

Alzheimer's

From

A RADICAL NEW APPROACH TO
TREATING THE FEARFUL DISEASE IS
SHOWING PROMISE BY ALICE PARK

A New Angle

SOME EXPERTS ARE CONVINCED that if people live long enough, some form of dementia, most likely Alzheimer's, is inevitable. It's just a matter of time. But figuring out which people can benefit from which types of treatments—and when—is still an open question. The hypothesis that dementia is inevitable is unpalatable to doctors like Longo. But it's a reality that even the government is starting to appreciate. In 2011, Congress created a National Alzheimer's Plan to coordinate and accelerate the development, testing and approval of new drugs to treat the disease. And the Alzheimer's Association will soon issue a consensus statement on how to move promising drug candidates like C31 and any BDNF-based compounds to human testing as quickly as possible without putting people at risk of unexpected or unwanted side effects.