



**Banner  
Alzheimer's  
Institute**

**Contact:** Public Relations  
media@bannerhealth.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Banner Alzheimer's Institute Receives \$10 Million in New Funding for Alzheimer's Prevention Trial**

*BAI moves the dial in ending devastating disease*

**PHOENIX** (June 8, 2015) – Phoenix-based Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI), an internationally-known Alzheimer's care and research center, has taken another momentous leap forward toward reaching a fundraising campaign goal of \$40 million, with the help of \$10 million in new research funding. The Alzheimer's Association, GHR Foundation and Fidelity Biosciences Research Initiative, collectively announced the contribution of this funding to support a groundbreaking Alzheimer's disease prevention trial that will commence later this year.

"We are extremely grateful to these three organizations for their extraordinary support," said Eric Reiman, MD, BAI Executive Director. "These funds will not only help make it possible to evaluate two promising Alzheimer's prevention therapies, but to do so in a way that will help the field find treatments that work as soon as possible."

In 2012, the Banner Alzheimer's Foundation launched a \$40 million campaign called, *The BAI Breakthrough* to accelerate the efforts needed to stop the devastating disease and bolster Banner's sustained commitment to helping patients and families through the Stead Family Memory Clinic, located at BAI. With the generous philanthropic investment of individuals, foundations, businesses and endless hours of work from a dedicated group of volunteers from across the Valley, the country and the world, the campaign is now less than \$900,000 away from its goal.

The new grant, to be paid over a five year span as part of a broad public/private partnership, supports and extends the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative (API) APOE4 trial, an initiative started four years ago that focuses on developing treatments for that critical period before an individual shows signs of the disease. The Alzheimer's Prevention Registry also was launched at that time to help researchers enroll interested participants into studies. This year, the registry reached a significant milestone of 100,000 participants.

"The substantial amount of support from people in our community as well as throughout the country has been key to helping us continue to move forward," said Reiman. "We encourage caregivers, philanthropists and interested community members to learn more about Alzheimer's disease and help us in making a breakthrough."

The study is focused on determining whether therapies targeting amyloid proteins in the brain may prevent or delay the emergence of Alzheimer's symptoms in people at particularly high genetic risk for developing the

disease at older ages. In September 2013, the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) announced an initial commitment of \$33.2 million in partial support for the API APOE4 trial. Later in July 2014, BAI announced a partnership with Novartis, which is providing its two investigational treatments and financial support.

In its NIH grant applications, BAI committed to obtaining \$15 million in additional funding. To support the API APOE4 trial, \$5 million has been obtained through donations to the Banner Alzheimer's Foundation. The \$10 million in new research funding from the Alzheimer's Association, GHR Foundation and Fidelity Biosciences Research Initiative completes Banner's commitment for this trial.

The trial will test two different potential therapies to see if one or both can prevent the development of memory and thinking symptoms of Alzheimer's. The first treatment is an active immunotherapy aimed at triggering the body's immune system to produce antibodies that block different forms of the amyloid protein, which many researchers believe plays a critical role in the development of Alzheimer's. The second drug is designed to prevent the production of amyloid protein that accumulates in the brain to form plaques, one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's. The trial will involve about 1,300 research participants. Pending regulatory approval, the study is planned to begin in the late 2015/early 2016 in sites in North America and Europe, and last five years.

For more information on the study, to become involved or a registry participant, visit [www.banneralz.org](http://www.banneralz.org).

#### **Banner Alzheimer's Institute**

Banner Alzheimer's Institute -- Through its research and care, Banner Alzheimer's Institute (BAI) is dedicated to the goal of ending Alzheimer's disease without losing another generation. It is helping to launch a new era of Alzheimer's research—treatment and prevention at the pre-symptomatic stage—and to establish a new comprehensive model of care. Established in 2006 by Banner Health, one of the country's largest nonprofit health care systems, BAI has a three-fold focus: to conduct revolutionary studies in the detection, treatment and prevention of Alzheimer's; to set a national standard of patient and family care; and to forge scientific collaborations that bring together institutions and disciplines internationally. For more information, visit [www.banneralz.org](http://www.banneralz.org).

###