



## Research & Clinical Trials: Expert Dialogue

21 November 2024

1600 GMT

Platform: Zoom

Dementia is a major public health challenge in Latin America and the Caribbean. To help address these the World Dementia Council will hold a **series of virtual dialogues aimed at exploring the challenges and opportunities related to dementia in the region**. Each of these dialogues will bring together leading researchers, industry experts, policymakers, and advocates to discuss current challenges and explore collaborative opportunities. These virtual roundtables are a precursor to a **high-level summit** hosted by the World Dementia Council in South America in **May 2025**. The insights and recommendations generated from these roundtable discussions will help shape a policy paper to be presented at the summit. The 2025 WDC Satellite Summit will challenge participants to think boldly and offer solutions from prevention, to **research and care and ask how advocacy can help secure those advances**.

### Project Chairs



**Professor Ricardo Allegri**, Director of the Memory and Ageing Center at the Neurological Research Institute Fleni in Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr. Ricardo F Allegri, graduated from the School of Medicine at the University of Buenos Aires, since 2011 he is the Head of Department of Cognitive Neurology, Neuropsychiatry and Neuropsychology and Director from the Aging and Memory Center at the Neurological Research Institute Fleni in Buenos Aires, and Professor of Neurology in the School of Medicine at the University of Buenos Aires.

Dr. Allegri has published extensively on Cognitive Neurology in Neurological journals and books, some of which are 220 peer reviewed articles and over 50 book chapters. He has co-edited seven books, including, “Alzheimer’s disease: new criteria,” one of the most important books written in Spanish on this topic. He has received over 46 awards in the field of Cognitive Neurology and Neuropsychiatry, including the Academy of Medicine Award in 2006 and the Research Recognition Award by the School of Medicine, University of Buenos Aires in 2014.

Dr. Allegri’s main research activities and current training grants address the early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s Disease, new biomarkers, and cognitive profiles in dementia. He is has been promoting the development of the field of old age neuropsychiatry in Latin America at every possible level.

Dr Allegri was until recently a member of the World Dementia Council and is a member of ISTAART (USA).



**Professor Paulo Caramelli**, Professor of Neurology at the Faculty of Medicine, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil

Professor Paulo Caramelli obtained his MD 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 Hospital das Clínicas of the USP School of Medicine in 1991. Research fellow at the University of Montréal, Canada, from 1992 to 1994. In 1997, he completed a PhD in Neurological Sciences at the USP School of Medicine. He is currently Professor of Neurology at the Faculty of Medicine of the Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG) and Coordinator of the Behavioral and Cognitive Neurology Unit at UFMG, in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, where he is involved in teaching, in clinical and in research activities. He has supervised 25 MSc, 29 PhD and three post-doctoral students since 2000. Chair (2022-2024) of the Advisory Council of ISTAART (Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment). His research activities are focused on clinical, epidemiological and translational studies on cognitive impairment and dementia, particularly Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia, including studies investigating education, cognitive reserve and prevention of cognitive decline and dementia in the older adult population.

### Session Chair



**Dr Claudia Duran-Aniotz** of the Adolfo Ibáñez University Chile.

Personal Statement: Claudia Duran-Aniotz is a neuroscientist with a Master's in Immunology and a Doctorate in Biomedicine, specializing in translational research on dementia, particularly Alzheimer's disease, in Latin America. As co-director of the Latin American Institute for Brain Health (BrainLat) at Adolfo Ibáñez University in Chile, she focuses on bridging the gap between basic research and clinical application. Her work includes identifying biomarkers for Alzheimer's and exploring how environmental factors affect dementia biology.

### Opening speakers



**Professor Ricardo Nitrini** Professor of Neurology of the University of São Paulo

Ricardo Nitrini is a clinical neurologist with expertise in Behavioral and Cognitive Neurology. His academic career has been developed in the University of São Paulo Medical School, from graduation to full professor of Neurology.

In the first years of his academic career he was strongly linked to teaching neurology and publishing books and chapters on books for undergraduate students. His initial areas of research were on infectious diseases such as neurosyphilis, neurosyphilis associated with HIV and prion diseases. Although he had published papers on behavioral and cognitive neurology from the beginning of his academic activities, only later on his research became more focused on epidemiological studies in dementia and in the diagnosis of dementia in low educated individuals. Among his most relevant contributions are tests designed for the diagnosis of cognitive impairment of illiterate and low educated individuals.



**Dr Sylvia Josephy Hernandez**, Department of Neurology CCSS Costa Rica.

Dr. Sylvia Josephy-Hernandez is a behavioral neurologist and neuropsychiatrist at the Mexico Hospital in San Jose, Costa Rica; and an assistant professor at the University of Costa Rica. She completed medical school at the University of Costa Rica. She then pursued an MSc at the Integrated Program in Neuroscience at McGill University. Her research at McGill focused on the role of neurotrophins on memory. She completed neurology residency at the University of Massachusetts where she served as chief resident. She was a Sidney R. Baer Jr. Foundation clinical and research fellow in Behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. There, she worked at the MGH FTD Unit, under the supervision of Dr. Brad Dickerson. Her research at MGH focused on the use of technology to study written language in Primary Progressive Aphasia. She is board certified in neurology, as well as behavioral neurology and neuropsychiatry. Current research includes the use of technology for language analysis and studying the genetic background of patients with dementia in Costa Rica.