

## Hopes rise again for a drug to slow Alzheimer's disease

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP) — Hopes are rising again for a drug to alter the course of Alzheimer's disease after decades of failures. An experimental therapy slowed mental decline by 30 percent in patients who got the highest dose in a mid-stage study, and it removed much of the sticky plaque gumming up their brains, the drug's makers said Wednesday.

The results have been highly anticipated and have sent the stock of the two companies involved soaring in recent weeks.

The drug from Eisai and Biogen did not meet its main goal in a study of 856 participants, so overall, it was considered a flop. But company officials said that 161 people who got the highest dose every two weeks for 18 months did significantly better than 245 people who were given a dummy treatment.

There are lots of caveats about the work, which was led by company scientists rather than academic researchers and not reviewed by outside experts. The study also was too small to be definitive and the results need to be confirmed with more work, dementia experts said. But they welcomed any glimmer of success after multiple failures.

"We're cautiously optimistic," said Maria Carrillo, chief science officer of the Alzheimer's Association, whose international conference in Chicago featured the results.

"A 30 percent slowing of decline is something I would want my family member to have," and the drug's ability to clear the brain plaques "looks pretty amazing," she said. About 50 million people worldwide have dementia, and Alzheimer's is the most common type. There is no cure— current medicines just ease symptoms. Some previous efforts to develop a drug to slow the disease may have been tried too late, after much damage had already occurred. The new drug aimed sooner, in people with early Alzheimer's, and the drug works at an earlier step in formation of the sticky brain plaques.

Study participants were given one of five doses of BAN2401 or a dummy treatment via IV. After one year, the companies said the drug didn't meet statistical goals. But after 18 months, they saw a benefit in the highest dose group.

What makes it tricky, though, is that they used a new way to measure mental decline, a scale that combines parts of three other widely used tests. This is the first study to use that measure, and it's unclear how much of a difference a 30 percent slowing of decline makes — whether it allows someone to continue to bathe or feed himself, for instance.

"It's intriguing, but these are designs we're not used to seeing," and it will require more study for doctors to feel comfortable with this as a measure of success, said one independent expert, Dr. Julie Schneider of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

On one traditional measure of thinking skills, those at the highest dose declined 47 percent less than people given a dummy treatment.

Brain scans added evidence that the drug might be effective. All participants had signs of the sticky plaques that are the hallmark of Alzheimer's at the start of the study, but 81 percent of people on the highest dose saw all signs of them disappear after 18 months, an Eisai official said.

Side effects leading to discontinuation of treatment occurred in 19 percent of those on the high dose and 6 percent of the dummy treatment group. Cases of brain swelling, which have been seen in other treatments targeting the plaques in the brain, occurred in two people in the placebo group and 16 of those in the high dose group. Other dementia experts were encouraged.

"That's a very hopeful outcome. It means we may be on the right track," said another scientist with no role in the work, Dr. Stephen Salloway, neurology chief at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

Dr. Reisa Sperling, a neurologist at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, said it's important to realize that this is not a cure, just possibly a slowing of decline.

## Judge allows lawsuit against Crow nursing home to proceed

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — A federal judge will allow a woman's lawsuit, which claims that the leaders of the Crow tribe's nursing home conspired to fire her for reporting that a patient had been molested, to proceed. U.S. District Judge Susan Watters' order on Wednesday denied the Montana tribe-owned Awe Kualawaache Care Center's attempt to dismiss the lawsuit on grounds that the federal court has no jurisdiction over Tammy Wilhite's claims.

Wilhite is a former nurse at the 40-bed nursing home in Crow Agency who was fired on March 29 by the

center's board of directors for having a gun in her car, according to the lawsuit.

That was a pretext, wrote Wilhite attorney Michael Eakin.

"The true reason for the discharge was (Wilhite's) report to law enforcement authorities concerning patient abuse," Eakin said in the lawsuit.

A patient told Wilhite that he had been molested by a nursing home employee while he was being transported, and Wilhite told the home's administrator, according to the lawsuit.

The administrator, Carla Catolster, told other staff not to speak of the accusation

and an employee threatened to kick the patient out of the home, the lawsuit said.

Wilhite then reported the allegations to the state Department of Public Health and Human Services, which is responsible for investigating nursing home abuse, the lawsuit said.

Wilhite was later locked out of the apartment the center rented for her, according to the lawsuit. On March 29, the board called her to a meeting where they fired her for having a gun in her car, which she denied.

A person who answered the phone at the nursing home said Catolster no longer works there. The

new administrator, board member and defendant Paul Littlelight, declined to comment while the lawsuit is pending, he said Friday.

A report by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid found that nursing home staff failed to act on a patient's allegations of sexual assault in July 2017 by a staff member who had a criminal history of assault, according to the Billings Gazette. The report said the man needed transportation services from the home because he was wheelchair-bound, and that the employee rubbed his genitals as she was buckling his seat belt.



JUSTIN SHEELY | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

The sun highlights hail patterns in the clouds after a severe thunderstorm over Sheridan Friday, July 27, 2018. When storms knock out the power, experts recommend erring on the cautious side concerning the handling of refrigerated or frozen foods.

## Err on the side of caution when the refrigerator loses power

BY DEAN FOSDICK  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When storms knock out the power, what's the best way to handle refrigerated or frozen foods?

Err on the cautious side. When in doubt, throw the food out.

"Food can be very expensive to throw away but not as costly as food-borne illnesses, which can cause lifelong health effects as well as death," said Joyce McGarry, a food safety educator with Michigan State University. "If any food is suspected to be contaminated, it is not worth the risk, especially for young children, seniors and those with compromised immune systems."

Electrical interruptions are unpredictable. Causes include, severe weather, equipment failure, damage from wildlife, and power-line scrapes with tree limbs, among other things.

Disruptions can extend from minutes to months, and many foods spoil rapidly without refrigeration.

"Animal products and cooked plant items are the most problematic from a safety standpoint," said Sue Snider, a professor of Animal and Food Sciences at the University of Delaware. "Recommendations are not to let these items stay at room temperature for more than two hours."

That doesn't mean you can't ease food losses. Buy a small generator or portable solar panels to provide temporary power.

Separate your disaster planning into three steps: preparation, measures to take during an outage, and things to do once power has been restored.

### PREPARATION

Be ready for power outages by keeping freezers full, freezing water containers

to fill in the empty spaces. Those containers of water can also be used for drinking if needed, McGarry said. "Keep coolers on hand and buy freezer packs, and keep them frozen for use in the coolers," she said.

As for food, keep a supply of dried foods (beef jerky, crackers, dried fruit, powdered milk, cereal), canned foods (make sure to have a can opener) and high-energy foods (granola bars, protein bars). "Rotate the inventory every six months," she said.

### DURING AN OUTAGE:

"Keep an appliance thermometer in the refrigerator and freezer at all times," McGarry said. "That will let you know if the food is being stored at the right temperatures."

Refrigerator temperatures should be at 40 degrees Fahrenheit or below, and freezer temperatures at 0 or below, she said.

A refrigerator will keep

food cold for about four hours if it's unopened.

If you move items into the freezer, they will typically last 24 to 28 hours, McGarry said.

### ONCE POWER IS RESTORED:

Quickly check food temperature and condition before it refreezes, otherwise you might not be able to determine its safety, Snider said.

"You may safely refreeze most foods if they still contain ice crystals or if they have been kept cold (40 degrees or less) and have been thawed no more than 24 to 48 hours," Snider said.

Do not rely on appearance or odor, and never taste food to determine its safety, McGarry said.

"Some foods may look and smell fine but if they have been warm too long, they may contain food poisoning bacteria that could make you sick," she said.

### SENIOR HAPPENINGS

- National Mutt Day is Tuesday. The Sheridan Dog and Cat Shelter will partner with The Hub to bring dogs to The Hub for all pooch lovers from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. The group will be outside on the west lawn.
- The Young at Heart crew is looking for two men to join the cast in the radio show "Johnny Black Detective." No memorization is required. Rehearsals will begin Tuesday and take place Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. Performance dates are Sept. 12-14 at 1:30 p.m. Contact

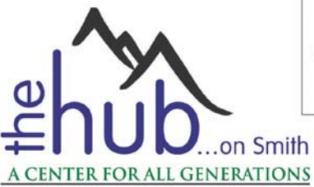
Jane Perkins at (307) 672-2240 or Pat Tomsovic at (307) 752-9070 prior to Tuesday.

- On Mondays during the month of August between the hours of 1:30-3:30 p.m., The Hub will host games of Plinko. The top three players that have the most points by the end of the month will win a \$20 gift card to the Grab-N-Go. Each participant gets three tries every Monday. and must be 21 years of age to participate. The event is located at the Grab-N-Go. Contact Jane Perkins or Jean Harm at

(307) 672-2240.

- The Hub will offer a Rock Creek geology hike and camp event Aug. 11-12. Meet in The Hub parking lot at 7:45 a.m. to depart at 8 a.m. The hike will include an optional overnight. Much of the Rock Creek watershed lies in a roadless area that borders Cloud Peak Wilderness. The South Rock Creek Trail starts at the historic HF-Bar Ranch and follows the creek to its headwaters. It is a strenuous hike and Leave No Trace outdoor ethics will

be observed. The hike is 10 miles roundtrip. There is no fee to participate, but contributions are welcome. A pre-hike planning meeting will take place Aug. 6 at 1 p.m. at The Hub on Smith. Sign-up at The Hub or by calling (307) 672-2240 or the Wyoming Wilderness Association at (307) 672-2751 by Aug. 6. Want to spend the night? Coordinate with the Wyoming Wilderness Association. The hike will be led by volunteer Steve Stresky and WWA member Julie Greer.



**FUN AND FOOD BUILD YOUR OWN SALAD**  
Mondays - Fridays  
Entrees and kiosk include sides, dessert and drink.

**Salad Bar Available**  
Mondays - Fridays

No Salad Bar on Saturday or Sunday

**ENTRÉE CHOICE\* or SOUP/SALAD**

Tue - Chef Salad  
Wed - Chicken Cacciatore  
Thurs - Chili-Lime Cod  
Fri - Carnitas Tacos w red pepper  
Sat - Marinated Chicken Breast  
Sun - Swedish Meatballs  
Mon - Braised Chicken and Vegetables

\*Entrée only offered for Home Delivered Meals

Tue-YAH Players Rehearsals/Radio Show	9:30 a.m.	Community Room
Wed- Gentle Yoga	10:30 a.m.	Community Room
Thurs -HF Bar Tour & Lunch	Departs H T 9:45 a.m.	the Hub 10:00 a.m.
Fri - BINGO.	12:00 p.m.	Café
Sat- Woodcarvers	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon	Art Studio
Mon -Blood Pressure Checks	10:30 a.m.	Lobby

Lunch Service Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 365 days a year at 211 Smith Street Home Delivered Meals (307) 672-6079

Loan Closet, Outreach, and Administration Services, 672-2240. Mondays - Fridays.

Help at Home Services, 675-1978. 232 North Brooks. Mondays - Fridays.

Day Break Adult Care Services, 674-4968. 241 Smith Street. Mondays - Fridays.