

Alliance for Aging Research



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Mission

The Alliance for Aging Research is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing scientific and medical discoveries to maximize healthy aging, independence, and quality of life for older Americans. Founded in 1986, this private organization is a national citizen advocacy voice working to improve the lives of Americans as they grow older by advancing biomedical and behavioral research in aging and health.

Strategy/Approach

The Alliance has made aging research a growing priority over the past 25 years. It does this through various advocacy and education initiatives.

- **Advocacy to Advance Science**
 - Working with policymakers at the national and state levels to fight for legislation that will advance medical breakthroughs.
 - Building coalitions of diverse organizations/individuals to bring visibility and support to health research.
 - Encouraging greater funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other public health agencies.
 - Promoting greater private-sector research efforts that complement public funding.
 - Calling for more research dollars to go to age-related diseases such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, sarcopenia, osteoporosis, and Parkinson's disease, as well as better scientific understanding of the underlying aging process.
- **Education to Enhance Lives**
 - Conducting grassroots education campaigns for health professionals and the public on diseases that disproportionately affect the elderly (e.g., congestive heart failure, incontinence, macular degeneration, atrial fibrillation, sarcopenia, and high blood pressure).
 - Carrying out studies and surveys that examine important medical, behavioral, and social issues associated with longevity, including a widely quoted survey of Americans' attitudes toward health and aging.
 - Serving as a source for reliable information on the health and well-being of older people and on trends associated with seniors.
 - Creating and disseminating health education materials to consumers.

Research Portfolio

The Alliance believes that providing appropriate funding for aging-related health research is the only way that the United States will be able to meet the healthcare challenges confronting aging. The Alliance focuses much of its energy and resources on advocating for robust federal funding of the NIH, along with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and any other governmental organization that engages in direct or indirect research activities. The Alliance does not provide direct funding for research activities.

Partnership Practices

The Alliance does not partner with biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Other than engaging in traditional sponsorship relationships around the annual gala and other events, *FasterCures* is not aware of any formal collaborative initiatives between the Alliance and industry.

The Alliance attempts to build and participate in **coalitions** of diverse organizations and individuals to bring visibility and support to health research and its goals. These coalitions include:

- **ACT-AD Coalition** – a broad-based coalition of more than 30 national organizations seeking to accelerate the development of a cure and treatments for Alzheimer's disease.
- **Aging in Motion (AIM) Coalition** – a diverse group of patient, caregiver, health, and aging groups working together to press for greater levels of research and innovation to develop treatments in the areas of sarcopenia and age-related functional decline.
- **Friends of the National Institute on Aging** – a broad-based coalition of more than 45 aging, disease, research, and patient groups committed to the advancement of medical research that affects millions of older Americans.

Financials

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit healthcare organization. The most recent available information is from 2013.¹

Year ending 6/30/13:

- Revenue: \$1,815,806
- Assets: \$4,631,613
- Gifts received: \$798,773 (contributions and annual dinner)
- Expenditures: \$1,545,352

¹ Information obtained from the Alliance for Aging Research financials.

Key Accomplishments

- Federal investment in aging research has increased more than six-fold since the Alliance was founded in 1986.
- Released *The Silver Book: Chronic Disease and Medical Innovation in an Aging Nation*, an online almanac. It offers access to thousands of reliable statistics on conditions and diseases or aging through *The Silver Book* website and series of publications.
- Commissioned a national survey of public attitudes on issues surrounding pain management and older adults.
- More than 160 medical school faculty have pursued teaching and research careers in geriatrics through a program begun in large part due to the efforts of the Alliance, known today as the Paul B. Beeson Career Development Awards
- Previously under-recognized diseases and conditions that disproportionately impact older Americans are now well known by patients and their healthcare providers, including diabetes, frailty, Alzheimer's disease, depression, urinary incontinence, age-related macular degeneration, atrial fibrillation, and more.
- Twenty institutes and centers at the National Institutes of Health are now collaborating to better understand aging as the common denominator that underlies the major chronic diseases threatening older Americans.

Leadership

The Alliance for Aging Research is governed by a **Board of Directors** and counseled by a **Scientific Advisory Board**.

- **CEO:** Susan Peschin, speschin@agingresearch.org
- **Founder:** Daniel Perry, dperry@agingresearch.org
- **Vice President of Health Programs:** Lindsay Clarke, lclarke@agingresearch.org
- **Vice President of Public Policy:** Cynthia Bens, cbens@agingresearch.org
- **Director of Development:** Samantha Hunter, shunter@agingresearch.org