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FROM: Barb Leetch, Region VIII Alzheimer's Coordinator

TO: Region VIII VP, Federation Presidents and Alzheimer's Coordinators

SUBJ: NARFE Region VIII Alzheimer's Association Report for February 2024

We did it! We have exceeded our fundraising goal of \$16 million by December 31, 2025. Thank you all for making this happen.

As of the end of February, the NARFE fundraising total was \$16,151,051. This amount includes the Longest Day (\$3,355) and the Walk to End Alzheimer's (\$107,470) for 2023. During the month of February, our members raised a total of \$11,425, **down** \$10,077 from donations received in February 2023. The amount raised by Region VIII in FY 2024 is \$11,817 which is **down** \$3,029 from the same reporting period in FY 2023. Below is the breakout by Federation for both reporting periods:

	FY 2024	FY 2023	Difference
California	\$ 8,842	\$11,635	-\$ 2,793
Hawaii	\$ 1,205	\$ 1,353	-\$ 148
Nevada	\$ 1,770	\$ 1,858	-\$ 88
Total	\$11,817	\$14,846	-\$ 3,029

Fiscal Year 2024 covers the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024.

The Longest Day 2024. The Longest Day will be on June 20, 2024, and is the day with the most light – the summer solstice. On this day, people from across the world will fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through a fundraising activity of their choice. Now would be a great time to start planning your fundraising activity. Register for the event at <https://act.alz.org/thelongestday>. The name "NARFE" should be included in the team's name.

Walk to End Alzheimer's. The NARFE Goal for the 2024 Walks is \$100,000. Teams can now register for the walk this year at [alz.org/narfewalks](https://alz.org/narfewalks). The Walk is the largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support, and research. The name "NARFE" should be included in the team's name. NARFE will be listed as one of the sponsors and will appear on the back of the Alzheimer's Walk t-shirt.

# BrainSee test is now FDA-approved to predict Alzheimer's dementia

Technology may identify high-risk patients early to enable timely treatment

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved BrainSee, Darmiyan's software for predicting the likelihood that a person with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) will progress to Alzheimer's disease-associated dementia.

Darmiyan believes the technology will help to screen and identify high-risk patients early, enabling a prompt start to treatments that may delay dementia onset. The technology also helps to avoid costly and invasive testing for patients who are at lower risk.

The BrainSee platform is already available to physicians through a secure web portal. Patients can also request more information on the website.

"Our vision is to redefine brain health screening and monitoring standards and impact the lives of patients and their family members in a meaningful way," Padideh Kamali-Zare, PhD, founder and CEO of Darmiyan, said in a company press release. "BrainSee is the first product of this vision."

Amnesic mild cognitive impairment affects more than 100 million worldwide

Amnesic MCI, or MCI characterized mainly by memory loss, affects more than 100 million people worldwide. It may involve the forgetting of things that had previously been easy to remember, such as appointments or recent events.

There are a number of possible causes of amnesic MCI and many people will remain stable or improve over time. However, it can also be an early sign of Alzheimer's disease and progress to dementia, where cognitive impairments are substantial enough to interfere significantly with daily life.

As more Alzheimer's treatments become available, there is a growing interest in developing accurate tests to help doctors predict which course the disease will take. That could allow high-risk patients to start treatment earlier, thus slowing Alzheimer's progression.

Current methods involve screening for certain disease-associated biomarkers. This typically involves collecting a sample of spinal fluid or through brain imaging using a PET scan. However, these methods may be limited in their real-world utility due to their invasiveness, lack of specificity, cost, and access limitations, according to Darmiyan.

BrainSee is an artificial-intelligence-based medical software that analyzes brain MRI data in conjunction with cognitive test scores to generate an accurate and objective

score predicting the likelihood that a person with amnesic MCI will progress to Alzheimer's dementia in the next five years. Scores range from 0-100, with a higher score indicating a higher risk of Alzheimer's dementia.

In a clinical study, doctors not affiliated with Darmiyani used the BrainSee software to predict the prognosis of 107 people with amnesic MCI, then compared the prediction to clinical outcomes five years later.

BrainSee was found to be 91% accurate in predicting Alzheimer's dementia. Similar findings were obtained in a retrospective analysis involving 411 people.

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BrainSee touted as non-invasive, affordable, convenient

Compared with other prognostic tests, BrainSee is non-invasive, affordable, and convenient, with results returned on the same day that the doctor submits the clinical data, according to Darmiyani. Moreover, because MRI is widely available and routinely used to assess MCI patients in clinical practice, the technology can be easily adopted globally.

Output from the test is intended to help clinicians proactively choose the best course of action for a person experiencing MCI. More effective disease management may also help to lower the billions of dollars spent on Alzheimer's disease care every year, according to the company.

BrainSee was previously granted FDA breakthrough designation in 2021, a status that seeks to facilitate the development of technologies which could contribute to better treatment or diagnosis of life-threatening conditions.

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Please remember that Chapter dues CAN NOT be used for donations to the Alzheimer's Association. Even if the Chapter is closing, they cannot donate the funds to NARFE-Alzheimer's Research.

Donations collected from NARFE members should be sent to the Federation Alzheimer's Coordinator for submission to the Alzheimer's Association and not be held for another month.

Thank you so much for all your support to make it possible to improve the lives of so many others!

Regards,  
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