

# ADNI Experience on Developing Biomarker Tools as Example of An Approach to Catalyzing Dry AMD Drug Development

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# Disclosures

- Former employee of Lilly and Merck Research Laboratories
- Consulting within last 24 months: Amgen, Astra-Zeneca,, EnVivo, Index Ventures, Ironwood, Lilly, Neurotrope, Taisho, Takeda, Theravance,

# Factors Supporting Drug Development: Argument For ADNI

The case for investing in novel drugs for conditions such as Alzheimer's (and Dry AMD) requires advances across the discovery and development continuum:

- Better understanding of disease pathogenesis/pathophysiology
- **Better validation of drug targets**
- **Improvements in translational tools and methodologies**

# What is a Target?

- **Any molecular or structural site of an intervention whether drug, electrical current or whatever**
- **In the Clinical Realm:**  
Symptom domain associated or not with a specific diagnosis ( appropriate for many syndromal diagnoses but perhaps not for AMD)

# What is Target Validation

- **Traditionally**, taking doses into humans through Phase 2 based on preclinical exposure/function curves
- **Too often**, progressing to Phase 3 with flawed Phase 2 data (NK1) or unclear data on brain effects (Dimebon)

For Drug Development: **Degree to Which Evidence Supports Hypothesis that Efficacy Can be Achieved through a Given Target**

- **Includes Body of Evidence**
- **Process of Gathering that Evidence**

# Few Targets Validated or Rejected\*: Thus, No Clear Basis for Business to Estimate Probability of Success

- **>75 Potential Antidepressant Targets**
  - 3 Validated and 3 Rejected
- **> 50 Psychosis/Cognition in SCZ Targets**
  - 1 Validated and 3 Rejected (by Merck)
- **>150 Targets for Alzheimer's Disease**
  - 1 Validated and ? 1 ( $\gamma$ -secretase) Rejected

\*Taken from Adis R & D Database Classification of Classes of  
Compounds that have at least Entered Phase I

# Elements to Consider...

- Neuroscience & Genetics to Identify Targets Related to Etiology and Pathophysiology
- Acute Molecular and Downstream Functional Effects at Targets in Preclinical Models and Humans Subjects
- **Disciplines and Time Required to Mature Markers of Disease State and Drug Effects to Apply to Individuals in Regulatory Standard Trials**

# Therefore: A Collaborative Pre-Competitive Effort

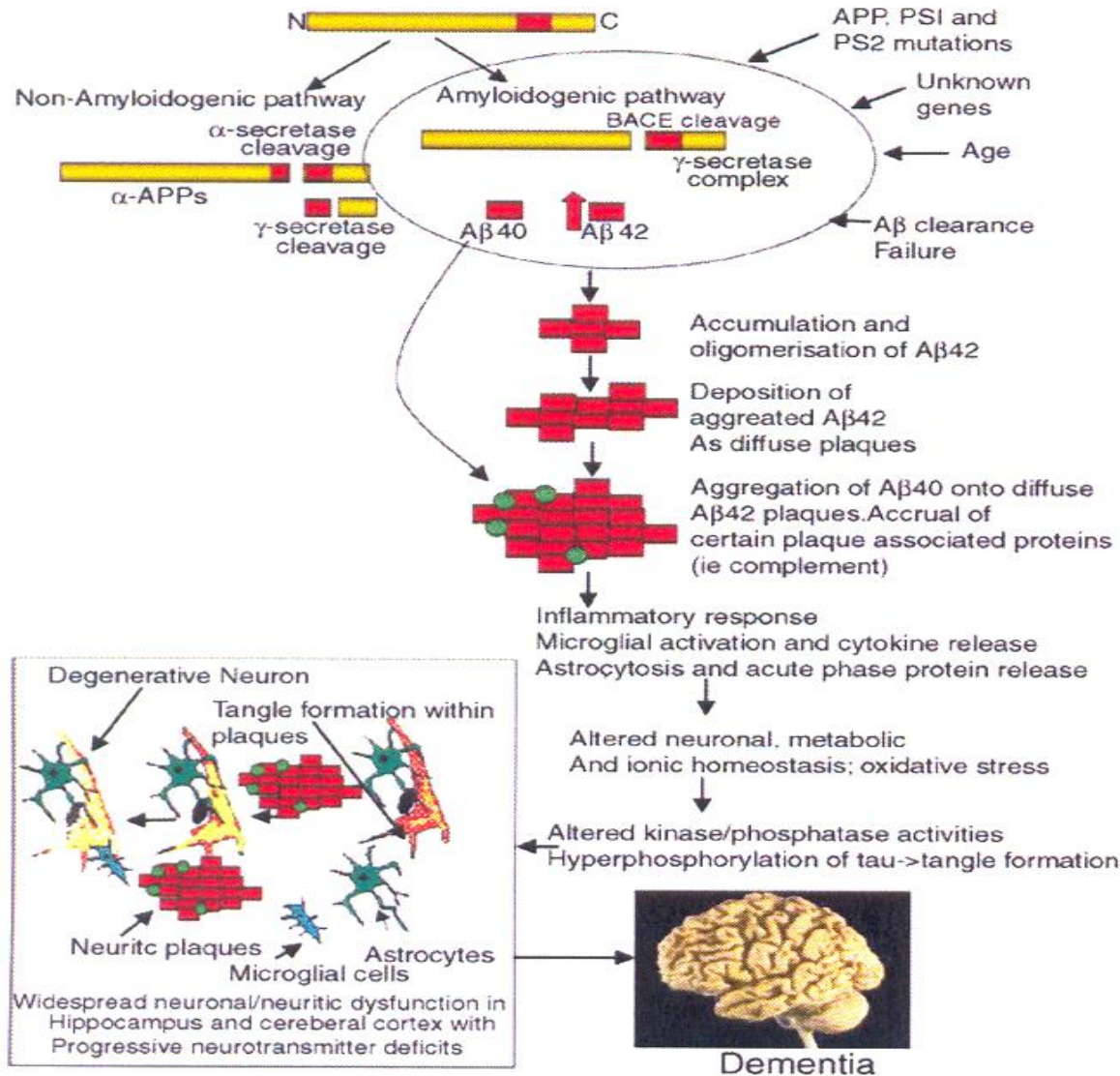
- No single organization or laboratory can prioritize, align and execute studies needed to integrate levels of enquiry
- Biological expertise not enough: physics, mathematics, informatics, engineering....
- **Bring together all interested stakeholders to focus on a question to advance treatment -- ADNI Model**



# Components to be Aligned for Risk Sharing

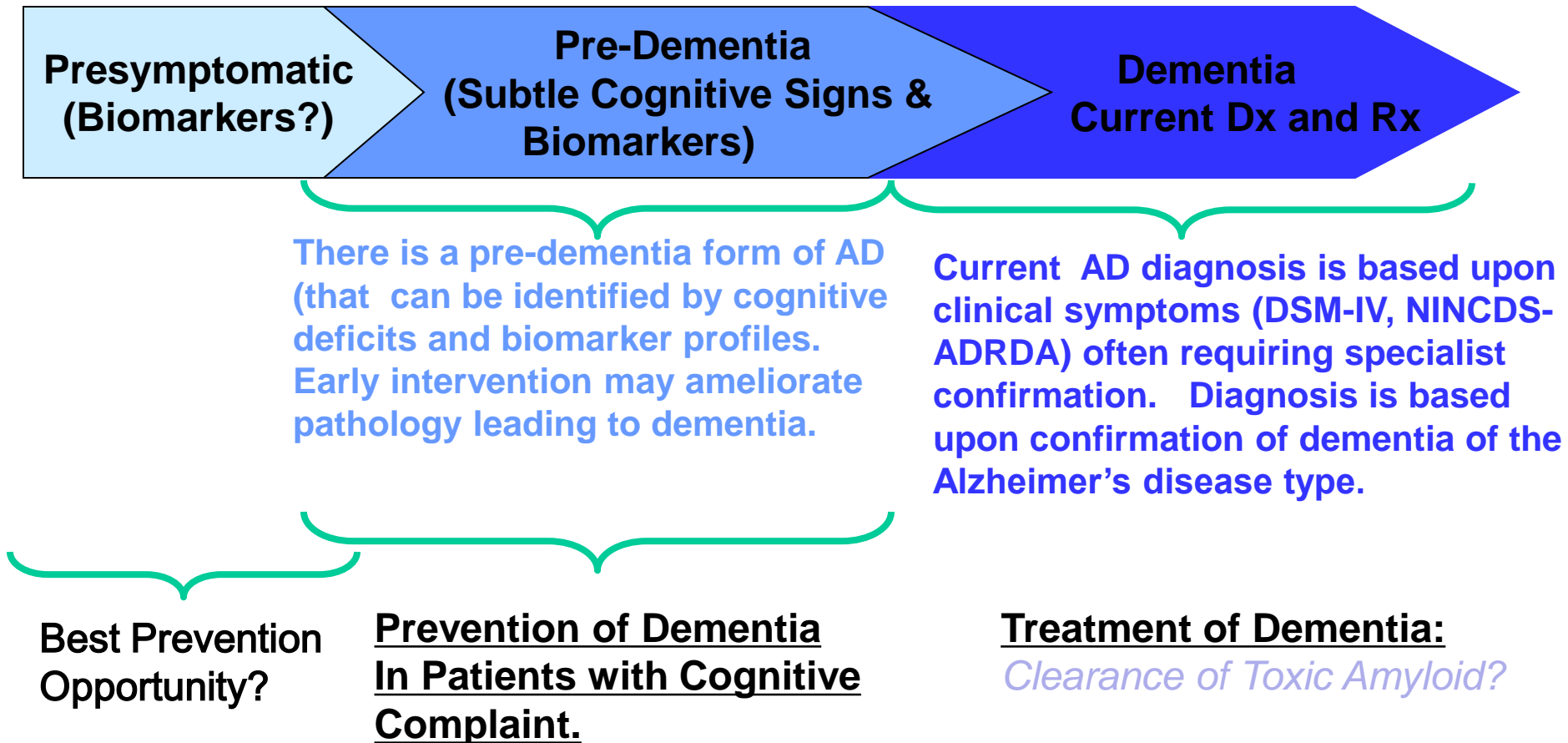
- Therapeutic goal/ Target selection
  - Stringent criteria –Clinical target validation emphasis- **AMYLOID FOR AD**
- Biomarker with Molecule Progression
  - Qualified biomarker associated with target mechanism
  - Sharing biomarker for molecule and therapeutic decision making
  - Clear strategy for use of biomarker: development support or commercial opportunity (companion diagnostic)
- In Vivo Model – Mechanism (Pathophysiology?)
  - Animal model that can at least model target mechanism – **AMYLOID**
  - Replicating data across labs
- Proof of Concept (PoC) trial possibilities
  - A well aligned, translatable, pathway to clinical PoC in patients

# MODELS OF AD FOCUSED ON AMYLOID THEORY & USED TO SELECT AGENTS TO TEST HYPOTHESIS IN HUMANS



# When and How to Test Amyloid Hypothesis?

## The Progression of Alzheimer's Disease



# Providing Tools to Test Hypotheses

- Measures of Drug Interactions with Target such as amyloid developed by academia and/or industry in various partnerships
- Measures of Disease State and Progression Mostly NIH Funded
- Measures of both classes applied to drug development ultimately require regulatory acceptance and pre competitive consortia model where tools are used across field

**Therefore: Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) to Develop Tools for Field**

# ADNI 2 Structure – Extension of ADNI 1



# **ADNI FUNDING**

## **(cooperative agreement)**

- **ADNI1 (2004-2010)**
- **Total funding \$60+ million/6 years**
  - \$40+ Million provided by NIH
  - \$20+ Million provided by industry and other private partners through FNIH
- **ADNI2 (2010-2015)**
- **Approximately the same amounts as ADNI1**



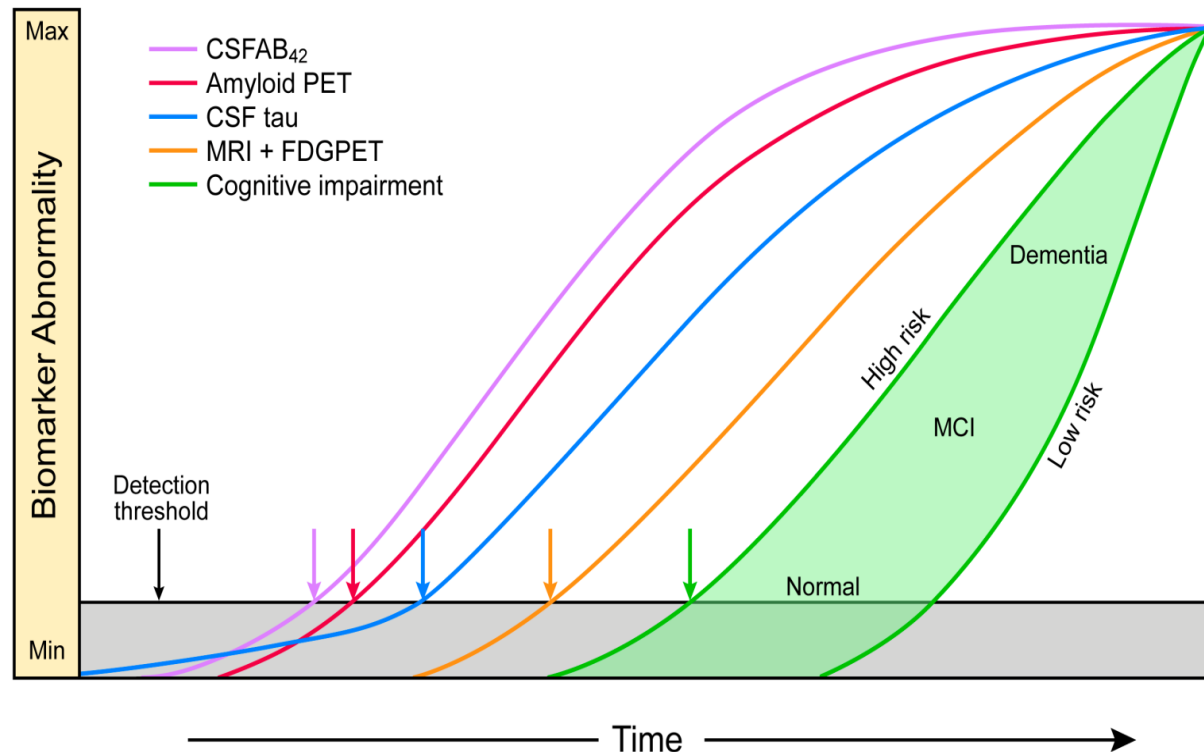
# Summary: ADNI

- ▣ Standardization: imaging, biomarkers
- ▣ Neuroscience: relationships among biomarker trajectories elucidate neurobiology
- ▣ Earlier diagnosis: Support presymptomatic AD
- ▣ Trials: new understanding of biomarkers has facilitated interventional studies in very early AD
- ▣ Data sharing: ADNI has demonstrated the power of real-time public data sharing
- ▣ Collaboration: academia, industry, non-profits, regulatory agencies world-wide

# Tracking pathophysiological processes in Alzheimer's disease: an updated hypothetical model of dynamic biomarkers

Clifford R Jack Jr, David S Knopman, William J Jagust, Ronald C Petersen, Michael W Weiner, Paul S Aisen, Leslie M Shaw, Prashanthi Vemuri, Heather J Wiste, Stephen D Weigand, Timothy G Lesnick, Vernon S Pankratz, Michael C Donohue, John Q Trojanowski

Lancet  
Neurol  
2013





# Now Stage by Biomarkers & Target Mechanism

## The Progression of Alzheimer's Disease

