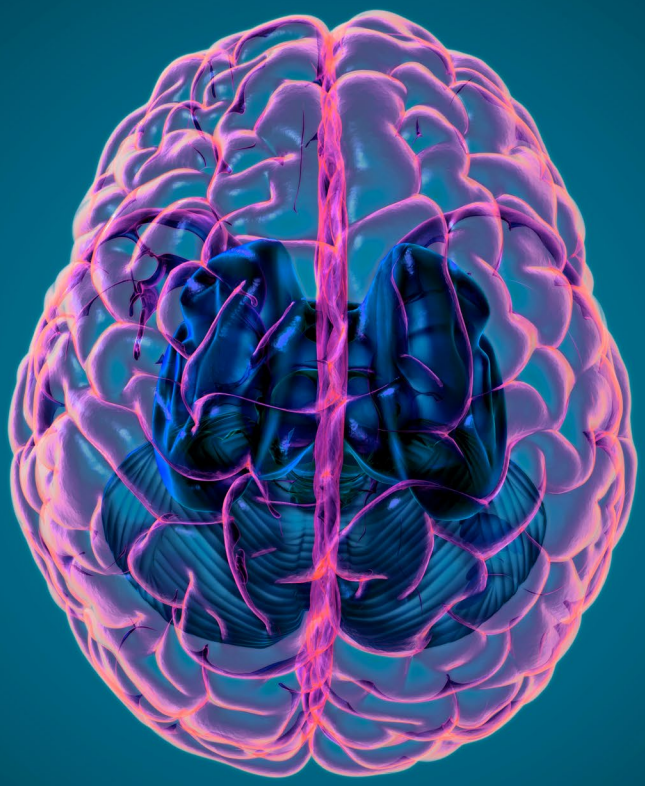
World Dementia Council

Leading the Global Action Against Dementia



From Discovery to Delivery:

Advancing Brain Health Worldwide

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This is a unique moment for the dementia community. For the first time in history we can treat more than just the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease; we can more accurately and easily diagnose the disease; and we now know there are things that individuals can do to reduce their risk of cognitive decline. Each of these advances comes with important caveats — prevention works for some people, diagnosis is still most effective early in the disease, and treatments currently apply only to some forms of Alzheimer's — but taken together, they mark a pivotal point. Science has brought us to this moment, and science will continue to drive progress. However, the challenge now facing the field is different: moving from scientific breakthroughs to delivery in health systems.

In brain health and prevention we have tremendous opportunities. A growing body of research shows that dementia risk can be reduced, both at the population level and for individuals. At a public health level there is increasingly robust evidence about modifiable risk factors — from cardiovascular health and smoking to education and air quality. At an individual level, lifestyle interventions can make a measurable difference: the announcement of the **U.S. POINTER Study** results highlighted the growing evidence base for multi-domain approaches that reduce dementia risk. Unlike the first generation of Alzheimer's treatments, where the expense and need for health infrastructure inevitably slows roll-out globally, action on brain health can begin now and move quickly.

Turning this moment into implementation is what the World Dementia Council is exploring. Across the globe there is activity from advocates, industry and academia, yet every country faces different challenges. To address this, the Council has begun a series of global dialogues focused on specific regions of the world. These events bring together experts from the dementia field and beyond to share perspectives and insights, build networks and expand knowledge. These dialogues kick off a year of engagement that will lead up to the WDC Summit in October 2026. You can read here about some of the work planned — and follow the journey as we build toward that milestone.



Lenny Shallcross
Executive Director,
World Dementia Council



Dr Joanne Pike
Chair, World Dementia Council and President & CEO, Alzheimer's Association

Bringing Leaders Together

To advance its agenda, the World Dementia Council convenes people through four distinctive types of gatherings. Each creates a different kind of space for leaders to connect and exchange ideas.



Summits and Conferences

Invitation-only meetings that bring together leaders from across the globe. These high-level gatherings address key challenges and opportunities in public policy — from science through to care — and set the tone for international collaboration in the dementia field.



Exchanges

Private lunches or dinners designed for small groups of senior figures. In these settings participants can discuss emerging ideas and strategic opportunities, share thoughts and insights and build relationships across sectors and geographies.



Dialogues

A series of virtual meetings held throughout the year. Each is an opportunity for senior leaders working in the field to learn from one another, share perspectives and explore issues in depth. These sessions are by invitation only.



Insight Meetings

Open meetings where experts present on public-policy challenges and their experiences. These broader sessions allow knowledge and learning to reach a wider audience beyond immediate specialist groups.

Taken together, these four formats create a vibrant ecosystem where the Council can convene decision-makers, spark new thinking and build the relationships needed to move from discovery to delivery.





From Ideas to Impact: Our Agenda

The Council is undertaking a year-long programme of work looking at brain health both thematically and geographically — examining how public-policy implementation happens and how the field can move from science to delivery.

As part of this effort it has already convened leaders in Latin America and India to discuss opportunities and challenges in prevention, diagnostics and treatment delivery. Over the coming months the Council will host dialogue and insight meetings on brain health in Africa before returning to do further work on Latin America. These regional conversations allow leaders to share perspectives, build networks and understand the distinct contexts shaping brain-health policy.

In parallel, the Council will also consider thematic questions about how to innovate in brain health — through new approaches, new technologies and new finance — and how to address equity within countries so that advances reach everyone who needs them. By combining regional and thematic perspectives, the Council can identify both the common threads and the unique local factors that shape effective brain-health policy.

This programme of work will culminate at the London Summit on 20 October 2026, where the Council will launch a major report capturing insights from its global conversations and outlining practical recommendations for governments, providers and advocates. By bringing discovery and delivery together, the World Dementia Council aims to help close the gap between scientific progress and real-world impact — improving brain health and dementia care for people everywhere.





