



Ms. Kelly O'Brien
Executive Director, Brain Health Partnership
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
1101 K St, NW #400
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Letter of Support for CDC-RFA-DP20-2005

Dear Kelly:

It is with great enthusiasm that AMWA provides this letter of support for UsAgainstAlzheimer's proposed project to the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC). We certainly know that your organization has the capacity, expertise and experience to develop a robust and successful Public Health Centers of Excellence to address Alzheimer's Disease and related Dementias through the National Healthy Brain Initiative.

The Mission of AMWA is to advance women in medicine, advocate for equity and ensure excellence in healthcare. We have been proud supporters of UsAgainstAlzheimer's Disease programming, involving our leadership, medical students and member physicians in the *#WeWon'tWait* campaign, and Brain Health Partnership programming.

We are aware of the growing public health crisis facing the nation with our older patients, and their concerns regarding their cognitive health. Recent studies show promise of non-pharmacological interventions to reduce dementia risk, and we must continue to have an intensified focus on early intervention and risk-reduction strategies. This is especially true for communities of color and women, who bear a disproportionate burden of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

Reducing the risk of dementia has the potential to reduce financial pressure on the healthcare system, mitigate the burden on public programs such as Medicare and Medicaid, and moderate the pain and burden on families living with symptoms that often last more than a decade. A focus on risk reduction also could improve quality of life for individuals of all ages and ensure that older adults thrive and remain independent into their later years.

Our organization fully understands that there is a huge need to be inclusive and catalyze and steward partnerships and coalitions to collectively advance a shared vision to increase public health awareness and advance action by providers, consumers and payers in promoting healthy behaviors that may reduce the risk for cognitive decline and dementia.

We especially think that your concept of establishing a **Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction** to serve as a coordinating body to develop and share culturally tailored brain health messages, tools, surveys and strategize public policy initiatives, public health

interventions and new partnerships is long overdue. Your ability to build effective coalitions and your specific aims will greatly further the recognition of brain health disparities and specific actions as outlined in the *State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia: The 2018- 2023 Road Map*.

In order to help assure the success of this important project, our organization commits to do the following:

Assist in the preparation of culturally tailored brain health messaging to be delivered to our patients and families, with the input from our diverse student trainees, residents, young physicians and attending physicians.

Advise and advocate on public policy initiatives related to brain health by raising awareness of sex differences, health inequities and brain health disparities.

Disseminate programming and key updates on our social media platforms, that include messaging, postcard emails, website and newsletters.

AWMA is committed to collaborating with UsAgainstAlzheimer's and other partners on this important project. Our leadership wishes you success in your application to CDC, and sincerely hopes that it is chosen for funding.

Sincerely,

Neelum T. Aggarwal, MD FAMWA, Chief DIO, AMWA

Nicole Sandhu, MD, PhD FAMWA, National President

AMWA Eliza Chin, MD, MPH FAMWA ,Executive Director