



What is The Alzheimer's Project?

The Alzheimer's Project is a countywide initiative aimed at accelerating the search for a cure and helping the estimated 60,000 San Diegans with the disease, along with their caregivers. Alzheimer's is at epidemic levels in the county and is now the region's third leading cause of death.

How did The Alzheimer's Project start?

County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Dianne Jacob proposed the initiative in her 2014 State of the County address. The board approved it in May 2014 on the recommendation of Jacob and Supervisor Dave Roberts.

Who are the other leading participants?

Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Sheriff Bill Gore, philanthropist Darlene Shiley, Mary Ball with the Alzheimer's Association, Dr. Michael Lobatz with Scripps Health, Nick Macchione with the county Health and Human Services Agency and world-renowned researchers at UC San Diego, Scripps Research Institute, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute and Salk Institute. Others include caregivers, public safety officials and physicians.

How does The Alzheimer's Project work?

Participants began meeting in early 2014 to craft a regional roadmap to address the disease, focusing on cure, care, clinical, and public awareness and education initiatives. Their recommendations will be considered by the Board of Supervisors on Dec. 2.

What are some of the key recommendations?

- Launch a multimillion-dollar fund drive called Part the Clouds to spur research innovation and drug discovery.
- Develop the region's first clinical standards for the screening, diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's and other dementia.
- Boost public awareness and involvement in clinical trials.
- Increase training for those who work with Alzheimer's patients and expand services and support for those with the disease and their caregivers.
- Curb incidents of wandering through the use of GPS, the county's Take Me Home registry and other methods.

Next steps?

If approved by the board on Dec. 2, some recommendations would be implemented immediately. Staff would return to the board early next year with a rollout plan for the rest.

For details, contact Steve Schmidt with Chairwoman Jacob's office, 619-206-9108.