



**World Dementia
Council** Leading the Global Action
Against Dementia

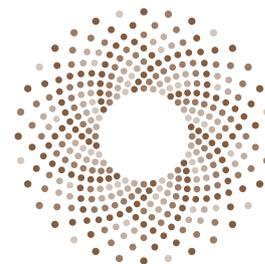
Global dialogue on early career scientists in dementia: Agenda and participants

The dementia landscape
project

10 November 2021



Logistics and agenda



Wednesday 10 November 2021

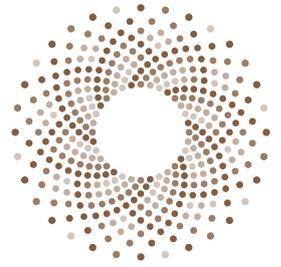
Virtual meeting

06:00 PDT San Francisco
08:00 CDT Chicago
09:00 EDT New York
14:00 BST London
15:00 CEST Central Europe
21:00 CST Beijing



Section	Speaker(s)
Welcome	Lenny Shallcross
Opening remarks	Professor Anja Leist
Opening presentations	Chaired by Professor Anja Leist Dr Heather Snyder and Dr Claire Sexton Dr Adam Smith and Dr Beth Shaaban Dr Claudia Ramos Dr Riona Mc Ardle
Group conversation	Introduced and moderated by Professor Paulo Caramelli
Closing perspectives	Professor Anja Leist
Closing thanks	Lenny Shallcross

Co-chairs



Professor Anja Leist

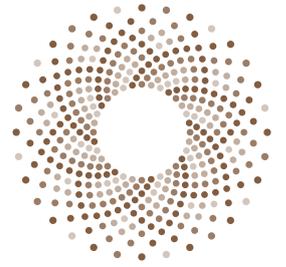
Anja Leist is Associate Professor in Public Health and Ageing and Vice-Head of the Institute for Research on Socio-Economic Inequality at the University of Luxembourg. After her PhD studies in Psychology at the University of Trier, she had postdoctoral research stays at the universities of Luxembourg, Zurich, and Rotterdam. Her research focuses on cognitive ageing and dementia from a social and behavioural (risk reduction) perspective. Anja's research interests also involve social and life-course determinants of health, healthcare use, and use of technology at older ages. Anja is PI of several competitively funded research projects, among them a grant from the European Research Council on cognitive ageing and dementia with a focus on lifestyle behaviours and contextual inequalities related to education and gender. She is co-leading an interdisciplinary flagship project at her institution that investigates links between the social environment, microbiome, and dementia. Anja has received an 'innovative publication' award, is elected Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, and co-founder of the World Young Leaders in Dementia a.s.b.l. (WYLD) network, now a registered non-profit organization facilitating careers of young professionals in dementia. She is member of several steering groups and scientific advisory boards. Anja is a Rotarian, married, and has two children.



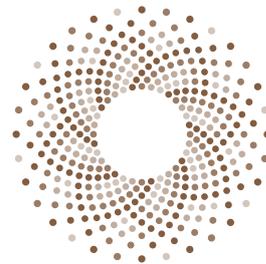
Professor Paulo Caramelli

Paulo Caramelli obtained his MD degree in 1987 at the University of São Paulo (USP) School of Medicine, in São Paulo, Brazil and completed the residency program in Neurology at the same institution in 1991. Research fellow at the University of Montréal, Canada, from 1992 to 1994. In 1997, he completed a PhD in Neurological Sciences at USP. He is currently Professor of Neurology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) and Coordinator of the Behavioral and Cognitive Neurology Research Group at UFMG, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Member of the International Working Group on Neurocognitive Disorders of the World Health Organization for the

Revision of ICD-11 (2011 – 2017). Current member of the Advisory Council of the Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART). Editor of *Arquivos de Neuro-Psiquiatria*. Associate editor of *eNeurologicalSci* and *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, as well as member of the editorial board of the *European Journal of Neurology and Neurological Sciences*. His research activities are focused on epidemiological, clinical and translational studies on brain aging, cognitive impairment and dementia.

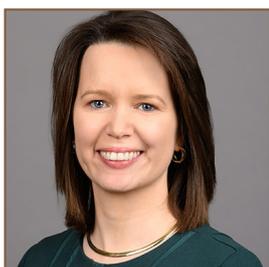


Speakers



Dr Heather Snyder

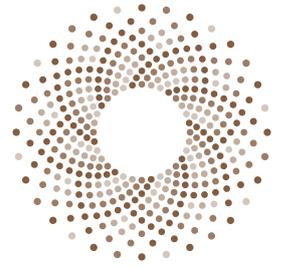
Dr. Snyder is the VP of Medical and Scientific Relations at the Alzheimer's Association. She oversees Association initiatives that accelerate Alzheimer's research and provide opportunities for the global dementia community. She is responsible for the progress the Association has made in Alzheimer's and dementia research funding. She leads the Association's International Research Grant Program, through which the Association funds investigations that advance understanding of Alzheimer's and moves the field toward solutions for the global Alzheimer's crisis. As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research, the Association is currently investing over \$250 million in more than 700 active best-of-field projects in 39 countries.



Dr Claire Sexton

Claire Sexton, DPhil, is director of Scientific Programs & Outreach at the Alzheimer's Association. In this role, she leads research programs and initiatives to accelerate the Association's scientific agenda. Dr. Sexton works alongside a committee of expert researchers to develop scientific programming for the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® (AAIC®), the largest and most influential international meeting dedicated to advancing dementia science. Annually, AAIC offers over 2,000 posters and more than 100 podium presentations on basic science, risk factors, diagnosis, causes, risk factors, and potential methods of treatment and prevention to nearly 6,000 of the world's leading researchers. To expand the Association's reach, Dr. Sexton also manages the AAIC Satellite Symposia, which bring researchers together to network and explore emerging dementia science in targeted areas around the world. She oversees conference programming, including speakers, poster sessions and opportunities to foster collaboration. As an expert in the field, Dr. Sexton delivers presentations to audiences around the country on the Association's role in scientific advancements and the overall state of Alzheimer's and dementia research.





Dr Claudia Ramos

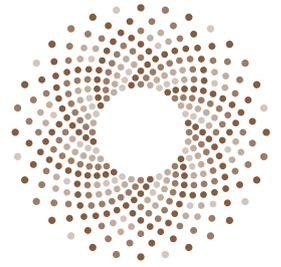
Claudia Ramos attended the School of Medicine at the University of Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia, from 2002-2008 and 2011-2015, where she got her degree in Medicine and Psychiatry, respectively. Then, Ramos started to work as the Mental Health Service Coordinator for patients with dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders at the Neurosciences Group of Antioquia, GNA. At the GNA, Ramos was aware of her passion for brain research, and luckily, she got an opportunity to do a fellowship at the Global Brain Health Institute, GBHI, from 2017-2018. After finishing her scholarship, Ramos returned to GNA to develop a pilot project granted by the GBHI and Alzheimer's Association about the relationship between substance consumption and age at onset and progression speed of people with a high risk of familial Alzheimer's disease AD. Now, she coordinates a study group about the link between emotion and cognition, works with a support group for caregivers of people with dementia, and is doing her Ph.D. to design a multimodal intervention online to improve functionality in people with AD and reduce AD caregivers' burden.



Dr Riona Mc Ardle

Riona Mc Ardle is a NIHR Advanced Research Fellow at Newcastle University. With a background in psychology, she was awarded a PhD in Neuroscience from Newcastle University in 2019. Her research focuses on the use of digital technology to improve how we diagnose and care for people with dementia. She is currently leading the ActivDem project, which aims to identify psychosocial determinants of physical activity loss in people with dementia following diagnosis. Beyond her fellowship, she is the Head of Content, Policy and Research at the World Young Leaders in Dementia, and is the Northern Regional Lead for the Dementia Deep Phenotyping (DEMON) Network.





Dr Adam Smith

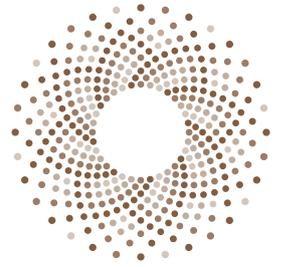
Adam Smith is a Programme Director at University College London, within the Queen Square Biomedical Research Centre. Adam has over 25 years' experience leading healthcare and research improvement initiatives within the NHS and Department of Health, and has been focussed on dementia for the past 11 years. His work has included creating Join Dementia Research a public engagement and study recruitment service and work to increase care home residents participation in research. He currently leads some of the UK's efforts to improve support for early career dementia researchers, aiming to change research systems and culture, and attract and retain people within the field, across all areas of discovery. Adam writes blogs, hosts podcasts and is Chair of the Alzheimer's Association ISTAART PIA to Elevate Early Career Researchers, he holds an honorary position at University of Sydney and sits on the UK Health Research Authority National Research & Ethics Advisors' Panel.



Dr Beth Shaaban

Dr. Shaaban is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health and a University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) Research Education Component (REC) Scholar. She integrates epidemiology and neuroscience research methods to study gender/sex and vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia (VCID), including Alzheimer's disease (AD), using a Population Neuroscience framework. Her work has included evaluation of physical activity, vascular risk factor reduction, growth factors, vascular disorders during pregnancy, and gender/sex differences in AD-related brain pathology. Dr. Shaaban presently serves as the Vice Chair of the Professional Interest Area (PIA) to Elevate Early Career Researchers (PEERs) in the Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment (ISTAART). She is passionate about how to best support early career dementia researchers around the world.



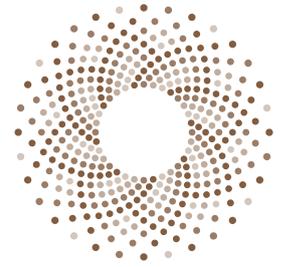


Lenny Shallcross

Lenny Shallcross is executive director at the World Dementia Council. Prior to that he was Head of Community Engagement leading programmes across the UK to establish Dementia Friendly Communities. This includes the Dementia Friends programme which is the biggest health social movement campaign delivered by 10,000 volunteers that have recruited 2 million individuals through a community, digital and corporate offer. Before working for Alzheimer's Society he worked in the UK government as a political adviser at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department of Health, as well as working in Parliament and for the Labour Party.



Discussion participants



Paola Barbarino

CEO, Alzheimer's
Disease International.

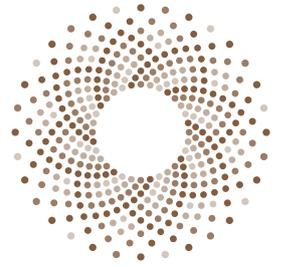
Paola is the CEO of Alzheimer's Disease International. She is a Board Member of the World Dementia Council, a Trustee of The Postal Museum and of Lauderdale House. Prior to ADI, she was CEO of LIFE and occupied senior positions with Cass Business School, Tate, British Library and IIED. Previously she was a Non-Executive Director of the Non-Communicable Disease Alliance (NCDA), a Trustee of Shelter, the UK housing/homelessness charity, and of MLA London. She holds a degree cum laude in Classics from Federico II Napoli University, an MA in Field and Analytical Techniques in Archaeology and an MA in Library and Information Science both from University College London.



Professor Sandra Black

Professor of Medicine
(Neurology) at
Sunnybrook HSC,
UToronto

Sandra E Black, O.C., O.Ont., Hon.DSc.,MD, FRCP(C), FRSC, FANA, FAHA, FAAN is a Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at Sunnybrook HSC, UToronto. An internationally known cognitive neurologist, she has actively engaged in stroke and dementia trials for 30 years. Inaugural Director, Toronto Dementia Research Alliance (2012-20), she has directed Sunnybrook's Hurvitz Brain Sciences Research Program (2006-) and became Scientific Director, Dr. Sandra Black Centre for Brain Resilience and Recovery (2020-), funded for \$10M by anonymous donation. Her research career bridges dementia and stroke, using standardized neuroimaging, genetic, clinical and cognitive measures to elucidate brain-behavior relationships, with recent focus on Alzheimer/Small Vessel Disease interactions. Publications: 709 papers (70 invited) (Google HI 120; >67,000 citations). Recognitions include: Dean's UofT Lifetime Achievement Award, U of Waterloo Honorary Doctorate, Lifetime Achievement Award, AAN's Society of Cognitive and Behavioural Neurology, Appointment as Member, Order of Ontario (2012) and Officer, Order of Canada (201) citing contributions to Alzheimer's disease, stroke and vascular dementia.



Dr Martina Bocchetta

Senior Research Fellow, Dementia Research Centre, UCL

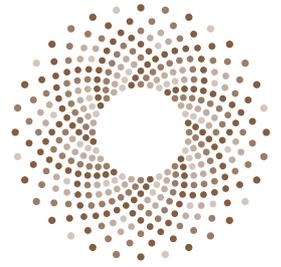
Dr Martina Bocchetta is a Senior Research Fellow working at the Dementia Research Centre (University College London) and supported by a research fellowship awarded by the Alzheimer’s Society. With a background in neuroanatomy and neuroimaging, her research currently focuses on the involvement of brain regions (especially subcortical structures) in the different forms of frontotemporal dementia, with the specific aim of defining in vivo imaging markers in the early stages of the genetic forms, in the context of the GENetic Frontotemporal Initiative (GENFI). Her PhD in Neuroscience (from the University of Brescia, Italy) was focused on the importance of the standardization of imaging biomarkers for their use in clinical settings and trials. She is a Fellow of the Advance Higher Education Academy in the UK and author of over 100 peer-reviewed publications.



Dr Angela Bradshaw

Project Officer, Alzheimer Europe

Dr. Angela Bradshaw is a Project Officer at Alzheimer Europe, an umbrella organisation of national Alzheimer’s Associations with 39 members across 35 European countries. Alzheimer Europe aims to change perceptions, practice and policy, promoting a rights-based approach to dementia and working to make dementia a European priority. Angela collaborates on several EU-funded projects involving AI and health data, co-authoring the recent policy report “Data sharing in dementia research – the EU landscape”. She obtained her PhD in vascular biology at the University of Cambridge, and worked as a lecturer at the University of Glasgow prior to joining Alzheimer Europe.



Wagner Brum

Joint MD-PhD candidate between the Neuroimaging Laboratory (UFRGS, Brazil) and the Clinical Neurochemistry Laboratory (University of Gothenburg, Sweden)

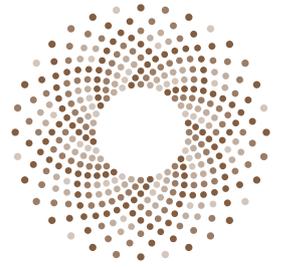
Wagner S. Brum is a joint MD-PhD candidate between the Neuroimaging Laboratory (UFRGS, Brazil) and the Clinical Neurochemistry Laboratory (University of Gothenburg, Sweden). Wagner's research focuses mostly on fluid biomarkers of neurodegeneration and, more specifically, Alzheimer's disease. Among his interests are identifying how can fluid biomarkers be best interpreted in diagnostic and prognostic dementia clinical assessments, investigating the biological variations of fluid biomarkers, understanding how other comorbidities impact neurodegenerative processes and identifying relevant cross-mammalian insights on neurodegeneration. He is currently the South American representative in the ISTAART PEERS PIA, a group focused on improving opportunities and support for early career researchers in dementia science.



Dr Claire Durrant

Race Against Dementia (RAD) Dyson Fellow

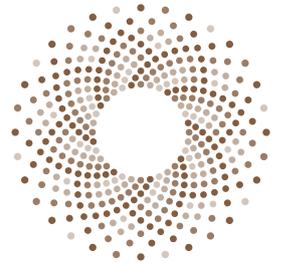
Dr Claire Durrant (née Harwell) is a Race Against Dementia (RAD) Dyson Fellow; supported by Sir Jackie Stewart's pioneering dementia research charity and funded by the James Dyson Foundation. Dr Claire Durrant obtained a first-class degree in Natural Sciences from the University of Cambridge. She went on to complete her PhD in the lab of Prof. Michael Coleman at the Babraham Institute, Cambridge. Here she developed a novel murine organotypic brain slice model of Alzheimer's disease. She further developed this model in her postdoc at the John van Geest Centre for Brain Repair, Cambridge, publishing on A β - driven mechanisms of pathological angiogenesis, microglia-mediated synapse loss and collaborated on modelling tau seeding in tauopathy mutant mice. In September 2019, Dr Durrant moved to the University of Edinburgh to take up her RAD fellowship in collaboration with her academic sponsor Prof. Tara Spire-Jones. Here, Claire is developing novel human organotypic slice cultures to study mechanisms of synapse loss in Alzheimer's disease, comparing her findings to murine organotypics and human post-mortem brain. She became an "Emerging Leader" at the UK Dementia Research Institute (DRI) in 2021.



Dr Jason Flatt

Associate Adjunct Professor at the University of California San Francisco, School of Nursing, Institute for Health and Aging

Jason is an Associate Adjunct Professor at the University of California San Francisco, School of Nursing, Institute for Health and Aging. His primary affiliation is as an Assistant Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, School of Public Health, Social and Behavioral Health Program. Jason's current research works to better understand concerns and needs of LGBTQIA+ people living with Alzheimer's disease and their families. He also teaches courses on community based participatory research and public health theory. He is funded by the National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Aging as part of a career award exploring dementia risk in LGBTQIA+ older adults and another grant focused on recruitment and engagement of LGBTQIA+ older adults living with dementia and their care partners. For the past 12 years, Jason has leveraged his platform as a public health researcher to work as an advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community. To further the reach of his advocacy efforts here in Las Vegas, he partners with the LGBT Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Alliance for Student Diversity, and the Nevada Minority Health Equity Coalition. He also works with Openhouse in San Francisco and the Los Angeles LGBT Center on projects focused on affordable housing and inclusive care for LGBTQIA+ older adults. In Las Vegas, he is working with several community leaders to create Building H.O.U.S.E. Las Vegas, a group dedicated to organizing and creating affordable and welcoming housing for LGBTQIA+ people aged 50 and older. Jason's work has been featured in the NPR, U.S. News and World Report, The Advocate, Newsweek, as well as at the Alzheimer's Association. Learn more about Jason's research at www.RainbowsofAging.org Jason and his husband live in Las Vegas, NV with their two pups, Tuna and Bowie."



Dr Sanne Franzen

Neuropsychologist and researcher, Alzheimer Center of the Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam

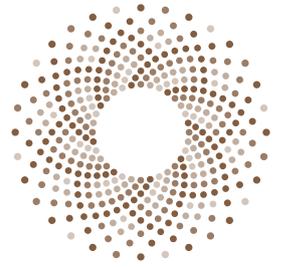
Sanne Franzen is a neuropsychologist and researcher, working at the Alzheimer Center of the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam. In 2015, ms. Franzen was appointed as the coordinator of the multicultural memory clinic of the Erasmus Medical Center. Ms. Franzen has received several grants to study neuropsychological assessment in cross-cultural settings and to conduct programs about healthy aging in local diverse communities. Ms. Franzen served as a commission member of the Cultural Diversity & Psychology Commission of the Dutch Association of Psychologists (NIP, 2019-2021) and is a current Executive Committee member of the Diversity and Disparities PIA of the International Society to Advance Alzheimer’s Research and Treatment (ISTAART 2020-2022). Furthermore, she co-leads a working group on a glossary of cultural neuropsychology of the Cultural Special Interest Group of the International Neuropsychological Society.



Dr Jennie Gabriel

Research Officer and manager of the fellowship portfolio, Alzheimer’s Society

Jennie completed her bachelor’s degree in Biochemistry and has personal experience in research having completed a PhD in Neurometabolism. Throughout her academic career she specialised in understanding the connection between metabolic disease, cognitive decline and Alzheimer’s Disease. She is now putting her knowledge and experience of academic research to good use at Alzheimer’s Society. Jennie is currently a Research Officer and manager of the fellowship portfolio. She has been with the society for 9 months and is leading a project reviewing the ECR strategy and establishing how AlzSoc can better support their early researchers.



Professor Barry Greenberg

Associate Professor of Neurology and Director of a nascent Alzheimer's Disease (AD) Translational Center at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

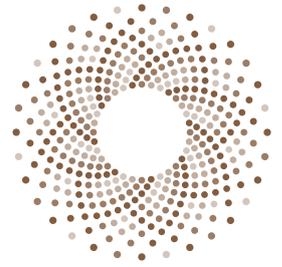
Barry Greenberg is Associate Professor of Neurology and Director of a nascent Alzheimer's Disease (AD) Translational Center at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Greenberg has been involved AD research and drug discovery since 1985, holding a series of positions internationally in the US, Sweden and Canada, including within the biotechnology/pharma industry as well as in academia. He was Chair of the National Institute on Aging's international committee that was charged with strategizing the future structure of the US Alzheimer's Disease Research Center network to augment its capacity to contribute towards the development of effective prevention and treatment modalities for AD and related disorders by 2025. Dr. Greenberg has recently become Editor-in-Chief of the journal "Alzheimer's & Dementia: Translational Research and Clinical Interventions." He brings a multi-faceted perspective on AD, and an international reputation drawn from hands-on experience ranging from basic research through human studies.



Dr Samuel Harris

Research Fellow, UK Dementia Research Institute, UCL

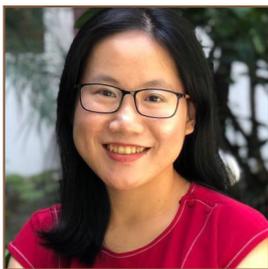
Dr Samuel Harris is a research fellow at the UK Dementia Research Institute at University College London, UK, having previously completed his PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Sheffield and undertaken post-doctoral training at the same as well as Weill Cornell Medicine in New York, USA. He has also worked as a clinical scientist at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London, and as an editor for SpringerNature, and his current research includes using multi-modal in-vivo techniques to study how dementia-related pathogenic proteins modulate neurovascular circuits and alter sleep neurophysiology.



Dr Soyon Hong

Programme lead,
Microglia-synapse
biology in brain
homeostasis and
pathology, UCL

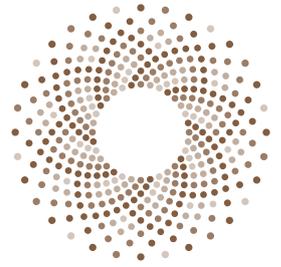
Soyon Hong studies immune mechanisms of synaptic health and function in the central nervous system. In particular, the Hong lab how microglia, the brain's principal tissue-resident macrophages, communicate with other immune cells and glia including astrocytes to eliminate synapses in Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. Soyon received her PhD in Neuroscience from Harvard University and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at Boston Children's Hospital/ Harvard Medical School. Soyon started her independent laboratory in UK Dementia Research Institute at UCL October 2018. She studied microglia biology with Thomas Möller (2002-2006), Alzheimer-type synapse pathology with Dennis Selkoe (2007-2012), and microglia-synapse pruning with Beth Stevens (2012-2018), where she identified microglia as synaptic saboteurs.



Dr Ha Thi Thanh Huong

Professor,
International
University, Vietnam
National University

Due to a family history of multiple members with mental disorders, Huong became intrigued in how the brain works, what molecules drive its functions and how they change when it gets dysregulated. During college research, Huong worked on identifying molecular markers and utilizing them in devising diagnostic tests. Following graduation, she further pursued this interest by working at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit and investigating peripheral blood markers of HIV associated neurological disorders (HAND) using molecular biotechnology. At Stanford University, her PhD research was focused on understanding the molecular system related to autism and cellular and network deficits underlying epilepsy. Huong also created an efficient gene delivery technology and a universal brain tissue culture platform for research and drug discovery applications. Upon coming back to Vietnam and joining the International University as a lecturer, she established the Brain Health Lab and pursues several research projects



Dr Ozama Ismail

Postdoctoral researcher, Oregon Health & Science University

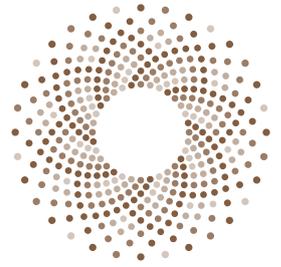
Oz is a postdoctoral researcher at Oregon Health & Science University, investigating the links between strokes and dementia. Oz completed his PhD at University College London, studying glymphatics in Alzheimer's disease. Prior to this, he collaborated with Eli Lilly, developing biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease pathology. Outside the lab, Oz is an avid science communicator. He co-hosts a popular science podcast called ""Why Aren't You A Doctor Yet?"" which tells compelling and diverse stories, combining science and tech with pop culture. He is also an advocate for improving diversity and addressing racial inequity, and is also passionate about raising LGBTQ+ voices both within science and within ethnic minority groups. He co-founded the Minorities in STEM network, and sits on the board of the Alliance for Visible Diversity in Science.



Dr Claire Lancaster

Alzheimer's Society Research Fellow, University of Sussex, UK

Dr Claire Lancaster is an Alzheimer's Society Research Fellow based at the University of Sussex, UK. Her work investigates the impact of carrying a genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's Disease - the APOE e4 gene variant, on cognition, brain function and structure across the lifespan, and whether we can mitigate the detrimental effects of this gene pharmacologically. Claire has a background in Experimental Psychology; this has been used to design cognitive tasks aimed at early detection of individuals at-risk or in the preclinical/prodromal stages of Alzheimer's Disease. Previously Claire worked at the University of Oxford Big Data Institute, designing and validating digital biomarkers of early dementia.



Professor Andrew CK Law

Professor of
Psychiatry, University
College Dublin
(Malaysia Campus)

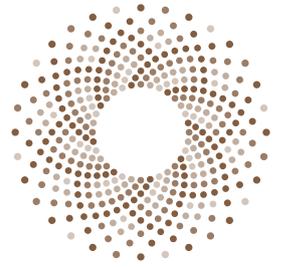
Prof. Law is currently the Professor of Psychiatry and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at RCSI & UCD (Malaysia Campus) and a practising geriatric neuropsychiatrist. He founded the Neurodysfunction Research Laboratory at the University of Hong Kong. The laboratory focused on deciphering the neurovascular culprits in neurodegenerative disorders and discovering upstream biomarkers. The role of nitric oxide in relation to amyloid toxicity was examined and the possible early involvements of astrocytes and pericytes in the dementia pathological cascade were being explored. Andrew is currently conducting studies in examining early markers for Alzheimer's disease."



Dr Ines Moreno- Gonzalez

Ramón y Cajal
Investigator and
professor in the
Department of
Cell Biology at the
University of Malaga,
Spain

Ines Moreno-Gonzalez, PhD. Ramón y Cajal Investigator and professor in the Department of Cell Biology at the University of Malaga, Spain; Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Neurology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Texas; and Adjunct Professor at the Bernardo O'Higgins University, Chile. She obtained a degree in Biology in 2003 and received her PhD from the University of Malaga in the area of neuroscience in 2009. She has done research stays at Sanofi (France), the University of Seville, and the University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland). From 2010 to 2013, she was a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Neurology at the University of Texas, from 2013 she was assistant professor until 2019, when she promoted to associate professor. She has published almost 50 scientific articles in high impact journals and presented her work in more than 100 conference abstracts. She is a reviewer and editor of several scientific journals and a reviewer at the National Institutes of Health (USA) and Alzheimer's Research UK, among others. In addition, she has received awards for her teaching action and is the co-chair of the Alliance of Women Alzheimer's Researchers (AWARE). She is a member of the Malaga Institute of Biomedicine (IBIMA) and the Networked Biomedical Research Center on Neurodegenerative Diseases (CIBERNED). Her main research focus is on risk factors for Alzheimer's disease, including traumatic brain injury, depression, and diabetes.



Dr Tim Raemaekers

Programme Officer
Neurodegeneration,
European Commission
(EU)

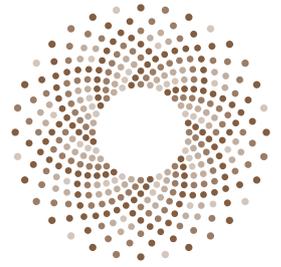
Tim Raemaekers joined DG Research & Innovation at the European Commission in 2019 where he works on policy development in the area of neuroscience. Prior to this, and since 2014, he worked for the European Commission's DG Joint Research Centre in Italy where he supported projects in the areas of biotechnology and medical technology. He particularly worked on a project aimed at developing and improving tools for a coherent, safe and effective management of medical devices in Europe. He was trained as a bioengineer in cell and gene biotechnology and holds a PhD in the Medical Sciences from the University of Leuven (Belgium). His doctoral work on cancer cell biology led to the discovery of an essential gene for cell division. As a postdoc, he studied the cell biology of neuronal synapse formation and degeneration at the VIB Centre for the Biology of Disease (Belgium).



Professor Martin Rossor

NIHR National
Director for Dementia
Research, UCL Queen
Square Institute of
Neurology

Martin Rossor is the NIHR National Director for Dementia Research, Professor Emeritus, Principal Research Associate at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. He has served as the editor of the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry and was President of the Association of British Neurologists. Martin's clinical research interests are in the degenerative dementias, particularly familial disease, and more recently in general cognitive impairment in systemic disease and multimorbidity.



Dr Rosa Sancho

Head of Research at
Alzheimer's Research
UK

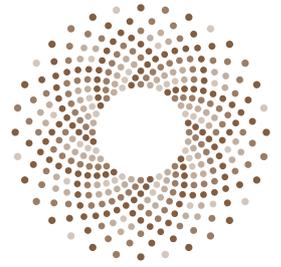
Rosa Sancho is Head of Research at Alzheimer's Research UK, overseeing the delivery of a range of ambitious research programmes and partnerships that aim to bring about breakthroughs for people with dementia. Prior to this, Rosa was a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London and a PhD student at The School of Pharmacy, University College London. Rosa's research focused on the molecular mechanisms that underlie neurodegenerative diseases.



Sophie Sanford

Doctoral student, UK
Dementia Research
Institute (UKDRI)
at the University of
Cambridge

Sophie Sanford is a doctoral student in Dr William McEwan's group at the UK Dementia Research Institute (UKDRI) at the University of Cambridge. She is studying the relationship between the antiviral innate immune system and the accumulation of tau protein in models of Alzheimer's disease. Before Cambridge, Sophie studied at University College London (UCL) in Immunology and Infection, where she became fascinated by the mechanisms of antiviral immunity. Scientific outreach has been important throughout her time at both institutions. Most recently, Sophie organised and chaired the virtual 'Making It Brain' mini-conference with the UKDRI, to give secondary school students an insight into dementia research and careers.



Dr Eric Siemers

President, Siemers
Integration

Eric Siemers has over 25 years of experience in clinical trials of neurodegenerative disease. His research focus is on the use of biomarkers in investigational drug research, the development of trial designs that fully characterize the effects of investigational drugs on chronic diseases, and more specifically, the development of strategies for treating individuals before the onset of symptoms of neurodegenerative diseases. Dr Siemers most recently served as a distinguished medical fellow for Eli Lilly and Company's Alzheimer's Disease Global Development Team, where he was responsible for the design and implementation of five large phase III clinical studies, in addition to playing a major collaborative role in two public-private partnership studies. Dr Siemers earned his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine (US).



Dr Lucy Stirland

Clinical Lecturer in
Old Age Psychiatry in
Edinburgh, UK

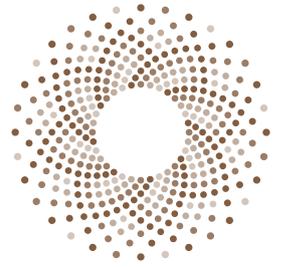
Lucy Stirland is a Clinical Lecturer in Old Age Psychiatry in Edinburgh, UK. In 2020, she completed her PhD on the epidemiology of mental and brain health in multimorbidity. She is finishing her clinical training alongside further research using routinely collected healthcare data to link polypharmacy and dementia outcomes.



George Vradenburg

Co-Chair,
Davos Alzheimer's
Collaborative

A lawyer by training and practice, but three generations of my family have been struck by Alzheimer's. I have turned to venture philanthropy and activism to fight the disease. In 2010, I launched UsAgainstAlzheimer's in the US; since 2013, I have convened the Global CEO Initiative on Alzheimer's Disease; and in 2021 I began chairing the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, an initiative in partnership with the World Economic Forum to prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's globally.



Dr Keir Yong

Neuropsychologist at the UCL Dementia Research Centre, Alzheimer's Society Fellow and Etherington Senior Research Fellow

Keir Yong is a neuropsychologist at the UCL Dementia Research Centre, Alzheimer's Society Fellow and Etherington Senior Research Fellow. He co-leads the UCL longitudinal study of posterior cortical atrophy ("visual-spatial Alzheimer's disease"; Graff-Radford et al., *Lancet Neurol.*, 2021), is the ISTAART Atypical AD Programs Chair and winner of the British Neuropsychological Society Elizabeth Warrington Prize and ISTAART Non-pharmacological Intervention Early Career Researcher award. His work primarily focuses on investigating how Alzheimer's disease and posterior cortical atrophy affect visual perception and spatial awareness. His research combines approaches of neuropsychological and engineering disciplines to develop and evaluate strategies supporting independent activities, including assistive technology and environmental adaptations to support reading, navigation and upper limb function for people living with dementia-related visual loss. His translational work includes emphasising implications of dementia-related visual loss for diagnosis and care by developing professional educational materials (College of Optometrists; Royal College of Occupational Therapists).

The World Dementia Council (WDC) is an international charity. It consists of senior experts and leaders drawn from research, academia, industry, governments and NGOs in both high-income and low- and middle-income countries, including two leaders with a personal dementia diagnosis. The WDC has an executive team based in London, UK.

worlddementiacouncil.org

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