Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Trial (DIAN-TU-001) continues despite results from Eli Lilly and Company’s EXPEDITION3 trial

First global trial in autosomal dominant Alzheimer’s disease focuses on prevention, testing anti-amyloid therapeutics from Eli Lilly and Company and Roche

On Wednesday, November 23rd, Lilly disclosed the top-line results of the solanezumab Phase 3 study EXPEDITION3 (https://investor.lilly.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=1000871) and announced that solanezumab did not meet the primary endpoint in the EXPEDITION3 clinical trial, a phase 3 study of solanezumab in people with mild dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Although only top-line results have been publicly disclosed thus far, the study results indicate that solanezumab is not effective for the treatment of mild dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease. As noted in the press release, there was no statistical difference in the rate of cognitive decline, although the results directionally favored solanezumab, as measured by the ADAS-Cog14 (p=.095). While secondary clinical endpoints directionally favored solanezumab, the magnitudes of treatment differences were small. There were no new safety signals identified in the study.

After consultation with Lilly, DIAN-TU leadership has decided the EXPEDITION3 results do not immediately impact the DIAN-TU Trial (DIAN-TU-001, www.clinicaltrials.gov, identifier NCT01760005). Solanezumab will continue to be tested in the DIAN-TU Trial for the following reasons:

- The DIAN-TU Trial is a prevention study treating individuals at much earlier stages of the disease. The main hypothesis of the DIAN-TU trial is that treating at earlier stages of disease will be more effective. We continue to hypothesize that intervention earlier in the disease, such as the preclinical stage of AD being tested in the DIAN-TU trial may have a better chance of demonstrating slowing of cognitive decline with a larger effect.
- The DIAN-TU Trial is studying a different population of mutation-causing early onset AD compared to sporadic late onset AD in EXPEDITION3. These younger patients with a pure form of Alzheimer’s may have a larger benefit from drugs which target amyloid-beta.
- The DIAN-TU Trial primary outcome includes novel cognitive measures and composites and also biomarker measures of Alzheimer’s disease that will be important to understand how much solanezumab may slow or prevent Alzheimer’s disease progression.

David M. Holtzman, MD, Andrew B. and Gretchen P. Jones Professor and head of neurology, is listed on the patent related to solanezumab that is co-owned by Washington University in St. Louis and Lilly. Washington University has licensed its patent rights to Lilly. The financial interests of the university and Holtzman in this patent are managed in accordance with applicable conflict-of-interest policies and regulations.