



13th Annual

Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Drug Development Summit

Fuelling the Next Wave of Neurodegenerative Therapeutics

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EXCLUSIVE SPEAKER INTERVIEW



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Following the approvals of Lecanemab and Donanemab, what do you believe are the most promising new targets in development for Alzheimer's disease?

The currently tested anti-tau monoclonal antibodies are a promising therapeutic strategy. Additionally, I also believe there is compelling evidence supporting that drugs that modulate innate immunity-driven neuroinflammation, of which NLRP3 inhibitors are the most promising, could be further explored in AD and in other degenerative diseases of the CNS. Vaccines, H3 antagonists, and PROTACs may show significant impact on disease course as well.

What is missing from the currently approved therapies that new candidates in the pipeline may fulfil?

A better safety profile, meaning lower or no risk of ARAE and ARIA. Additionally, the currently approved anti-amyloid therapies still have a modest treatment effect. The field needs something more impactful in terms of efficacy. I also believe that combined therapies (e.g.: anti-amyloid monoclonal plus an immunomodulatory drug) may play a significant role in AD treatment, if their safety profile is proven to be favourable.

Aside from the anti-amyloid approvals, how has the neurodegenerative treatment landscape evolved over the last 12 months and where do you see it heading next?

It has evolved slowly if you consider the number of drugs on the market now. However, if you take into account the number of ongoing clinical trials, the variety of the compounds being tested, the innovative and scientifically sound mode of action of these compounds, and all the investment made over the last decade to better elucidate the diseases' pathophysiology and

consequently define more precise therapeutic targets, you may have reasons to be optimistic. I see we are heading to a treatment landscape full of good options. However, some of these options may also come with safety liabilities that we will have to further understand to be able to mitigate them.

Which specific challenges are you looking forward to addressing with colleagues at the Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Drug Development Summit to collaboratively advance the field?

- The role of neuroinflammation in the pathogenesis of degenerative diseases of the CNS
- Early diagnosis of AD, including pre-clinical AD: fluid and imaging biomarkers
- Prodromal PD – diagnostic approach and treatment strategy
- Biomarkers of treatment response in AD and PD

Which sessions in the agenda are you most looking forward to at the conference this March?

All.

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