Alzheimer’s disease is among the most challenging diseases to research. Despite significant effort and investment by biopharmaceutical researchers, a disease-modifying medicine remains elusive. However, setbacks in the drug development process can lead to new learnings that advance our research efforts and bring us one step closer to conquering this devastating disease.

Society’s Great Challenge

- **5.7 million** Americans impacted
- **16.1 million** caregivers providing **$232.1 billion** in uncompensated care
- **6th leading** cause of death in the U.S.
- **$277 billion** each year in direct medical costs
- **1 in every 5** Medicare dollars goes towards care for patients with Alzheimer’s dementia

Setbacks in Developing Alzheimer’s Medicines

Disease-modifying treatments continue to elude us, but researchers learn from every setback.

Unsuccessful Investigational Drugs for Alzheimer’s Disease (1998-2017)

- **146** Total Unsuccessful Drugs
- **4** Total Approved Medicines

> Often times we talk about trials as failed trials. They’re not failed trials, they’re advancing our knowledge of the science. We are learning from past trials and learning how to attack the disease.

Drew Holzapfel, Acting President at UsAgainstAlzheimer’s

Key Challenges

- **Significant gap in scientific knowledge**
- **Constraints** of preclinical models
- **Limited methods** for early diagnosis

Hope on the Horizon

A robust pipeline of medicines in development represents our greatest hope in combatting Alzheimer’s disease.

- **92 new medicines** in clinical development by biopharmaceutical companies
- **75%** in Phase 2 & 3 are potentially disease-modifying
- New treatment approved by 2025 that **delays onset** by five years could reduce costs by **$367 billion** a year by 2050