ACT-AD
Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease

ACT-AD Hosts FDA Scientific Workshop on Alzheimer's Disease
Leaders in science, industry, advocacy join FDA to address clinical meaningfulness in AD

Rockville, MD, March 13, 2008 – ACT-AD (Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease), a coalition of national organizations seeking to accelerate development of potential cures and treatments for Alzheimer's disease, today hosted the first Alzheimer's Disease (AD) Ally/FDA Scientific Workshop. The event, which brought together leading scientists, regulators, drug developers, AD advocates and the FDA, focused on clinical meaningfulness in Alzheimer's disease and enabled a broader discussion regarding what constitutes a clinically meaningful outcome for AD patients.

"Our member organizations are pleased to be working with the FDA and fellow AD advocates to help ensure that the looming Alzheimer's epidemic is treated with the same sense of urgency as other pressing public health threats," said Daniel Perry, chair of the ACT-AD Coalition. "The AD Ally/FDA scientific workshop served to further a dialogue regarding how best to measure the clinical effectiveness of emerging AD therapies and will help to open the door to future discussions with the FDA on the state of AD therapies."

The Workshop, which was hosted by ACT-AD and co-hosts the Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Study Group, featured speakers that included:

- Dr. Russell Katz, FDA, Director, Division of Neurology Products
- Dr. Jeffrey Cummings, University of California, Los Angeles, Director, Alzheimer's Disease Center
- Dr. Howard Fillit, Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation, Executive Director
- Dr. Sid Gilman, University of Michigan, Distinguished Professor of Neurology
- Dr. David Knopman, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Professor, Department of Neurology

"To address the growing Alzheimer's epidemic, ACT-AD's leadership and member organizations recognize that getting meaningful treatments to patients faster must be a national priority," said Eric Hall, president and chief executive officer of the Alzheimer's Foundation of America and a member of the Advisory Council of ACT-AD. "We are encouraged that the FDA has agreed to explore alternative ways to approach how clinical meaningfulness is defined, and we look forward to continuing the productive exchange of ideas stemming from today's workshop."

One of ACT-AD's top priorities has been to work with the FDA to establish a series of meetings to engage key AD scientists, allies, and the Agency in a scientific discussion about Alzheimer's disease, the critical need for new treatments, and the unique regulatory issues that may occur as new treatments are developed and reviewed. These AD Ally/FDA Scientific Workshops seek to:

- Share the latest scientific discussion with reviewers and key leadership at the FDA to enhance evaluation and review of innovative therapies, with the purpose of ensuring the agency is prepared to make swift informed decisions about new AD treatments.
- Bring together advocacy and research leaders to directly and proactively engage the FDA in dialogue about scientific issues likely to be experienced by those developing Alzheimer's treatments.

About ACT-AD
ACT-AD is a growing coalition of 50 national organizations representing patients, providers, caregivers, consumers, older Americans, researchers and employers seeking to accelerate development of potential cures and treatments for Alzheimer's. The Coalition is directed by an Advisory Council made up of representatives from Alliance for Aging Research (AAR), Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA), American Society on Aging (ASA), National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC), National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), National Consumers League (NCL), Research!America, and the Society for Women's Health Research. The Coalition is supported in part by educational grants from Wyeth, Elan and Myriad. For additional information about ACT-AD, please visit the coalition's web site at http://www.act-ad.org/ or call 202.293.2856.

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