DATE: August 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 June 2024

As of the end of June, the NARFE fundraising total was $16,277,465. This amount includes the Longest Day ($3,355), the Walk to End Alzheimer's ($108,938) and Planned Gifts ($20,941) for 2024. During the month of June, our members raised a total of $23,625, **up** $3,254 from donations received in June 2023. The amount raised by Region VIII in FY 2024 is $15,049 which is **down** $3,509 from the same reporting period in FY 2023. Below is the breakout by Federation for both reporting periods:

	FY 2024	FY 2023	Difference
California	$10,416	$13,859	-$ 3,443
Hawaii	$ 2,255	$ 2,209	$ 46
Nevada	$ 2,378	$ 2,490	-$ 112
Total	$15,049	$18,558	-$ 3,509

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 for this event are now closed.

Walk to End Alzheimer's. The NARFE Goal for the 2024 Walks is $100,000. To date, $19,764 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.

Zunveyl, therapy that may be easier on GI system, wins FDA approval

By Marisa Wexler, MS on 07/30/2024, The Web's Daily Resource for Alzheimer's News, 08/01/2024 edition

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the oral therapy Zunveyl (benzgalantamine), previously known as ALPHA-1062, to treat mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease.

"The approval of Zunveyl is a pivotal moment in the fight against Alzheimer's disease as it is only the second oral [Alzheimer's] treatment to be approved in more than a decade," Michael McFadden, CEO of Alpha Cognition — Zunveyl's developer — said in a company press release.

"Zunveyl was designed to [address] a critical need for a tolerable and effective treatment," McFadden added, and its approval provides "hope to millions of patients, families, and caregivers affected by this devastating disease."

Alpha is planning to launch the therapy in the U.S. in early 2025.

Tolerability may lie in conversion to galantamine outside digestive system

Zunveyl contains a prodrug of galantamine, meaning that Zunveyl is converted into galantamine after it enters the body. Galantamine has been approved since 2001 as an Alzheimer's treatment, and was sold under the brand name Razadyne. The brand-name therapy has been discontinued, but generic versions are still available.

FDA approval of Zunveyl was based on bioequivalence studies done in healthy volunteers, which demonstrated that the new prodrug therapy delivers equivalent levels of galantamine to the body as its reference treatment.

As a galantamine prodrug, Zunveyl is thought to work by boosting levels of acetylcholine, which is a neurotransmitter (a brain signaling molecule) that's involved in processes affecting cognition and memory. A notable distinction between Zunveyl and the original formulation is that Zunveyl isn't converted into galantamine until after it passes through a patient's digestive system, which may benefit the treatment's tolerability profile.

Zunveyl "was uniquely designed to bypass the gut with the potential of minimizing [gastrointestinal] side effects," said Lauren D'Angelo, Alpha's chief operating officer.

Nausea, like GI issues seen in less than 2% of adults in bioequivalence studies

The therapy's prescribing information notes that common side effects of galantamine tablets include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, headache, and decreased appetite. Across three bioequivalency studies of Zunveyl in healthy adults, less than 1 in 50 participants reported any gastrointestinal issues, and there were no reports of insomnia, which can be another side effect of galantamine.

“We believe that Zunveyl … will make a meaningful difference in the lives of those affected by this debilitating disease,” D’Angelo said. “Over the coming months, our team will work diligently to prepare for this launch, ensuring that healthcare providers have the information and patients have the resources and support they need.”

Elaine Peskind, MD, an Alzheimer’s expert at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, said the newly approved oral treatment “marks a meaningful step forward in improving the quality of life for those living with Alzheimer’s and their families.”

Clinicians, Peskind added, “have always believed in the efficacy of galantamine but have been limited in its use due to tolerability issues. To now have an agent with the efficacy of galantamine, but that also offers the hope of better tolerability, will provide physicians a great option to treat patients.”

======

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,
Barb Leetch
barbleetch@aol.com
619-249-2380