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## Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

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## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Leqembi NEW ALZHEIMER'S DRUG



### Minority Men's Health TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAM



With support from



# New Drug, New Hope

The FDA's recent approval of Lecanemab (marketed as Leqembi) marks a significant stride in the realm of Alzheimer's disease therapeutics. This beta-amyloid-directed drug garnered accelerated approval in January 2023, swiftly followed by full FDA approval in July of the same year, underscoring its potential to address the pressing needs of Alzheimer's patients.

Administered as an intravenous (IV) infusion drug at specialized infusion sites, Lecanemab introduces a novel treatment paradigm for Alzheimer's. The infusion regimen, scheduled biweekly over an 18-month period, aims to combat the beta-amyloid buildup in the brain, a pivotal target given its association with Alzheimer's disease pathology.

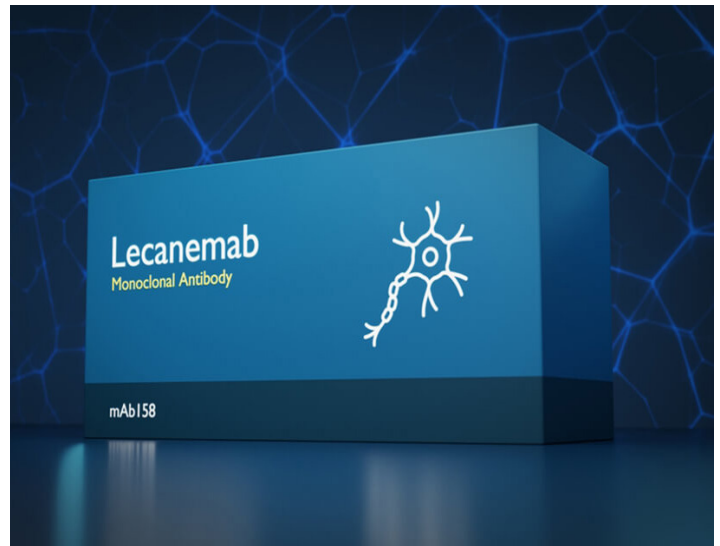
The approval signifies a crucial advancement in addressing the root cause of the disease rather than merely mitigating symptoms.

The financial landscape surrounding Lecanemab is noteworthy. Estimated at an annual cost of up to \$26,500 for patients, the drug's accessibility is augmented by Medicare, expected to cover approximately 80% of the expense. Nevertheless, it is imperative to note that certain ancillary expenses, such as PET scans, lumbar punctures, and other diagnostic tests pivotal for determining eligibility, may not fall under Medicare coverage.

Lecanemab's therapeutic scope is tailored for individuals grappling with early Alzheimer's symptoms or exhibiting mild cognitive impairment (MCI) attributable to Alzheimer's disease. A prerequisite for potential recipients is the presence of beta-amyloid in the brain,

emphasizing the drug's targeted mechanism. Further eligibility criteria encompass an age bracket between 50 and 90 years, with exclusionary factors including bleeding disorders, significant kidney or heart problems, and uncontrolled diabetes or hypertension.

It's essential to highlight the current limitations of Lecanemab. The drug has not undergone testing in individuals with advanced Alzheimer's stages, nor has it been explored as a preventive measure for those without symptoms. Acknowledging



potential risks is paramount; common side effects encompass infusion reactions, allergic responses, headaches, and dizziness, while more serious albeit rare side effects include potentially fatal brain swelling and bleeding.

The advent of Lecanemab opens new avenues in Alzheimer's research, yet comprehensive understanding of its long-term effects remains a critical frontier. As with any medication, Lecanemab necessitates a nuanced evaluation of risks and benefits. Collaborating closely with neurologists becomes imperative, allowing for a personalized assessment of risk factors and determination of candidacy for Lecanemab treatment. The unfolding chapters of Lecanemab's journey hold promise, providing a beacon of hope for those grappling with the complexities of Alzheimer's disease.

# Empowering Minds and Bodies: GADRC's Minority Men's Health Program Making Strides in Health Equity

Two years of continuous programming, the Minority Men's Health (MMH) program by the Georgia Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (GADRC) has consistently delivered crucial health information and fostered community among men of color. Commencing virtually in December 2021, the program aimed to engage with the community and encourage participation in clinical research studies focused on Alzheimer's disease and mild cognitive impairment. Over the subsequent two years, the program has evolved while steadfastly adhering to its mission of providing valuable health insights and clinical research enrollment opportunities for black men.

Scheduled on the second Thursday of each month, the program boasts a diverse lineup of medical professionals who address topics pertinent to the community. Past discussions have covered crucial aspects such as kidney health, eye health, and maintaining well-being during the holiday season. Attendance to the program is free, offering not only informative sessions but also live music, refreshments, and engaging exercise demonstrations.

A recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) underscored the increased susceptibility of African Americans to Alzheimer's disease compared to their white counterparts. Additionally, the study revealed a lower likelihood of African Americans participating in clinical research, prompting questions about the differential impact of certain treatments on African Americans. The monthly MMH program stands as one of several initiatives orchestrated by the GADRC Minority Engagement Core, aiming to bridge the participation gap in research and address health disparities.



In an exciting development, the November 2023 edition of the MMH program will feature Dr. Douglas Collins and will be showcased on the Georgia Public Broadcasting television program "Your Fantastic Mind." This news magazine-style show, a collaborative effort between GPB and Emory's Brain Health Center, covers a spectrum of topics related to brain health, neurology, and psychology. The MMH episode is scheduled to premiere in April 2024 on PBS/GPB, further amplifying the reach and impact of this critical initiative.

## To register for future

Minority Men's Health programs, contact  
Crystal Davis  
404-727-6696  
cpdavis@emory.edu.





Celebrating 14 Years of Giving:

## **A Family Affair's Enduring Legacy in Alzheimer's Research**

In commemoration of 14 years of unwavering commitment, A Family Affair stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit of its founder, Mary Rose Taylor – a journalist, philanthropist, and visionary. Motivated by personal experience and fueled by a deep sense of compassion, Mary Rose embarked on a mission to not only care for her second husband, Mack Taylor, in his battle against Alzheimer's disease but to also enhance the prospects for countless others facing a similar struggle.

Launched in 2010, A Family Affair became the embodiment of Mary Rose's dedication to making a meaningful impact on Alzheimer's research. Her connection with Emory's Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), which played a pivotal role in Mack's treatment, inspired her to channel her efforts into creating an event that would be both a celebration of life and a fundraiser for a cause close to her heart.

## **Over the past 14 years, A Family Affair has emerged as a beacon of hope, raising over \$9.5 million dollars for Alzheimer's research.**

Mary Rose's vision, coupled with the generous support of attendees and donors, has contributed significantly to the groundbreaking initiatives undertaken by the Goizueta ADRC.

The cause that fuels A Family Affair is rooted in the stark reality of Alzheimer's disease, impacting approximately 6.7 million people in the nation, a number expected to escalate to 13 million by 2050. The Goizueta ADRC, established in 2005, stands as a cornerstone in the collective effort to understand various forms of cognitive

impairment, develop innovative treatment solutions and provide compassionate care.

Aligned with a national network of Alzheimer's research centers supported by the National Institutes of Health, the Goizueta ADRC is at the forefront of pioneering research.

Under the leadership of Allan Levey, MD, PhD and James Lah, MD, PhD, the center boasts a team of more than 100 professionals. Together, they annually serve nearly 2,700 patients and their supporting family members, embodying a holistic approach to tackling the challenges posed by Alzheimer's.

As A Family Affair celebrates its 14th anniversary,



the legacy of Mary Rose Taylor lives on. Her vision, initially sparked by a personal journey, has blossomed into a powerful force for change in the realm of Alzheimer's research. The event not only commemorates the resilience of those facing Alzheimer's but also fuels the ongoing pursuit of knowledge, treatment, and support that defines the mission of the Goizueta ADRC. As we honor the past 14 years, we look ahead with optimism, knowing that each dollar raised and every individual touched by A Family Affair contributes to a future free from the grasp of Alzheimer's disease.

### **For more information contact**

Kiana Matthews  
Director of Development Events  
Emory Brain Health Center  
Kiana.Matthews@emory.edu

Clinical research conducted with living volunteers is one way researchers can learn more about dementia and potential treatments, but another way is by studying the brains of individuals after their deaths.

Brain donations play a vital role in helping researchers understand the disease progression of different forms of dementia.

Researchers not only need brains that show various stages of disease development but also brains from healthy individuals. Additionally, brains from individuals who have suffered a stroke or have a history of traumatic brain injuries are also needed to further understand different neurological diseases. This collection of brains helps researchers connect changes in different cognitive functions, such as memory, language, and sleep to biological changes in the brain. Researchers can use this information to better understand disease progression and develop new treatments for Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Individuals and families have many different reasons for why they might donate the brain of a loved one impacted by dementia. Many people donate to help play a role in developing new treatment options. Others might donate to confirm a specific diagnosis received while alive. Others find comfort in knowing that their brain or that of a loved one will have a positive impact in the world.

To donate to Emory's GADRC brain bank, individuals must be enrolled in the MEmory Study. In the state of Georgia, an individual cannot preemptively give consent to donate their brain. Only a living family member can consent. It is imperative to communicate your wishes with your family. Once a family member gives consent, the chosen funeral home will remove the brain and arrange for its transport to Emory. After retrieval, funeral services and



Be the **brain** behind  
the **breakthroughs**.

One donated brain makes  
a huge impact.



#braindonation



burial can proceed as normal. Brain donation is not incompatible with an open casket service. Families will not be charged for removal.

### **For information about the brain donation program at Emory's GADRC, contact**

Samantha Heldenberg  
404-900-9479

## Save The Date

### **26th Brain Health Forum at the CarterCenterw**

We cordially invite you to join us for our 26th Brain Health Forum at the Carter Presidential Center, titled "Successful Aging Unveiled: Exploring Breakthroughs in Research, Psychiatry, Brain Health, and Dental Care."

This unique event brings together esteemed clinical faculty experts. Discover the keys to successful aging as our distinguished panel shares insights, innovative approaches, and breakthroughs that aim to enhance and celebrate what successful aging looks like. Don't miss this opportunity to embrace a thriving journey into the realms of mindful aging. We look forward to welcoming you to this transformative event on Tuesday, April 9th at 10:00 am.

#### **For more information contact**

Cornelya Dorbin at [cdorbin@emory.edu](mailto:cdorbin@emory.edu)

# Annual Honor Reception Recap

clinicians, and the Executive Leadership Team. As we collectively reflected on the past year's accomplishments, we were reminded of the significant impact each research volunteer has had in propelling forward our research initiatives. Your generosity and unwavering commitment

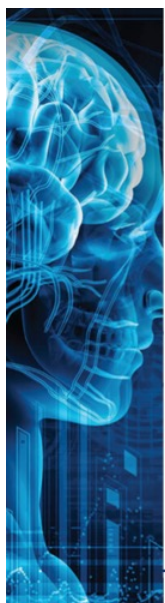
have been instrumental in shaping the trajectory of Alzheimer's disease research, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

During the event, faculty and staff were delighted to provide key updates, sharing insights into our current progress and laying out the roadmap for future endeavors. The interactive session allowed for meaningful connections, celebrations, and a deeper understanding of the crucial role each volunteer plays in advancing knowledge and

finding solutions in the complex landscape of Alzheimer's disease. Your thoughtful questions and engagement underscored the collaborative spirit that defines our research community. As we move forward, we eagerly anticipate and invite your ongoing collaboration, knowing that together, we will continue to make significant strides in shaping the future of Alzheimer's research. Thank you for your contributions to this transformative program.



A heartfelt thank you resonates with deep appreciation to our incredible research volunteers with the Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. The event on Saturday, January 27th was a momentous occasion where we once again celebrated the invaluable contributions of our dedicated volunteers. This annual gathering not only highlights the outstanding work of our volunteers but also underscores the enduring partnership between these individuals, Emory



## BRAINTALK LIVE

PRESENTED BY  
EMORY UNIVERSITY | Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

**EVERY TUESDAY AT  
2:00 ET**

Sign up or access your Zoom account to register for the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82516623594>

Meeting ID: 825 1662 3594  
Audio Only: Dial 1-929-205-6099

Join us each week to learn about ongoing studies and to hear from various experts on how to manage, preserve, and improve your brain health.

Have a question? Call (404) 712-1416 or email [cdorbin@emory.edu](mailto:cdorbin@emory.edu)

**Introduced in March 2020, BrainTalk Live is a dynamic one-hour health webinar crafted to engage our research volunteers and community amidst the challenges of aging.**

This weekly program delves into diverse topics, including Alzheimer's, aging, chronic disease prevention, caregiving insights, and more.

With a viewership of 200+, our virtual auditorium buzzes with active learners each week.

Join us every Tuesday at 2:00 pm Eastern Time for an enlightening journey where education meets enthusiasm, fostering a community dedicated to knowledge and vibrant, healthy living.



# Emory University's Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Awarded Grant for African American Community Outreach Program in Metro-Atlanta from Alzheimer's Foundation of America

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The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) has awarded a \$200,000 grant to Emory University's Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) to support their community outreach program which provides educational programs to African Americans about brain health and reducing their risk of Alzheimer's, as well as encouraging them to participate in Alzheimer's research.

African Americans are disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's disease. While Alzheimer's affects all races and ethnicities, it occurs twice as frequently among African Americans, according to the Goizueta ADRC. Research suggests that these disparities may be related to a higher incidence of hypertension, genetic influences, and environmental exposures. Goizueta ADRC also notes that African Americans are often diagnosed at the later stages of the disease, when neurological damage is more advanced, indicating that they are more reluctant to see a physician about memory loss or other dementia symptoms, partly due to social factors such as lack of access or distrust of the healthcare system due to experienced or perceived discrimination.

To address these challenges, Goizueta ADRC launched an outreach program to the African American community in metro-Atlanta, working with trusted community leaders to connect

people with services and education through free public events. The events provided information about Alzheimer's and other dementia-related illnesses, the warning signs, ways to reduce risk, and the importance of early detection. AFA previously awarded a \$50,000 grant to support the Goizueta ADRC's efforts.

To further expand this program, Goizueta ADRC launched the Minority Men's Health Program, a monthly program for men of color to address key strategies to reduce their risk of developing a dementia-related illness, as well as increase their participation in research, where they are underrepresented. Each session uses education, exercise, and dialogue to create a place where men can learn about wellness and take charge of their health. Participation in research is promoted as a means of improving health behaviors. The \$200,000 AFA grant will support this program. Individuals interested in learning more or participating in Goizueta ADRC's program can call 404-712-0367.

**"AFA is pleased to work with the Goizueta ADRC to break down barriers and work to eliminate health disparities," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's President & CEO.**

"Their outreach program empowers African Americans with knowledge to help reduce their risk of developing Alzheimer's and get actively involved in finding a cure by participating in research. We are pleased to help them enhance their efforts by making this investment in hope."

AFA fund projects such as this through the generosity of individuals and organizations. Those wishing to make a donation to support AFA can visit [www.alzfdn.org/donate](http://www.alzfdn.org/donate).

Support and services for families affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related illnesses are available through AFA's Helpline by calling 866-232-8484, sending a text message to 646-586-5283, or web chatting at [www.alzfdn.org](http://www.alzfdn.org).

**The AFA Helpline is available 7 days a week.**



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# Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

## THANK YOU!

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, the Emory Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center serves patients, families and communities throughout the Southeast region with the generous support of your individual and corporate donations.

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Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Please note that this contribution is:

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement of this donation to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to:**

Emory Alzheimer's Disease Research Center  
c/o Emory Univ. Health Sciences Development  
1440 Clifton Road, Suite 112  
Atlanta, Georgia 30322