Cleveland, Ohio, March 3: Jeff Morby, Rudy Tanzi, John Lazo (member of our Board and the Chair of the Science Advisory Board) and I met with The Cleveland Foundation and representatives of Cleveland health-related foundations about possible collaborations and funding support from the Cleveland community, which looks very promising.
- Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 3 (Yes. The same day.): Jeff Morby hosted a 'thank you' and update session for donors and those interested in participating. With a presentation by Rudy Tanzi, more than fifty people asked questions and shared their own experiences with this dreaded disease and inspired all of us to work harder to bring it to a stop or even reverse its affects in our life times.
- Stuart, Florida, March 26. Founder Phyllis Rappaport hosted a gathering of donors and other friends at her house in Stuart, Florida. Presentations by Rudy and a welcome from Dr. Anne Young, Founder and Director of the MassGeneral Institute for Neurodegenerative Disease (MIND) delivered updated information about progress in the research being supported by Cure Alzheimer's Fund.

This is a fast and heady start for a little organization with big ambitions. It is a credit to our Founders, Board, Research Consortium and Scientific Advisory Board, and most of all of you that we have come this far this fast! For more information about Cure Alzheimer's Fund, and all the topics above, please consult our website at www.curealzfund.org or call me, Tim Armour, at 781-622-2201. Thanks for your help!

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Mission Statement

Fund research with the highest probability of slowing, stopping or reversing Alzheimer's disease by 2016.

Research Consortium

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Harvard Medical School/Mass General Hospital
Charles Glabe, Ph.D., University of California at Irvine
David Michael Holtzman, M.D., Washington University, St. Louis
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William E. Trueheart, Ed.D., Pittsburgh, PA

*Founder

Administration

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Katie Cutler, Director of Operations
Denise Augella, Controller

Charity Designation

Cure Alzheimer's Fund™ is a 'doing business as' name for the Alzheimer's Disease Research Foundation, a 501c3 public charity with federal tax ID # 52-2396428, and, as defined by the IRS, a 509a3 supporting organization to The Pittsburgh Foundation.