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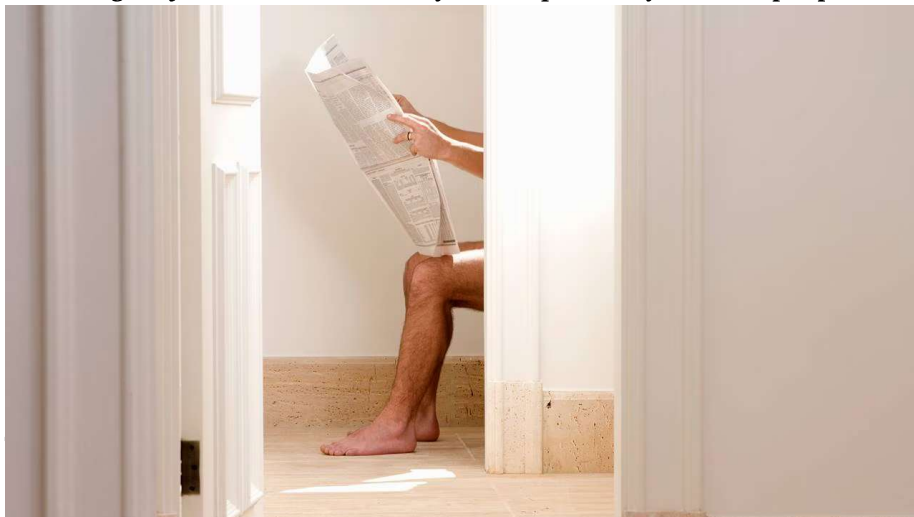
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The dementia challenge: Which ASX



The search for a dementia breakthrough is gathering pace in Australia and around the world. Pic: Getty Images

Dementia is the leading cause of death in Australia while ranking among major causes of disability and dependency in older people



dependency among older people.
Stockhead

Everything you need to know before the ASX opens

In Australia, dementia is the leading cause of death, while globally it ranks among the major causes of disability and dependency in older people. The ASX begins trading today.

That research effort includes Australia, which is marking Dementia Action Week. To coincide with the week, seven Australian startups were announced as recipients of a combined \$15.6 million in funding to accelerate the



developing new therapies capable of slowing or changing its progression.
Stockhead

Elon Musk's Tesla aims to build a self-driving car reflected in the global Alzheimer's drug development pipeline, with 192 clinical trials testing 158 drugs in 2026. The development of a cure for the disease is a priority for the US military, according to an annual report led by Alzheimer's researcher Dr Jeffrey Cummings.



clinical trials

Uranium's future belongs to next crop of developers

Cogstate (ASX:CGS) is working with several big pharma companies as they work to develop potential treatments for Alzheimer's disease, which is the most common cause of dementia, including US-based Eli Lilly and Japanese



cognitive and functional decline in people with early Alzheimer's disease.
Stockhead

Closing Bell Copper tips gold shines and ASX does the absolute minimum
Closing Bell Copper tips gold shines and ASX does the absolute minimum
Alzheimer's treatment which targets amyloid in the brain, and was approved by the FDA in 2023.
The ASX is barely moving at lunch, while miners push higher, while Bitcoin continued its charge above US\$86,500.

CGS manages cognitive endpoints on behalf of pharmaceutical companies,



Stockhead.

- Training staff at clinical trial sites (research hospitals)
- Monitoring (auditing) of what data is collected and quality of bed
- Delivery of telehealth-style assessments by Cogstate's 400-plus consulting neuropsychologists
- Algorithmic and human monitoring of data



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"It's sort of akin to treating cholesterol to prevent heart disease," O'Connor said, referring to the prospect of treating amyloid accumulation before significant cognitive symptoms develop.
Investors on edge as Paradigm defers crucial trial results
Paradigm Biopharma shares today moved from trading halt to suspension after the company delayed releasing its phase III knee pain trial results.
"These plaques can occur up to 20 years before symptoms arrive."

The hypothesis is that if removed through treatment before symptoms, can they be stopped from ever occurring."

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blood test that can help identify amyloid pathology associated with

Alzheimer's disease. Blood spilt as chair, directors ousted at



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Roche's Aβ42 assay company - Tau (21/19) Plasma (pTau21/19) test was developed in collaboration with Eli Lilly and was also cleared in August by the FDA.

"Eli Lilly's and Eisai's phase III trials are expected to conclude in 2027 and if they work Alzheimer's has changed forever because we now start treating

Good Morning George Recommended based on what you've read
CGS also has a Cognigram Digital Cognitive Assessment System, used by



The test can be used to assess cognition at a single point in time or track cognitive change through periodic assessments. **Flying Muller's shock career move** **Utah fire that threatened units being treated as 'suspicious'** **Mum fumes over trans student's camp trip**
"There is a potential future where a simple blood test can identify the formation of plaques in the brain," O'Connor said.

"Cogstate digital assessments can then identify any functional impairment which will provide insight into the potential rate of decline.

"Then, through drugs approved for use in this earlier stage of disease, we can remove plaques before the horrendous memory impairment takes hold. It is super exciting."

Countdown to Alzheimer's phase II trial readout
Revealed: Secret weapon behind Toyota's NRL expansion bid **Only person Dolly Parton wants on her deathbed**

Actinogen Medical (ASX:ACW) is the only ASX-listed healthcare company with a phase 2b/3 trial dubbed Xanamem in a phase 2b/3 trial dubbed Xanamem with topline results expected in November.
Ukraine's 'ultimate' social media ban, warns of AI threat

Fast food to iconic parks **Xanamem is described by** as the "first and only potent oral inhibitor of 11β-HSD1", an enzyme involved in regulating cortisol levels elsewhere in the body, with regions linked to memory and mood.

The oral drug candidate is designed to reduce excess cortisol production in the brain while preserving the rest of the body.
What? Australian council's 39k fines rakes in \$8m

"As national conversations around brain health take centre stage for Action Week, our team is staying sharply focused on our November trial readout," ACW chief financial officer Will Souter told Stockhead.
Anderson dies

"We are rapidly approaching a pivotal moment that we hope will mean a meaningful new treatment option for patients and their families."
Shock lives of 40yo Hanson brothers now
"Dementia Action Week is a timely reminder of why we do what we do every day at Actinogen."

With trial sites fully enrolled and our upcoming November results on track, we are working hard to advance Xanamem toward becoming a potential breakthrough in Alzheimer's care."

Alterity eyes broader dementia potential for lead drug

[Alterity Therapeutics \(ASX:ATH\)](#) is developing its lead asset ATH434 for multiple system atrophy (MSA), a rare and aggressive Parkinsonian disorder.

The neurodegenerative disease, which affects up to 50,000 patients in the US, is characterised by the build-up of excess iron and aggregation of a protein called alpha-synuclein in the central nervous system (CNS).

ATH said the underlying biology is relevant across a broader group of neurodegenerative diseases.

Alpha-synuclein is a shared hallmark of MSA, Parkinson's disease, and dementia with Lewy bodies, one of the most common forms of dementia after Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's itself is driven by different proteins, amyloid-beta and tau.

The company describes ATH434 as an "iron chaperone", an orally administered small molecule designed to redistribute excess reactive iron within brain cells.

"ATH434 targets excess reactive iron in the brain, a key driver of alpha-synuclein misfolding," CEO Dr David Stamler told Stockhead.

"Right now our focus is on Multiple System Atrophy, a rapidly progressing disease with no approved therapy.

"The alpha-synuclein protein misfolds in a number of other neurodegenerative diseases, including dementia with Lewy bodies and in Parkinson's disease, where many patients develop dementia."

In preclinical models of MSA and Parkinson's disease, ATH434 reduced alpha-synuclein aggregation, preserved neurons, and improved motor function.

ATH is preparing for a phase III trial of ATH434 in MSA after reaching agreement with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) at an End-of-Phase 2 meeting on key elements of the study design, including the dose and primary endpoint. ATH434 has FDA Fast Track designation and orphan drug designation in the US and EU.

While MSA is ATH's immediate focus, the company sees potential for ATH434 to be explored in other neurodegenerative diseases, including dementia with Lewy Bodies.

"The biology we are targeting is shared across these conditions, which is why the mechanism is relevant well beyond MSA," Stamler said.

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Originally published as [The dementia challenge: Which ASX stocks are chasing a breakthrough?](#)

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