



DATE: July 12, 2024

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 May 2024

As of the end of May, the NARFE fundraising total was \$16,232,898. This amount includes the Longest Day (\$3,355) and the Walk to End Alzheimer's (\$107,470) for 2023. During the month of May, our members raised a total of \$35,188, **up** \$4,222 from donations received in May 2023. The amount raised by Region VIII in FY 2024 is \$14,410 which is **down** \$2,462 from the same reporting period in FY 2023. Below is the breakout by Federation for both reporting periods:

	FY 2024	FY 2023	Difference
California	\$10,166	\$12,373	-\$ 2,207
Hawaii	\$ 1,899	\$ 2,209	-\$ 310
Nevada	\$ 2,345	\$ 2,290	\$ 55
Total	\$14,410	\$16,872	-\$ 2,462

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

The new NARFE Alzheimer's Fundraising Goal is \$17 million by December 31, 2026.

The Longest Day 2024. The Longest Day was on June 20, 2024, and is the day with the most light – the summer solstice. Donations can be made through August 5, 2024.

Walk to End Alzheimer's. The NARFE Goal for the 2024 Walks is \$100,000. To date, \$14,949 has been raised. Teams can now register for the walk this year at 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.

Gut Microbiome Linked to Alzheimer's Disease, Scientists Say

Scientists have discovered a connection between the development of Alzheimer's disease and the bacteria in the body's digestive system.

Using artificial intelligence, researchers at the Cleveland Clinic Genome Center in Ohio identified how metabolites produced by gut bacteria may interact with brain cell receptors, contributing to the disease. The findings could eventually lead to the development of new therapeutic interventions or drugs to prevent Alzheimer's disease, a condition that affects nearly 7 million Americans.

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative condition that primarily affects older adults. It leads to the decline of cognitive functions such as memory, emotional regulation and reasoning. Although there is no cure, medications can slow the progression of the disease.

For the study, the team used a type of AI called machine learning to analyze more than 1.09 million potential interactions between bacterial byproducts called metabolites and cell receptors.

Bacteria release metabolites into our systems as they break down the food we eat for energy. The metabolites then interact with and influence our cells, fueling cellular processes that can be helpful or detrimental to health.

The researchers ranked metabolites and receptors by the likelihood they will interact with each other. They also examined which metabolite-receptor pairs were likely to influence Alzheimer's disease in brain cells derived from patients with the condition.

The researchers discovered that one metabolite called agmatine may help to protect brain cells from inflammation and the subsequent damage. Specifically, they found agmatine was most likely to interact with a brain cell receptor called CA3R in Alzheimer's disease.

When the researchers treated Alzheimer's-affected neurons with agmatine, it directly reduced CA3R levels, which suggests that the metabolite and receptor influence each other.

Neurons treated with agmatine also had lower levels of phosphorylated tau proteins, a marker for Alzheimer's disease.

Preventing harmful interactions between metabolites and our cells could help fight disease. However, research into this approach takes a long time because of the huge amounts of information necessary to identify a target receptor. Using AI helped to speed up the process.

"Gut metabolites are the key to many physiological processes in our bodies, and for every key there is a lock for human health and disease," said study researcher Feixiong Cheng in a press statement.

"The problem is that we have tens of thousands of receptors and thousands of metabolites in our system, so manually figuring out which key goes into which lock has been slow and costly."

The full findings of the study were published in *Cell Reports*.

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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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