

# CHALLENGES IN AD CLINICAL TRIALS

## ROLE OF THE ACTC

October, 2019

# Latest disappointments

- Crenezumab in sporadic early AD Phase 3 program halted for futility
- Verubecestat in AD, prodromal AD
- EARLY: atabecestat in preclinical AD (liver toxicity, cognitive worsening)
- Lanabecestat
- Umibecestat
- Elenbecestat
- Aducanumab in early AD

# Time to give up on amyloid?

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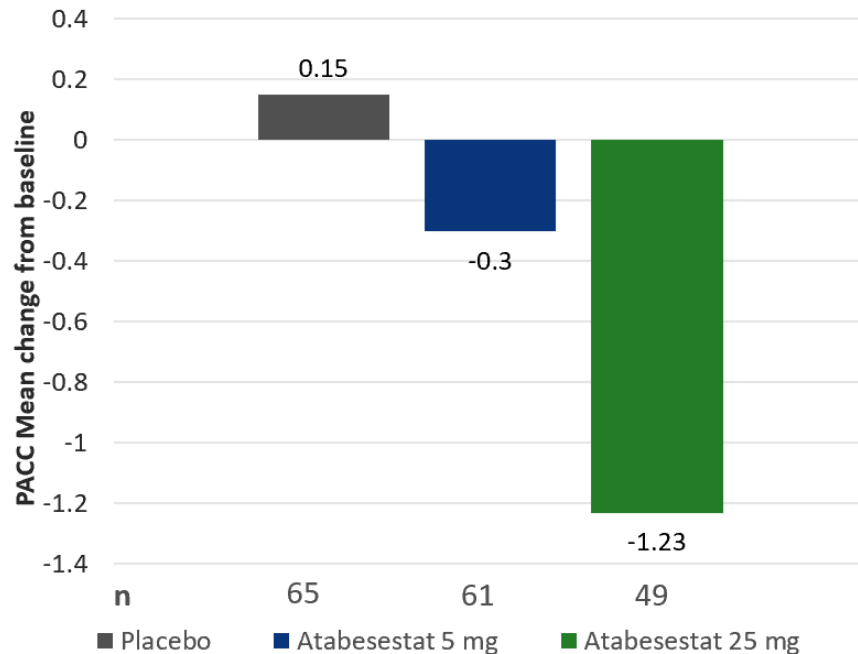
- Growing controversy
- Are alternatives more promising?

# Biggest recent disappointment in the field

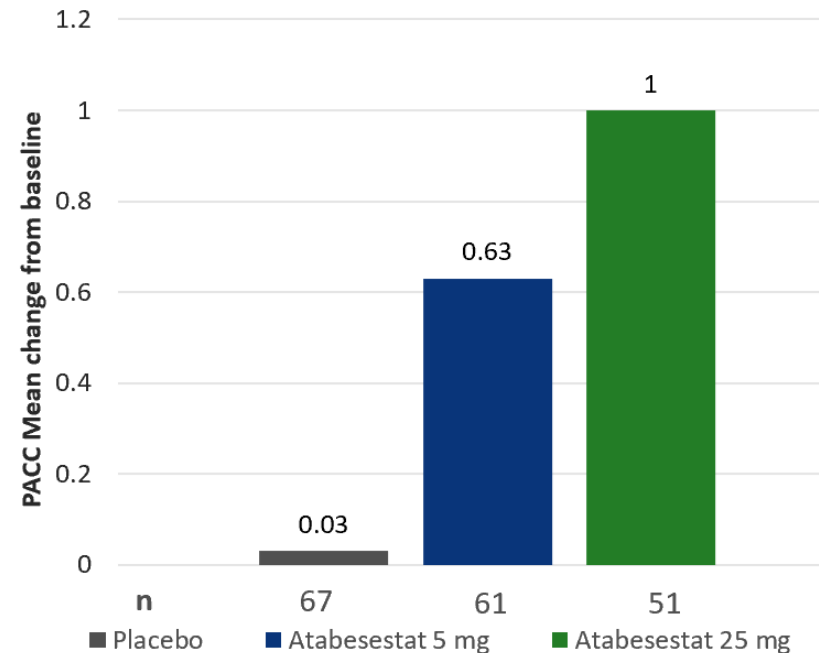
- BACE inhibitors carry risk of toxicity
  - ▣ Rapid onset, dose-related (but non-progressive and possibly reversible) cognitive worsening seen with multiple BACEi
  - ▣ Increase in hippocampal atrophy (non-progressive)
  - ▣ Narrow therapeutic index
  - ▣ Similar to GSI?!

# EARLY: cognitive effects of atabesestat

**Baseline to last on treatment**



**Last on treatment to last off treatment**



These data suggests that adverse cognitive effects are dose-related and reversible

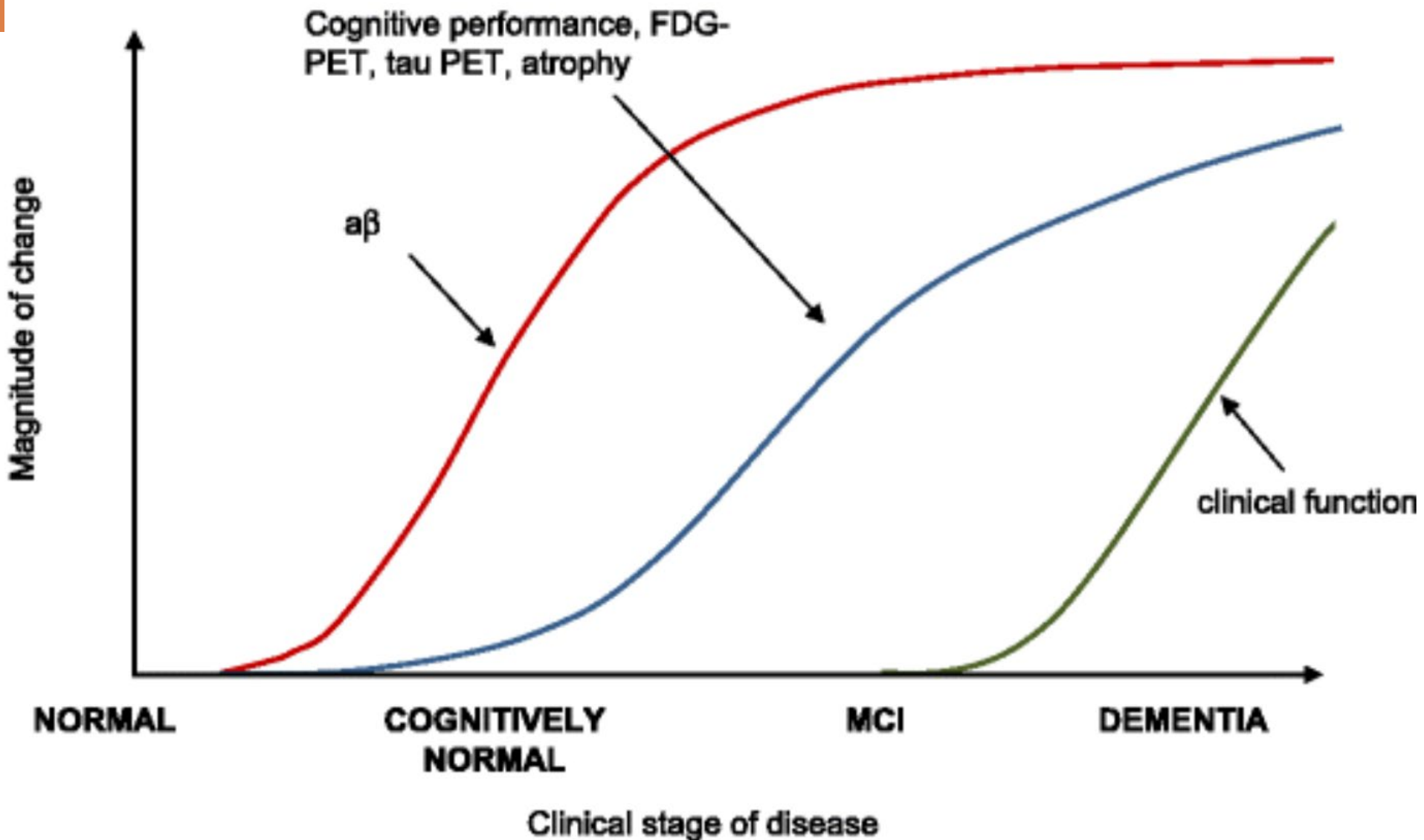
# We should not give up on BACE inhibition

- The amyloid hypothesis remains by far the most compelling basis for disease-modification therapy
- BACE inhibition remains a powerful approach to primary prevention and early treatment
- Modest, reversible cognitive toxicity can readily be monitored during a trial
- Modest inhibition (30-50%) should be studied in appropriate populations
- It will not be easy to move forward with BACEi, but nothing that we do is easy

# Data sharing and collaborative analysis is essential (CAP guidance)

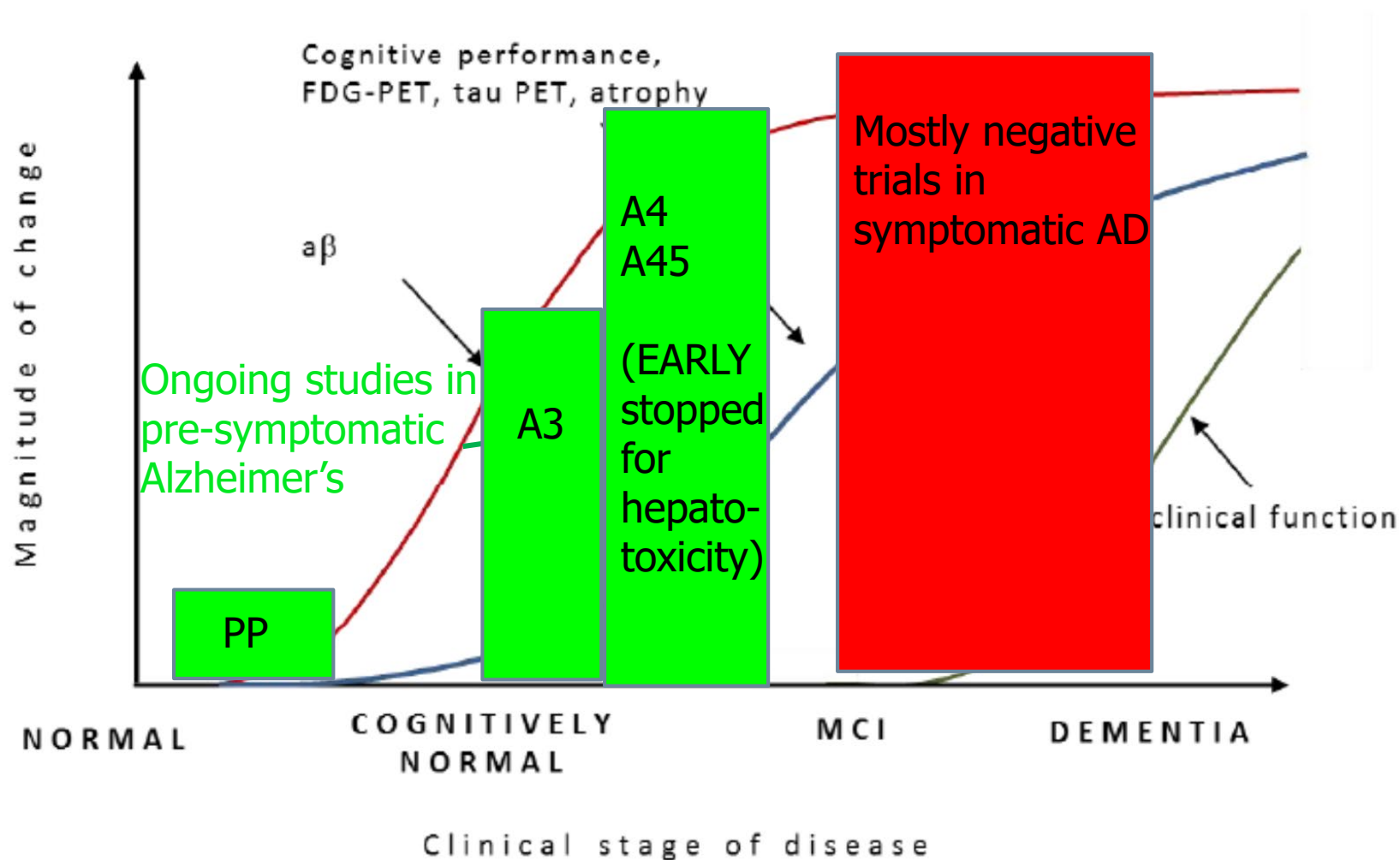
- Aducanumab data
  - EARLY
  - GENERATION studies
  - Elenbecestat
- 
- Were these early discontinuation decisions justified?  
What exactly are the lessons?

# AD Continuum





# When should we target amyloid?



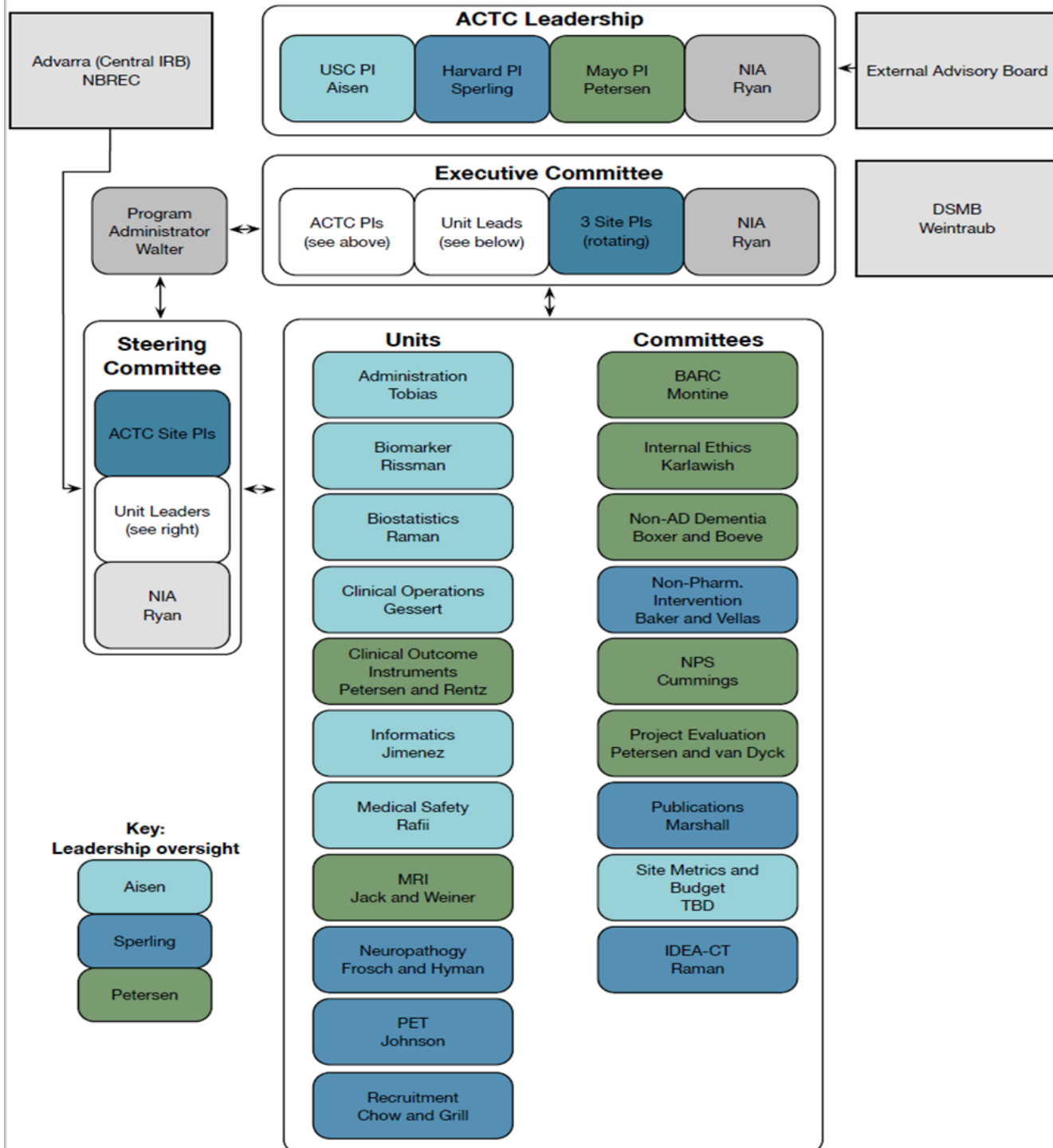
# Amyloid studies continue

- A4 continues in preclinical AD, OLE funded, interim cognitive safety analysis
- BAN2401 continues in early AD
- Gantenerumab continues in early AD
- API Colombia study with crenezumab continues
- DIAN-TU solanezumab, gantenerumab continue

# ACTC



- **Alzheimer's Clinical Trials Consortium**



# Importance of effective collaboration among clinicians and biostatisticians

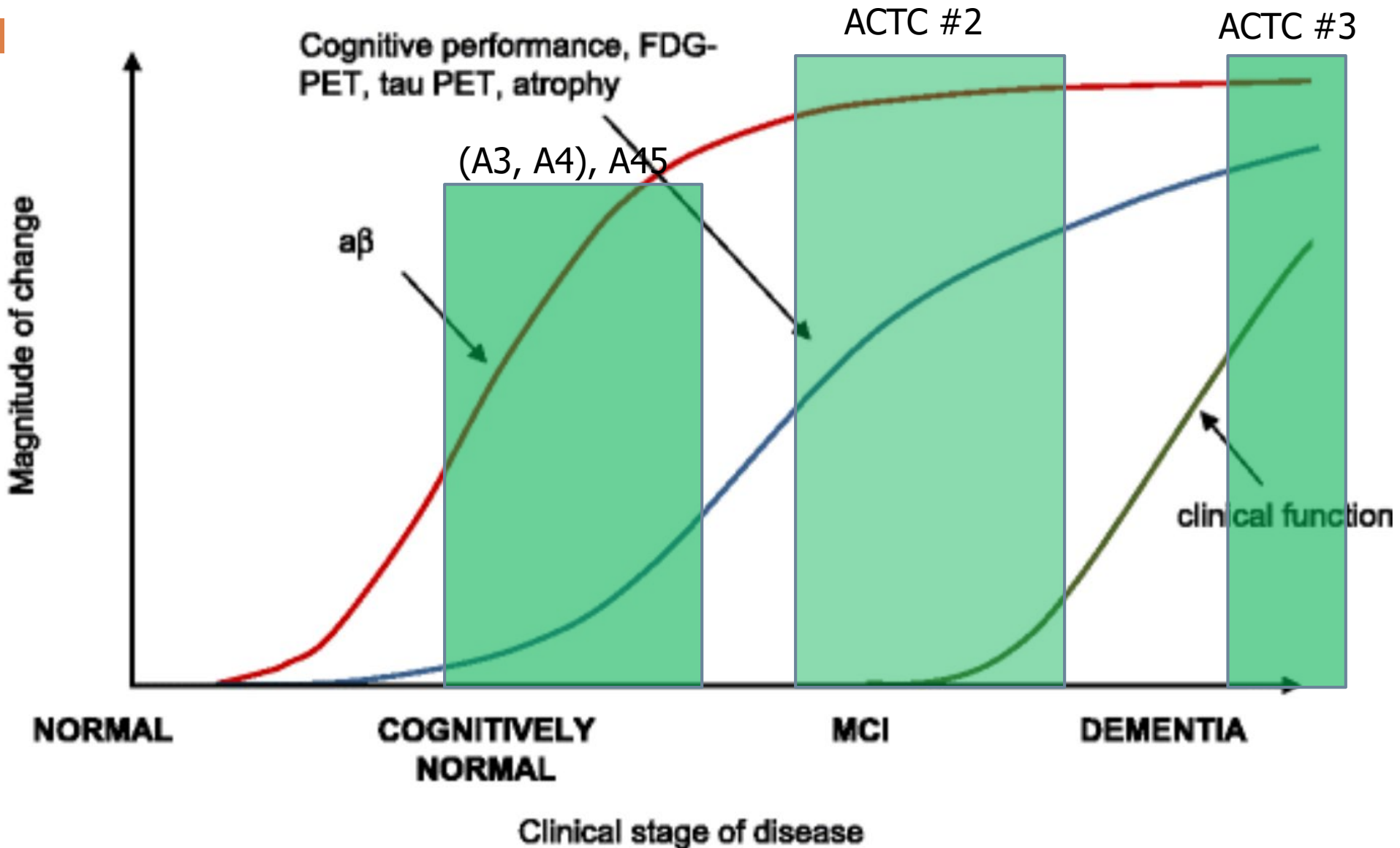
- Major unresolved issues:
  - ▣ Primary analysis
    - Frequentist v. Bayesian
    - Disease progression models versus MMRM
    - Time-to-endpoint v. continuous measures
  - ▣ Interim analysis, cost v. benefit
    - Futility
    - Efficacy
  - ▣ Censoring of intercurrent events
  - ▣ Missing data
- ACTC/ATRI model v. separation of DCC from CCC

# ACTC project development process



- Brief applications, deadlines linked to NIH submission dates
- Project feasibility review at coordinating center
- Project evaluation committee (PEC): scientific review
- Projects approved by PEC are presented to Steering Committee for vote
- Approved projects advance to collaborative NIA application with ACTC Units and Committees

# ACTC Projects



# ACTC seeks strategies beyond amyloid

- Tau
- Microglial activation
- Endocrine approaches
- Anti-inflammatories
- Anti-infectives
- Target protein misfolding
- Target APOE
- Non-pharmacologic therapies
- Other age-related dementias



# TRC-PAD and the APT Webstudy



- **Trial-Ready Cohort for Preclinical/Prodromal Alzheimer's Disease**
- MPIs: Paul Aisen, Reisa Sperling, Jeff Cummings

## FEEDERS >200k individuals

GAP  
public site

### Registries

BHR

APR

Healthy  
Brains

Other

Feeder-specific  
Data Pipelines

Filter:  
age >60  
non-demented  
interested in trials

### Studies

IDEAS

Other

Existing  
PET or LP  
Results

Consent to  
Referral

FIREWALLED:  
contact info w/  
link to registry  
data

GAP Consent

Assign Global Universal ID

## APT WEBSTUDY

Initial

Demog  
Fam Hist  
Med Hist  
Lifestyle Hist  
Meds  
Cogstate  
CFI

Quarterly

Interval Change  
Cogstate  
CFI

Automated  
Reminders

ApoE  
Genotyping

**Cohort Selection:**  
Adaptive Risk Algorithm  
Prior Biomarker Results  
Clinical Status  
ApoE Genotype  
Other Factors

No  
Biomarker  
positive?

Yes

## TRIALS

No

Trial  
eligible?

Screen  
for Trial

## TRIAL-READY COHORT 1k prodromal, 1k preclinical

Filter to  
Trials

### Cohort Follow-up Visits

Semi-annual  
in-person

clinical  
cognitive  
physical  
assessments

Quarterly  
REGISTRY

as above

No

Cohort  
eligible?

Yes

### Cohort screening

medical  
physical  
cognitive  
behavioral  
screening labs

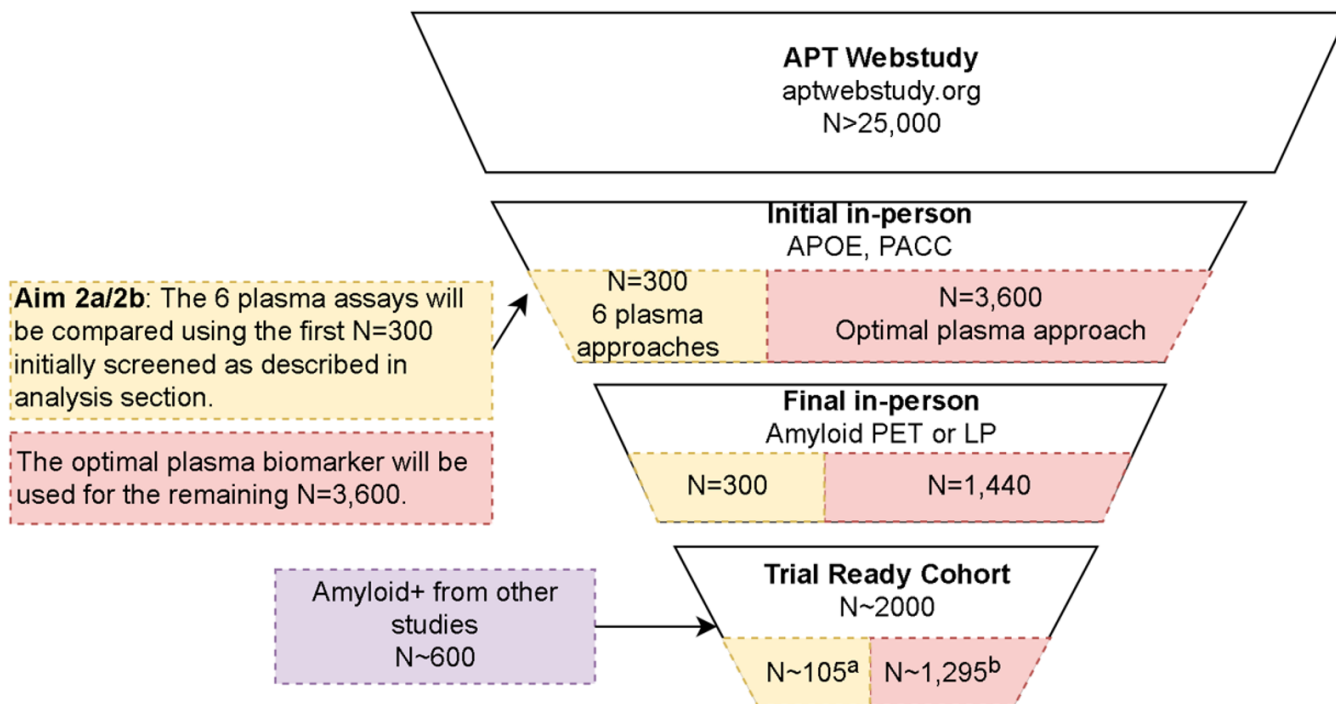
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amyloid PET, if needed  
MRI

Monitor  
review

# TRC-PAD: progress

- APT Webstudy
  - ▣ Year 2
  - ▣ N>25000
  - ▣ Longitudinal Cogstate Brief Battery scores
  - ▣ Longitudinal Cognitive Function Index scores
- Risk algorithm generates predicted amyloid SUVR, with high values selected for in-person assessment
- In-person evaluations have started at 8 sites, expanding to 35
- Aim to support enrollment in A3, A45 in 2020

# TRC-PAD Revision: plasma A $\beta$ ratios



<sup>a</sup> Assuming 35% PPV for amyloid positivity using the APT Webstudy algorithm

<sup>b</sup> Assuming 90% PPV of algorithm including APOE, PACC, and optimal plasma assay; and 40% prevalence of amyloid positivity in initial in-person population (an increase in prevalence compared to <sup>a</sup> due to APT algorithm improvement with the inclusion of longitudinal data).

# Alzheimer's Clinical Trials Consortium (ACTC)

The ACTC is a cooperative agreement between the NIA and the grantees institutions

## Call for Ideas and Proposals

**Eligibility:** Anyone (academic or industry)

**Studies:** All Phases (Phase 1b-III)

**Review Process:**

- Contact ACTC to discuss proposed trial (**[actcinfo.org](http://actcinfo.org)**)
- Idea evaluated for mission relevance and feasibility by ACTC protocol feasibility and evaluation committees
- Formal vote by ACTC steering committee
- Approved investigator develops and submits a formal joint application to ACTC FOA.

