



# IAGG GARN News Release N° 2015-08

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Toulouse, March 13, 2015

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. A new IAGG GARN website**

Time has come to reorganize the IAGG GARN website to further enhance scientific works on age-related issues developed worldwide. It is fully dedicated to aging research with comprehensive information for all those involved in Alzheimer's Prevention, Frailty (including Cognitive Frailty & Sarcopenia), and Nursing Homes. This tool now makes available a regular monitoring of scientific literature, a permanent watch on calls and funding opportunities, and more generally updated information on the important outcomes in the field of aging. The website includes sections such as: news, research programs, events, publications, datasharing, clinical practice. In addition, a research forum will be established soon and will provide opportunities for our community to exchange on the last scientific findings. Website: <http://www.garn-network.org>

## **2. Subjective memory complaints are associated with increased risk of incident dementia**

Subjective memory complaints reflect patient-identified deficits in memory and have been linked to increased risk of future dementia in nondemented (including cognitively intact) older adults. The aim of this study is to assess the risk of incident dementia during follow-up for participants in the Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease with Vitamin E and Selenium (PREADVISE) study who reported memory complaints at baseline. PREADVISE participants were assessed at 130 local clinical study sites in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico during the controlled trial phase and were later followed by telephone from a centralized location during the observational phase. PREADVISE enrolled a total of 7,547 nondemented men over the age of 60; 4,271 consented to participation in the observational study. Participants were interviewed at baseline for memory complaints. The Memory Impairment Screen (MIS) was administered to each participant at the annual memory screening. Participants who failed the MIS also received a more detailed neurocognitive assessment: an expanded Consortium to Establish a Registry in Alzheimer's Disease (CERADe) neuropsychological battery was used during the RCT, and the modified Telephone Interview

for Cognitive Status (TICS-m) was used during the observational study. Participants who failed the second screen were asked to have a memory work-up with a local physician and to share their medical records with PREADVISE. Subgroups of men who did not fail the MIS were also asked to complete the CERADe battery and TICS-m for validation purposes. Additional measures collected include self-reported medical history, medication use, and the AD8 Dementia Screening Test. After controlling for important risk factors for dementia, Cox proportional hazards regression revealed that men who reported memory changes at baseline had an 80% increase in the hazard of incident dementia compared to men who reported no SMC. Men who reported memory problems at baseline had almost a 6-fold increase in the hazard of incident dementia compared to men who reported no memory complaint. Memory complaints in nondemented older men predicted future dementia. Men who reported that the changes in their memory were a problem were especially at risk, and the presence of common comorbidities like diabetes, sleep apnea, and history of head injury further exacerbated this risk.

E.L. Abner; R.J. Kryscio; A.M. Caban-Holt; F.A. Schmitt. Subjective memory complaints are associated with increased risk of incident dementia: The PREADVISE trial. *J Prev Alz Dis* 2015;2(1):11-16 - Website: <http://www.jpreventionalzheimer.com>

### 3. Interview on Alzheimer prevention research - Howard FILLIT, MD,

Dr Howard Fillit is a geriatrician, neuroscientist and leading expert in Alzheimer's disease. He is the Founding Executive Director and Chief Science Officer of the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF). Dr. Fillit has had a distinguished academic medicine career at the Rockefeller University and the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, USA, where he is currently a clinical professor of geriatrics, medicine and neuroscience. The ADDF (<http://www.alzdiscovery.org>) is exclusively focused on translating the knowledge gained about the underlying causes of Alzheimer's disease into drugs. It funds programs in both academia and biotechnology companies worldwide, with priority funding in drug discovery and preclinical drug development, early detection, clinical trials and prevention.



#### *3.1. What are the current research projects supported by ADDF aiming to identify new drugs for Alzheimer's and related dementia?*

The Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) is supporting a diverse portfolio of drug discovery and development programs throughout the world. We are funding drug discovery on more than a dozen targets, including neuroprotection, neuroinflammation and mitochondrial energetics. We are currently funding over 100 programs representing over \$23M USD in investments in drug discovery and development. About 40% of our portfolio is in early stage clinical trials, and about 40% of the portfolio is invested in biotechnology companies with Alzheimer's programs. Please see <http://www.alzdiscovery.org> for more information and to learn how to apply for a grant.

#### *3.2. What are the latest developments from your program on Aging and Alzheimer's Prevention?*

Last year, we launched a website (<http://www.alzdiscovery.org/cognitive-vitality>) called Cognitive Vitality. It serves as a dynamic informational resource providing the public with understandable evaluations of the scientific evidence behind many potential dementia prevention therapies, including fish oil, coffee and caffeine. We also created the Consortium of Cohorts for Alzheimer's Prevention Action (CAPA). CAPA's goal is to fund analyses powered by data gathered from 5 or more high-quality observational cohorts; funded

projects will address pivotal questions about potential treatments to prevent Alzheimer's disease, related dementias and cognitive decline.

We're also continuing our efforts to accelerate the development of evidence for important aspects of dementia prevention. Last year, we published a paper that reviewed the evidence that coffee and caffeine may prevent dementia. Additionally, we led the drafting of a Consensus Statement, soon to be published in Nature Reviews Neurology, that lays out a research agenda to fill critical gaps in our knowledge of early-life concussions and the links to later-life dementia.

=> To have the list of IAGG GARN centers that work on Alzheimer's prevention, you can visit the IAGG GARN website at <http://www.garn-network.org>

**4. Data Sharing Alzheimer (DSA)** This new tool is dedicated to sharing data from clinical studies databases. It aims to improve knowledge about Alzheimer's disease by increasing the exploitation of clinical data from AD studies and to encourage collaborative work. In this way, the DSA group gives access to clinical databases and provides methodological and statistical support when required.

The website is available online at <http://www.dsa-info.inserm.fr/en> and all users can access to relevant information. Researchers willing to work on DSA data can submit their application online directly through this website.

The DSA project plans to open access to epidemiological studies and prevention trials, once the study is approved by the Steering Committee. If you want to propose a database on DSA platform, please contact [info.u1027-dsa@inserm.fr](mailto:info.u1027-dsa@inserm.fr)

## **5. Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease (JPAD)**

We provide a partial content that will be published in the March 2015 issue:

- Investigating functional impairment in preclinical Alzheimer's Disease. - D. Marson
- Thinking about cognitive frailty. - L.J. Fitten
- Higher cognitive performance is prospectively associated with healthy dietary choices: The Maine Syracuse longitudinal study. - G.E. Crichton; M.F. Elias; A. Davey; A. Alkerwi; G.A. Dore
- Interventions to prevent cognitive decline and dementia in adults without cognitive impairment: A systematic review. - J.C. Barnett; A. Bahar-Fuchs; N. Cherbuin; P. Herath; K.J. Anstey

Full contents and abstracts available at: <http://www.jpreventionalzheimer.com>

## 6. Upcoming meetings

**International Conference on Frailty and Sarcopenia Research (ICFSR2015), April 23-25, 2015 in Boston, USA.** A conference dedicated to raising awareness on the need to implement frailty and Sarcopenia into clinical practice. To date the conference final program includes 6 keynote lectures, 16 symposiums, 65 oral communications and 211 posters already accepted by the ICFSR2015 Scientific Committee.

⇒ **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 16, 2015.**

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

**IAGG's 8<sup>th</sup> European Congress, April 23-26, 2015 in Dublin, Ireland.** The Irish Gerontological Society will host IAGG's 8<sup>th</sup> European Congress at Dublin's Convention Centre. The event will treat 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.

Website: <http://www.iaggdublin2015.org>

**International Academy on Nutrition and Aging (IANA), June 18-19, 2015 in Barcelona, Spain.** After Seoul, Albuquerque, Firenze this edition of the IANA conference aims to promote a better understanding and implementation of nutrition and age-related diseases into clinical practice. Topics include: MNA (Mini Nutritional Assessment) - Nutritional needs of older people - Nutritional prevention of pathologies associated with aging - Nutrition and longevity - Nutrition and quality of aging - Malnutrition : causes and consequences - Oral and enteral feeding - Functional foods - Nutrition Cognitive decline and Alzheimer. Website: <http://www.iana-congress.com>

**IAGG's 10th Asia/Oceania Regional congress, October 19-22, 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.** The conference theme is "Healthy Ageing Beyond Frontiers" Expected contributions should be relevant to research, policy and practice under the main 4 themes: Clinical Sciences • Biological sciences • Behavioral and social sciences • Policy, planning and practice. Website: <http://iaggchiangmai2015.com>

**8<sup>th</sup> conference on Clinical Trials for Alzheimer's Disease (CTAD2015), November 5-7, 2015, in Barcelona, Spain.** Alzheimer's Disease is one of the most important health challenges facing aging populations worldwide. The development of the next generation of Alzheimer's Disease drugs is becoming essential to face up to this challenge. A collaboration between CTAD, IAGG-GARN & Alzheimer Europe, this meeting will address clinical trials issues such as Methodology, Results, Imaging, Biomarkers, Cognitive Endpoints, Cognitive assessment, Behavioural disorders, Health Economics, Epidemiological, Animal model, New therapies etc. **Abstract submission deadline for symposium, oral or poster communications: June 1, 2015.** Website: <http://www.ctad-alzheimer.com>

**2nd International Conference on Nursing Home Research, December 02-03, 2015, in Toulouse, France.** This event aims to raise further awareness on the need to promote research in nursing homes. It will deal with the following topics: Alzheimer's disease and relevant drug and non-drug therapies, behaviour disorder, care organization, homecare, nursing homes, and new technologies. **Abstract submission deadline: June 30, 2015.** Website: <http://www.nursing-home-research.com>

**IAGG's 21st World Congress on July 23-27 2017 in San Francisco, USA.** 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. Website: <http://www.iagg2017.org>

Best regards,

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