

Cognitive Aging Summit: Comments From a Pharmaceutical Perspective

Greg Rose, Ph.D.

- A truly effective cognitive enhancer for humans remains to be discovered
- Age-related cognitive decline is *not* Alzheimer's disease; requiring clinical efficacy in AD is likely not an appropriate benchmark
- The route to FDA approval for a drug to maintain/improve cognitive function in aging is still undefined, but important progress has been made
 - MATRICS (Measurement and Treatment to Improve Cognition in Schizophrenia) establishes an FDA-sanctioned approach to repeated assessment of major cognitive domains that could be applied to aging
 - Early clinical trial results indicate that several mechanisms (e.g., GABA_B receptor antagonists, nicotinic alpha7 receptor agonists, ampakines) can improve measures of cognition in the elderly
- Combining pharmacotherapy with other interventions is likely the most promising route to success