

ADNI *Exclusive*

Spring 2014



Dear Friends and Fellow Trialists:

This has been another great year for ADNI. Not only did we finish enrollment for ADNI-2 in August of 2013, but we have now enrolled a record 1,049 people. We have you to thank for helping us meet this milestone. I do hope you realize what an extraordinary gift you are giving to science. Every day we, and researchers worldwide, learn more about Alzheimer's and the brain due to your unselfish contribution of participation. We cannot express our gratitude enough.

And now for an update on our latest activities. Besides the ADNI study you're enrolled in you may be interested to hear that there are other ADNI studies either ongoing or starting soon.

The first study, ADNI-DOD, is being led by the VA in San Francisco with the operations assistance of the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study group at UC San Diego. We are conducting ADNI with Viet Nam era veterans who suffered post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or a traumatic brain injury (TBI) during the war. By imaging their brains we hope to learn if there are connections between TBI and PTSD, and the signs and symptoms of AD on veterans as they age. The information collected in DOD ADNI will help us to learn more about how these injuries may affect veterans of the Vietnam War as they grow older, as well as veterans of the current wars, who also suffered these types of combat related injuries.

Next up we are beginning an ADNI study for people with depression. Led by Dr. Scott Mackin at UC San Francisco we will be studying the brains of people who suffer from depression and will look at the impact on cognition.

In other good news the NIH has expressed high enthusiasm for another grant, ADNI-3, to continue our work in the main ADNI study. In the next issue of this newsletter I hope to provide further details on the progress of that grant.

We are preparing an application for a supplemental grant to perform tau positron emission tomography (PET) imaging on a subset of ADNI participants. Recently developers at Avid Radiopharmaceuticals designed new PET scan tracers for a protein called tau, a hallmark of AD. This new technology is creating great excitement in the field because the new tracers bind more effectively to the tau tangles and will allow us to see where in the brain the tau pathology occurs. We will know by September if this grant will be funded; I will report back later in the year.

If you have any questions or comments please send an email to Brainlink@ucsd.edu. I look forward to writing to you again later this year.

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