PharmaCog will Bring New Hope for Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease

PharmaCog will focus on increasing ability to predict efficacy of new medicines from laboratory studies and clinical models. Validate the tools necessary to streamline Alzheimer’s disease drug discovery.

All studies conducted are designed to improve our ability to identify successful new medicines as early as possible while stopping progression of those destined to fail.

How will PharmaCog Benefit Patients in Europe?

Improve the availability of models required to make drug discovery easier and accelerate effective medicines to patients.

Drive the development of a new generation of leading scientists focussed on improving the drug development process.

Who Supports PharmaCog?

The five years PharmaCog project, which started in January 2010, is funded by the Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI), a large scale public-private partnership between the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry (EFPIA).

IMI aims to put Europe at the forefront of biopharmaceutical innovation and to support more efficient discovery and development of better medicines for patients.

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Today approximately 26 million people worldwide suffer from Alzheimer’s Disease. In the EU, the percentage of over-65s will raise from 15.4% to 22.4% which will correlate with a rise in Alzheimer’s Disease and with it the socio- and economic-burden.

There is no current cure for Alzheimer’s Disease, treatments for symptoms are limited, but combined with the right services and support, can make life better for the patients.

The Challenges for New Drug Development in Alzheimer’s Disease

There are no validated models available which allow scientists to recapitulate the full spectrum of pathology of the disease in the laboratory.

The lack of ability to model disease means that
- it is difficult for drug developers to predict the best new medicines
- it is difficult to predict the most effective drug dose exposure

There are no sensitive measures available that can be used to determine the effect of a new drug in early clinical development.

Trials in Alzheimer’s disease need to run for 2 years and cost 10’s of millions Euros per study to test new medicines.

What is Alzheimer’s Disease?

Alzheimer’s Disease is the most common form of dementia first described by German psychiatrist and neuropathologist Alois Alzheimer in 1906 and was named after him.

Generally diagnosed in people over 65 years of age, Alzheimer’s Disease destroys brain cells, causing gradual memory loss and in later stages, problems with thinking and behavior severe enough to affect work and lifelong hobbies etc.

The PharmaCog Approach

- Develop experimental models and clinical models that most mimic aspects of the disease and help to predict treatment efficacy
- Develop markers using these models to predict effective dose ranges and prioritise the progression of new medicines
- Develop Alzheimer’s markers sensitive to the disease progression and drug treatment

PharmaCog will Focus on Innovation, Translation and Harmonisation

Alzheimer Europe
AstraZeneca
Bayer
Eli Lilly
EMA
GSK
Janssen
Univ Bristol
Univ Lille
Univ Murcia
Univ Barcelona
Univ Essent
Univ Leipzig
Merck
Boehringer
IHD
Novartis
Hoffman-LaRoche
Univ Verona
FBB-Brescia
Mario Negri
Univ Puglia
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Exonhit
UnivMed
Qualissima
ICDD

Blood Analysis
Cognitive Testing
Brain Scans
Brain Talk
(EEG)