



# GOVERNANCE OF BIOMEDICINE AND HEALTH TECHNOLOGIES FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Take-Home Messages and Key Points

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## A few key points (1/3)

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- Alzheimer's is a complex, multifactorial and multigenic disease affecting primarily the elderly. While significant progress has been made in the past decades to characterise late onset Alzheimer's and understand its biology, the diagnosis of the disease remains difficult and no solutions have been found to efficiently diminish its symptoms, slow its progression or cure the disease.
- When the diagnosis of the disease is made, it is often the case that the patient's condition is already at an advanced stage.
- There is much discussion about role played by environmental factors in the onset and development of the disease, for example the possible influence of nutrition. Such discussions relate also to possible ways of prevention (or delaying of the onset) of the disease.



## A few key points (2/3)

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- Scientific tools, models and methods used in translational research for Alzheimer's are being questioned and may need to be revisited. Robust scientific tools and methods are needed to support policy-making and regulatory needs. Such tools and methods should result in only the most promising innovations reaching the clinical trial stage. Indeed, there have been many failures in clinical trials in the past decade that have led to questioning of the relevance of the tools used for decision making in translational research.
- All stages of research are considered as important - from blue-sky to more applied research - covering both the great need to understand the molecular mechanisms of the disease and to rapidly find solutions applicable in the clinic to manage the disease.



## A few key points (3/3)

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- Research is underway to find and validate biological markers of the disease, biomarkers of diagnosis and of progression but also biomarkers of prevention and early diagnosis. This is a very difficult task for researchers (and for regulators) because of the complexity of the disease. Communication and co-operation by all of the stakeholders (e.g. academia, industry, policy-makers, regulators) is necessary to unlock biomarker discovery. Numerous initiatives are being developed with this aim. How can we make the best out of those initiatives globally (e.g. public/private partnerships)?
- There is clearly a need to better use existing resources at local, regional, national and international levels by aligning the needs of the Alzheimer's disease research community and national policy strategies and, for example, avoiding fragmentation of research.