



# Making Progress in Alzheimer's Research and Treatment

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# Objectives

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1. Enhance understanding of Alzheimer's disease
2. Provide updates on recent advances in
  - Diagnosis
  - Treatment
3. Provide a call to action to those interested

# What is Alzheimer's Disease?

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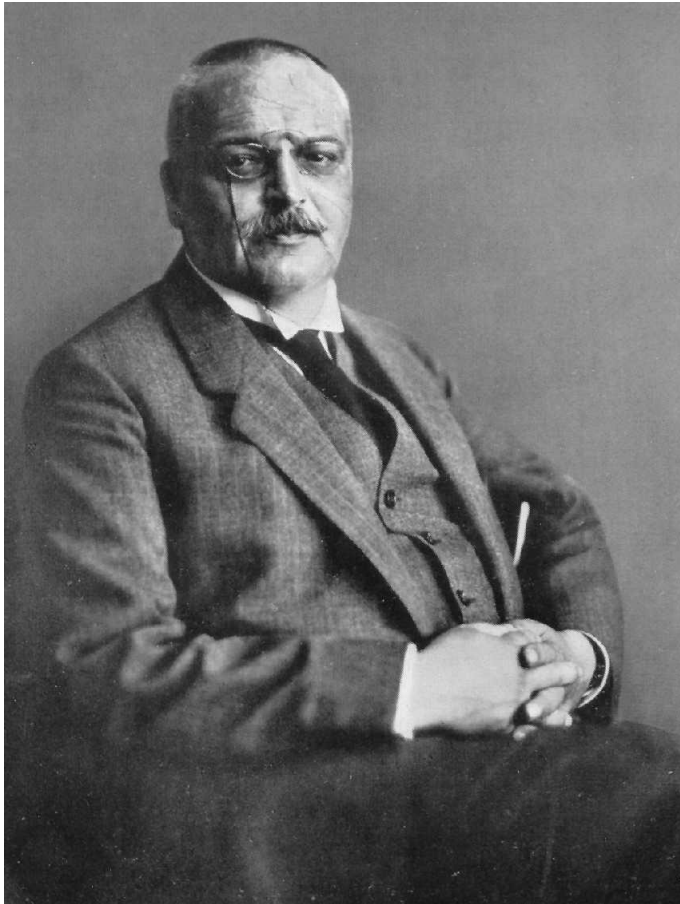
- A slowly progressive brain disease causing:
  - impairment in memory and thinking
  - loss of independence
  - altered behaviour
  - profound impact on care partners
- A highly feared disease
- An expensive disease
- The commonest cause of dementia

# What's New in Diagnosis

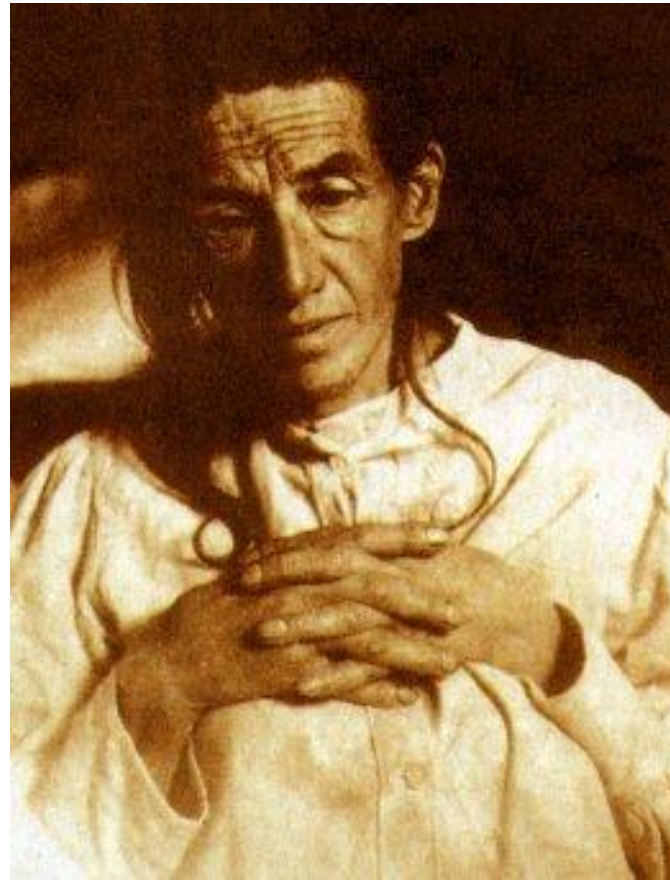
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# AD 1906: “a rare disease”

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Dr. Alois Alzheimer



Auguste Deter Age 51

# Alzheimer's Disease 2025: 55 Million Worldwide; 75 M by 2030





# AD: An urgent health care priority

WHO 2012

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- Staggering numbers; severe morbidity; enormous costs of care; enormous burden on families
- Fraught with under-diagnosis and late diagnosis:
  - Diagnosed in only 50% of patients
  - Diagnosis after several years of symptoms

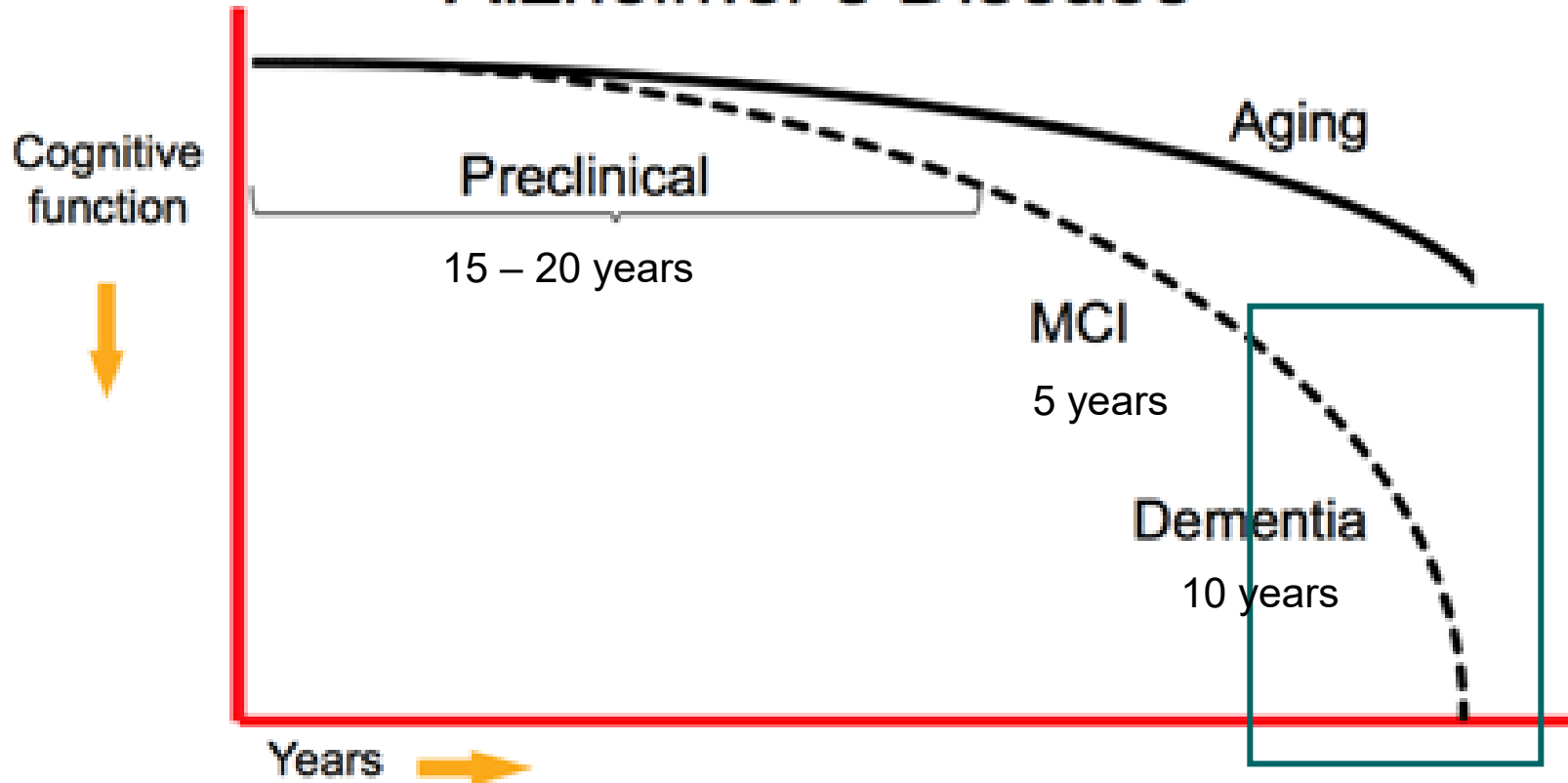
# Diagnostic Challenges

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- Patients may not recognize and report symptoms
- Fear of stigma and of loss of independence
- Physicians lack skill and interest in diagnosing AD
- Symptoms are often confused with normal aging
- Cognitive tests may be insensitive for early disease



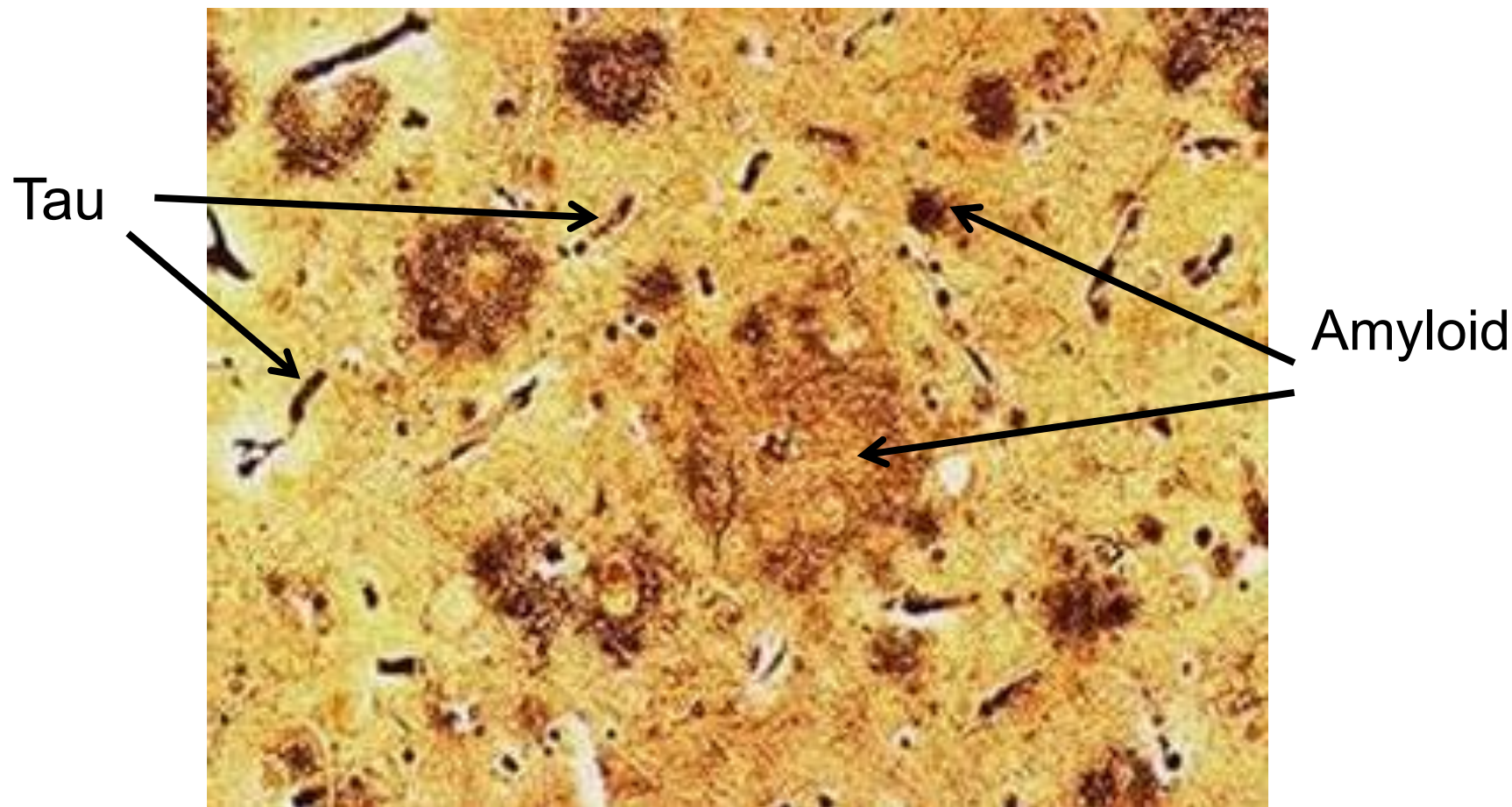
# Alzheimer's Disease

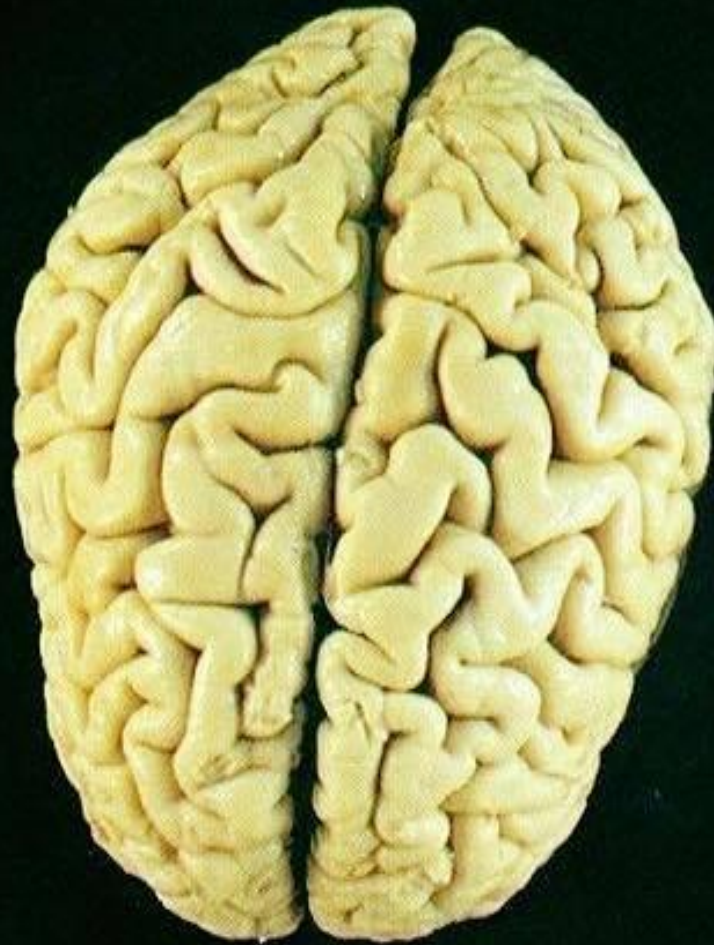


A 30-year disease: 15 + 5 + 10 years

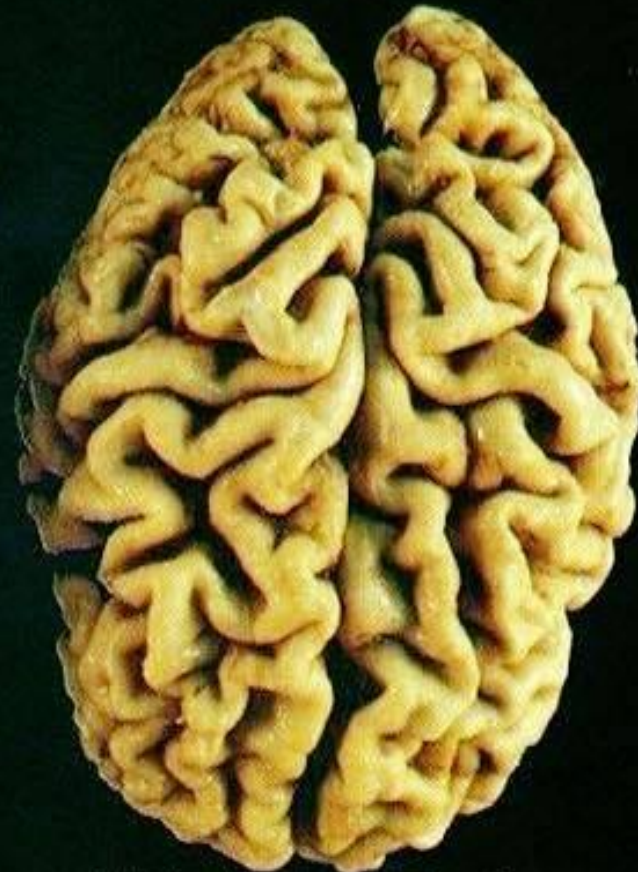
# Abnormal Proteins: Amyloid & Tau

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**Normal Brain**

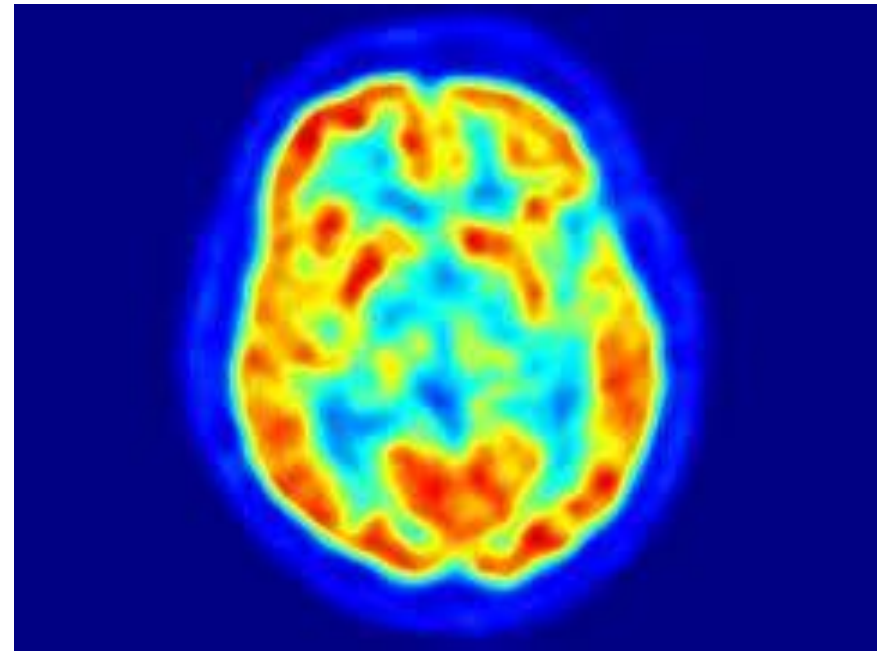


**Alzheimers Brain**

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# PET Amyloid Imaging

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Amyloid can be detected at all stages of AD  
including prior to symptoms



# Spinal Tap to Diagnosis Alzheimer's

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Amyloid **and** Tau can be measured in spinal fluid

# Blood Tests Can Now Detect Alzheimer's Brain changes

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- Blood tests can diagnosis AD with over 90% accuracy
- Can measure levels of amyloid, tau, and other markers
- FDA approved first blood test for AD diagnosis in May 2025; others have been approved since then
- Many of these are now available in Canada

# C2N DIAGNOSTICS: Press Release Jan. 28, 2025

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**Toronto Memory Program is the First  
Canadian Clinic to Offer C2N's PrecivityAD2™  
Blood Test to Help Healthcare Providers  
Diagnose Alzheimer's Disease, Joining Global  
Community in Embracing Breakthrough  
Technology**



# Retinal Scan for Detecting AD

## RetiSpec Imaging

- Hyperspectral camera
- Detects amyloid in the back of the eye
- Non-invasive; no dye
- Validation study underway at TMP



# Genetic Testing Can Help with Diagnosis

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- Rare gene mutations which cause AD can be detected in a blood sample
- A major risk gene, ApoE4, can be detected in blood and from a cheek swab
- Individuals who have causative genes or risk genes have options for prevention and treatment through research studies

# ApoE4 Risk Gene Can Be Assessed From a Cheek Swab in Just One Hour

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1 copy of ApoE4: 3 X greater risk of AD  
2 copies of ApoE4: 10X greater risk of AD



Cathy Barrick, CEO ASO



Genomadix Cube

# What's New In AD Treatment

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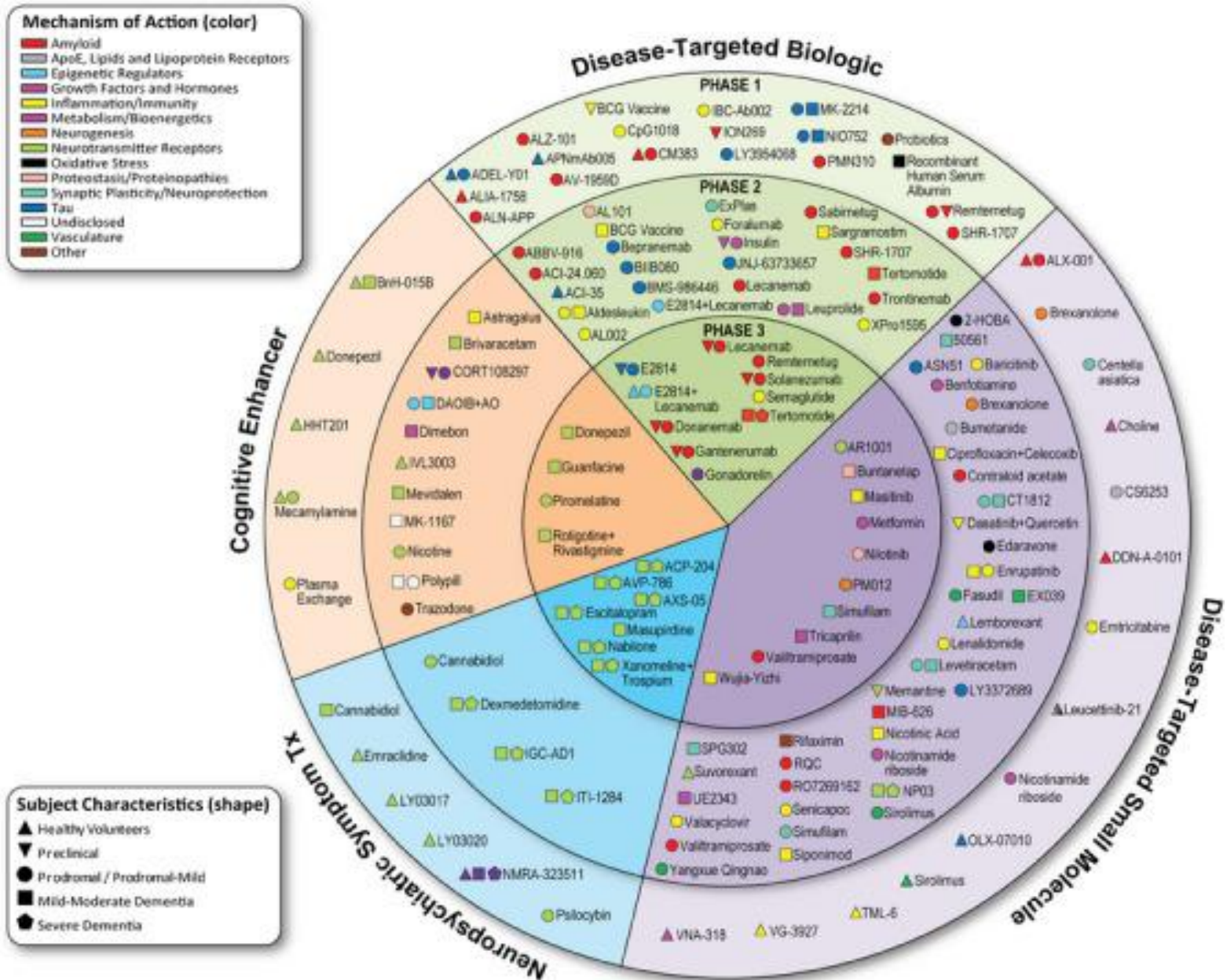
# Existing Medications Are Not Enough

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Previously approved medications:

- Treat symptoms and with modest effect
- Do not prevent or slow underlying disease
- Not approved for MCI stage of AD

## 2025 Alzheimer's Drug Development Pipeline



# 2025 AD Drug Development Pipeline

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- 182 trials assessing 138 unique drugs
  - phase 1: 48 trials assessing 45 drugs
  - phase 2: 86 trials assessing 75 drugs
  - phase 3: 48 trials assessing 31 drugs
- 74% DTTs
  - 59% small molecules; 41% biologics
- 25% symptomatic treatments
  - 14% cognitive enhancers; 11% behaviour symptoms
- 33% (46 drugs) repurposed agents
- 17% (24 drugs) target inflammation/immune processes

*Cummings J, et al. Alzheimers Dement. 2025.*



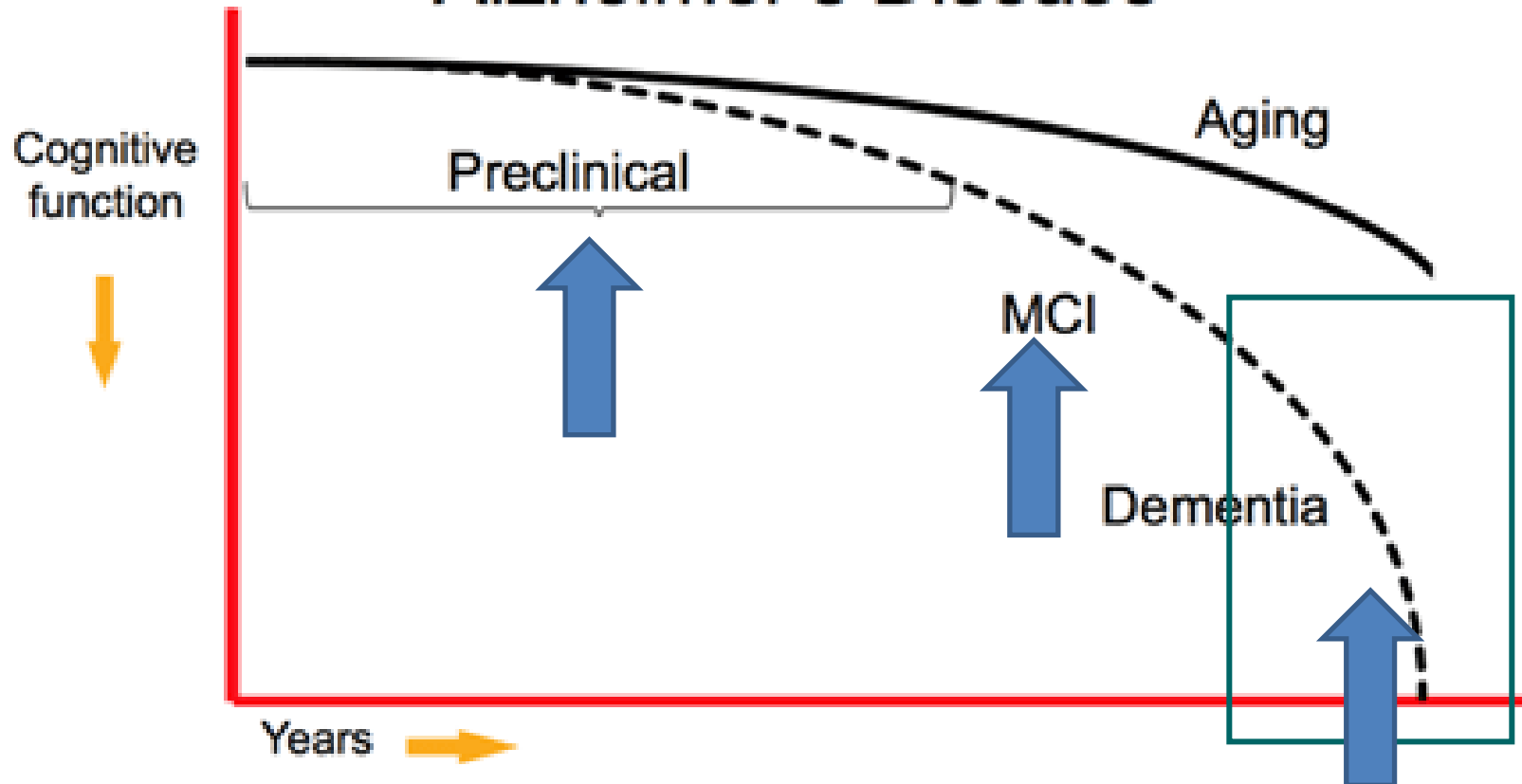
# 15 of 18 CADRO Categories Represented in the 2025 Pipeline

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- 25 (18%) drugs target A $\beta$  pathophysiology
  - 15 (11%) drugs target tau-related processes
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- 30 (22%) target neurotransmitter receptors
  - 24 (17%) target inflammation/immune processes
  - 9 (6%) address synaptic plasticity/neuroprotection
  - 8 (6%) target metabolism and bioenergetics
  - 5 (4%) target growth factors and hormones

*Cummings J, et al. Alzheimers Dement. 2025.*

# Alzheimer's Disease



A 30-year disease: 15 + 5 + 10

# A New Era in AD Treatment

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- July 2023: FDA full approval of lecanemab
- July 2024: FDA full approval of donanemab
- Each of these are:
  - antibodies that clear amyloid
  - given by intravenous infusion
  - indicated for early stages of AD
  - intended to slow disease



Robust Clearance of Amyloid with Antibody Treatment

# A New Era in AD Treatment

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- By Sept. 2025: lecanemab and donanemab were approved in 50 countries
- Oct. 24, 2025: Health Canada finally approved lecanemab!
  - Marks the first disease slowing treatment for AD
  - Public cost coverage under review; recommendations expected in early 2026
  - Health Canada label excludes those with 2 copies of ApoE4

# Lecanemab

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- Robustly clears amyloid
- Slows decline in cognition
- Slows decline in daily function
- Reduces risk of transitioning to next stage of disease
- Preserves quality of life as assessed by patients
- Less care partner burden as reported by care partners
- Those treated early are stable or even *improve* up to 4 years after treatment initiation

# What's Next for Amyloid Lowering Treatments

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- Donanemab under Health Canada review for early AD
- Prevention trials of lecanemab and donanemab in preclinical stages of AD
- Subcutaneous formulation now FDA approved for maintenance dosing; under FDA review by FDA for initiation dosing
- Other anti-amyloid antibody programs ongoing, as well as other approaches to targeting amyloid
  - E.g., genetic approaches to **prevent** amyloid formation



# Many Other Disease Modifying Treatments Are Under Active Study

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## ➤ Anti-tau studies

- Anti-tau antibodies to clear tau and reduce spread
- Drugs to reduce tau formation

## ➤ Studies harnessing the immune system

- To reduce inflammation in the brain
- Activate immune cells to clear amyloid & other toxins
- Boost protective functions of support cells in brain

## ➤ Combination therapies are starting to be tested

# Lifestyle Strategies

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Up to 45% of dementia may be preventable through lifestyle modification

- Mental Activity: pursue activities that are enjoyable, challenging, and entail problem-solving
- Physical Exercise: moderate intensity exercise 150 min/wk
- Dietary Pattern: ↑fruit, veggies, nuts; ↓animal fat, red meat
- Sleep: quantity and quality of sleep are important
- Stress Management: make time for things you find relaxing
- Control Vascular Risk Factors: e.g., smoking, cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes

# Reasons to Join a Clinical Trial

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- Access to specialized diagnostic tests not otherwise readily available (e.g., PET scan)
- Access to cutting edge treatments under development and not yet available by prescription
- Access to an expert team of specialists
- Close monitoring of one's condition
- Satisfaction of doing everything one can for oneself, one's family, and for future generation

# Without Medical Heroes The Pharmacy Would Be Bare

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# Key Take Aways

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- AD is a very long and complex disease with several stages providing multiple opportunities to intervene
- The later stages are particularly burdensome; diagnosing and treating early are key
- Accurate diagnosis is possible with a PET scans, spinal fluid analysis, and now, a blood test
- A new disease slowing treatment (lecanemab) has now been approved in Canada
- Additional treatments, including combination and preventative treatments are under active study

# Don't Doubt Progress; Help Accelerate It!

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- People who know this disease want to be involved
- Have a baseline memory test
- Join our prevention and treatment registry
- Undergo a cheek swab to check for AD risk
- Find out if a clinical trial is right for you

# We all have a role to play to end AD

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# Protect Next Generations

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# Help Make a Difference!

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Connect with us at: 416-386-9606  
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Justine Reaume