The Alzheimer’s Drug Therapy Initiative (ADTI) was announced in October, 2007, consisting of three concurrent programs: drug coverage, education, and research. The PharmaCare program covered cholinesterase inhibitors (ChEIs) with approval of a Special Authority (SA) form submitted by physicians. A dementia education strategy for physicians offered professional development from November 2007 through June 2012. The research program consisted of four studies conducted from the University of Victoria (UVic) and one from the University of British Columbia (UBC).

The four UVic studies are briefly described below. The draft final report with recommendations regarding coverage and comments to inform policy in British Columbia (B.C.) was submitted to the Ministry of Health on May 15, 2015. The finalized report is due August 15, 2015. In September 2015 the Drug Benefits Council will meet to review the ADTI report, together with evidence from multiple other sources. It will recommend to the B.C. government whether ChEIs should be added to the funding schema and in the event they are, policy development regarding coverage, i.e., with or without SA. The decision is expected to be finalized in 6-8 weeks after the Council meeting.

The ADTI program of drug coverage and research constitute ‘Coverage with Evidence Development’:

Seniors’ Medication Study
The SMS was a prospective longitudinal observational study. It sought to understand outcomes of patients taking ChEIs with an initial indeterminate response and to assess the adequacy of the Standardized Mini-Mental State Examination (SMMSE) on the SA.

Clinical Epidemiological Study
This observational study drew on data from SA forms and provincial administrative datasets to examine response to ChEIs among those covered under the ADTI.

Utilization and Cost Study
This study drew on provincial administrative data to examine use of and costs of other health care services prior to and after the ADTI was launched as well as the effect of ChEI use on clinical outcomes and costs of health services.

Caregiver Appraisal Study
This study included face-to-face interviews, province-wide, with family caregivers to persons prescribed ChEIs, and covered for the medications under PharmaCare. It sought to better understand family caregivers’ perceptions of the effects of taking ChEI, on patients and on themselves as caregivers as well as to compare their assessments with clinical assessments.
Researchers continue analyzing data, for academic presentations and publications. Publications to date:

**Articles Published in Referred Journals**

http://dem.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/05/20/1471301215586287.full.pdf?ijkey=D8b6pC5SJzN&keytype=finite


**Under Review**


Chappell, N.L. (under review). Social Determinants of Health; Do they Apply to Caregivers?
Presentations


Roland, K., & Chappell, N.L. (2015, October). Unique Contributions to Caregiver Burden across Neurodegenerative Diseases that Present with Dementia. 44th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology, Calgary, AB.


Hsiung, G-Y. R., & Dujela, C. (2012, October). In the mind of the beholder: How well do self-assessments of function in early Alzheimer’s Disease correlate with standardized test scores in a cohort of cholinesterase inhibitor users over time?. Canadian Association on Gerontology annual Scientific and Educational meetings, Vancouver, BC.


