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March 29, 2012

Via Electronic Filing – NAPA@hhs.gov

Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
US Department of Health and Human Services
c/o Dr. Helen Lamont, HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation
Room 424E, Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Comments on Draft Framework of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the Draft Framework of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease. AstraZeneca is a global innovation-driven biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets prescription medicines that treat the world's most serious illnesses. For decades our scientists have been researching methods to support early diagnosis, stop or slow disease progression, and to alleviate the debilitating symptoms of Alzheimer's Disease.

Dementia research is challenging, and subsequently many pharmaceutical companies have discontinued investment in this area. AstraZeneca remains committed to neuroscience research and has adopted a more flexible R&D model to fully optimize external research partnerships and expertise. In 2012 we announced that our global Neuroscience Innovative Medicines Unit will be headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

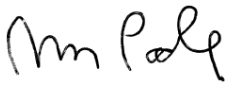
We applaud the government's commitment to strengthen public funding for Alzheimer's disease research thereby accelerating scientific advancement leading to new effective treatments. We support the broader initiative to engage public and private stakeholders around common goals and objectives to optimize existing activity and facilitate public-private sector collaboration. We have a global approach to medicines development and welcome the National Plan's proposal of international collaboration with other countries actively engaging in dementia research.

Disease modifying treatments will remain elusive unless we continue to research the underpinnings of the disease. New genetic, molecular, and cellular targets, beyond recent advances in beta-amyloid, are needed for future pharmaceutical interventions. Ongoing identification, validation, and endorsement of biomarkers enable clinical studies and help demonstrate disease modification. All at-risk patients will benefit from early detection and prevention if diagnostic capabilities are improved and a clear framework to bring effective treatments for this debilitating disease is established. The success of the Alzheimer's Disease

Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) and the C-Path Institute Coalition Against Major Diseases (CAMD) clearly demonstrate the positive impact public and private sector coordination can have in the development of new treatments for Alzheimer's. AstraZeneca encourages DHHS to continue this spirit of collaboration by including all appropriate stakeholders, including industry, in the overall planning process aimed at minimizing Alzheimer's Disease as a health burden by 2025.

We look forward to working with HHS to pave the way for innovation in Alzheimer's disease treatment and management. Please do not hesitate to contact Alice Pomponio (alice.pomponio@astrazeneca.com) if we can be of further assistance.

Kind regards,



Robert Michael Poole, MD FACP
Vice President, Neuroscience Innovative Medicines Unit