2023 European Regional DIAD Family Conference: A New Era

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Speaker Biographies

Randall Bateman, MD

Charles F. and Joanne Knight Distinguished Professor of Neurology,
Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Randall Bateman, MD is the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Distinguished Professor of Neurology, Director of the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN), and Director of the DIAN Trials Unit (DIAN-TU). Dr. Bateman's research focuses on the pathophysiology and development of improved diagnostics and treatments of Alzheimer's disease. His lab created the first high-accuracy blood test for Alzheimer's disease, which is now used clinically. His research in DIAN has provided evidence for a cascade of events beginning decades before symptom onset that leads to AD dementia, supporting the development of Alzheimer's disease prevention trials. Dr. Bateman directs the DIAN-TU, which launched the first prevention trial in families with early-onset Alzheimer's disease in 2012. The DIAN-TU trial is an advanced worldwide adaptive trial platform that tests the most advanced therapeutics targeting amyloid and tau in Alzheimer's disease. The DIAN-TU goal is to slow, stop or reverse Alzheimer's disease. The DIAN-TU has launched three Phase 2/3 drug arms with a range of amyloid-beta targets and has now launched programs for tau-directed drugs in combination with amyloid drugs and a primary prevention trial to prevent amyloid plaques from forming.

Dr. Bateman has received a number of awards including the Potamkin Prize. He is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and is currently serving as the Appointed Chairman of the Research Sub-Committee of the Health and Human Services NAPA Council, the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services.

Bret L. Bostwick, MD, FAAP, FACMG

Senior Medical Director, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals
Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

Bret L. Bostwick, MD is a medical geneticist and pediatrician currently serving as Snr. Medical Director at Alnylam Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, MA. Dr. Bostwick completed residency and fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston TX. In 2016, he became an Assistant Professor of Medical Genetics and Genomics at Baylor College of Medicine where he staffed a neurogenetics clinic, evaluated medical mysteries for the NIH-funded Undiagnosed Diseases Network and was a site investigator for several industry-sponsored clinical trials, Phase I, II and III. Dr. Bostwick transitioned to a drug discovery and translational medicine industry career in 2019, where he is an inventor on more than a dozen issued U.S. patents for genetically targeted therapies delivered to the central nervous system.

Maria C. Carrillo, PhD

Chief Science Officer, Alzheimer's Association
Chicago, Illinois, United States

As chief science officer, Maria C. Carrillo, PhD, sets the strategic vision for the Alzheimer's Association global research program. Under her leadership, the Association is the world's largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research and an internationally recognized pioneer in convening the dementia science community to accelerate the field. Dr. Carrillo uses her platform as a noted public speaker to play an instrumental role in the Association's efforts to lobby for increased funding for the disease.

Dr. Carrillo oversees the implementation of the Association's growing portfolio of research initiatives, including the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® (AAIC®), the world's largest and most influential dementia science meeting, and the Research Roundtable, which enables international scientific, industry and government leaders to work together to overcome shared obstacles in Alzheimer's science and drug development. In addition, she leads the Association's direct involvement in research by serving as a co-primary investigator for the Association-funded and led U.S. POINTER study, a lifestyle intervention trial to prevent cognitive decline and dementia.

Under Dr. Carrillo's direction, the Association's leadership in Alzheimer's research continues to thrive through its International Research Grant Program, which is currently investing $320 million in more than 1,000 active best-of-field projects in 54 countries, spanning six continents.

Dr. Carrillo earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University's Institute for Neuroscience and completed a postdoctoral fellowship focused on Alzheimer's brain imaging and risk factors at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Our mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia—by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia®. For more information, visit alz.org.

Lindsay Hohsfield, PhD

Project Scientist, University of California, Irvine; Cofounder, Youngtimers
Irvine, California, United States

Lindsay Hohsfield earned her Ph.D. in Neuroscience in 2014 and is currently working as a Project Scientist at the University of California, Irvine. Lindsay's research interests have centered on developing effective therapeutic strategies for Alzheimer's disease, with an emphasis on investigating and manipulating the immune system. Lindsay's path to become an Alzheimer's researcher began at the age of 18 years old when her father was diagnosed with the disease, from that point on she's dedicated her time and career to studying Alzheimer's disease. In 2020, she and passionate stakeholders in the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Disease (DIAD)/early onset familial Alzheimer's disease community launched Youngtimers, an organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by DIAD through education, support, community, and research. In 2021, Youngtimers received its 501(c)3 nonprofit status.

Freek Gillissen, BA

Cofounder, Odensehuis
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Freek Gillissen graduated in 1977 in general nursing Leiden University hospital and 1984 in psychiatric nursing (Psychiatric Hospital Sancta Maria). In 1988, he received his bachelor in Healthcare management at the University of Applied Science in Leiden. At the University of Utrecht, he finished his education as Nurse Specialist Elderly in 1993. During and between his studies, he has been working as a nurse in different places in health care; delivery room, night manager at a hospital, International Red Cross in Cambodia, Acute Psychiatric care, Nursing manager in old age psychiatry, Consultation and Liaison psychiatry in a general hospital, and the last 20 years at the memory clinic (Alzheimercenter Amsterdam). The Amsterdam UMC Alzheimercenter is a premiere center in the Netherlands in young people with dementia, where he is working as a nurse/social worker, counseling caregivers of young people with dementia, organizing care at home, and counseling people in home care and case managers.

He is one of the founders and is a board member of the Odensehuis in Amsterdam, an initiative to give people with dementia quality of life during the process of dementia that started up in 2019. There are now about 35 Odensehuizen in the Netherlands. He is also a frequent presenter at conferences and Alzheimer cafes and is involved in the innovation of education and care for younger people with dementia.

Michael C. Irizarry, MD, MPH

Senior Vice-President of Clinical Research and Deputy Chief Clinical Officer, Eisai
Nutley, New Jersey, United States

Dr. Michael C. Irizarry is Senior Vice-President of Clinical Research and Deputy Chief Clinical Officer at Eisai, responsible for the overall strategy and clinical development of the neurosciences portfolio. He earned undergraduate and medical degrees from Georgetown University and an MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. He completed neurology residency and Memory Disorders Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, and continued as Harvard Medical School faculty in the Massachusetts Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. His research encompassed molecular mechanisms, clinical-pathological correlations, animal models, biomarkers, and epidemiology of neurodegenerative diseases, especially Alzheimer's disease. Prior to joining Eisai in 2018, Dr. Irizarry held a series of leadership positions at Eli Lilly (Vice-President, Early Clinical development, Neurosciences), and GlaxoSmithKline (including acting Vice President for Worldwide Epidemiology).

Mathias Jucker, PhD

Professor of Cell Biology, University of Tübingen
Tübingen, Germany

Mathias Jucker is Professor of Cell Biology of Neurological Diseases at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) and the Hertie Institute for Clinical Brain Research at the University of Tübingen, Germany. He received his PhD from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland. He then worked as a postdoctoral fellow and researcher at the National Institute on Aging in Baltimore, USA, and was appointed to his current position in Tübingen in 2003. Since 2012, Mathias Jucker has been coordinating the DIAN study in Germany.

Johannes Levin, MD

Professor of Clinical Neurodegeneration, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich
Munich, Germany

Dr. Levin works as professor for Clinical Neurodegeneration at the Department of Neurology, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich and is deputy site leader of clinical research at the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE), site Munich. He has been working in the field of neurodegeneration for 20 years focusing clinically on movement disorders and genetic forms of dementia. The principal research focus is the molecular pathogenesis of neurodegenerative diseases with emphasis on protein aggregation, biomarker development and therapy development targeting protein aggregation. His work has contributed to the definition of the natural history, environmental factors, and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases. Based on this background he joined MODAG GmbH as part-time CMO where he continues his academic work on the oligomer modulator anle138b in an industry setting, where the compound is currently at early stages of clinical development. Moreover, he is principal investigator in several national and international cohort studies including the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN) and the Genetic Fronto-temporal dementia Initiative (GENFI).

Jorge J. Llibre-Guerra, MD, MS

Assistant Professor of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Dr. Jorge Llibre is a behavioral neurologist interested in global health and dementia prevention. Jorge's research focuses on gene-by-environment pathways implicated in neurodegeneration to identify novel targets to improved disease management. In 2016, he joined the Memory and Aging Center at UCSF and received fellowship training in Behavioral Neurology and Global Mental Health. In 2018, Dr. Llibre joined the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network (DIAN) at Washington University to complete post-doctoral studies in clinical trials. In his role as the Associate Director for DIAN, he aims to expand clinical trials and observational studies to individuals with familial AD. Dr. Llibre has led significant progress to estimate the burden of neurodegenerative diseases in Hispanic populations. Recent work focuses on the influence of life course risk/protective factors on AD age at onset, cognitive decline, and biomarker rate of change. Llibre has received research funding from the National Institute of Health, World Federation of Neurology, and Alzheimer Association.

Eric McDade, DO

Associate Professor of Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis
St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Eric McDade, DO, is a professor of neurology at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. His research interests include the application of cerebrospinal fluid and neuroimaging measures to identify early pathology of Alzheimer's disease with the ultimate goal of identifying early markers of Alzheimer's disease progression that can be used in testing disease modifying therapies.

Dr. McDade serves as the Co-Director of the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer's Disease Trials Unit and the Clinical Core Leader of the Dominantly Inherited Alzheimer Network Observational Study where he and his colleagues are using a global, natural history study to develop prevention trials in Dominantly Inherited AD. As part of this work he has co-lead an initiative to comprehensively study the changes of soluble tau-related biomarkers and is the Principle Investigator of the first ever primary prevention trial in familial Alzheimer disease which will test whether preventing the development of amyloid plaques will prevent the development of dementia in those with a genetic form of the Alzheimer's disease that leads to young-onset dementia.

Catherine Mummery, PhD

Consultant Neurologist, National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery;
Principal Investigator, DIAN-TU Clinical Trial, University College London
London, United Kingdom

Dr. Cath Mummery has been a consultant neurologist since 2002 and leads the cognitive disorders service at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. She studied medicine at UCH, trained in neurology at NHNN and Kings College Hospital, and gained a PhD in cognitive neurology at the Wellcome Department of Functional Imaging, UCL. She is head of novel therapeutics at the Dementia Research Centre, UCL and has been senior investigator on over 20 early phase drug trials of disease modifying agents in dementias including genetic forms of Alzheimer's disease and frontotemporal dementia, focussing on early phase trials and genetic therapies. She is deputy director for the Leonard Wolfson Experimental Neurology Centre at NHNN, a unit dedicated to early phase trials in neurodegeneration. She is the chair of the NIHR Dementia Translational Research Collaboration, which brings together academic biomedical research centres and is developing a national early phase trials network, unifying the dementia research landscape and accelerating therapeutic research in the UK.

Lenneke Post, MA

Lecturer, Researcher, Amsterdam University Medical Center;
Faculty of Religion and Theology, Vrije Universiteit
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Lenneke Post is a lecturer and researcher at the spiritual care department of Amsterdam UMC and the Faculty of Religion and Theology of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Lenneke conducts research on the role of meaning and spirituality in illness and develops interventions in which attention to meaning, spirituality and philosophy of life plays a role. Lenneke also teaches in undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate courses at the VU and Amsterdam UMC in the areas of trauma, suffering, grief, religion, spirituality and philosophy of life.

Marty Reiswig, BS

Cofounder, Youngtimers
Denver, Colorado, United States

Marty has participated in the DIAN Obs and TU studies from the beginning, attended each DIAD Family Conference, spoken publicly to Janssen Pharmaceuticals, the Alzheimer's Association, and the 2018 G8 Summit in London, and has been featured in numerous international media publications. As a participant and advocate, it was his distinct honor to join with Dr. Lindsay Hohsfield and Alicia Brasch in co-founding Youngtimers, a nonprofit dedicated to providing education, financial support, and community to fellow DIAD families. Join the email newsletter, workshops, support groups and more at youngtimers.org.

Subhojit Roy, MD, PhD

Professor of Pathology, University of California, San Diego
San Diego, California, United States

Dr. Roy is a physician-scientist, trained in neuronal cell/molecular biology and neuropathology. His interest in Alzheimer's disease and neurodegeneration is long-standing, stemming from a combined residency/fellowship program in Neuropathology at UPenn, and subsequent postdoctoral training with Drs. Virginia Lee and John Trojanowski at the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease Research. The Roy lab has contributed to the understanding of APP and BACE1 trafficking pathways in neurons, which has led to a gene-editing based therapeutic strategy to favorably alter amyloid processing. Preclinical efforts in the lab are exploring ways to translate this strategy to humans. Related to Parkinson's disease, work in the Roy lab has led to a deeper understanding of the physiologic role of alpha-synuclein and pathophysiologic transitions.

Vivianne Teeuwen, BS

Specialized Nurse, Amsterdam University Medical Center
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Vivianne Teeuwen graduated with a bachelor of science in 2014. She went on to serve as a case manager for dementia, guiding families in home situations where one person was diagnosed with dementia. She has worked for seven years at the Alzheimer Center Amsterdam as a specialized nurse. She counsels people who have been diagnosed with dementia and ensures that the right support is initiated in the home situation. Her focus is young children living at home with a parent with dementia at a young age, and she supports the children themselves and the parents on how to cope with this and talk to each other. She participated in a children's camp for this group in 2022 and is working on developing a digital platform that describes what dementia is, what emotions children may experience, and how to cope using age-appropriate language. Parents, teachers, and professionals will also get tips on this platform to support children. Learn more at alzheimercentrum.nl/dementie/dementie-op-jonge-leeftijd/kinderen/.

Jetske van der Schaar, MSc

PhD Candidate, Amsterdam University Medical Center
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Jetske is a PhD candidate at Alzheimer Center Amsterdam. Her research is focused on medical ethical aspects of personalized medicine for Alzheimer's disease. As a member of a DIAD family, she's an active advocate in media and politics, has published a book about the personal impact DIAD, and presents a podcast on scientific progress in the field for a broad audience. In addition, she's a member of the advisory board for the National Dementia Strategy of the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport.

Everard (Jort) Vijverberg, MD, PhD

Neurologist and Senior Researcher, Alzheimer Center Amsterdam;
Principal Investigator, DIAN-TU Clinical Trial, Amsterdam University Medical Center
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Everard (Jort) Vijverberg, MD, PhD, is a neurologist and senior researcher at Alzheimer Center Amsterdam, where he has worked since 2018. His areas of focus is neurodegenerative disorders presenting with cognition/behavior symptoms such as Alzheimer's disease, Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) and Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE). As part of the Alzheimer Center Amsterdam and Neuroscience Amsterdam, Dr. Vijverberg has dedicated his career to finding novel ways to treat or prevent Alzheimer's disease, frontotemporal dementia and other types of neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Vijverberg is the founder of the CNS target and drug discovery center in Amsterdam (CANDIDATE center) and is currently PI and consultant of more than ten different trials in neurodegeneration.

Selina Wray, PhD

Professor of Molecular Neuroscience and Alzheimer's Research, UK Senior Research Fellow,
University College London
London, United Kingdom

Dr. Selina Wray is a Professor of Molecular Neuroscience and Alzheimer's Research UK Senior Research Fellow in the Department of Neurodegenerative Disease, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. The research within Dr. Wray's group is focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and frontotemporal dementia (FTD) using patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC). Dr. Wray received her degree in Biochemistry and Biological Chemistry from the University of Nottingham in 2004, before undertaking PhD training in at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London. She was awarded her PhD in 2008 and subsequently joined the laboratory of Professor John Hardy at UCL Institute of Neurology as a research fellow, prior to setting up her own group. Dr. Wray was awarded the 2018 ARUK David Hague Early Career Investigator of the Year award and the 2014 Red Magazine Woman of the Year award in the Pioneer category.