World Dementia Council
Leading the Global Action Against Dementia

Virtual Dialogue



Dialogue on innovation in brain health

Date: **Tuesday 8 July 2025**
Time: **1330-1500 BST**
Platform: **Zoom**



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Foreward

This is the first of three meetings the World Dementia Council is hosting to explore dementia and public policy in India. This virtual session, which we are jointly co-chairing, will focus on innovation in brain health.

It is an exciting moment for those working in the field of prevention. There is now a much greater understanding of the science, and globally policymakers are showing a greater interest in brain health and dementia prevention. But moving from scientific knowledge to public policy implementation remains a major challenge — and one that must be addressed globally. The burden of dementia falls disproportionately on low- and middle-income countries, which are often the least equipped to implement expensive first-generation pharmacological interventions.

In this session, we will explore two primary themes. First, we will examine the current scientific understanding of modifiable risk factors — both globally and in the context of India, where economic, linguistic, social and genetic diversity plays a significant role. Second, we will focus on how we can develop and implement public policy interventions, with an emphasis on generating actionable change that can be shared globally. This type of exchange — still relatively new in our field — is essential.

This series will culminate in a paper published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. More importantly, we hope to gain a clearer understanding of how we can make meaningful progress on dementia in India, despite the significant public policy challenges. We also seek to identify ways the international community can support and contribute to this effort, and how lessons from India can inform work in both high-income and other low- and middle-income settings.

The session will be structured in two parts. The first part of the session will feature global experts sharing insights into the science of brain health and share lessons from implementation initiatives in other settings. The second will turn to India — examining the current scientific understanding, policy development, and the practical challenges of turning evidence into action.

We look forward to participants joining the discussion contributing to what promises to be a rich and valuable discussion.



Suvarna Alladi

Professor of Neurology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, India



Miia Kivipelto MD, PhD

Professor in Clinical Geriatrics at Karolinska Institutet (KI), Center for Alzheimer Research



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Agenda

Introduction and Welcome



Lenny Shallcross, *Executive Director of the World Dementia Council*

13.40-14.10 | Opening presentations

Welcome



Miia Kivipelto, *MD, PhD, Professor in Clinical Geriatrics at Karolinska Institutet (KI), Center for Alzheimer Research*

Opening presentations



Jeff Williamson, *Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology, Wake Forest School of Medicine*



Matthew Baumgart, *Vice President of Health Policy Alzheimer's Association*



Dr Pratima Murthy,Director, *National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bangalore, India*



Dr. Yogeshwar Kalkonde, *MD (Med), MSc (Clin. Investigation, USA), MD (Neuro, USA)*

14.10-15.00 | Roundtable discussion



Chair: **Suvarna Alladi,** *Professor of Neurology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, India*

Chairs and speakers

Chairs



Suvarna Alladi, *Professor of Neurology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore, India*

Dr Alladi was a Commonwealth research fellow in cognitive and behavioural neurology at Cambridge UK. She established one of the first memory clinics in India that provided multi-disciplinary care to more than 3000 patients with dementia. Her areas of interest are Frontotemporal dementia, atypical Alzheimer's disease and vascular cognitive impairment. Dr Alladi's group coordinated a multicentric study that adapted cognitive tests for different Indian languages and for illiterates. Her work also focuses on investigating the influence of life-course experiences that include bilingualism, education and social engagement on cognitive resilience. In the background of a rapidly rising burden of dementia, creating awareness and organising community support for dementia became a focus of the Alzheimer's disease NGO she co-founded. Dr Alladi has also made an effort to represent priorities of less-developed societies in international platforms and meetings. She is Chair of World Federation of Neurology, Special interest group on Aphasia & Cognitive disorders and Senior Researcher on the multinational project, Strengthening Responses to Dementia in Developing countries (STRiDE).

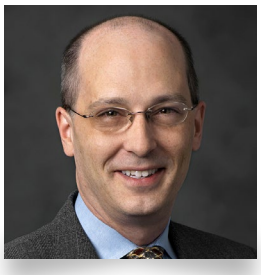


Miia Kivipelto, *MD, PhD, is Professor in Clinical Geriatrics at Karolinska Institutet (KI), Center for Alzheimer Research and senior geriatrician and Director for Research & Development of Theme Aging at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden*

Miia is senior geriatrician and Director for Research & Development of Medical Unit Aging at Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden part of her Nordic Brain Network multidisciplinary research team (around 100 researchers and clinical staff) is located at University of Eastern Finland and Imperial College London, UK, where she has part time position as Professor. Her frontline research findings have been published in leading journals (330+ publications, H-index 75) and she has received numerous prestigious awards. Dr. Kivipelto's translational research focuses on the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of cognitive impairment, dementia and Alzheimer's disease (AD). Through epidemiological studies, Prof. Kivipelto has identified various lifestyle and vascular risk factors for dementia and interactions with genetic factors and clarified underlying mechanisms. She is the PI of the landmark FINGER trial and founder and scientific leader of World-Wide FINGERS network. Professor Kivipelto is often invited to leading global dementia conferences and task forces.



Opening speakers



Matthew Baumgart, *Vice President of Health Policy Alzheimer's Association*

Matthew Baumgart is Vice President of Health Policy for the U.S. Alzheimer's Association, leading a range of projects at the intersection of policy and programs to achieve an aggressive agenda that serves all those affected by the disease. In this role, he heads the Public Health Center of Excellence on Dementia Risk Reduction, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In addition, Baumgart directs the Association's global public policy efforts, working in collaboration with Alzheimer's Disease International, the World Dementia Council, and the World Health Organization. Baumgart joined the Alzheimer's Association in 2009 and has served in roles overseeing policy development, public health policy initiatives, federal affairs, and state governmental affairs. Prior to joining the Association, Baumgart spent nearly 20 years working in the United States Senate, including as legislative director for Senator Barbara Boxer of California and legislative assistant for over a decade to Senator Joe Biden. Baumgart has a degree in communications with a second major in political science from Washington State University.



Dr. Yogeshwar Kalkonde, *MD (Med), MSc (Clin. Investigation, USA), MD (Neuro, USA)*

Yogesh is a neurologist, public health practitioner and researcher. He is trained in internal medicine in India and in immunology, neurology and research methods in the United States. He is currently working at a non-governmental organization, Sangwari which works in rural and indigenous communities of Northern Chhattisgarh. He has extensive experience in working and conducting research on neurological conditions in rural central India and he is passionate about addressing neurological conditions in under served communities through community-based interventions. He is recipient of the Bruce Shoenberg International Award in Neuroepidemiology from the American Academy of Neurology for work on stroke epidemiology in a resource poor setting and Department of Biotechnology/ Wellcome Trust (UK) public health fellowship. He has published more than 60 research papers in the international and national journals including the leading journals like the Lancet, Lancet Global Health, Lancet Neurology, Stroke. He serves in advisory capacity at various premier institutes in the country like the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and the Karnataka brain health initiative of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS).



Dr Pratima Murthy, *Director, National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) Bangalore, India*

NIMHANS is an "Institute of National Importance", and plays a pivotal role in national policy, patient care, training and research. Dr Murthy served as Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, Head of the Centre for Addiction Medicine and has over three decades of experience in the field of mental health. Dr Murthy has made a seminal contributions to public policy in the fields of mental health and integration of mental illness with non-communicable diseases. As Director NIMHANS, Dr Murthy has spearheaded the Karnataka Brain Health Initiative, the first comprehensive public health model for neurological disorders in India. Dr Murthy is recognised for her contribution in improving care for persons with mental illness through her work with the National Human Rights Commission on quality assurance. She presently steers the second edition of the National Mental Health Survey across all states and Union Territories, which will be published in 2026. She has fostered international collaborations and research opportunities for NIMHANS, worked to improve patient care and access to services and helped the institute receive the 2024 Nelson Mandela Award for Health Promotion from the WHO. A prolific author and she has more than 300 research publications and scientific books to her credit. In recognition of her research and academic excellence, Dr Pratima Murthy has received the prestigious Dr Raja Ramanna State Award by the Government of Karnataka and is featured recently in Forbes India's W-Power 2025 list.



Jeff Williamson, *Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology, Wake Forest School of Medicine*

Jeff is a Professor of Internal Medicine and Epidemiology and also Chief, Section on Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine at Wake Forest School of Medicine. He is an internationally known geriatrician and clinical trialist. He serves as Director of the Center for Healthcare Innovation. He is co-leader, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Clinical Core leader for the Wake Forest Claude Pepper Older Americans Independence Center. Jeff received his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia, a Master's degree in Epidemiology from the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health and completed a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine at Johns Hopkins. His primary research interests are in understanding relationships between chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes and maintaining brain health and physical function in aging adults, the prevention of aging-related loss of independence, and in developing research methods for including elderly persons in clinical trials.

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Virtual Dialogues

Dialogue on innovation in diagnosis and treatments

16 September 2025



World Dementia Council
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WDC Advocacy Breakfast at AAIC

Toronto
30 July 2025

in partnership with
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