

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

Dementia in  
Latin America  
& the Caribbean:  
Second Caribbean  
Dialogue



**Virtual Dialogue:  
Policy, advocacy  
and awareness**

Date: 25 April 2025

Time: 1400-1600 BST

Platform: Zoom

## Chairs and speakers

### Chairs



**Dr. Ishtar Govia**, *Founder & CEO of Amagi*

A member of the World Dementia Council (WDC) and Founder & CEO of Amagi, she brings a wealth of scientific and strategic expertise to her role as co-chair of both dialogues. She brings a unique blend of regional insight, policy acumen, and strategic vision grounded in years of work across health systems, research, and advocacy in the Caribbean. Her role is to facilitate inclusive, action-oriented discussions, ensuring that diverse voices—across clinical care, innovation, regulation, and lived experience—converge around practical, context-specific solutions. She will help connect the dots across both dialogues, guiding participants from diagnosis and preparedness to policy, advocacy, and awareness, all with a view toward building a stronger, more coordinated regional response to dementia and brain health.



**Dr. Horace Cox**, *Acting Director of Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)*

A medical doctor and public health specialist Dr Cox is the Acting Director of Surveillance, Disease Prevention and Control at the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA). Dr. Cox's current portfolio includes efforts to improve health data systems through platforms like the District Health Information System Version 2 (DHIS2) and ongoing initiatives to enhance syndromic surveillance in the Caribbean. He is a key player in the Caribbean Regulatory System (CRS), focused on marketing authorisation and approval and pharmacovigilance. Dr. Cox's commitment to public-private partnerships and cross-sector collaboration aims to strengthen health systems.

## Speakers



**John Barnes, Advocate**

John Barnes MBE is a celebrated former professional footballer and one of England's most iconic sporting figures. Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Barnes maintains strong ties to his country of birth while being widely recognized for his contributions to English football, particularly during his decade with Liverpool FC, where he won multiple domestic titles and earned 79 caps for England. Post-retirement, he has served as a coach, commentator, author, and passionate speaker on issues such as racism, identity, and health. Barnes has spoken openly about his family's experience with dementia, including his aunt's diagnosis, and is a vocal supporter of initiatives that raise awareness about the disease and its impact on communities. He has also engaged in conversations around head injuries in sport and their long-term effects. His participation in the WDC Caribbean Dialogue reflects his commitment to giving back to the region and using his platform to advocate for brain health and public awareness.



**Chelsea Garcia, CEO of LivHealth**

Dr. Chelsea Garcia is an award-winning, American Board-certified Internal Medicine, Palliative Medicine, and Hospice Physician, and the visionary founder and CEO of LivHealth. Born in Trinidad and Tobago and trained at The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Cleveland Clinic Florida and University of Miami she has harnessed her multi-country training to adapt and create a homehealth care service tailored to the seriously ill. A Caribbean patriot and innovator, Dr. Garcia has adapted global healthcare models to meet the needs of Trinidad and Tobago's aging population and those with serious illnesses in resource-limited settings. Through LivHealth, she leads the way in at-home palliative and hospice care in the Caribbean. In 2022, she founded the LivHealth Charitable Foundation to provide equitable palliative care access for underserved communities. As Medical Director for Living Waters Hospice & Mercy Home, Dr. Garcia is committed to using her expertise to build and strengthen her country's capacity to meet the needs of their aging population.



**Ian Hambleton, Professor of Biostatistics at The University of the West Indies**

Ian Hambleton is a biostatistician and data-handling expert with 30 years' experience in Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean, specializing in health analytics. He has authored over 200 research articles, focusing on end-to-end data solutions for resource-limited settings, public health analytics, and sustainable data frameworks. Ian has led numerous projects involving data collection, analytics, and secure online management, collaborating with international universities, donor agencies, and major funders including NIH, UK-MRC, NIHR, and the Wellcome Trust. Recently, he collaborated with CARPHA and CDEMA to produce daily COVID-19 surveillance reports for CARICOM states and authored a 2024 PAHO report on mortality and disease burden in the Americas. Ian currently leads CaribData, an IDB-funded initiative promoting Caribbean data sharing, reuse and storytelling. Ian is Professor of Biostatistics at The University of the West Indies. His academic background includes Mathematics, Medical Statistics, and Statistical Epidemiology.



**Avinash Saxena**, *Vice President of Venture and Innovation at Novamed*

Avinash Saxena is a seasoned leader in technology, policy-making, and strategic partnerships, with 25 years of experience driving innovation across healthcare, AI/ML, and digital transformation. As the Vice President of Venture and Innovation at Novamed, he spearheads partnerships and market expansion across the Caribbean and Latin America, shaping the future of health-tech. Previously, Avinash held executive roles at Square ML, Amber Group, and Daisy-Tech, leading AI-driven research, cybersecurity solutions, and healthcare ecosystem innovations. His expertise spans business strategy, regulatory engagement, and large-scale market entry, having successfully launched operations in Central and South America. Avinash's ability to align emerging technologies with policy frameworks has positioned him as a key player in global tech ecosystems. His track record in forging high-impact collaborations, commercialising digital solutions, and scaling ventures makes him a driving force in innovation and strategic growth.



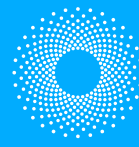
**Seb Walsh**, *Researcher, University of Cambridge*

Dr. Seb Walsh is a UK-based public health doctor and researcher specialising in dementia prevention. As an NIHR Doctoral Fellow (2022–2025) at the University of Cambridge, his research employs mixed methods—including quantitative analysis, qualitative interviewing, policy analysis, and systematic reviewing—to explore population-level approaches to dementia risk reduction. Dr. Walsh co-founded and co-leads the Population-Level Approaches to Dementia Risk Reduction (PLADRR) group, bridging public health research and policy. His work emphasises primary and secondary prevention strategies and direct collaboration with policymakers. Notably, he contributed to the 2024 Lancet Commission on Dementia report, leading the 'Public Health Approaches' section. Dr. Walsh uses his expertise in scalable, population-based prevention strategies to work with policy makers and related stakeholders to identify evidence-informed population level approaches to dementia risk reduction.



**Carika Weldon**, *CEO and Director of Research at CariGenetics*

Dr. Carika Weldon, PhD, MRSB, is a Bermudian biochemist, geneticist, and the first sole Black female founder of a genomics company in the world. As the Founder, CEO, and Director of Research at CariGenetics, she leads pioneering work to advance genetic research and precision medicine for Caribbean populations. Dr. Weldon's research includes the Caribbean Breast Cancer Whole Genome Pilot Study and the Caribbean Prostate Cancer Study, with the goal of sequencing 100,000 Caribbean genomes by 2027 to improve global health equity. With a background in medical biochemistry from the University of Leicester and experience at prestigious institutions such as Oxford University, Dr. Weldon has been recognized internationally, including being named Bermuda's Woman of the Year (2022) and Bermudian of the Year (2023). She is a passionate advocate for STEM education and Caribbean health equity, mentoring the next generation of scientists.



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