Since the release of the 2014 Tennessee Stroke Registry (TSR) report in June 2015, several new facilities have been certified as either primary or comprehensive stroke centers. The 2014 report included a map of certified stroke centers in and around Tennessee and their 30-, 60-, and 90-minute service areas alongside stroke mortality rates by county in Tennessee. The map below shows the updated service area analysis which includes the 29 primary and comprehensive stroke centers in Tennessee as of December 1, 2015 as well as nine facilities in other states that lie within 50 miles of the Tennessee border. The classification method for the map was also updated to a quantiles classification method. The road network used for mapping was updated from United States Census TIGER/line data to the National Highway Planning Network (NHPN) dataset, which produced a more accurate depiction of stroke center service areas. The most recently update version of this map can be accessed through the TSR webpage: http://www.etsu.edu/cph/biostat_epidemiology/tnstroke.php.
The American Heart Association and Google Life Sciences Announce Collaboration to Change Trajectory of Heart Disease*

ORLANDO, Florida, November 8, 2015 — The American Heart Association (AHA) and Google Life Sciences (GLS) have announced a joint commitment to form a research collaboration that will bring new, unconventional thinking to one of the longstanding challenges of cardiovascular disease. Each organization will invest $25 million for a total of $50 million over roughly five years to support novel strategies to understand, prevent, and reverse coronary heart disease and its consequences, such as heart failure and sudden cardiac death.

Cardiovascular diseases are the number one cause of death globally, accounting annually for approximately 17 million deaths, or about one of every three deaths. Coronary heart disease itself is responsible for more than 7 million deaths annually. But the root causes of this disease continue to be explored and a concerted effort, combining technology and medicine, could help. Because traditional research funding models, which are often incremental and piecemeal, make it difficult to study a multifaceted subject that plays out over many years, AHA and GLS have committed to a bold new approach: a $50 million investment in one research team, which will be tasked with developing a richer, deeper understanding of cardiovascular disease.

This marks the largest one-time research investment in AHA’s history. In early 2016, a Joint Leadership Group made up of individuals from AHA and Google Life Sciences will select a team leader to run this effort. This team leader, who may be a cardiologist but could come from any background or area of expertise, will receive the full $50 million in funding over roughly five years to design a program, assemble a cross-functional group of investigators, and lead all efforts towards further finding new causes and drivers of coronary heart disease. The team will have support across many important areas, including clinical research, engineering, and data analysis, as well as ongoing strategic counsel, oversight and access to resources from the Joint Leadership Group.

“With its devastating human impact on countless generations of families, cardiovascular disease, and in particular coronary heart disease remains the greatest and deadliest global health challenge we face today,” said American Heart Association CEO Nancy Brown. “By working together, AHA and Google Life Sciences will be able to serve as the catalyst for change and transformation in reducing the impact of coronary heart disease on people’s lives and alleviating this global burden. Just imagine if we could reverse coronary artery disease and restore the healthy heart muscle it destroys or, even better, prevent the whole process from beginning in the first place!”

Technology has a critical role to play. The collaboration will provide the scientific community with channels to technical capabilities and insights offered by Google Life Sciences. With the unique opportunity to access such resources, the collaboration will expand research pathways and empower researchers to conceptualize and test new approaches. AHA, the nation’s authority on cardiovascular disease will contribute its vast scientific and medical resources, resulting in the application of a unique blend of technical and scientific knowledge to the search for new cardiovascular solutions.

“This is a fundamentally different kind of model for funding innovation,” said Andy Conrad, CEO of Google Life Sciences. “The team leader will be able to bring together clinicians, engineers, designers, basic researchers and other experts to think in new ways about the causes of coronary heart disease. We’re already imagining the possibilities when a team like that has access to the full resources of both Google Life Sciences and the AHA -- and we can’t wait to see what they discover.”

*This article is reprinted from the AHA/ASA Newsroom: http://newsroom.heart.org/

Contact Information

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We look forward to working with you to improve stroke care in Tennessee.