Executive Summary

The EPAD consortium is an interdisciplinary research initiative that aims to improve the understanding of the early stages of Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) and deliver new preventative treatments. As the largest ever public-private partnership in AD research, EPAD has created many important components of value that are critical to be sustained post the IMI period. To this aim, a Change Management Team was established and the EPAD Program was developed: a 5-Component Model including the Site Network, the Registers, the Cohort, the Trials and the Academy. For each Component, the purpose, the management structure and the potential funding sources were identified and progressed.

For the EPAD Site Network, the goal is to create a Site Network that can run multiple global clinical trials in AD simultaneously and become the first choice for Industry & Academic sponsored clinical studies in the prevention & treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Building on a long-standing relationship, EPAD and the Global Alzheimer’s Platform Foundation (GAP) have developed an Integrated Site Network Proposal. Sites in North America and Europe will be supporting clinical trials based on best practices from both organizations. Expansion is planned for to include sites in Australia, Japan and potentially China. A joint effort is ongoing to support the first clinical trial in 2020-2021.

To provide an overview of trial-ready participants for AD trials, the Registers will be expanded beyond the EPAD sites and include sites from this Integrated Site Network, building and expanding on the features from PrePAD.

During the IMI period, over 2000 participants were screened for the EPAD Cohort and a wide range of cognitive, clinical, neuroimaging and biomarker data was collected in the largest, best curated and most deeply phenotyped database of its kind ever assembled specifically for understanding neurodegenerative diseases in the pre-dementia phase of illness. Despite the significant efforts, funding for the Cohort could not be secured and hence the Longitudinal Cohort Study will be closed. However, a separate funding request to safeguard data and sample access has been awarded.
The Proof of Concept Platform has been built to run clinical trials under sponsorship of the University of Edinburgh based on a Master PoC Protocol. The scope of clinical trials that can be supported by EPAD sites has been broadened to include trials outside the PoC platform.

The EPAD Academy will continue to support early career researchers as part of the IMI2 project Neuronet.

Finally, how can the EPAD legacy be sustained? Who will be the guardian of the EPAD Program, Data, brand? An EPAD Council has been initiated and you will soon receive more information. Stay tuned.

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