

Mayo Clinic News Network

Title: Mayo Clinic Minute: National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease

Date: Nov. 11, 2016

Intro: Alzheimer’s disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the U.S. Nearly 5½ million Americans have it. If effective medical treatments can’t be found, that number is projected to triple by the year 2050.

That’s why, in 2011, after unanimous approval by Congress, the National Alzheimer’s Project Act was signed into law. Ever since its inception, the director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center at Mayo Clinic, Dr. Ronald Petersen, has served as chair of the advisory council that helps set priorities for a national strategic plan of action.

“The advisory council advises the secretary of Health and Human Services on the content of the plan,” says Dr. Petersen. “And the plan itself is then used by advocacy organizations to go to Capitol Hill and lobby for increased funding for various aspects of Alzheimer’s disease – primarily research, but also for the delivery of care and services.” Dr. Petersen says their efforts seem to be paying off. Here’s Dennis Douda.

Video

Audio

Total running time [1:00]	/// VIDEO
TITLE: Ronald Petersen, M.D., Ph.D. Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center Mayo Clinic	“We’re moving toward earlier and earlier identification of the disease process, with the thought of intervening earlier, rather than later.”
Dennis Douda speaking Federal Funding for Alzheimer’s Research 2011 \$496 million 2016 \$991million 2017 \$1.4 billion ??? \$2 billion goal	The Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at Mayo Clinic lists 22 clinical trials currently underway: quests for reliable biomarkers and brain imaging for diagnosing it, new therapies for treating it, and vaccines for preventing it. Center director Dr. Ron Petersen says an increase in federal funding for research has helped make that possible.
Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“So we’re on the way to that \$2 billion goal, and I think the national plan has been really instrumental in making that occur.”
Dennis Douda speaking	While preventing suffering for individuals and families is a key concern, Dr. Petersen says the staggering costs cannot be ignored. In 2015, Alzheimer’s care topped \$226 billion.

Dr. Ronald Petersen speaking	“That number is projected to go to \$1.1 trillion by 2050.”
Dennis Douda speaking	I’m Dennis Douda. For more health news, visit the Mayo Clinic News Network.

Anchor tag: The No. 1 goal for the National Plan to Address Alzheimer’s Disease is to prevent, or effectively treat, the disease by 2025. November is National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month.