

# ABOUT US

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## WHO WE ARE

The private, not-for-profit Alliance for Aging Research is the nation's leading citizen advocacy organization seeking to improve the universal human experience of aging by advancing a broad spectrum of scientific and medical research and discovery. The Alliance works to raise the priority of medical and behavioral research into the aging process as a matter of national interest. From informing the nation's policymakers, to educational programs aimed at consumers and healthcare providers, the Alliance generates both knowledge and action on issues of aging and health.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE

The Alliance for Aging Research believes science can help people live longer, more productive and satisfying lives. Greater access to the latest scientific information will empower people to take control of their own health, while spurring them to advocate for further medical advances. We believe that public policies and incentives to spur innovation in medicine and technology hold the greatest hope of meeting the challenge of the aging Baby Boom generation.

## WHAT WE DO

Simply speaking, we strive to **advance science** and **enhance lives**. Through highly effective consumer awareness campaigns, stimulating public debates at the SAGE Crossroads, and headline-provoking reports, the Alliance is making aging-related science a visible and urgent national issue. Since its founding in 1986, the Alliance has seen federal support for research into aging more than quadruple, private sector R&D in aging-related health has reached all time highs, and new scientific and medical discoveries are making a lasting difference to the lives of millions of Americans.

### Advancing Science

The Alliance...

- **Fights for federal legislation** that will advance medical breakthroughs by working with policymakers in the nation's capital and across the country;
- **Builds coalitions of diverse organizations and individuals** to bring visibility and support to aging research;



- **Encourages greater funding** for the National Institutes of Health and other public health agencies;
- **Promotes greater private sector research efforts** which compliments public funding;
- **Advocates for more research dollars to go to age-related diseases** such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis and Parkinson's, as well as better scientific understanding of the aging process;
- **Sponsors, with help from donor friends, the Paul Beeson Physician Faculty Scholars in Aging Research Program**, the largest non-governmental fellowship award to stimulate research, teaching and practice of geriatric medicine in the U.S.; and
- **Leads the charge to ensure increased training in geriatrics** for all healthcare providers.

## Enhancing Lives

The Alliance...

- **Conducts grassroots education campaigns** for health professionals and the public on diseases which disproportionately effect the elderly, such as congestive heart failure, incontinence, macular degeneration and high blood pressure;
- **Conducts studies and surveys** that examine important medical, behavioral and social issues associated with longevity, including a widely-quoted survey of American's attitudes toward health and aging;
- **Serves as a clearinghouse for reliable information** on the health and well-being of older people, and on trends associated with that group; and
- **Creates and disseminates health education materials** to consumers in a variety of formats.

***COME VISIT*** the Alliance for Aging Research's multiple-award-winning website at [www.agingresearch.org](http://www.agingresearch.org).

***TAKE A RINGSIDE SEAT*** as the great debate unfolds over the social, economic and ethical consequences of future breakthroughs in aging take place at [www.sagecrossroads.net](http://www.sagecrossroads.net).



# OUR MISSION

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## MISSION

The Alliance for Aging Research advances scientific and medical discoveries to maximize healthy aging, independence and quality of life for older Americans.

## VALUES

### **Innovation:**

We believe innovative health-related research is the most effective way to ensure a healthy life for older Americans and, as a result, produce a longevity dividend for the nation.

### **Leadership:**

A trusted not-for-profit organization can communicate the legitimate ambitions of millions of Americans for a healthy and long life. The Alliance seeks to amplify that voice in order to strengthen public policies and the research enterprise.

### **Collaboration:**

We stand ready to develop effective partnerships with those who share our scientific, educational, health and policy goals.

### **Commitment:**

We remain true to our mission for healthy aging research, and we will educate Americans on the value of health care that is patient-centered, knowledge intense, and innovation-driven.

### **Integrity:**

The Alliance will meet the highest possible standards to be accurate, objective, and ethically sound in all of its activities, communications, educational materials, and public statements.

## VISION

America's science, innovation and public spirit have the potential to avert the social and fiscal chaos that might otherwise accompany a "silver tsunami" of age-related diseases and lost productivity. The Alliance for Aging Research seeks to realize this potential and establish "healthy aging research" as a priority for our country as a whole. The advances we seek will make 85 years for most people look and feel like 65 today.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## DANIEL P. PERRY

**Daniel Perry is the Executive Director of the not-for-profit Alliance for Aging Research in Washington, D.C.** Founded in 1986, the Alliance is the nation's leading citizen advocacy organization for promoting a broad agenda of medical and scientific research to improve the health and independence of older Americans.

Mr. Perry's background spans a wide range of health policy, governmental, political and journalistic experience. Mr. Perry held staff positions for more than a dozen years on Capitol Hill, including special assistant to the Majority Whip of the U.S. Senate. He was appointed during the first Bush Administration to the Federal Task Force on Aging Research. He was also named by President Clinton to the Advisory Board of the White House Conference on Aging and served as a delegate to the 1995 and 2005 White House Conferences on Aging. He is chairman of the ACT-AD Coalition (Accelerate Cure/Treatments for Alzheimer's Disease) comprised of some 50 member organizations, as well as the multi-organization Friends of the National Institute on Aging.

Mr. Perry is past president and currently vice president and director of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR), leading over 100 U.S. patient groups, medical organizations and research universities in the fight to advance stem cell research and regenerative medicine. He is an advisor to the Institute on Aging of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School and a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Mr. Perry is a frequent speaker on aging research and public policy topics before business, academic, and public sector audiences, and is widely published on these subjects. As a journalist he was the recipient of many awards and citations, including a nomination for the Pulitzer Prize.



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# HISTORY OF THE ALLIANCE

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## 20 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

In 2006 the Alliance celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. During its first two decades, the Alliance has played a leadership role in advancing the science of aging, educating consumers and health care professionals about healthy aging, and advocating public policies that promote aging research and quality of life for older Americans.

## Milestones

### 1986

- Alliance for Aging Research is launched.

### 1987

- The Alliance plays host to an international conference on Capitol Hill titled “The Promise of Productive Aging: The Future for the U.S. and Japan.”

### 1988

- The Alliance organizes more than 50 disease-specific groups to challenge Congress to increase federal funding for aging-related health research to \$1 billion.

### 1989

- The Alliance hosts the largest public gathering to date to consider potential medical and health benefits of sequencing the human genome; featuring pioneering scientists: James Watson, Leroy Hood and Thomas Caskey.
- The Alliance testifies to a Senate Committee that federal efforts to understand genetic basis of age-associated diseases could increase healthy aging and moderate health care spending for older Americans.

### 1992

- Alliance helps develop hearings of the House Select Committee on Aging on shortfall of geriatric training in U.S. medical schools and cost effective benefits of aging research.

### 1993

- Alliance and the National Institute on Aging release initial results of National Health and Retirement Survey regarding health and economic status of older Americans.

## 1994

- The Alliance launches a nationwide campaign to build awareness about causes and new treatments for congestive heart failure, the leading cause of hospitalization among the elderly

## 1995

- White House Conference on Aging adopts a resolution championed by the Alliance to make federal funding for aging research equal to 1% of federal health care expenditures for older Americans. Alliance and American Federal for Aging Research (AFAR) produce ***Putting Aging on Hold: Delaying the Diseases of Aging*** and distribute to delegates at the conference.

## 1996

- The Alliance launches a three-year national high blood pressure education campaign aimed at older women.
- “Seven Deadly Myths: Uncovering the Facts about High Costs of the Last Year of Life” is released by the Alliance to correct misunderstandings about end of life care of older people.

## 1997

- The Alliance begins its “Increasing Public Awareness about Age-Related Macular Degeneration” program.

## 1998

- Senators Connie Mack and John Glenn are honored for their contributions to science and healthy aging at the Alliance’s annual Bipartisan Congressional Awards Dinner.

## 1999

- Senators Chuck Grassley and John Breaux of the Senate Special Committee on Aging help the Alliance call attention to its latest study of the hidden costs to U.S. health care that stem from loss of independence among older Americans.
- Alliance helps launch the Patients’ Coalition for urgent Research (Patients’ CURE) to highlight the stake of people with life-threatening diseases to speak out for public funding and accountability for human embryonic stem cell research.

## 2000

- Alliance convenes a symposium on Capitol Hill to explore possibilities of broader coverage of prescription drugs under Medicare; report is produced in cooperation with the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

## 2001

- Interactive and innovative web module, Genetics in Aging, is launched on Alliance web site: [www.agingresearch.org](http://www.agingresearch.org).

## 2003

- In partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science and **Roll Call** editor, Mort Kondracke, the Alliance launches its SAGE Crossroads program to facilitate the live and on-line ([www.sagecrossroads.net](http://www.sagecrossroads.net)) exchange between aging experts around issues of aging research and public policy.

## 2004

- Alliance Executive Director, Daniel Perry, begins his service as President of the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR), a coalition leading the efforts to advance research and technologies in regenerative medicine, including stem cell research and somatic cell nuclear transfer, in order to cure disease and alleviate suffering.

## 2005

- The Alliance supplies the 2005 White House Conference on Aging with white papers on aging related research and on geriatric training/workforce issues. The Alliance succeeds in getting delegates of the White House Conference on Aging to adopt aging research as one of its Top 50 priorities for implementation by the White House policy committee.
- Friends of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) established and chaired by Daniel Perry, in order to advocate for NIA and increase visibility of their research.

## 2006

- **ACT-AD** coalition launched to accelerate the development of cure and treatments for Alzheimer's disease. The coalition is dedicated to increasing public and government recognition that Alzheimer's is a life-threatening disease that requires urgent attention. The coalition is chaired by Alliance Executive Director Daniel Perry.
- The Alliance releases *The Silver Book: Chronic Disease and Medical Innovation in an Aging Nation*, an online almanac, along with the results of a national survey on the public's knowledge of chronic disease, at a press conference.