

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-5157512 ---- 01-5611390



2nd Sunday of Advent - 04 December 2022

ALZHEIMER'S DRUG LECANEMAB HAILED AS BREAKTHROUGH



The first drug to slow the destruction of the brain in Alzheimer's has been heralded as momentous. The research breakthrough ends decades of failure and shows a new era of drugs to treat Alzheimer's - the most common form of dementia - is possible.

Yet the medicine,

lecanemab, has only a small effect and its impact on people's daily lives is debated. And the drug works in the early stages of the disease, so most would miss out without a revolution in spotting it. Lecanemab attacks the sticky gunge - called beta amyloid - that builds up in the brains of people with Alzheimer's. For a medical field littered with duds, despair and disappointment, some see these trial results as a triumphant turning point. Alzheimer's Research UK said the findings were "momentous".

One of the world's leading researchers behind the whole idea of targeting amyloid 30 years ago, Prof John Hardy, said it was "historic" and was optimistic "we're seeing the beginning of Alzheimer's therapies". Prof Tara Spire-Jones, from the University of Edinburgh, said the results were "a big deal because we've had a 100% failure rate for a long time".

Currently, people with Alzheimer's are given other drugs to help manage their symptoms, but none change the course of the disease. Lecanemab is an antibody - like those the body makes to attack viruses or bacteria - that has been engineered to tell the immune system to clear amyloid from the brain. Amyloid is a protein that clumps together in the spaces between neurons in the brain and forms distinctive plaques that are one of the hallmarks of Alzheimer's.

The large-scale trial involved 1,795 volunteers with early stage Alzheimer's. Infusions of lecanemab were given every fortnight. The results, presented at the Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease conference in San Francisco and published in the New England Journal of Medicine, are not a miracle cure. The disease continued to rob people of their brain power, but that decline was slowed by around a quarter over the course of the 18 months of treatment. The data is already being assessed by regulators in the US who will soon decide whether lecanemab can be approved for wider use. The developers - the pharmaceutical companies Eisai and Biogen - plan to begin the approval process in other countries next year.

David Essam, who is 78 and from Kent in the UK, took part in the international trial. His Alzheimer's meant he had to give up work as a joiner - he could no longer remember how to build a cabinet or use his tools. He now uses a digital watch as he can't tell time using a clock face. "He's not the man he was, he needs help with most things, his memory in general is almost non-existent," said his wife Cheryl. But she said the trial had given the family hope. David said: "If somebody can slow it [Alzheimer's] down and eventually stop it all together that would be brilliant, it's just a horrible nasty thing." There are more than 55 million people in the world like David and the numbers with Alzheimer's disease are projected to exceed 139 million by 2050.

*Courtesy James Gallagher
BBC News*

NOTICES

Remembered in Prayer

Saturday 6pm Mass

Jonathan Corrie (8th A)
Pat Poole (8th A)
Phyl Tynan
Tom & Rita Oglesby
Jane & Jimmy Tynan
Jim Grealy (16th A)

Sunday 11.30am Mass

Mariah Shine (Month's Mind)
Bernard Darcy (13th A)
Bernie Darcy
Pat Moorehouse (13th A)
Michael, Margaret & Hyacinth
Kinsella
Pat Brown



Help Lines

Women's Aid: 1800341900

Male Domestic Abuse:
1800816588

Rape Crisis Centre:
1800778888

Age Action: 014756989



ANNUAL SVP COLLECTION

Every Christmas we take up a special collection for the St. Vincent de Paul. This will take place next week on the 10th & 11th of December. This collection will help people in our own parish. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.



Christmas Timetable

The times of Masses and other Services for Christmas are available at the back of the church. Please take one with you.

2ND SUNDAY ADVENT

Penitential Rite

The Lord our God is close at hand.

You prepare the way, O Lord, that we may prepare for You. Lord have mercy

You call us to new life, a life of justice and compassion. Christ have mercy

You bring us together, with the poor and the destitute. Lord have mercy

May our gracious God, who calls us to prepare, by lives of justice and compassion, forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting. Amen

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot springs from the stock of Jesse, a scion thrusts from his roots: on him the spirit of the Lord rests, a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and power, a spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. He does not judge by appearances, last judgement he gives no verdict on hearsay, but judges the wretched with integrity, and with equity gives a verdict for the poor of the land. His word is a rod that strikes the ruthless, his sentences bring death to the wicked. Integrity is the loincloth round his waist, faithfulness the belt about his hips. The wolf lives with the lamb, the panther lies down with the kid, calf and lion cub feed together with a little boy to lead them. The cow and the bear make friends, their young lie down together. The lion eats straw like the ox. The infant plays over the cobra's hole; into the viper's lair the young child puts his hand. They do no hurt, no harm, on all my holy mountain, for the country is filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters swell the sea. That day, the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples. It will be sought out by the nations and its home will be glorious.

1 Romans 15:4-9

Everything that was written long ago in the scriptures was meant to teach us something about hope from the examples scripture gives of how people who did not give up were helped by God. And may he who helps us when we refuse to give up, help you all to be tolerant with each other, following the example of Christ Jesus, so that united in mind and voice you may give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It can only be to God's glory, then, for you to treat each other in the same friendly way as Christ treated you. The reason Christ became the servant of circumcised Jews was not only so that God could faithfully carry out the promises made to the patriarchs, it was also to get the pagans to give glory to God for his mercy, as scripture says in one place: For this I shall praise you among the pagans and sing to your name.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Matthew 24:37-44

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand'. This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said: A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father"', because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'

Prayer of the Faithful

Father, Son and Spirit, through your intimate love, we become your people, your family. Praise be to you. Lord hear us

Lord God, you call us to prepare for the coming of Christ, by a gentle change of heart. Guide us on our journey. Lord hear us

Lord, in our daily lives, help us to deal with each other with greater patience, understanding and kindness. Lord hear us

We remember all who have died. In this season of hope, we look to the time when we will all be happily re-united in the Kingdom of your love. Lord hear us

May we as a society, accept our responsibility for those, who are poor, and disadvantaged. May our concern be rooted not in a passing sense of guilt, but in a real desire to change our society. Lord hear us

In quiet we put aside our own needs and remember those who need our prayer and support. Lord hear us

Reflection

"No amount of outer technology, no amount of computers and biotechnology and nanotechnology is going to stop the continuation of warfare and racism and environmental destruction. What's called for on the Earth at this time is really a change of heart ... the question is really not the future of humanity, but the presence of eternity." ~

Jack Kornfield