The broad spectrum of neurodegenerative diseases (Lou Gehrig’s, Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s Disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and others) represent a steep scientific and business challenge for medtech, biotech and pharmaceutical companies.

Neurodegenerative diseases affect millions of people worldwide: for example, more than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s disease, and at least 500,000 with Parkinson’s disease.

Program Description

Academic and, to a lesser extent, commercial researchers are providing game-changing perspectives for compelling commercial and clinical therapies as potential solutions. The recent MDG “Year of the Brain Symposium” addressed many of these groundbreaking developments.

This MDG Neurodegenerative Forum will focus on the resources of active med device and life science entrepreneurs, clinical and R&D organizations addressing businesses that can make a difference.

For this Forum, we will focus on Alzheimer’s Disease. Jim Wessler, President & CEO of the MA/NH Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, will address us from the perspective of an advocate for patients.

Dr. Anil K. Nair, MD, Chief, Neurology and Director, The Alzheimer’s Center at Carney Hospital, whose opinion is recognized internationally, will speak as a clinician treating patients.

Cornelia B. Reining, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, Navidea Biopharmaceuticals, an emerging company in the Boston Area, will discuss development of precision imaging agents for the diagnosis of neurologic disease.

The Harvard Neuro Discovery Center says: “The numbers … 5 million suffer from Alzheimer’s Disease, 1 million from Parkinson’s, 400,000 from Multiple Sclerosis (MS), 30,000 from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), 30,000 from Huntington’s. These mid- to late-life diseases are expected to soar as the population ages.
Jim Wessler  
President and CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association, Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter  
Since he started there in 1998, the Massachusetts/New Hampshire Chapter has grown to one of the largest and most effective chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association, directly serving over 35,000 people annually. The MA/NH chapter is an independent, private, not-for-profit corporation with over 60 employees and an operating budget of $7 million annually. For more than 35 years Jim has worked in the not-for-profit sector in New England, with leadership positions in the areas of community advocacy, affordable housing and elder health care. He received his bachelor’s from Harvard College and his MBA from Boston University. Jim is a resident of Newton.

Cornelia B. Reininger, MD, PhD  
SVP and Chief Medical Officer  
Navidea Biopharmaceuticals  
Dr. Reininger is responsible for Pharmacovigilance, Clinical Operations and Medical Affairs at Navidea. Prior to Navidea, Dr. Reininger served as Senior Director of Clinical Research and Global Clinical Leader of Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals’ Alzheimer’s and amyloid PET imaging development programs. Early in her career, Dr. Reininger served in roles of increasing responsibility with the global medical organizations of GE Healthcare and Amersham Health – Diagnostic Imaging. She holds an Associate Professor of Surgery and External Lecturer position at Ludwig Maximillian University (LMU) in Munich, Germany, where she completed her medical education and residency in general and vascular surgery. During her residency, Dr. Reininger was on staff at the LMU Downtown Surgical Hospital and Outpatient Clinic, rotating as Chief Resident in vascular surgery and the intensive Care Unit. She later became the head of the hospital’s thrombosis research laboratory. Dr. Reininger is a member of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and the European Association of Nuclear Medicine.

Anil K. Nair MD  
Chief of Neurology and Director of Alzheimer’s Center  
Carney Hospital  
Dr. Nair is a nationally recognized key opinion leader in neurodegenerative diseases. His interest area is in early and preclinical detection, prevention and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and other neurocognitive disorders or dementias. He completed his fellowship at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, and neurology residency at the Cleveland Clinic and Temple University. In addition he is a neurologist for the Framingham Heart Study, is the Chairman of the Certification Exam Committee at United Council of Neurologic Sub-Specialties, and Councilor for the Geriatric Neurology Executive Committee at the American Academy of Neurology.

Panels

Moderator  
Paul Hartung  
Chairman, President and CEO Cognoptix, Inc.  
Paul is a long-time life sciences executive with a proven track record in launching successful startup businesses and leading Fortune 500 organizations. As CEO of Cognoptix, he has raised over $32 million for the development of an innovative eye scan for early detection of Alzheimer’s disease, obtaining initial funding and moving the company from concept through clinical trials. He has extensive experience in the laser and medical device industries, including managing manufacturing for Summit Technology, a leading developer of the LASIK procedure. Paul serves on the Board of Directors of MDG. He graduated from MIT with an MS Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He is an active speaker, author and inventor on a number of patents.

Panelists

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Co-Champions

Paul Hartung, Cognoptix President and CEO (Moderator)  
Richard O’Brien, Principal, Nagog Hill Partners
MDG Boston
We would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who help to make this organization a success.

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About MDG Boston

MDG is the professional association for career building, knowledge acquisition and mutual support for New England medical technology professionals.

MDG sponsors Forums, Networking, SIGs (Special Interest Groups), Workshops and Special Events where diverse industry leaders can share their experience and knowledge as presenters and one-on-one.