Alzheimer’s disease is a devastating illness which places significant burden not only on patients and their caregivers, but the health care system and the economy. Much of the burden is placed disproportionately on the elderly, women and people of color. As the aging population continues to grow, so does the need to address and conquer this disease. However, research in neurological diseases like Alzheimer’s is exceptionally challenging and characterized by many setbacks. These setbacks can lead to new learnings that advance our research efforts and bring us one step closer to conquering this devastating disease.

Unsuccessful Investigational Alzheimer’s Drugs by Phase (1998-2021)

Setbacks in Alzheimer’s disease medicine development highlight the complexity of Alzheimer’s research — there is just a 2% success rate in treatments. It’s important to recognize that with these so-called failures comes new information that brings us one step closer to a disease-modifying medicine.

Key Challenges

Significant gap in scientific knowledge

Constraints of preclinical models

Complexities of clinical trial design

Source: PhRMA. Researching Alzheimer’s Medicines: Setbacks and Stepping Stones.

Hope on the Horizon

A robust pipeline of medicines in development represents our greatest hope in combatting Alzheimer’s disease.

83 new medicines in clinical development by biopharmaceutical companies

82.5% are potentially disease modifying

New treatment approved by 2025 that delays onset by five years could reduce costs by $367 billion a year by 2050

Sources:
PhRMA Analysis of Adis R&D Insight Database. May 2021.