

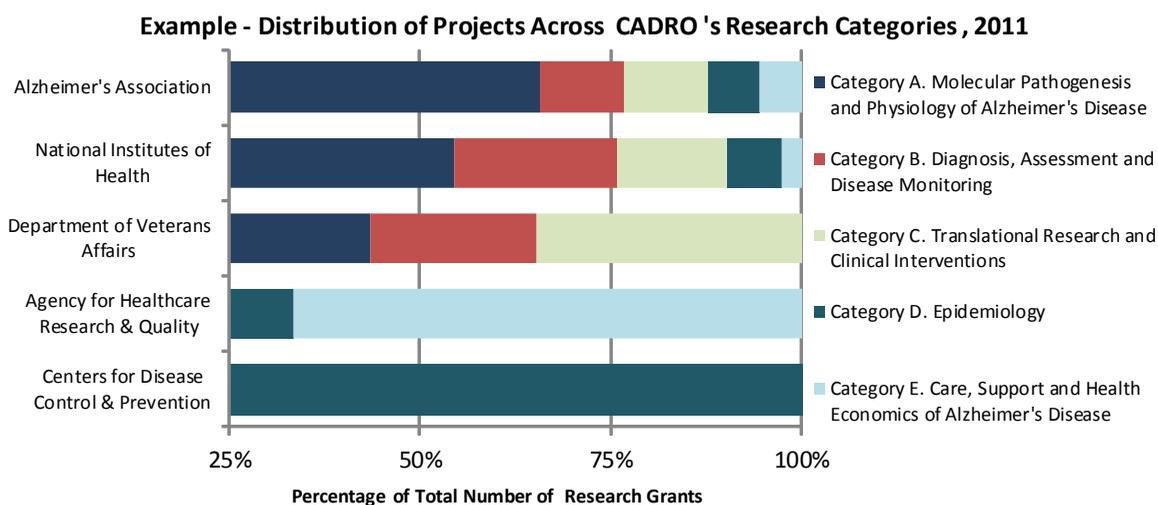
Alzheimer's disease (AD) affects as many as 5.1 million Americans and is a research priority in the U.S. as well as a growing number of countries. As public and private research agencies around the world enhance and expand their support of Alzheimer's disease studies, there is an urgent need to coordinate strategies and leverage resources to maximize the impact on public health and avoid duplication of effort and inefficiency. Such coordination requires ongoing and comprehensive assessments of the landscape of Alzheimer's disease research both in the U.S. and internationally. To facilitate a coordinated portfolio analysis, the National Institute on Aging at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association, developed a three-tier classification system, the **Common Alzheimer's Disease Research Ontology (CADRO)**.

The CADRO is organized around seven categories: five research and two research resources:

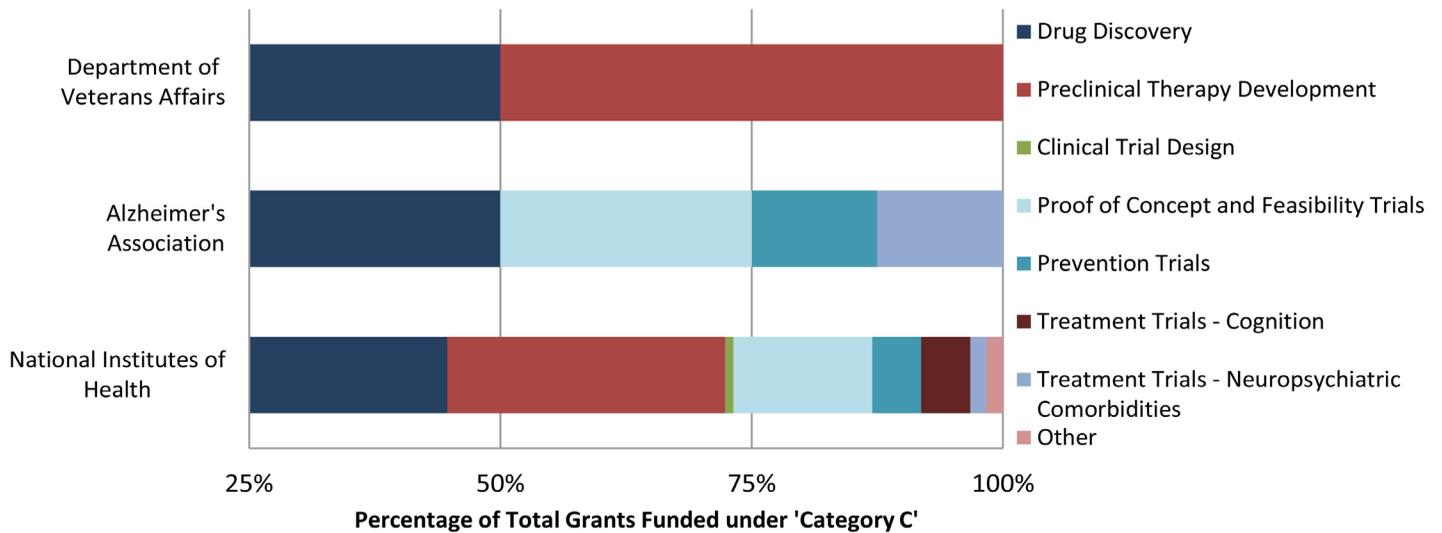
- o Category A - Molecular Pathogenesis and Physiology of Alzheimer's Disease
- o Category B - Diagnosis, Assessment and Disease Monitoring
- o Category C - Translational Research and Clinical Interventions
- o Category D - Epidemiology
- o Category E - Care, Support and Health Economics of Alzheimer's Disease
- o Category F - Resources for the research community
- o Category G - Consortia and Public Private Partnerships

Each category is divided into research "topics"; most of these topics are further divided into "themes" to capture the complexity and breadth of AD research. This detailed classification will enable funding agencies to identify research gaps, areas of overlap/duplication of effort and opportunities for collaboration with much greater specificity.

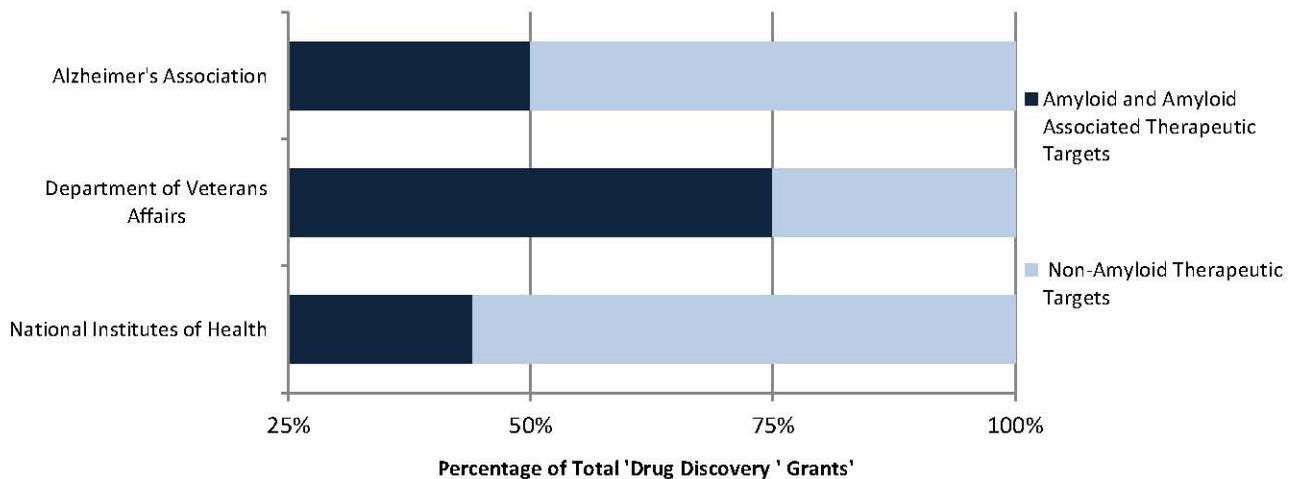
The graphs below illustrate the use of the three-tiered classification to compare the support for a specific area of research within '**Category C. Translational Research and Clinical Interventions**' among several agencies (i.e., funding for drug discovery projects focused on amyloid and non-amyloid therapeutic targets).



### Example - Composition of 'Category C' by Topics, 2011



### Example - Composition of CADRO's 'Drug Discovery' Topic by Theme, 2011



The National Institute on Aging at NIH seeks to expand the use of the CADRO to other federal and non-federal agencies supporting AD research in the US and abroad for the purpose of creating an **International Alzheimer's Disease Research Portfolio (IADRP)**. The data contributed to the IADRP will be available in the form of a publicly available searchable database with portfolio analysis tools and visualization capabilities. The IADRP will not only enable strategic coordination of efforts among funding agencies but it will also be a tremendous resource for the research community, and the public at large.

To date, the following organizations have contributed their portfolios using the CADRO:

#### FEDERAL AGENCIES

National Institutes of Health  
 Department of Veterans Affairs  
 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality  
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

#### NON-FEDERAL AGENCIES

Alzheimer's Association

To find out more about how your agency can use the CADRO and contribute to the development of the IADRP, please contact **Dr. Lorenzo Refolo**, at [refolol@mail.nih.gov](mailto:refolol@mail.nih.gov).