

DEMENTIA IN EUROPE

THE ALZHEIMER EUROPE MAGAZINE



Issue 47
Special Supplement
February 2025



34AEC

34th Alzheimer Europe Conference,
Geneva 2024

Watch two Dementia Researcher video podcasts with highlights from Alzheimer Europe Conference in Geneva



Dementia Research Programme Director Adam Smith joined the conference as a member of the press and is responsible for making these podcasts.

Alzheimer Europe Conference 2024

Highlights - Part One



Hosted by
Dr Megan Rose Readman

Guests
Dr Fiona Carragher
Dr Andy Northcott
Dr Sébastien Libert



Podcast 1

Episode 1 is hosted by Dr Megan Rose Readman, NIHR ARC and Alzheimer's Society Dem Comm Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool (UK). She talks with three guests: Dr Fiona Carragher from the Alzheimer's Society (UK), Dr Andy Northcott from the Geller Institute of Ageing and Memory, University of West London (UK), and Dr Sébastien Libert from Alzheimer Europe.

[View video podcast 1 here](#)

Podcast 2

Episode 2 is hosted by Dr Megan Polden, Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Liverpool and the University of Lancaster (UK). She talks with three guests: Dr Aisling Flynn from Bournemouth University (UK), Dr Emma Law from the Scottish Neuroprogressive and Dementia Network (UK) and Dr Lukas Duffner from Alzheimer Europe.

[View video podcast 2 here](#)

Alzheimer Europe Conference 2024

Highlights - Part Two



Hosted by
Dr Megan Polden

Guests
Dr Aisling Flynn
Dr Emma Law
Dr Lukas Duffner



WELCOME

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I am delighted to welcome you to a very special publication about the 34th Alzheimer Europe Conference (#34 AEC) which took place from 8 to 10 October 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland. If you were at the conference, we hope you enjoy looking back at some of the highlights from the event. If you were unable to join us, we hope that this publication gives you a real flavour of our conference and encourages you to join us for a future event, perhaps even for our upcoming 2025 conference (#35AEC) taking place in Bologna, Italy, from 6 to 8 October 2025 under the banner "Connecting science and communities: The future of dementia care".

In this publication, we have a "Warmup" section, where you will find coverage of a number of important pre-conference meetings, organised by the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia, the European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium, the INTERDEM network, the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD), and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG).

We then take a look at all of the conference plenary sessions (Opening Ceremony, plenaries 1 to 5, Closing Ceremony) and I am especially pleased to note that Plenary 1, "Two voices, one story – navigating dementia together" was organised and presented by people with lived experience of dementia - the members of the EWGPWD and EDCWG. It was a real pleasure to chair this session and Alzheimer Europe was extremely proud to be able to include this important plenary in its 2024 conference programme. The work of the EWGPWD and the EDCWG, and the collective voices of both of these groups' members, are vital to our work.

On day 2, plenaries 2 and 3 explored topics around "Making dementia a priority" and "Innovation in dementia care", whilst on the third and final day of the conference, plenaries 4 and 5 included presentations around "Intersectionality in dementia" and "Brain health and prevention".

On top of the coverage of the ancillary meetings and plenary sessions in Geneva, we are pleased to share some other aspects of the event, including:

- a special symposium on "Preparing for new AD treatments" organised by Alzheimer Europe and supported by the gold sponsorship from Lilly
- a special symposium presenting the work of ten early-stage researchers, who were selected by our jury to benefit from attendance bursaries provided by the Alzheimer Europe Foundation and supported by the silver sponsorship of Biogen
- the "Rolling for Dementia" campaign led by Golnaz Atefi, a dementia researcher based at Alzheimer's Centre Limburg, who skated over 1,000 km across Europe, on her way to Geneva, to raise awareness about the importance of diversity and representation in dementia research
- some of the research projects, in which we are involved, presenting their work at the event
- some thoughts from our conference co-hosts, Alzheimer Switzerland and Alzheimer Geneva
- highlights from social media.

I also invite you to view the photo gallery (pages 24 and 25).

I hope you enjoy this conference publication!

Jean Georges,
Executive Director, Alzheimer Europe

Thank you to the sponsors of 34AEC



WARMUP

Prior to the opening of the conference, a number of ancillary meetings took place at the conference centre in Geneva, including the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia, the European Alzheimer’s Disease Consortium, the INTERDEM network, the European Working Group of People with Dementia and the European Dementia Carers Working Group.

European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia

At the European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia meeting, held on 7 and 8 October, 19 European countries were represented, in addition to representatives from the World Health Organization (WHO), WHO Europe, from the European Commission’s DG Research & Innovation (DG RTD), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and from Alzheimer Europe. Over the

course of the two-day meeting, the group heard about national dementia strategies and policies, as well as European and international policy developments.

At the national level, representatives from ministries from Belgium (Flanders), Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Poland, Sweden and the United Kingdom

(Scotland) provided updates to the group on recent developments in their respective countries. Alzheimer Europe led discussions on the use of anti-amyloid treatments and recent developments at a European level, as well as presenting on putting risk-reduction research into practice. The WHO provided an update on work at an international and European region level, including on the future of the Global Action Plan on Dementia. The European Commission presented on the place of dementia and brain health in the EU’s research programmes, whilst the OECD presented on their work which has relevance for dementia.

The European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia was formed in 2018 by Alzheimer Europe, the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport, the Italian Ministry of Health and the Scottish Government and is facilitated by Alzheimer Europe.



European Group of Governmental Experts on Dementia, Geneva (Switzerland), October 2024

European Alzheimer’s Disease Consortium

The European Alzheimer’s Disease Consortium (EADC) is a network of clinical centres of excellence in dementia research and treatment, comprising memory clinics and institutions from 20 countries across Europe. Their meeting, held on 7 and 8 October, commenced with introductory remarks from EADC Chair Frank Jessen and Co-Chair Sebastiaan Engelborghs.

Key presentations on day one included lectures from Federica Ribaldi (Hopitaux Universitaires de Geneve/HUG) on cognitive health initiatives in Geneva, and Claire Chevalier (HUG) on the development of a probiotics platform for Alzheimer’s Disease. Industry experts presented cutting-edge findings on plasma biomarkers

and from clinical trials, followed by a special lecture from Sebastian Palmqvist (Lund University) highlighting the value of plasma biomarkers in primary care. The day concluded with a symposium on ageing and senescence,

featuring discussions on geroscience and neuroimaging. On day two, the focus shifted to young researcher presentations and new initiatives, concluding with discussions on future plans for meetings and collaborations.



European Alzheimer’s Disease Consortium, Geneva (Switzerland), October 2024

INTERDEM

INTERDEM (Early detection and timely INTERvention in DEMentia) is a network of researchers interested in psychosocial interventions, made up of more than 600 researchers and academics with different professional disciplines, spread across 20 countries (18 of which are in Europe). The INTERDEM network held its Annual Meeting on 7 and 8 October.

The meeting kicked off with a welcome from INTERDEM Chairperson Marjolein de Vugt, to all researchers present. Then there was an introduction to new members by Rabih Chattat, a session chaired by Myrra Vernooij-Dassen titled “Research road map”, and a keynote presentation about the WHO’s global response to dementia, delivered by Katrin Seeher in a session chaired by Martin Orrell. Other sessions on this first day included an update of the JPND Working



INTERDEM Annual Meeting, Geneva (Switzerland), October 2024

Group INTEREST and a business meeting to discuss new initiatives.

On the second day, attendees were split into different “taskforce” groups, to discuss topics including Young Onset Dementia, Intersectionality, Inequalities, and Social Health. A final plenary session was chaired by Esme Moniz-Cook on taskforce progress. Lastly, Frans Verhey chaired a session on

the INTERDEM Academy that included a presentation of the INTERDEM Academy Publication award to winner Jacoba Huizinga, together with Gerda van Tongerloo who reflected on her role in research as a person with dementia.

Alzheimer Europe is proud to be a key partner of INTERDEM, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Happy Anniversary!

European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG)



European Dementia Carers Working Group, Geneva (Switzerland), October 2024

On 8 October, members of the EWGPWD and EDCWG met in the morning. This was the first face-to-face meeting of members of both working groups during the current term of office.

In the meeting of the EWGPWD, members addressed the topic of independent living and housing which is the focus of the 2024 Alzheimer Europe Yearbook. This was followed by a networking event which was attended by delegates with dementia and their supporters.

Prior to the conference, Alzheimer Europe also gave a tour of the conference venue for delegates with dementia.

Members of the EDCWG were informed about a brain health campaign for young adults (people in their early twenties) which has been developed in the context of two European projects (ADIS and Pattern-Cog) and discussed how this work, initially developed in the Spanish context, could be implemented in other countries. Members also addressed the topic of independent living and housing from the perspective of informal carers.



European Working Group of People with Dementia, Geneva (Switzerland), October 2024

DAY 1



Opening Ceremony

Stefanie Becker, Director of Alzheimer Switzerland and Board Member of Alzheimer Europe, and Jean Georges, Executive Director of Alzheimer Europe, addressed delegates at the Opening Ceremony of the conference, on the afternoon of 8 October.

Stefanie Becker began by saying “For decades, we’ve been waiting for a breakthrough in dementia treatment, and now, as these innovations emerge, they bring not only hope but also new challenges that people with dementia and their families are already facing”.

She also noted that innovation is not just about breakthroughs in treatment, but rather it is also about “shifting social attitudes and embracing new technologies to create a truly dementia-inclusive society.” Innovation, therefore, also means finding better ways to support people in their daily lives, she affirmed. “Patient and carers’ organisations, like Alzheimer Switzerland, are at the forefront and will continue to advocate for everyone, ensuring that no one is left behind”, she said, emphasising that this is especially the case for those who may not meet the criteria for new treatments. Finally, she highlighted the importance of creating a society where the voices of people with dementia and their

caregivers are heard, valued and acted upon. “This is the foundation of a truly dementia-inclusive society”, she said.

Jean Georges extended a special welcome to the 37 people with dementia among the delegates, as well as to the 49 carers/supporters in attendance. He thanked Alzheimer Europe’s sponsors, including gold sponsor Lilly, silver

sponsors Biogen, Novo Nordisk, Otsuka, and Terumo, and bronze sponsors, BioArctic, Bristol Myers Squibb, MSD, Prothena and Roche, and expressed Alzheimer Europe’s gratitude to the International Conference Center Geneva (CICG) for hosting the event, as well as to the Geneva Convention Bureau, the République et Canton de Genève, and the Switzerland Convention & Incentive Bureau, for their support. Last, but certainly not least, he thanked colleagues at Alzheimer Switzerland and Alzheimer Geneva, for co-hosting the event.

“ For decades, we’ve been waiting for a breakthrough in dementia treatment, and now, as these innovations emerge, they bring not only hope but also new challenges that people with dementia and their families are already facing” - Stefanie Becker



Pierre Maudet



Marjolein de Vugt

Following these opening words, delegates were addressed by Salome von Greyerz, who welcomed delegates on behalf of the Swiss Federal Office for Public Health, noting that this year’s conference not only opens up new horizons, but also creates links that are vital for healthcare professionals, researchers and policy makers and, most importantly, for people with dementia and their caregivers.

A welcome video from Lukas Engelberger, Member of the Executive Council of the Canton of Basel-Stadt, and President of the Swiss Conference of the Cantonal Ministers of Public Health was screened next. You can view the video, here: <https://youtu.be/GO9lrzjPlp0>. Pierre Maudet, State Councillor of the Republic and Canton of Geneva, then stepped up to the lectern, to warmly welcome delegates to Geneva.

The Opening Ceremony was rounded off by Marjolein de Vugt, who addressed delegates in her capacity as Chairperson of the INTERDEM (Early detection and timely INTERvention in DEMentia) network. She emphasised the power of small steps in dementia. “Dealing with dementia can feel like an insurmountable challenge”, she said, “but breaking it down into small, manageable steps leads to significant improvements in quality of life. These small, everyday victories often bring about ‘golden moments’ of connection and meaning, which are vital in dementia care.” She also



Stefanie Becker



Jean Georges

“ Dealing with dementia can feel like an insurmountable challenge, but breaking it down into small, manageable steps leads to significant improvements in quality of life. These small, everyday victories often bring about ‘golden moments’ of connection and meaning, which are vital in dementia care” - Marjolein de Vugt

stressed the importance of collaboration across psychosocial and biomedical approaches, due to the complexity of dementia, which requires diverse solutions. “Psychosocial innovations, risk reduction strategies, and medical advancements are all important. These approaches should complement each other, offering multiple paths toward a better future”, she stated.

collaboration is key in psychosocial innovations. By focusing on interventions that enhance resilience, cognitive and social health, and quality of life. INTERDEM embodies the spirit of innovation needed to improve the lives of people living with dementia.”

In closing, Marjolein de Vugt pointed to INTERDEM’s role in driving innovation, asserting that “as we celebrate 25 years of the INTERDEM network, it’s clear that

WATCH NOW:
Opening Ceremony



Salome von Greyerz



Lukas Engelberger

DAY 1

Two voices, one story navigating dementia together

The first plenary of the conference was a joint session organised by the members of the European Working Group of People with Dementia (EWGPWD) and the European Dementia Carers Working Group (EDCWG), chaired by Jean Georges (Luxembourg). The two working groups focused on the interrelated topics of living with dementia, relationships and independence.

The different presentations provided a balanced overview of what life with dementia can be like, taking into account the very different experiences that people with dementia and carers across Europe may have. People who look at dementia from the outside may hold the view that living life to the full ends on diagnosis but the reality for many people is far removed from this perception. This plenary session set out to illustrate that many who live with dementia, and their carers/supporters, have a fierce and positive determination to enjoy themselves and play an active role in their communities. They seek not pity but support. They want empathy rather than sympathy. They require kindness and encouragement not dismissal or rejection.

Paddy Crosbie from Ireland, for example, remembered hearing the words ‘It’s young onset Alzheimer’s’ and how he did not

know how he’d cope, but he was also told to keep his husband doing what he could for as long as he could and this carried him through.

Trevor Salomon, a fellow carer from the UK, suggested, “It’s easy to see what people living with dementia can no longer do” and encouraged people with dementia and carers/supporters to focus on what is possible, and encourage them to do it. He provided an example of an employer who went to considerable lengths to adapt to his wife’s needs.

Liv Thorsen, from Norway, who cares for her husband described their philosophy to living with dementia, emphasising the power of thought and how the way that people think about Alzheimer’s disease affects their daily lives and to some extent their experience of dementia.



Lieselotte Klotz



Liv Thorsen



Paddy Crosbie





Shelagh Robinson, a person with dementia from the UK, took a close look at relationships that people with dementia have with others and the nature and quality of those relationships (i.e. whether they are abling or disabling, respectful, smothering or inclusive). She emphasised the importance of being kind to oneself and others, and in the context of spirituality, ended on a positive note with a quote from

Julian of Norwich, “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”.

Lieselotte (Lilo) Klotz from German shared her first thoughts on hearing her diagnosis, namely, “This can’t be, not me”, explaining that it was not part of her life plan and how she had not been able to accept for the first few years the many changes and

losses she was experiencing. She ended, however, with the statement, “an ordinary day is the greatest blessing”.

At the end of the session, there was a short video presentation entitled “I may have Alzheimer’s disease, but it doesn’t have me”, which was recently developed by the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA) and Alzheimer Europe.



Shelagh Robinson



Trevor Salomon

In this video, Chris Roberts talks about the importance of hope and of the timely detection of Alzheimer’s disease, adding that he is not defined by the disease. Watch the video, here: <https://youtu.be/icW92mf5J00>. Each of the five speakers with lived experience at this first plenary session received rapturous applause from the audience, as did the video.

WATCH NOW:
Plenary 1

DAY 2



Plenary 2 speakers (left to right): Margit Jochum Christin, Alex Gobey, Katrin Seeher, Giovanni Frisoni, Charles Scerri

Making dementia a priority

The second plenary of the conference was on “Making dementia a priority” and was moderated by Charles Scerri (Malta).

Margit Jochum Christin was the first speaker. Responsible for the specialist area “dementia” and co-responsible for the Coordination Centre of the National Dementia Platform at the Federal Office of Public Health, Switzerland, she gave a talk on dementia in Swiss healthcare policy. She highlighted that the Swiss National Dementia Platform brings together almost 90 stakeholder organisations and is dedicated to ensuring a healthcare system that provides appropriate support, care and treatment for all people with dementia and their relatives.

Up next, Katrin Seeher discussed key achievements of the World Health Organization (WHO)’s Global Action Plan on Dementia. Katrin Seeher, from the WHO’s Brain Health unit stated that the current round of Global Dementia Observatory (GDO) data collection indicates that none of the global targets of the ‘Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia (2017-2025)’ will be achieved by 2025. “To continue building on recent scientific advances and momentum created by the adoption of the Global dementia action plan in 2017, we need renewed global commitment

to implement the actions outlined in the global action plan and realizes its vision”, she urged. She also noted that the Pan-European Mental Health Coalition provides an important mechanism to scale up action across the region.

The third speaker was Alex Gobey, Director of the Dementia Care Directorate in Malta. His presentation focused on the National Dementia Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2024 – 2031, titled ‘Reaching New Heights’, which was launched on 21 February 2024. It builds on the first national strategy, which ran between 2015 and 2023. This strategy aims to improve the quality of services and the quality of life for people living with this condition in the Maltese Islands and was produced after extensive research and work carried out by an expert stakeholder committee, which was then submitted for public consultation. “This new strategy”, he stressed, “aims to make significant advances in dementia prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care by implementing the latest developments in the field.”

The fourth and final speaker at this session was Giovanni Frisoni, Clinical Neurologist, Full Professor of Clinical Neurosciences at the

University of Geneva, Switzerland, and Director of the Memory Center at Geneva University Hospital. He delivered a presentation about the Swiss Brain Health Plan (SBHP), which, he highlighted, “was conceptualised to value, promote, and protect brain health over the entire life course.” The five strategic objectives of the SBHP are: to raise awareness; to strengthen cross-disciplinary and interprofessional training programmes for healthcare professionals; to foster research on brain health determinants and individualised prevention of brain disorders; to prioritise a holistic, integrated and person-centred public health approach to promoting brain health and preventing brain disorders; and to support, empower, and engage patients, caregivers, and patient organisations, helping to reduce stigma and discrimination.

After the plenary, delegates were able to view poster presentations, exhibited in the International Conference Center Geneva (ICCG) foyer area, and to speak to poster presenters about their research.



Preparing for new AD treatments

At Special Symposium 1, “Preparing for new AD treatments”, organised by Alzheimer Europe, chaired by Angela Bradshaw (Luxembourg) and supported by the gold sponsorship from Lilly, four speakers shared the stage.

First up was Jan Runar Eliassen (Norway), a member of the EWGPWD, who shared his personal perspective as a person with early-onset Alzheimer’s dementia. He was diagnosed at the age of 45 which was a huge shock for him and his family. “In Norway, we are proud of our healthcare”, he said, “but care regarding people with dementia has a long way to go”. Jan Runar and his family have had little or no contact or support within their local community since the diagnosis and this is sadly far from a unique story. “When I travel around Norway this is something I hear all over”, he said. Thankfully, he and his wife have established good contact with the Norwegian Health Association and he was asked to be a member of their working group for people with dementia and, more recently, was nominated to the EWGPWD as well. These groups and contacts, as well as joining Norway’s ‘Dementia Choir’, a television programme inspired by that of the BBC in the UK, have been a saving grace for Jan Runar and

his family. In closing, he stated that his sincere wish for the future of dementia care is that “no one should feel they are alone with this disease”.

Cath Mummery spoke about “Moving from research to clinical practice in the treatment of AD”. Her presentation highlighted that dementia services are currently primarily community based and are insufficiently resourced, while clinical trials environments are highly-regulated, well-resourced and typically manage patients with minimal comorbidities. The arrival of disease-modifying therapies, and the beginning of a treatment era in dementia, “provides a golden opportunity to reshape services, improve access to diagnostics and reframe conceptualisation of dementia”, she said. However, she also emphasised the importance of bridging the gap between the real world and clinical trials. She explored some of the questions that arise from this, and what might be done “to start a journey

towards access for all to a biological diagnosis and treatments for dementias.”

The next speaker was Julius Popp, head of the Centre for Cognitive Disorders and Alzheimer’s disease at the Hirslanden Hospital Zürich and the head of the research group Biomarkers and Neuropsychiatry at the University of Zürich. He pointed out that “the use of biomarkers is often recommended, but is currently still limited by their relative invasiveness, limited availability, and costs.” He also said that with new drug therapies targeting specific brain pathologies, biomarkers would become mandatory to determine the presence of pathology and to evaluate the therapy effects on this pathology. Finally, he stated that “blood-based biomarkers and other non-invasive markers will become available for clinical practice in the near future. These developments will lead to a much broader utilisation of biomarkers and accelerate the development of tailored prevention and treatment approaches.”

The fourth and final speaker at this symposium was Leonie Visser, PhD, Amsterdam UMC, who began her talk on the paradigm shift in healthcare and professional-patient communication with the assertion that “initiating disease-modifying treatment for AD is a preference-sensitive decision. Shared decision-making is not a new concept, yet it is even more important but also complex, because of the uncertainties regarding the benefits, risk of side effects, and burden of administration and monitoring”. She also noted that, in order to encourage patient engagement and support meaningful conversations about disease-modifying treatment initiation, educational materials and communication tools are needed, and that these should be developed taking a co-creation approach.



Special Symposium 1 speakers (left to right): Angela Bradshaw, Cath Mummery, Jan Runar Eliassen, Leonie Visser, Julius Popp

WATCH NOW:
Special Symposium 1

DAY 2

Dementia researchers of the future

The Special Symposium “Dementia researchers of the future” was organised by the Alzheimer Europe Foundation and the INTERDEM Academy, thanks to the support of the silver sponsorship of Biogen.

This session afforded a great opportunity to ten early stage researchers, who were selected by the Alzheimer Europe Foundation’s jury to benefit from bursaries to attend and present at the conference. The selection of these ten bursaries was based on the best average scores each received from the jury members.

Iva Holmerová (Czechia) and Fania Dassen (Netherlands) co-chaired this Special Symposium, and the ten researchers who presented their work were:

- SS3-01 Özlem Çiçek Doğan (Turkey): Understanding the experiences of individuals with dementia and their caregivers after the Turkey-Syria earthquakes: a qualitative study
- SS3-02 Natalia Soldevila-Domenech (Spain): Predictors of the cognitive response to multimodal lifestyle interventions for cognitive decline prevention: pooled analysis of four clinical trials
- SS3-03 Electra Chatzidimitriou (Greece): The predictive value of social cognition assessment over and above neuroimaging for 1-year functional outcomes in behavioral variant frontotemporal dementia
- SS3-04 Raphaella Paradisi (Greece): Modified Cued Recall test for the diagnosis of dementia of the Alzheimer’s type in a Greek population of adults with Down syndrome: a validation study
- SS3-05 Matěj Kučera (Czech Republic): The role of risk factors in development of cognitive disorders and cognitive decline in the Czech Republic and the Netherlands: comparative SHARE prospective study
- SS3-06 Eda Atay (Turkey): The effect of cognitive stimulation therapy on apathy, loneliness, anxiety and activities of daily living in elderly individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer’s
- SS3-07 Nina Stopar (Slovenia): Risk factors for dementia among patients in memory clinic
- SS3-08 Marina Makri (Greece): An innovative online educational program on Neurodegenerative Genetic Counseling developed in Greece, Germany, Belgium, Spain and Turkey
- SS3-09 Gabriela Początek (Poland): The meanings of the life story of a person living with dementia and their tendency to “wander”-the narrative perspective of Polish caregivers
- SS3-10 Anja Mrhar (Slovenia): The effect of individual characteristics on the level of nutrition related knowledge: exploratory study for older adults across levels of cognitive impairment.



Iva Holmerová (second from left at the front) and Fania Dassen (next to her, in the green dress) who co-chaired this Special Symposium, with the ‘Dementia researchers of the future’

Innovation in dementia care

The third plenary of the conference covered topics related to innovation in dementia care. The session was moderated by Marjolein de Vugt (Netherlands).

Tobias Nef, the first speaker, delivered a presentation titled “Digital Biomarkers to support dementia patients and their caregivers”. He is a Full Professor of Gerontechnology and Rehabilitation at the ARTORG Research Center for Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Neurology at the University of Bern, Switzerland. He began by sharing results from a large survey of Swiss nursing staff in various hospitals (<https://matchrn.unibas.ch/>), which found that one of the greatest challenges for nursing staff, particularly at night, is to maintain an overview and decide which patient requires attention at any given time. Tobias Nef and colleagues put together a research project investigating whether the introduction of sensor-based digital nursing assistance systems could help nursing staff to keep track of patients on the ward, prevent unnecessary rounds, intervene quickly in emergencies and reduce stress for nursing staff. The study was conducted on a 22-bed geriatric psychiatric ward (Beyeler Ward, University Psychiatric Services Bern) and the results were good, with both patients and staff responding positively to the system.

The next speaker was Esther Loseto-Gerritzen from the Institute of Mental Health at the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom. She spoke about online peer support for people with young-onset dementia, and began by noting that peer support is known to be an important source of post-diagnostic support for this particular group of people. However, she specified, in-person peer support groups are not accessible for everyone.

“Our research shows that the benefits of peer support for people with young-onset dementia are not limited to in-person settings”, she continued, also pointing out that online peer support can foster social support, information sharing and friendship. “Moreover, it offers unique advantages, such as the ability to engage from the comfort of one’s own home



Plenary 3 speakers (left to right): Lizzy Boots, Esther Loseto-Gerritzen, Aisling Flynn, Tobias Nef, Marjolein de Vugt

and access to a wide range of platforms and modes of communication, allowing people to choose something that suits their needs, abilities and preferences.”

Future work, she stressed, should focus on improving signposting, reducing digital exclusion and gathering more quantitative evidence, to inform policy and practice and improve the availability and accessibility of online peer support.

The third speaker at this session was Aisling Flynn, Lecturer in Occupational Therapy, Bournemouth University, United Kingdom, whose talk centred on virtual reality as a means of promoting the social connectedness of people living with dementia and their supporters.

“Given the social health challenges that many people living with dementia face, it is important to explore innovative solutions that promote social connectedness”, she began, also stressing that multi-user virtual reality “enables people living with dementia and their caregivers to share immersive experiences, potentially promoting social connectedness, all from the comfort of their own homes.”

She concluded her talk by saying that, while still under-researched, multi-user virtual reality “shows significant potential in enhancing social health outcomes for people living with dementia, offering a promising frontier for future research.”

The fourth and final speaker in Plenary 3 was Lizzy Boots from the Alzheimer Center Limburg/ Maastricht University, Netherlands. In her presentation, “From research and development to implementation - the Evaluation in Life Cycle of Information Technology (ELICIT) framework” she highlighted the need to involve end-users and potential financiers at an early stage, to build a business case together with stakeholders, to invest in (tailored) training for coaches and ambassadors, and she especially urged researchers to “Stay open” and to “keep on co-creating to improve your innovation. The perspective of ambassadors can help you keep up with new challenges in the ever-changing care climate.”



DAY 3

Intersectionality in dementia

Plenary 4 opened the conference programme on the third and final day, and comprised four presentations revolving around the theme of intersectionality. It was chaired by Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis (Portugal).

She opened the session by introducing a short video, which summarised the journey of dementia researcher Golnaz Atefi, who, during World Alzheimer's Month this September, skated 1,026 km, setting the Guinness World Record for the farthest distance ever skated by a female. Golnaz Atefi said, of her journey: "I'm honoured to have accomplished this as part of the Rolling for Dementia campaign, raising awareness about dementia. My mission was to engage with professionals and community members across Europe, finishing at the Alzheimer Europe Conference, to highlight the critical need for inclusivity in dementia care and research."

Alzheimer Europe was pleased to support this amazing campaign, which was originally set to conclude in September, but due to overwhelming support, the "Rolling for Dementia" journey, both on and off skates, will continue and will run throughout Golnaz Atefi's fellowship at University College London, continuing to collect and share insights about dementia. "I'm incredibly grateful to Alzheimer Europe for promoting inclusive dementia care, and I'm looking forward to both learning from and sharing the latest advancements in research during the conference", she concluded. The video can be viewed, here: <https://youtu.be/njCCHHTIjz4Y>.

After this short video, the first speaker was welcomed to the stage. Antonella Santucci Chadha, Founder of the Women's Brain Foundation, Vice President of Euresearch, and former regulator and pharma executive, spoke about the importance of gender in dementia research, noting that Alzheimer's disproportionately affects women, both as patients and as caregivers. The Women's Brain Foundation is exploring how sex and gender impact the disease, with research showing that

CDR-SB scores are higher when the informant is either female or a child, which, she pointed, out highlights the need to adjust clinical evaluations.

The second speaker at this plenary session was T. Rune Nielsen, Associate Professor, PhD, Danish Dementia Research Centre, Copenhagen University Hospital & Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark. His talk was on reaching out to and including minority ethnic groups in dementia research.

"Minority ethnic groups are not really hard to reach in dementia research, they just require a different mindset and approach from the researcher", he began. He also highlighted the fact that most of the practices used to recruit and involve research participants frequently do not consider the diverse needs of minority ethnic groups, and said that "researchers should be creative and flexible in their recruitment strategies, and consider various possible strategies before starting a project."

Next to take the floor was John Angel Bond, a dedicated PhD researcher in dementia studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom and a committed member of the LGBTQ+ Dementia Advisory Group. He introduced his presentation "Queering Up Dementia Care: The Next Steps" and stressed that this was very much a joint effort together with Mike Parish from the LGBTQ+ Dementia Advisory Group. Their presentation emphasised inclusivity, specialised care, and actionable change for LGBTQ+ individuals living with dementia.

First, it highlighted that LGBTQ+ individuals form a significant yet often overlooked part of the dementia population. "They encounter unique challenges such as social isolation, lack of family support, and the lingering effects of past discrimination. Understanding and addressing these issues is crucial for providing dignified dementia care", he said.

Secondly, the presentation stressed the importance of implementing inclusive practices in care environments, which, he said, "involves recognising chosen families, creating LGBTQ+ affirming spaces, and providing comprehensive staff training. Tailored care that respects gender identity and sexual orientation is essential."



Plenary 4 speakers (left to right): T. Rune Nielsen, John Angel Bond, Eimear McGlinchey, Antonella Santucci Chadha

Lastly, the presentation advocated for policy reforms, increased funding for LGBTQ+ support organisations, and regular inclusivity training. “These steps are essential to ensure that LGBTQ+ individuals living affected by dementia receive respectful and compassionate care as they navigate dementia, ultimately leading to an improvement in their quality of life”, he finished.

The final speaker was Eimear McGlinchey, Assistant Professor in Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland and Faculty at the Global Brain Health Institute. She discussed the link between Down syndrome and Alzheimer’s disease, explaining that virtually all individuals with Down syndrome develop Alzheimer’s

disease-related changes in the brain by age 40, and that Alzheimer’s has become the leading cause of death in this population. “These individuals experience a life expectancy more than 20 years shorter than the general population due to this disease”, she stated.

Speaking about the exclusion of Down syndrome from Alzheimer’s research, she said that “despite the overwhelming impact of Alzheimer’s disease on people with Down syndrome, they are often left out of crucial Alzheimer’s research, including clinical trials and post-diagnostic care initiatives. This lack of inclusion deepens existing healthcare inequities and limits access to important treatments.” She

also highlighted the importance of advancing global inclusion in Alzheimer’s research, and said that “in order to reduce these inequities, it’s vital to increase the inclusion of people with Down syndrome, particularly from low- and middle-income countries, in global Alzheimer’s disease initiatives. Addressing intersectional issues—such as race, geography, and socioeconomic status—is critical to providing equitable research, care, and support for this population.”

WATCH NOW:
Plenary 4

Rolling for Dementia: A journey of advocacy and inclusion

Golnaz Atefi tells us more about the Rolling for Dementia campaign, in her own words:

“In September 2024, during World Alzheimer’s Month, I embarked on an extraordinary journey, skating over 1,000 km across Europe, culminating at the Alzheimer Europe Conference in Geneva. The Rolling for Dementia campaign was inspired by a vision to bridge the gap between research and community engagement, raising awareness about dementia and addressing the inequities in its care. This initiative combined my passion for dementia advocacy with a unique and dynamic approach to bringing researchers, caregivers, and communities together through the active and engaging medium of roller-skating. Through this campaign, I aimed to address a critical issue in dementia care: inclusivity. While recent advancements hold immense potential, they often fail to reflect the diverse experiences within the dementia community. My journey highlighted the importance of designing interventions that are both accessible and equitable, ensuring no one is left behind.

Skating across Europe was not only a physical challenge but also a deeply meaningful experience. Along the way, I interviewed many individuals, including professionals, people with dementia, caregivers, and community members, each offering unique insights into dementia care and prevention. These conversations highlighted the diverse challenges faced by underrepresented groups and the gaps in existing care models. For instance, minority communities, whether defined by ethnicity, early-onset dementia, LGBTQ+ identity, or specific caregiving circumstances, are often overlooked in both research and practice. My goal was to amplify their voices and advocate for more inclusive solutions that address their unique needs. These conversations were grounded in my PhD research, which explores the challenges and potential of technology in the context of dementia care.

The choice of roller-skates was deeply personal. They remind me of my



DAY 3



Golnaz at the Alzheimer Europe offices

grandparents, who gifted me my first pair and sparked my curiosity about dementia through their own lived experience. Skating over 1,000 kilometres while working on my project was physically and mentally demanding, but the energy and positivity from those I met made every step worthwhile.

Rolling for Dementia wasn't just about research; it was also a call to action for the broader public. Throughout the

journey, we emphasized the importance of education around dementia, addressing stigma, and promoting prevention strategies. This campaign was as much about raising awareness as it was about building meaningful connections. I am deeply grateful to the interviewees

who shared their professional and personal experiences, enriching the campaign with their insights. This campaign would not have been possible without the incredible support of many contributors.



Golnaz and some of the Alzheimer Europe team on World Alzheimer's Day, 21 September 2024, in Luxembourg

Brain health and prevention

The fifth and final plenary session at the conference was on the topic of “Brain health and prevention” and was moderated by Giovanni Frisoni (Switzerland).

Kicking off the session, the first speaker was Daniela S. Jopp, Professor of Psychology, whose work at the Institute of Psychology and LIVES Center of Competence on Life-span, University of Lausanne, focuses on adult development and ageing. In a presentation called “Healthy ageing – is it possible to escape dementia?”, she emphasised that dementia is not the “natural fate” of individuals reaching age 100. Indeed, the cognitive capacity of centenarians is very heterogenous, she said, ranging from high functioning to strong cognitive limitations.

The second speaker was Jean-Charles Lambert, PhD, Inserm Research Director, head of the team “Search for molecular determinants of Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders” at the Université de Lille, Institut Pasteur de Lille, France. His talk centred on the question “When does dementia become inescapable?” and explored the role of genetics. “Alzheimer’s

disease has a strong genetic component, and its characterisation is a major goal of Alzheimer’s disease research in order to better understand the pathophysiological processes involved and to propose new therapeutic targets”, he highlighted. However, he also noted that “with the exception of the rare monogenic forms, for which a genetic council can be proposed, the use of this genetic information is not relevant at a clinical level for the common forms”, also mentioning that personalised medicine may be possible with the advent of immunotherapy.

Ira Haraldsen, MD, PhD, from the Department of Neurology at Oslo University Hospital, Norway spoke next, sharing results from the AI-Mind project, of which she is the coordinator. Regarding the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance early dementia detection, she stated that “Artificial

intelligence enables more accurate risk prediction by integrating diverse data sources, identifying patterns that are often missed by conventional methods.” She also emphasised, concerning proactive risk management, that AI “can predict dementia onset years before clinical symptoms appear, allowing for timely interventions and personalised care planning”. Finally, regarding some of the challenges and future directions, she said that “while promising, AI models must address ethical concerns around information without cure, data privacy, interpretability and population-specific generalisability, to ensure they are clinically viable and ethically sound”.

Finally, Bogdan Draganski, Professor at the Neurozentrum – Inselspital, University of Bern, Switzerland, discussed new preventative approaches for vascular dementia. Vascular dementia is a very common, but under-investigated brain health problem associated with increasing age, he began. “There are several cognitive domains including planning, attention and emotional flexibility, that



Plenary 5 speakers (left to right): Bogdan Draganski, Ira Haraldsen, Daniela S. Jopp, Jean-Charles Lambert, Giovanni Frisoni

“There is close interrelation between some forms of vascular dementia and cerebral amyloid angiopathy, which is common in patients with Alzheimer’s disease showing a prevalence of 50%. The most common symptoms leading to diagnosis are related to spontaneous brain haemorrhages”, he said. In closing, he also highlighted that the appearance of the “so-called white matter hyperintensities” in brain imaging should be taken seriously. “Efficient and consequent treatment of cardio- and cerebro-vascular risk factors, especially in the middle age can prevent the progression of vascular dementia”, he concluded.

show deficits due to small vessel disease”, he continued, also pointing out that the condition can remain undetected until verified using brain imaging techniques.

WATCH NOW:
Plenary 5

Au revoir Genève, auf Wiedersehen Genf, arrivederci Ginevra! ... E buongiorno Bologna!

The closing ceremony of the conference included comments from Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis, in her capacity as our Chairperson. She took the opportunity to thank all of the delegates and speakers “for making these three days such a fantastic time by sharing experiences and knowledge from different perspectives as people with dementia, carers, researchers, healthcare and social professionals. Different perspectives but with a common goal: To improve the quality of life of people with dementia and carers.” She also thanked all of our corporate sponsors, including gold sponsor Lilly, silver sponsors Biogen, Novo Nordisk, Otsuka and Terumo and bronze sponsors BioArctic, Bristol Myers Squibb, MSD, Prothena and Roche. Finally, she said a huge thanks to the Alzheimer Europe team for all the hard work in making the conference happen and to our co-hosts Alzheimer Switzerland.



Mario Possenti

Hans Stöckli, President of Alzheimer Switzerland expressed gratitude for the support provided by Swiss partners and especially the the International

Conference Center Geneva (CICG) for their support. He also gave a big thanks to the Swiss institutional speakers who spoke at the opening ceremony on Tuesday and finally, thanked the translators and all the local staff for their help and support.

Mario Possenti, Secretary General of Federazione Alzheimer Italia, then took to the stage to invite delegates to the 35th Alzheimer Europe Conference, “Connecting science and communities: The future of dementia care”, taking place in Bologna, Italy, from 6 - 8 October 2025.

A short video, introducing Bologna as our next host location, was shown. You can view it, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=Nqv58pGnpy6ivKtT&v=oghB0JVyP7I&feature=youtu.be>



Maria do Rosário Zincke dos Reis

WATCH NOW:
Closing ceremony

RESEARCH PROJECTS AT 34AEC

LETHE: AI-driven dementia prevention



Left to right: Elisabeth Stögmann, Sten Hanke, Francesca Mangialasche, Ana Diaz and Jeroen Bruinsma

On 9 October, the LETHE project was featured in a session at the 34th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Geneva, showcasing advancements in AI and technology for dementia prevention. The session was introduced by project coordinator Sten Hanke from FH Joanneum. He outlined LETHE's overarching goals, which focus on using artificial intelligence and digital tools to develop and implement preventative strategies against cognitive decline.

Next, Francesca Mangialasche from Karolinska Institutet spoke about risk reduction and prevention. She highlighted the relevance of the FINGER model, a multidomain intervention strategy that integrates diet, physical activity, cognitive training, and vascular risk monitoring. She discussed how the FINGER approach has been adapted worldwide, stressing the need for scalable, effective solutions that address individual needs while promoting public health outcomes. In addition to that she also pointed out how the LETHE project contributes to the digitalisation of the FINGER model, bridging the gap between traditional multidomain interventions and the opportunities offered by advanced technology.

Following Francesca Mangialasche, Sten Hanke returned to provide an overview of LETHE's technological framework. He described how

the project uses artificial intelligence to process data collected through wearable devices and mobile applications. These tools monitor participants' physical activity, sleep quality and cognitive function over two years, allowing for personalised interventions. By integrating these technologies, LETHE aims to provide participants with information and support in real time, supporting their ability to adopt and sustain healthy lifestyle changes.

Jeroen Bruinsma from Maastricht University discussed techniques for ensuring participant adherence, detailing goal-setting, self-monitoring and digital prompts through the app. He shared findings from participant interviews, which revealed challenges in implementing lifestyle changes without structured support, noting that many participants struggled to translate advice into action without continuous guidance.

Elisabeth Stögmann from the Medical University of Vienna gave an update on the study's progress, sharing good retention rates and successful data collection. She acknowledged the inherent challenges of long-term participant engagement but credited the project's innovative design and strong support systems for its success. She highlighted the importance of maintaining high levels of

engagement to ensure robust and reliable data, which will be crucial for evaluating LETHE's impact. Furthermore, she emphasised the innovative use of AI-driven data analysis within LETHE, which enables the identification of subtle patterns in participant behaviours and health indicators, facilitating earlier and more accurate interventions.

Ana Diaz from Alzheimer Europe concluded the session by discussing the role of Public Involvement in the project. She explained how the feedback from the Lethe Advisory Board (composed of people with and without cognitive impairments) was integral to the project's design, ensuring that its interventions were both relevant and practical. She shared examples of how their contributions influenced the development of the app and other project components, demonstrating LETHE's commitment to inclusivity. She also provided information on Alzheimer Europe's broader Public Involvement work, offering attendees information on how this approach can complement and improve dementia research.

The session concluded with a lively question-and-answer round. The recording of the session is available for public viewing and can be accessed at: <https://youtu.be/w15OBC4lgjo>

Learn more about LETHE

-  <https://www.lethe-project.eu/>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/theLETHEproject/>
-  https://x.com/lethe_project
-  <https://www.linkedin.com/company/lethe-project/>
-  <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJxUVZuU5RxCd46PutNnw2O>

The LETHE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101017405. <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/policies/ehealth>

eBRAIN-Health

On 10 October, eBRAIN-Health organised a symposium at the 34th Annual Conference of Alzheimer Europe. The eBRAIN-Health symposium was entitled “Advancing our understanding of the brain, and developing personalised therapies for dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases”. Moderated by Angela Bradshaw, Director of Research at Alzheimer Europe, the symposium featured a series of presentations highlighting the what, why and how of the project.

eBRAIN-Health aims to deliver a distributed research platform for modelling and simulating complex neurobiological phenomena of human brain function and dysfunction within a secure, GDPR-compliant environment. This EU-funded initiative will provide thousands of multilevel virtual brains from both patients and healthy human controls, allowing researchers to investigate a wide array of neurological conditions, including Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. The project combines efforts from three large-scale research initiatives: the FET Flagship Human Brain Project, the EOSC project Virtual Brain Cloud, and the Horizon 2020 project AI-MIND, which focuses on developing intelligent tools for dementia risk estimation. This interdisciplinary digital twin for dementia will enable the simulation of complex phenomena, ultimately serving the needs of diverse research communities across Europe.

The first speaker was Leon Stefanovski, who emphasised the importance of integrating neuroscience data and knowledge, explaining how the eBRAIN-Health project is making big strides in this area. Leon, who trained as a neurologist, works in the team of Petra Ritter, PI of eBRAIN-Health and Director of the Brain Simulation Section at Charité University Hospital in Berlin. He stated, “By creating a robust and secure infrastructure for sharing multimodal data, we can significantly accelerate the development and implementation of personalised medicine

approaches and enhance our understanding of neurological diseases.” Leon explained that eBRAIN-Health is building a European infrastructure that facilitates the development of digital brain twins—personalised, virtual brain models that accurately simulate brain biology and activity. Importantly, the eBRAIN-Health platform will enable researchers to test potential treatments in silico and develop improved diagnostics, accelerating research for the benefit of people affected by neurodegenerative diseases.

The next speaker was Eszter Papp, a research engineer at the University of Oslo. Through her data curation work with EBRAINS and its predecessor, the Human Brain Project, Eszter supports the sharing of research data, ensuring consistent annotation and structuring of different datasets. Eszter highlighted the necessity of well-annotated data for collaborative research in neurodegenerative diseases. She introduced the EBRAINS data curation workflow, which organises neuroscience data to enhance discoverability and reusability, ensuring compliance with the openMINDS metadata framework. This workflow is critical for safeguarding sensitive human data while promoting data sharing – a core principle that also underpins eBRAIN-Health.

In her talk, Ira Haraldsen highlighted the position and prominence of eBRAIN-Health, detailing its role in modelling neurobiological phenomena through the integration of various data types, such as PET and MRI scans. Ira leads the Cognitive Health Research Group at the University of Oslo,



eBRAIN-Health

specialising in neurobiology and the application of advanced technologies and AI to understand, detect and diagnose neurodegenerative diseases. The project’s distributed platform promotes collaboration without centralizing sensitive information, thereby enhancing predictive accuracy in dementia risk assessment using AI tools.

Kludia Kwiatkowska presented the European Health Data Space (EHDS), which aims to empower individuals in managing their health records while ensuring data protection. She emphasised, “The EHDS not only facilitates the effective exchange of health data but also establishes a trustworthy infrastructure that prioritizes individual rights in the secondary use of data for research.”

Lastly, Dianne Gove from Alzheimer Europe addressed the role of AI in diagnosing and treating brain diseases, discussing ethical dilemmas, data privacy concerns, and biases in AI models, particularly regarding underrepresented groups. The session underscored the potential of collaborative and innovative approaches to advance neuroscience, improve patient outcomes and foster public trust in emerging technologies. By emphasising the need for transparency, ethical considerations and interdisciplinary collaboration, the symposium highlighted critical pathways for future research in neurodegenerative disease treatment and prevention.



Left to right: Leon Stefanovski, Ira Haraldsen, Kludia Kwiatkowska, Eszter Papp, Dianne Gove and Angela Bradshaw

The eBRAIN-Health project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 101058516. <https://ebrain-health.eu/>

RESEARCH PROJECTS AT 34AEC

Public-private collaborations in dementia research



Left to right: Angela Bradshaw, Linus Jönsson, Francesca Mangialasche, Claire Chevalier, Dag Aarsland

The Alzheimer Europe conference showcased several initiatives that are shaping the future of Alzheimer's disease (AD) research, with a strong emphasis on collaborative public-private partnerships. These projects underscore the value of collaborative research, bringing new advances in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to people affected by, or at risk of dementia. In her opening speech, Elisabetta Vaudano, Principal Scientific Manager at the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI), discussed the transformative impact of these partnerships.

Public-private partnerships provide a unique framework for uniting research efforts across sectors. A core principle of these collaborations is a participatory approach, where people with dementia actively contribute as collaborators. This inclusive approach not only enhances the relevance of research outcomes but also ensures that projects align closely with the needs of the dementia community. Elisabetta highlighted the interconnectivity between initiatives, showing how projects are building on advances and leveraging innovations from earlier and ongoing IMI projects.

Claire Chevalier from the University of Geneva presented the European Platform for Neurodegenerative Diseases (EPND), an initiative focused on overcoming barriers

to data and sample sharing in biomarker research. EPND addresses the challenges of data silos, regulatory requirements, and accessibility, connecting over 80 research cohorts with data from 250,000 patients across neurodegenerative diseases. By facilitating data discovery, biobanking, and data harmonisation, EPND accelerates research and is paving the way for breakthrough studies on biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related conditions.

Another key initiative presented was the AD-RIDDLE project, by Francesca Mangialasche from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden. AD-RIDDLE focuses on early AD prevention and personalised care pathways, aiming to improve early detection and intervention methods. With support from the IHI, the project is developing a modular platform that integrates both pharmacological and lifestyle interventions across the AD continuum. EPND is the enabling data platform for AD-RIDDLE, supporting data discovery and analysis between partners, with the aim to make datasets available for wider research and innovation. By addressing each step of the AD care pathway – from awareness and risk reduction to diagnosis and treatment, AD-RIDDLE aims to provide scalable, individualised solutions to manage AD in diverse populations across Europe.

Dag Aarsland from Stavanger University in Norway discussed the PREDICTOM platform, which leverages artificial intelligence to screen for AD risk in a home-based setting. The platform digitally collects and analyses data on biomarkers, including cognition, eye-tracking, and physiological markers like blood and saliva samples. Dag explained how this AI-driven approach enables early identification of at-risk individuals, with follow-up in-clinic assessments to confirm diagnoses. PREDICTOM hopes to integrate its platform into the clinical pathway, making early AD diagnostics more accessible and accurate.

Finally, Linus Jönsson of Karolinska Institutet introduced the PROMINENT project, a digital platform designed to enhance clinical decision-making for AD patients with complex health conditions. Using data from medical records, mobile devices, and imaging, PROMINENT will provide evidence-based insights to help doctors diagnose and treat AD. The platform also offers patients and caregivers easy-to-understand information on their brain health, supporting informed decision-making and personalised care. By enabling clinicians to better assess treatment effectiveness in real-world settings, PROMINENT has the potential to transform AD management and set a new standard in patient-centred care.

Learn more about the projects:

AD-RIDDLE:
<https://www.ad-riddle.org/>

EPND: <https://epnd.org/>

PREDICTOM:
<https://www.predictom.eu/>

PROMINENT:
<https://www.ihl-prominent.eu/>

The AD-RIDDLE, PREDICTOM and PROMINENT projects are supported by the IHI JU and its members, under grant agreement No.101132933, 101112145, and 101132356. The EPND project has received funding from the IMI 2 JU under grant agreement No.101034344.

CO-HOSTS

Thank you for coming to Switzerland!

Together with Alzheimer Europe, Alzheimer Switzerland and Alzheimer Geneva hosted the 34th Alzheimer Europe Conference in 2024. Stefanie Becker, Director of Alzheimer Switzerland, and Sophie Courvoisier, Director of Alzheimer Geneva, look back at a successful event.

**Stefanie Becker,
Director of Alzheimer Switzerland**



How was it for you, collaborating with Alzheimer Europe?

Everyone was extremely cooperative and efficient, and my questions were always answered without delay. I was delighted to be able to rely on their extensive experience in organising a major event like this.

What was Alzheimer Switzerland’s role in the event’s organisation?

For Alzheimer Switzerland, our extensive network throughout Switzerland meant we were able to engage a range of renowned experts for the event. At the same time, the specialists from our 21 cantonal sections who work with people with dementia on a daily basis also played an important role. This meant we were able to help put together a varied programme that reflected Switzerland’s multidisciplinary expertise.

You’ve attended plenty of conferences in your role as member of the Board of Alzheimer Europe. What was different about the Geneva event?

As joint organiser I was looking forward to the conference, to exchanging ideas with colleagues and to all the exciting presentations, while also being a little nervous and hoping everything would go as planned. I’m pleased to say that it did, thanks in no small part to all of my excellent colleagues and, of course, to our partners at Alzheimer Europe – not least Gwladys Guillory, the coordinator behind the scenes.



Stefanie Becker, Director of Alzheimer Switzerland

What were the key aspects of the event for you and your work with people with dementia in Switzerland?

I was especially pleased to see how awareness of dementia has also increased among younger people. There were lots of young people at the event whose work involves supporting people with dementia. This shows us that our awareness-raising and our efforts to build a broad network are bearing fruit. The younger generations focus on new aspects such as modern technologies, which can be hugely valuable when it comes to enabling people with

dementia to lead an autonomous life for as long as possible.

At least as important to me was the clear emphasis on the fact that, despite possible new therapies, there will still be lots of people with dementia in the future. This is extremely important to bear in mind, and one of our key messages at Alzheimer Switzerland, so I was very pleased to see this message being made so clearly.

For more information about Alzheimer Switzerland, please visit: www.alz.ch

CO-HOSTS

Interview with Sophie Courvoisier, Director of Alzheimer Geneva



How was it for you, collaborating with Alzheimer Europe?

It was great. Alzheimer Europe is really well organised and, unlike Alzheimer Geneva, the whole team is used to organising large-scale events. We learned a lot during the time we spent working together, and I'd like to thank our colleagues for their support.

What was Alzheimer Geneva's role in the event's organisation?

We at Alzheimer Geneva were able to support with our knowledge of the local network, and by liaising with the cantonal authorities in particular. We assisted Alzheimer Europe to find volunteers for the event itself, and supported our colleagues from Alzheimer Switzerland by running the information stand throughout the conference. A French-language session was held in collaboration with Alzheimer Switzerland to promote contact between the event's French-speaking visitors. I had the honour of moderating this session, and this allowed me to learn more about some of the services offered by our colleagues in French-speaking Switzerland.

What were the most memorable aspects of the event for you?

Hearing from people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, as well as from



Sophie Courvoisier, Director of Alzheimer Geneva

their loved ones, was a clear reminder right from the start of the event why – and above all for whom – we do what we do.

Were you able to make new contacts and gain useful new insights for your work?

I don't attend large-scale events like these very often, but this one definitely made me want to spend more time outside the office. Getting to know our colleagues and

exchanging ideas with them will help us improve the services we can offer people with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia and their loved ones. As the saying goes, "Alone we go faster, but together we go further" – and this perfectly sums up the 2024 Alzheimer Europe Conference for me.

For more information about Alzheimer Geneva, please visit: www.alz-ge.ch



Hans Stöckli, President of Alzheimer Switzerland



Stefanie Becker and Maria do Rosario Zincke dos Reis



Jean Georges and Stefanie Becker



Alzheimer Switzerland-Alzheimer Geneva stand

SPEAKING UP

Some of our keynote speakers share their thoughts on our conference



“It was an honour to take part in this conference and in particular to share my lived experience of caring for my late husband Derek. Getting this opportunity allowed the voice of the carer to be front and center at this global event. There were so many wonderful contributors to the conference the only difficulty was in making the choice on what to attend. As usual it was a very well run conference and made presenting, chairing a session and giving my speech very enjoyable than you all concerned and here’s to another success in Bologna.” – **Paddy Crosbie, member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, speaker at Plenary 1.**



“There are moments in life that touch us deeply – not only because of their intellectual depth but also because of the people we meet. 34AEC was one such event for me. this conference not only brought forth scientific insights but also created an atmosphere of connection and hope. What stood out most was the open exchange between scientists, professionals, and people with dementia and their caregivers. Rarely have I attended an event that places such great value on listening to the voices of those affected. Geneva, as the host city, shone in its autumn glory, and although the weather didn’t always cooperate, it did nothing to diminish the wonderful atmosphere. It was an unforgettable experience that inspired and motivated me to continue advocating for a better future for people with dementia. I am grateful that I was able to be part of this extraordinary event.” – **Lieselotte Klotz, Vice-Chairperson of the European Working Group of People with Dementia, speaker at Plenary 1.**



“The Alzheimer Europe Conference gets better and better each year and specialists are attracted to the event not only to present their own work, but to take part and to learn from others, so as to deliver better care to their patients.” – **Professor Giovanni Frisoni, Clinical Neurologist, Full Professor of Clinical Neurosciences at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, and director of the Memory Center at Geneva University Hospital, speaker at Plenary 2.**



“Honoured to be a plenary speaker at the 34th Alzheimer Europe Conference in Geneva, addressing issues around intersectionality with brilliant European colleagues. My talk focused on engaging and including minority ethnic groups in dementia research – an essential step toward equity and progress in understanding and addressing this global challenge.” – **T. Rune Nielsen, Associate Professor, PhD, Danish Dementia Research Centre, Copenhagen University Hospital & Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen, Denmark, speaker at Plenary 4.**

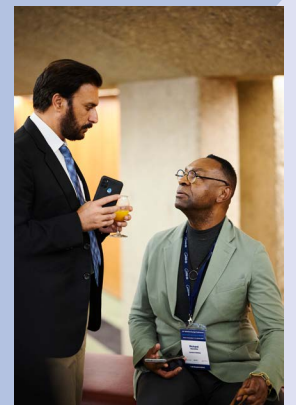


“Presenting the work done by the Women’s Brain Foundation at the Alzheimer Europe Congress was a unique opportunity to foster scientific collaboration and raise awareness about the disproportionate burden of Alzheimer’s disease on women both as patient and caregivers. Addressing this unmet need requires a united effort to drive research, policy changes, and innovative solutions that truly consider sex and gender differences in brain health. The female brain capital must be the opportunity era for investment and reforms in Europe.” – **Antonella Santucci Chadha, Founder of the Women’s Brain Foundation, speaker at Plenary 4.**



“Being invited to deliver a keynote speech at the 34th Alzheimer Europe Conference was a dream come true – but also one of the most nerve-wracking moments of my life. I felt honoured but also unsure if I was ready for the challenge. Alzheimer Europe’s incredible support made all the difference. They went above and beyond to accommodate my needs, ensuring I felt comfortable and well-prepared throughout the event. Sharing the article I did with Mike Parish and the insights with such a distinguished audience was both humbling and exhilarating. This was more than just an event - it was a transformative experience. It pushed me out of my comfort zone, affirmed my capabilities as a researcher, and highlighted the power of community in academia.” – **John Angel Bond, a dedicated PhD researcher in dementia studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom and a committed member of the LGBTQ+ Dementia Advisory Group, speaker at Plenary 4.**

PHOTO GALLERY





SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Angela Bradshaw @AngeBradshaw_AE · Oct 10
 A huge 🏆 to @Golnaz_Atefi, who now holds the @GWR for the furthest distance skated by a woman in a month. Golnaz' #RollingForDementia campaign raises awareness of the urgent need for inclusivity & diversity in #dementia research + care #34AEC
 Check it out > youtube.com/playlist?list=...



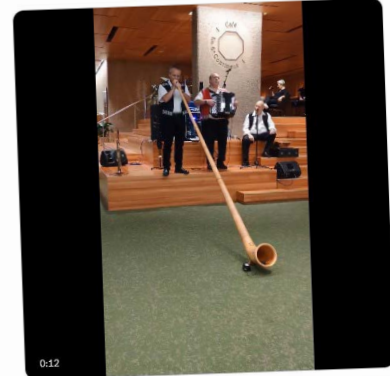
9 replies, 17 likes, 382 views

Clr John Angel Bond (He/Him) @9th_Dr · Oct 8
 We off travelling to the airport.
 See you over at @AlzheimerEurope Conference In Geneva
 #34AEC #PhDResearcher #DementiaResearcher #PhDChat #PhDLife



4 replies, 1 like, 9 likes, 343 views

Marie Janes @Marie_Janes_ · Oct 8
 The first day of @AlzheimerEurope conference is over, but what a first day! Very much looking forward to the loaded schedule I have planned for tomorrow! Some amazing entertainment this evening! #34AEC



13 likes, 327 views

Dementia at Bradford @Dementia_UoB · Oct 10
 Our team absolutely rocked the stage at the Alzheimer's Europe conference! Incredible presentations from everyone and countless valuable connections made 🌟 #34AEC



6 replies, 17 likes, 586 views

Mainrad Bracken-Scally @BrackenScally · Oct 8
 One of the highlights of @AlzheimerEurope #34AEC is reuniting with @KevinQuaid3, one of my all time favourite people



2 replies, 30 likes, 426 views

Patrick kitana Italo J Ettenes @PEttnes · Oct 8
 Mothers support this time for her #transdaughter living with #dementia I'm so proud honoured and privileged to have mummy here at the #34AEC @AlzheimerEurope @LGBTtdn @alzheimerssoc @DementiaUK



6 replies, 30 likes, 1.3K views

Aysegül Humeysra KAFADAR @AysegulKafadar · Oct 8
 I am so glad to join the 34th Alzheimer Europe Conference in #Geneva #Switzerland 🇨🇭
 It is a privilege and pleasure for me to work with successful, enthusiastic and supportive researchers from various countries of the world via the #interdem #interdemacademy #taskforce #34AEC



2 replies, 15 likes, 319 views

Dr Clarissa Giebel @ClarissaGiebel · Oct 8
 Dementia researchers UN style in Geneva - Excited for #34AEC @AlzheimerEurope and discussing new research and ideas to help people with dementia and their families live better and access diagnosis and care better 🇬🇧



12 replies, 35 likes, 867 views

SDWG @S_D_W_G · Oct 10
 Thankyou @AlzheimerEurope for a fantastic conference. 3 days of excellent, interesting presentations, networking opportunities and innovative discussions. Congratulations to all our @alzscot attendees and presenters on another successful year #34AEC



8 replies, 39 likes, 946 views

Kate Boor Ellis (she/her) @KateEllis_AE · Oct 9
 What a great team we have at @AlzheimerEurope and what a pleasure to work with all of these lovely people and to be in Geneva together for #34AEC!



7 replies, 13 replies, 51 likes, 1.3K views

Adam Smith @BetterResearch · Oct 9
 Right now we're recording LIVE at #34AEC and LIVE on our community talking about wellbeing in academia. Our Alzheimer Europe Conference highlights shows come out this weekend.



4 replies, 7 replies, 24 likes, 1.4K views

Dementia Carers Campaign Network (The ASI) @DCCNIRL · Oct 9
 Our amazing #DCCN member, and member of the European Dementia Carers Working Group, Paddy Crosbie, expertly chairing the session 'LGBTQ+ Community' at the @AlzheimerEurope conference 2024. Well done Paddy and all participants for a very interesting session. #34AEC



3 replies, 6 replies, 22 likes, 1K views

FACTS AND FIGURES

Total delegates in 2024: **973**
Delegates per country

United Kingdom	169
Netherlands	158
Switzerland	145
Germany	44
Ireland	40
Italy	36
USA	32
Spain	29
Luxembourg	28
France	27
Belgium	26
Norway	24
Sweden	22
Iceland	20
Denmark	20
Austria	18

Greece	18
Finland	17
Czech Republic	16
Australia	15
Canada	8
Portugal	7
Malta	7
Estonia	5
Slovenia	5
Poland	4
Turkey	4
Hungary	3
Taiwan	2
Romania	2
Japan	2
Croatia	2

Brazil	2
Macedonia	2
Ghana	2
Lithuania	1
Cyprus	1
Slovakia	1
Bulgaria	1
Armenia	1
Ukraine	1
New Zealand	1
Israel	1
Korea	1
Singapore	1
Montenegro	1
Réunion	1

Delegates per category

Academics/Researchers	264
AE staff & volunteers	175
Health or social care professionals	145
Industry representatives	98

Students	83
Carers	49
People with dementia	34
Policy makers	12

Civil servants	8
Policy Makers	7

95.79%

would recommend
**Alzheimer Europe Conferences
to others**

90.46%

rated the opening ceremony, plenaries
and closing ceremony of the conference
to be good/very good

35th Alzheimer Europe Conference
Connecting science and communities:
The future of dementia care
Bologna, Italy
6 - 8 October 2025 #35AEC
www.alzheimer-europe.org/conferences

