

## OPEN PEER COMMENTARY

# Open peer commentary on “Prescribing anti-amyloid immunotherapies to treat Alzheimer’s disease: Fully informing patient decisions”

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To the Editor,

The editorial by Greenberg et al.<sup>1</sup> eloquently details some well-known but rarely discussed major limitations in the diversity of patient populations enrolled in recent clinical trials with anti-amyloid antibodies (AAAs). I regret to say that I have written about these drugs in several venues<sup>2–6</sup> but failed to mention these limitations. I endorse these sentiments completely and unconditionally, and I intend to cite these limitations as I counsel patients for whom AAAs are under consideration.

The failures in this area are especially painful when one realizes that the potentially modifiable dementia risk factors of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, low high-density lipoproteins, and poor sleep hygiene are more prevalent in Black and South Asian populations.<sup>7</sup> In failing to include these groups, we risk overlooking the patients that may be most likely to benefit.

Anti-amyloid antibody trials notwithstanding, the pharmaceutical industry is at times exemplary in its inclusivity. In 2020, Regeneron Genetics reached out to Meharry Medical College to reach Black, African, and African-American populations who were overrepresented among those dying from COVID-19. Now, this alliance has expanded to include Novo Nordisk, Roche, and AstraZeneca. Meharry, together with other historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), has formed the Diaspora Human Genomics Institute (DHGI). This institute aims to sequence genomes from 500,000 Blacks, Africans, and African

Americans. As recently reported by Rodrigo Pérez Ortega in *Science* magazine:<sup>8</sup>

In recognition of Black patients’ past exploitation by the medical and scientific community, the DHGI will consult with local Black communities on research directions. The institute will also rely on an ethics advisory committee that includes local Black community leaders, an ethicist from Africa, a faith leader, and other experts to ensure all research activities are ethical and culturally appropriate. What’s driving the new project ... is Black communities and researchers having a “seat at the table.”

We welcome this opportunity to start righting centuries of wrongs.

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## CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

Dr. Gandy is a co-founder of Recuerdo Pharmaceuticals. He has served as a consultant in the past for J&J, Diagenic, and Pfizer, and he

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currently consults for Cognito Therapeutics, GLG Group, SVB Securities, Guidepoint, Third Bridge, MEDACORP, Altpep, Vigil Neurosciences, and Eisai. He has received research support in the past from Warner-Lambert, Pfizer, Baxter, and Avid. He currently receives research support from the NIH and the Cure Alzheimer's Fund. Author disclosures are available in the [supporting information](#).

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## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information can be found online in the Supporting Information section at the end of this article.

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