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**Alzheimer’s/Dementia Rotarian Action Group (ADRAG)**

***What is the ADRAG?***

We are Rotarians and Rotaractors dedicated to supporting the family of Rotary and our communities facing the challenge of helping family members, friends and our fellow citizens that are afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease and/or dementia.

This challenge is very real.  Some are calling it the “silver tsunami”—the wave of men and women living longer than previous generations.  Yet our communities and nations are not ready to face the rising tide of those suffering from these diseases.   Researchers predict that 6.7 million people in America alone will have Alzheimer’s disease alone. Today, one in eight older Americans have Alzheimer’s disease, and the risk of developing the brain disorder doubles every five years after age 65.

We have started this Rotarian Action Group to help address this challenge.  Please visit our website ([www.adrag.org](http://www.adrag.org)) and Facebook page ( https://www.facebook.com/rotarianalzheimersdementia) to find links to other organizations and resources that are on the front line of care, research, and education as we work to ready our communities to face this tsunami.

***Who are our partners?***

Alzheimer’s and dementia are not new frontiers for Rotarians around the world. Indeed, many men and women have been working tirelessly to help those families and communities impacted by Alzheimer’s and dementia as well as to help find and fund cures.  Increasing awareness of Alzheimer’s and dementia within Rotary and our communities is a top priority.  We are ever grateful to our partner organizations and their Rotarian members for helping us launch this Action Group.



[**Cure Alzheimer’s Fund**](http://curealz.org)**–**is a non-profit organization dedicated to funding research with the highest probability of preventing, slowing or reversing Alzheimer’s disease through venture-based philanthropy.  Since its founding, Cure Alzheimer’s Fund has contributed more than $27,400,000 to research, and its funded initiatives have been responsible for several key breakthroughs—including a potential treatment recently selected by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for its elite “Blueprint” drug discovery program, and the ground-breaking “Alzheimer’s in a Dish” study, which promises to greatly accelerate drug testing and was reported by the New York Times as a “giant step forward”. [Find Cure Alzheimer’s Fund on Facebook here.](https://www.facebook.com/CureAlzheimers)

 [**Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust**](http://www.cartfund.org/) – The purpose of The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust) is to collect and provide dollars for leading edge research for the cure/prevention of Alzheimer’s disease (AD). It started in 1996 with Rotarians voluntarily emptying their pockets and purses of change at weekly meetings. Over $4,000,000 has been raised through the coordinated efforts within 11 Rotary districts in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia, USA.  [Find The CART Fund on Facebook here.](https://www.facebook.com/cartfund)

 **McCusker Alzheimer’s Research Foundation** – The McCusker Alzheimer’s Research Foundation is a not-for-profit organisationestablished in 2001 to enhance [medical research into Alzheimer’s disease](http://alzheimers.com.au/research) in Western Australia. Their **vision**is for a world in which Alzheimer’s disease no longer exists.  Their **mission**is to support research that makes Alzheimer’s disease treatable and preventable.  Their **objective**is to raise the funds to support the research of Professor (and Rotarian) Ralph Martins and his team.  [Find the McCusker Alzheimer’s Research Foundation on Facebook here.](https://www.facebook.com/McCuskerAlzheimersResearch)

**Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia** – Based in the United Kingdomppl, Rotarians Easing Problems of Dementia (REPoD) is a joint initiative between members of various Rotary Clubs who have recognized the need for increased support in the community for families affected by dementia.  REPoD offers a number of resources to the 820,000 people living with dementia in the UK and their families including [Dementia Carer’sPathways](http://www.repod.org.uk/gettinghelp.html) and their revolutionary Memory Cafe project model and the [Memory Cafe guide](http://repod.org.uk/downloads/REPoD-mc-guide.pdf) that REPoD has published.  [Find REPoD on Facebook here.](https://www.facebook.com/RotariansEPoD)

***What are the goals of the ADRAG?***

The Alzheimer’s/Dementia Rotarian Action Group is working towards achieving the following:

***To support clubs and districts in planning and implementing large scale projects that seek to address Alzheimer’s and dementia through the challenging dimensions of:***

Patient care; Disease prevention; Care giver, patient, and community support;

Research towards a cure and new methods of care and prevention;

Patient, family, and community education and awareness; and,

Collaboration with local, regional, national, and international organizations working with Alzheimer’s and dementia.

***To encourage Rotary clubs and districts to increase awareness and undertake projects that impact directly population impacted by Alzheimer’s and dementia through four main areas of focus:***

1. Projects that raise awareness of the human and economic impact that Alzheimer’s and dementia has on our communities and families;

2. Projects that seek to aid and support those in our communities impacted by Alzheimer’s and dementia;

3. Projects that seek to raise funding for the scientific research leading to the cure and /or the prevention of Alzheimer’s and dementia; and,

4. Projects would include those that promote education on Alzheimer’s and dementia, and access to family support and palliative care.

Lastly, ADRAG will support and encourage networking and collaboration between Rotary clubs and districts and the many organizations in our communities and nations that share similar goals.

***I want to get involved with your mission. What can I do?***

We appreciate your interest. In terms of financial support, there are several ways to help. The first is through purchasing an individual membership or a club membership Need info here on how much each costs and where/how to join. You can also support our efforts through a donation. The online link and address for checks is available on the right side of our home page ([www.adrag.org](http://www.adrag.org)). The third is to submit materials for our website. The fourth is to be an ambassador for the **ADRAG** – Spread the word about our work to other Rotarians and clubs.