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October 1, 2021

Dear Dr. Masliah and Dr. Mackiewicz:

On behalf of the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA), I am writing to voice our support for the upcoming National Institute on Aging workshop, “Is there a causative role for infectious agents in Alzheimer’s Disease?” We appreciate your work facilitating discussion and future investigation on this important emerging topic.

IDSA represents over 12,000 infectious diseases (ID) physicians, scientists, and other healthcare and public health professionals. We support biomedical research in all areas of ID, and the IDSA Foundation’s Microbial Pathogenesis in Alzheimer’s Disease Grant Program supports novel research in the field of microbial triggers for Alzheimer’s disease (AD). We look forward to the workshop and to continued investment in this area of research, which could lead to worthwhile breakthroughs in the treatment and prevention of AD.

We appreciate the wide array of discussion topics included on the workshop agenda, including the session focused on HIV/AIDS and Alzheimer’s. It may also be beneficial to focus future discussions on trials involving tau protein targeting in patients at risk for AD. This discussion would complement the existing agenda item, “Enterobacterial infections as drivers of tauopathies.” Investigating the role of environmental microorganisms in AD pathogenesis would also contribute to a more robust understanding of the causative roles of infectious agents.

We acknowledge the complexity and importance of this topic and are pleased to see NIA bringing increased attention and resources to it. We look forward to continuing to support and engage with these research efforts as they proceed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Alexander, MD, MHS, FIDSA
President, IDSA