

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a **progressive neurodegenerative disease that damages healthy cells** in the brain causing cognitive impairment and functional disability.

AD is the most common form of dementia and may contribute to **60-70% of dementia cases**.<sup>1</sup>

In Europe, AD and other forms of dementia affect around **10 million people**, and this is expected to increase to **14 million by 2030** due to the ageing population.<sup>2</sup>

AD and dementia are a World Health Organisation Priority and are listed as the **world's 5th leading cause of death**.

**WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?**



**€250 billion**

The societal and economic cost of dementia in Europe is estimated to increase to over **€250 billion by 2030**, the equivalent of the whole GDP of Finland.<sup>2</sup>



AD is thus not only a health emergency, but a **huge burden for our economy** and European health and social care systems.

**INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT IN R&D**

**#WEWONTREST IN OUR QUEST TO FIND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TREATMENTS**



The history of Alzheimer's Disease research is a story of **perseverance, commitment and hope**. The research community has traversed numerous frustrating setbacks over the past few decades. Nevertheless, the **industry's commitment can be evidenced by the continued unfaltering drug development pipeline**.



**Intellectual property** is the foundation on which innovation is built: it **encourages and protects innovation**, driving **research and development** investments into areas of unmet medical need. Without strong and predictable IP incentives, cures for diseases like Alzheimer's are less likely to be discovered.

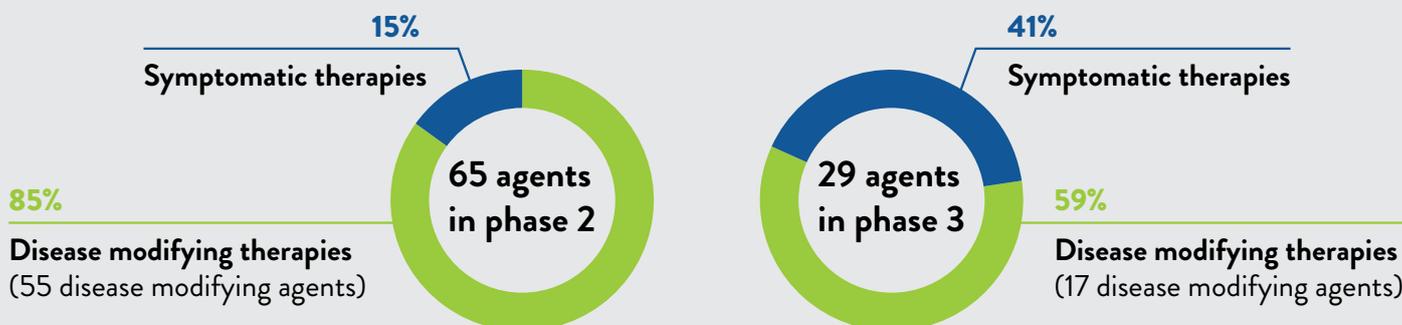


<sup>1</sup> World Health Organisation Dementia Factsheet, 2019. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/dementia>  
<sup>2</sup> Alzheimer Europe, Cost of illness and burden of dementia in Europe – Prognosis to 2030, [www.alzheimer-europe.org/Research/European-Collaboration-on-Dementia/Cost-of-dementia/Prognosis-to-2030](http://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Research/European-Collaboration-on-Dementia/Cost-of-dementia/Prognosis-to-2030)  
 Alzheimer Europe, Dementia in Europe, Yearbook 2019, <https://www.alzheimer-europe.org/Publications/Dementia-in-Europe-Yearbooks>

## THE DRUG DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

  
**136 trials**

In early 2020, there were 136 trials investigating in AD therapies. These treatments have the potential to significantly reduce the burden on affected people living with the disease, their carers, and healthcare systems across Europe. Disease modifying therapy offers the potential to delay the onset or progression of Alzheimer's, allowing patients to live an independent life, for longer. It would also enable people living with AD to maintain their cognitive capabilities and personality for longer, meaning more time with their friends and family.<sup>3</sup>



A disease-modifying drug is one that attempts to alter the underlying pathology of Alzheimer's disease, whereas a symptomatic drug is one that attempts to lessen the symptoms often associated with Alzheimer's disease, such as cognitive impairment, agitation, aggression, and insomnia.

## #WEWONTREST UNTIL NEW INNOVATION AND TREATMENTS CAN HALT THE DISEASE IN ITS TRACKS



It is estimated that the introduction of upcoming disease modifying therapies would have the potential to change the lives of both patients and carers and to **substantially reduce the societal and economic burden of the disease.**<sup>4</sup>



However, healthcare systems in Europe currently lack the capacity to detect, diagnose and treat AD effectively, hindering the ability to rapidly **move a future disease modifying therapy for AD from approval into widespread clinical use.**

## THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW!

### WE CALL ON THE EU INSTITUTIONS TO:



1. Make AD and dementia a priority in European policies with dedicated funding



2. Develop and implement an ambitious European plan to beat AD



3. Ensure that the EU4Health programme fosters Member States' collaboration in AD related to healthcare system readiness and social care systems



4. Harmonise and disseminate independent and evidence-based detection and care guidelines for the benefit of healthcare providers, patients and their carers across Europe



5. Support adoption and implementation of AD national plans which assess and set clear objectives towards national healthcare systems' readiness for the entry of disease-modifying therapies in the market

<sup>3</sup> Cummings et al. Alzheimer's Disease Drug Development pipeline: 2020, Alzheimer's Dement. 2020;6:e12050

<sup>4</sup> EFPIA paper, Alzheimer's Disease Health System Readiness – The Time to Act is Now. <https://efpia.eu/media/554727/efpia-ad-platform-health-system-readiness.pdf>