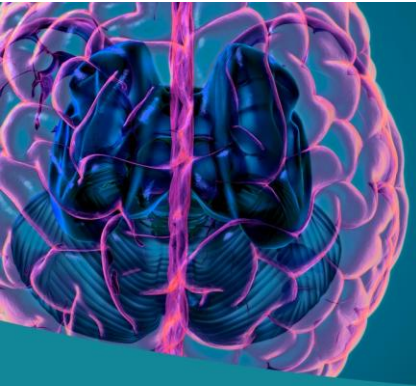


World Dementia Council
Leading the Global Action Against Dementia

Brain Health: from Evidence to Global Implementation

About this project

This is a unique moment for the dementia community. For the first time, 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 most effective early, and current treatments 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 recent U.S. POINTER Study results added further evidence supporting multi-domain approaches to risk reduction. And unlike the first generation of Alzheimer's treatments, where cost and system capacity will inevitably shape the pace of rollout, action on brain health can begin now and move quickly.

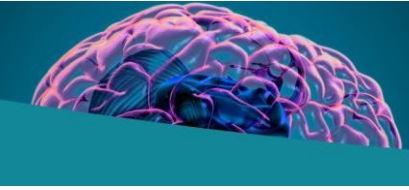
Turning this moment into implementation is what the World Dementia Council is exploring.

Brain health to date

The Council has held virtual dialogues on brain-health implementation in India and Latin America, bringing together policymakers, researchers, clinicians, and advocates to examine practical pathways for prevention and risk reduction. The 2025 WDC Summit also explored the broader public-policy implications of brain health in the session *"Is Brain Health the Answer?"* — highlighting the strategic questions now facing governments and health systems.

What's planned

The Council will continue this work with dialogues on the science of brain health and public-policy implementation in Africa and Latin America. In Latin America, the programme will include an exchange dinner on brain health at the Brain 2026 Congress (3–6 June). And a two-day meeting on 16–17 September in Argentina, that the WDC will co-convened focused on brain-health implementation across the region. This September meeting will combine workshops over two days examining different aspects of implementation with an exchange dinner bringing together regional leaders and international participants. The Council will also convene three dialogues on implementation over the life course exploring the public policy challenges.



About the World Dementia Council

The World Dementia Council brings together leaders from science, medicine, public policy, industry, and advocacy to drive global progress on dementia. We work as both a convening platform and a strategic think tank, connecting an international community and supporting collaboration across borders and sectors. Our purpose is to help shape the direction of the field and ensure that scientific and clinical progress translates into meaningful change for people and societies.

Our History

The World Dementia Council (WDC) was established by the UK Government following the G8 Dementia Summit held in London in 2013. The Summit set out a shared ambition to accelerate progress through international cooperation, information exchange, and coordinated action. The Council's mission is to support and challenge the global community to deliver on that ambition: to ensure dementia remains a priority for governments, health systems, and research funders; to provide thought leadership on emerging opportunities; and to build the networks required to move from commitments to real-world impact.

Where We Are Today

Today, we are at a pivotal moment in the trajectory of our field. Scientific progress has brought us to an inflection point. In prevention, we now understand that the risk of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias can be meaningfully reduced through public health interventions. In diagnosis and treatment, a revolution in diagnostics is underway that promises to transform how and when people are diagnosed.

With these breakthroughs comes a clear and urgent challenge: ensuring that the benefits of scientific research are translated into real-world impact for people everywhere, regardless of geography. Scientific progress must translate into real-world outcomes. This new phase demands a new approach for our global community. We must think longitudinally, about how to sustain innovation and strengthen global advocacy over time. But we must also consider how global advances are implemented through national and regional policies that deliver measurable outcomes.

The World Dementia Council is working in both domains. Our task now is to convene, to connect, and to help lead a global effort that turns scientific possibility into meaningful change for individuals, families, and societies.

Leadership

The Council is chaired by Dr Joanne Pike, with vice chair Professor Paulo Caramelli, and executive director Shallcross. Together, they guide the strategic direction and day-to-day work of the organisation. The Council itself is made up of a board of global experts drawn from across the dementia field, including leaders from industry, life sciences, venture capital, academia, care, and advocacy, as well as representatives from national governments and international public bodies. The organisation also has a Board of Trustees, who provide oversight and stewardship in support of the Council's mission.