

# Working Together



# Biomarkers Across Neurodegenerative Diseases (BAND) Program

- **Partners:** Alzheimer's Association and Weston Brain Institute, Alzheimer's Research UK and The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
- **Main objective:** To stimulate analyses across Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD) and other neurodegenerative diseases to increase understanding of pathogenesis similarities and differences.
- **Successes:** To date, funded 20 awards; program now with another 10-12 to be funded in the next few weeks

# Partners Every Step of the Way

- **Inception**
  - Crafting and sharing of the RFA
- **Grant Application Process**
  - System and process of applications
  - Review criteria, identify reviewers, agree on review process for adjudication
  - Communications/ outreach plans
- **Making the Awards**
  - Notifications
  - Managing the money
- **Award Management**
  - Reporting
  - Assessment meetings



# Benefits Beyond Funding

- Regular communications identifies other areas of synergy
- Attend each others meetings/ events; have provided quotes for various announcements
- ALZ and Weston co-chaired session at AAIC of jointly funded researchers (ALZ and Weston)



# Ingredients for Successful (or Not So Successful) Partnerships

- **Start with shared vision**
  - If you agree on the overarching needs, the details can be figured out if everyone willing to be at the table
- **Be open to doing things a little differently**
  - Identify key aspects of the process you will not/ cannot negotiate, discuss at the start
  - Be open to other ideas and processes; and also be willing to hear when a particularly process won't work for a partner
- **It's a relationship - build the trust between partners**
  - Recognize the value each partner brings the table; we all play different roles beyond funding
  - Partnerships do take work and regular communication (like any relationship!)
  - Know when TO and when NOT TO partner – it may not always be right
- **Be a good partner yourself!**

# Questions?

