

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
REMARKS TO THE ZACHARY AND ELIZABETH M. FISHER MEDICAL FOUNDATION
MAY 26, 1994
DRAFT

GOOD AFTERNOON:

It's a real pleasure to be with you today and to participate in this momentous discussion. My thanks to the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Medical Foundation for their invitation to join you today.

And my appreciation to Zachary not only for that gracious introduction but for the remarkable work he is doing. He has lived the American dream and has used his success to create new dreams for us all.

- Someone who not only achieves great personal success but also...

Through his generosity and his unwavering commitment to the men and women in our nation's armed forces, Zachary has eased the pain of those who have fought for our country. Now he has turned his impressive talents toward the challenge of Alzheimer's disease.

I don't need to tell this august gathering about the medical challenge presented by Alzheimer's. Many of the best scientific minds in this country and around the world have dedicated their

careers to conquering this disease. Currently, Alzheimer's disease affects more than four million Americans at an estimated cost of 90 billion dollars a year in medical care, social services, and lost productivity. If we don't halt this disease in its tracks, as many as 14 million Americans will suffer its tragic toll by the middle of the next century. *and further*

When Alzheimer's disease strikes, it affects entire families and entire communities. Right now, more than 19 million family members are caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease -- everything from giving baths to helping them find their way through daily life. To provide the kind of round-the-clock care that is often needed, another 67 million friends and neighbors pitch in to help out. Beside chilling the human spirit of millions of Americans, Alzheimer's challenges the resources of even the most wealthy family. At an annual cost of 30,000 to 50,000 dollars a year -- Alzheimer's can bankrupt many families, ending the dreams of millions of college-bound children.

It's the most expensive and least insured illness American families are likely to face.

Here in Washington, we have recognized the critical importance of this fight. Since 1990, federal funding for research into Alzheimer's disease has more than doubled from 146 million dollars to 310 million dollars in 1995. Today, nearly

half of the budget for the National Institute on Aging is dedicated to Alzheimer's research. In addition to seeking a cure, we are focused on finding the causes of this disease, improving our ability to diagnose it, and developing the tools we need to treat it.

This investment has already begun to pay dividends. In April of 1993, scientists conducting basic research funded by the N.I.H. were able to identify a cholesterol-carrying protein that appears to be associated with Alzheimer's disease. And we are funding an aggressive effort to follow up on this exciting lead.

And in September of 1993, the FDA approved tacrine (Tack-rin), a promising drug to treat the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. That approval came just seven months after the drug's manufacturer submitted the necessary data to the FDA.

But you and I know that the fight against Alzheimer's cannot be won by the federal government alone. It will take the kind of innovative partnership that Zachary Fisher has created with his medical foundation.

As Zachary says, we need a master plan to eradicate Alzheimer's disease. We must unleash the best and brightest minds in science to unlock the mysteries of a disease that causes misery for millions of people every year.

And we also need to find ways to delay its onset. The National Institute on Aging estimates that a five-year delay in the symptomatic stages of Alzheimer's disease can save nearly 40 billion dollars in medical costs, wages, and productivity. — That's a step we can all afford to take. *sol*

Let me close by saying a few words about health care reform.

Yesterday, the President met with the leadership of the Congress to discuss the status of this momentous legislation. What he heard was very encouraging. After nearly a year and a half of very serious debate, the Congress is poised to move forward with legislation that will provide guaranteed private coverage for a comprehensive package of benefits for all Americans.

This legislation provide important gains for the people who are living today with Alzheimer's disease and those of you who are working so hard to find a cure.

First, by guaranteeing everyone private coverage to all, we can alleviate the heavy burden placed on families who are coping with a chronic illness like Alzheimer's. There will be no more exclusions from coverage based on pre-existing medical conditions. And there will be no more lifetime limits on

coverage that yanks a policy out from under people just when they need it most.

Second, a new program of home and community-based long term care will help those who are disabled by diseases like Alzheimer's. It will enable people to live at home as long as is possible and it will relieve their family members of at least part of the weight of that care.

We must stop drawing a line between medical care and long term care. It makes no sense to force families to institutionalize their loved ones because we don't have a health care system that makes sense. And it makes no sense to force families to go into bankruptcy before we help them to pay for the cost of long term care.

And third, we will make a significant new investment in our medical research enterprise at N.I.H. Over the next five years, the President's Health Security Act provides additional funding for N.I.H. to support research into ways to prevent disease.

Combined with the remarkable support of people like Zachary Fisher and the talents of men and women like you, we can win this battle against Alzheimer's disease.

And when we do, the victory won't be celebrated in parades and award ceremonies. It will be cherished in the days, months, and years spent with people we love who might otherwise have been incapacitated or lost to us. And we will celebrate it in honor of all of those who have left us before we could win.

Thank you all for your dedication and your talent.



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*Drop by
only*

May 17, 1994

Dear Ms. *Julie* Hopper,

It was great speaking with you on the phone yesterday from Mr. Fisher's office. Mr. Fisher and the members of the Zachary and Elizabeth M. Fisher Medical Foundation are greatly honored that the First Lady will be their keynote addressee at the lunch on May 26, 1994 at the Madison Hotel in Washington, DC.

*No to
press
conference*

As we discussed, it is most likely that the First Lady's schedule will enable her to arrive at approximately 1:15 at which point the program will have begun. The First Lady will be the last speaker prior to the press conference. We would like her to participate in the press conference which will be appropriately orchestrated. If the First Lady's schedule permits, the press will relay questions regarding the Medical Foundation and health care only. After the First Lady speaks with the press, she is free to leave or may remain as the three key scientists out of the fifty present will take questions regarding science and research. Mr. Zachary Fisher and David Rockefeller will address the press regarding any philanthropic questions following the scientists.

Enclosed please find a schedule of events as well if the First Lady's schedule permits her to attend the entire afternoon.

Sincerely,

*Bill***WILLIAM BRYAN WHITE**
Senior Vice President

Ms. Julie Hopper
Deputy Director of Scheduling
for the First Lady
Old Executive Office Building
Room 185 1/2
Washington, DC 20500

ZACHARY AND ELIZABETH M. FISHER MEDICAL FOUNDATION**MADISON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, DC****1.) Official Timeline:****MAY 26, 1994**

1200	Reception
1220	Lunch
100	Program, Dr. Bijan Safai, President, Fisher Medical Foundation
104	Richard J. Hodes, M.D. Director, National Institute on Aging
107	Zaven S. Khachaturian, Ph.D. Associate Director, Neuroscience and Neuropsychology of Aging Program National Institute on Aging
110	Mr. David Rockefeller address
113	Mr. Zachary Fisher introduces Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
116	Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton address
130	Press conference
200	Event concludes

1:30 HRC

ZACHARY AND ELIZABETH M. FISHER MEDICAL FOUNDATION

April 14, 1994

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Madam First Lady:

As discussed, I am forwarding for your review a description of the Fisher Medical Foundation and a list of the scientists participating in the upcoming Alzheimer's Research Planning Workshop which we are co-sponsoring with the National Institute on Aging of the NIH. This conference brings together 40-45 nationally and internationally renowned scientists in the field of Alzheimer's Disease. The goal is to create a "blueprint" for a plan of action to control this dreadful disease in the next five to ten years.

It is of extreme importance that the Alzheimer's problem be dealt with in the same way as the Manhattan Project and as landing a man on the moon. Fortunately, the scientific knowledge and technology needed to be utilized in the control of Alzheimer's Disease presently exists. What is urgently needed is a systematic, well-planned approach and resources that will enable the scientists to achieve their goal. It is estimated that by the year 2050 there will be close to 14 million Alzheimer's patients in the United States alone. The cost of the care and management of these individuals will be devastating, even to this rich nation.

Mr. Fisher is confronted with Alzheimer's at home, and intimately understands the implications of the problem. Because of this, he is ready and prepared through his medical foundation to support and begin funding some of the more innovative concepts and pilot projects that cannot be funded by government through the NIH. In fact, the medical foundation was formed for this purpose. This type of joint effort between private philanthropy and government is a unique approach which has not been done before. I am confident that you share with us the recognition of the importance of this joint cooperative effort at a time when our health care system needs support.

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ZACHARY AND ELIZABETH M. FISHER MEDICAL FOUNDATION

In early 1990, Zachary Fisher realized that his beloved wife of 50 years was afflicted with Alzheimer's Disease. He began to look for a treatment for her and quickly learned that there are no good answers. It was mind-boggling to him that there were over 4 million Americans suffering from this disease now and the numbers predicted to rise to over 10 million by the year 2000 - with no substantive treatment available. The financial burden to the families, taxpayers, and government is unmeasurable.

A self-made man, Zachary Fisher is the son of Russian immigrants. Brought up in Brooklyn, he dropped out of school and joined his father and brothers in developing a prestigious construction business in New York. He began his philanthropic efforts supporting various activities in the Armed Forces. He acquired the USS Intrepid, USS Growler, and USS Edson and turned them into the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum in New York Harbor. He gave financial assistance to the families of victims from Desert Storm and the USS Iowa. He established the Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Armed Forces Foundation to help servicemen and women and their families in times of need and award college scholarships to their children. In 1990 he began the Fisher House program which involves the construction of 25 comfort homes in proximity to hospitals at major American military bases. With this background of personal commitment to patriotic and philanthropic efforts, Fisher realized that he is now faced with a more difficult and complex task - finding a solution to Alzheimer's Disease.

In search of this solution he visited the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda and consulted with the Alzheimer's Association. He enrolled the support of a group of his closest friends and physicians to help him look for the most efficient way to resolve the problem. He created the Fisher Medical Foundation, the initial goal of which was to educate him in all realms of the situation as well as to explore possible avenues to successful solutions. The Foundation decided to take two major approaches critical to the achievement of its goals. The first was to establish a joint, cooperative relationship with the government ie: The National Institute on Aging (NIH). This was the most appropriate agency to work with in identifying innovative programs which could accelerate research and treatment. The second would be to provide immediate funding for innovative ideas and pilot projects that can not be funded by government through the NIH. The ultimate goal being to develop a program by which the disease can be controlled in five to ten years.

Fortunately, in Alzheimer's Disease, the scientific knowledge and technology needed to be utilized exist and are advancing rapidly. The questions are clear. What is urgently needed is a systematic well-planned approach and resources that will enable the scientists to achieve their goals. Mr. Fisher realizes that this blueprint for a plan of action and enough money to follow it is the answer. The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations FY 1994 has requested a plan to find a solution in 5-10 years as well.

As a direct and immediate response, The Fisher Medical Foundation will join hands and support a series of conferences with The National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging.

The first conference, a Research Planning Workshop will be held at the Madison Hotel in Washington, D.C. May 24-26, 1994. This meeting will bring together 40-50 eminent scientists in the field of Alzheimer's Disease from the United States and abroad to focus on these issues. The positions developed at this workshop will be published immediately in a special edition of the journal *Neurobiology of Aging*. This session will target the development of a long-range plan directed towards accelerating the discovery of treatments. The second meeting in July will focus on care and management issues in Alzheimer's Disease. It will look at what can be done to bring low-tech methods to ease the burdens of the caretakers. The third meeting in the Fall will be targeting the methodology and development and testing of treatments. It will address the development of international standards of testing new compounds. This could accelerate the acceptance of drugs through the current regulatory process. In addition, the topic of testing prophylactic drugs to prevent early onset of the disease will be discussed. The conference will address the FDA and others about bringing such compounds to be tested by the use of different assessment approaches.

The final document produced from the Research Planning Workshop will have several potential uses. First it will be forwarded to the U.S. Congress Appropriations Committees as an important information source in planning future investments for research on Alzheimer's Disease. The Fisher Foundation will target the most promising research areas for immediate start-up funding for pilot projects which the government can not fund immediately. Biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies could use the recommendations as a guide in planning their research and development efforts. The NIA and other NIH Institutes might use this document for planning purposes. Various foundations, commissions and private groups such as the Alzheimer's Association could utilize it in developing their public policy agenda.

This approach by the Fisher Medical Foundation, is very similar to the Manhattan Project or landing a man on the moon. It cannot be accomplished without the help of the NIH and the scientists participating with the Fisher Foundation's support. We believe that this is a unique approach, a joint venture between private philanthropy and government, has not been done before. If it works, it could be utilized in many other areas.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH PLANNING MEETING
CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS

Dr. Lester I. Binder
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Dr. Leon Thal
VA Medical Center

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Mrs. Nancy Rosztoczy
Neuroscience and Neuropsychology of Aging Program
National Institute on Aging

The Honorable Donna E. Shalala
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services

Dr. Harold E. Varmus, M.D.
Director
National Institutes of Health

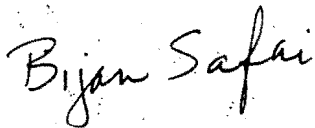
Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
April 14, 1994

Page Two

The scientists at the National Institutes of Health, Mr. Fisher and I are certain that having the support of the President and the First Lady will be of great value and have a most positive impact on this project. Your appearance for a few minutes at either a scientific session or the dinner at the Cosmos Club would underscore the importance of this event, inspire those involved, and encourage future joint ventures such as this.

Thank you for your interest. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need anymore information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bijan Safai".

Bijan Safai, M.D., D.Sc.
President

Enclosures

cc: Zachary Fisher