



**GLOBAL
BRAIN HEALTH
INSTITUTE**

2024-25
ANNUAL
REPORT



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Executive Summary

2024–25 was a year of growth, creativity, and important transitions at the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI). Across our two sites at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and Trinity College Dublin (Trinity), and in partnership with alumni around the world, we advanced brain health equity through training, prevention, research, and advocacy.

Training and collaboration took place across our global network—from Leadership Week in Ghana and Ireland, to our Annual Conference in Peru, to alumni leadership development in London. Fellows and faculty also advanced regional partnerships, including new initiatives to strengthen dementia research and care in East Africa and South America.

Now spanning 48 countries, the Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders continue to support innovative projects—ranging from improving diagnosis and care to using the arts and technology to raise awareness and reduce stigma.

Fellows and faculty also published influential research, including studies highlighting young adulthood as a key stage for dementia prevention and showing how social and environmental inequalities shape brain aging. Creative projects flourished: Memories Unleashed and Fragments of Memories demonstrated the power of the arts to deepen empathy and inspire action, while Creative Brain Week expanded into new regions, further establishing itself as a global platform connecting brain science, creativity, and community.

At Trinity, a notable leadership succession took effect: Brian Lawlor welcomed Iracema Leroi as the new Site Director, effective January 2025. Iracema brings extensive clinical, research, and educational expertise to guide GBHI at Trinity into its next phase.

In June 2025, GBHI announced a new chapter in its evolution. While our sites at UCSF and Trinity now operate more independently, they remain united by a shared mission and values. This transition creates new opportunities for growth and ensures each site can build on its strengths while continuing to collaborate on global initiatives. We also extend our deep appreciation to the GBHI Governing Board, which completed its service after nearly a decade of dedicated guidance. Their leadership transformed a bold idea into a thriving global community. As part of this transition, new governing boards will be established at each site to continue providing local leadership and strategic oversight.

In September 2025, we welcomed our tenth cohort of Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health. With this milestone, our network has grown to more than 300 fellows and alumni from over 65 countries, who continue to apply their learning and leadership directly in their communities while staying connected through GBHI’s global network.

Together with our partners, alumni, and supporters, GBHI will continue to be a force for equity in brain health for years to come.

About GBHI

The Global Brain Health Institute is dedicated to protecting the world’s populations from threats to brain health.

Dementia is rapidly increasing around the world. By 2050, the number of people with dementia could triple from 50 million to 152 million, overwhelming families, communities, public health care systems, and economies worldwide.

In 2015, The Atlantic Philanthropies offered significant funding to the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin (Trinity) to establish GBHI, a groundbreaking institute that aims to tackle the emerging dementia epidemic and improve brain health worldwide.

GBHI works to reduce the scale and impact of dementia in three ways: by training and connecting the next generation of leaders in brain health through the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health program; by collaborating in expanding prevention and interventions; and by sharing knowledge and engaging in advocacy.

GBHI brings together a powerful mix of disciplines, professions, backgrounds, skill sets, perspectives, and approaches to develop new solutions. We strive to improve brain health for populations across the world, reaching into local communities and across our global network. We focus on working compassionately with people in vulnerable and underserved populations to improve outcomes and promote dignity for all.



About Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health



The Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health program at GBHI provides innovative training, networking, and support to emerging leaders focused on improving brain health and reducing the impact of dementia in their local communities and on a global scale. It is one of seven global Atlantic Fellows programs to advance fairer, healthier, and more inclusive societies.

Atlantic Fellows at GBHI join the program for 12 months, hosted by UCSF or Trinity. A curriculum covering neurology, health economics, epidemiology, law and ethics, leadership, health policy, creativity, and research analysis methods constitutes part of the knowledge exchange. Fellows also gain experiences in the clinic, are exposed to the lived experience of people with dementia, and engage in projects aimed at advancing brain health. Through intensive mentoring, fellows are guided in the development of projects, careers, leadership, and policy efforts.

Fellows apply their learning directly in their own communities throughout and beyond the program year. They continue to benefit from career-duration mentoring, pilot funds, and an international network of colleagues, ensuring sustained impact well after the fellowship year concludes.

The Atlantic Fellows program at GBHI is training hundreds of global leaders across the world to promote brain health and dementia prevention, to reduce stigma, and to improve the lives of people with dementia. The fellows come from many different professional backgrounds, including clinical practice, social sciences, arts, economics, public health, research, policy, and education.

Atlantic Fellows

FOR EQUITY
IN BRAIN HEALTH

Photo (left): GBHI community members gathered outside Hospital Víctor Larco Herrera in Lima, Peru, during a public event on frontotemporal dementia as part of the 2025 GBHI Annual Conference. Photo (above): Atlantic Fellows at the 2025 GBHI Annual Conference in Lima, Peru. Photo credits: Mario Colón.

Our Values

GBHI is “A FORCE” for equity in brain health. Our values guide us as we advocate to reduce the impact of dementia. We believe that by

taking a values-based approach to brain health, science, arts, humanities, and advocacy, we can drive change for millions of people.

AUTHENTICITY
assumes a genuine foundation for action

FAIRNESS
implies transparency and opportunity for all

OPENNESS
values the wide range of perspectives and experiences that inform evidence-based change

RESPECT
fortifies gratitude and recognizes the dignity of every individual

COURAGE
implies the need to take risk

EMPATHY
is at the heart of community-informed change

“The strength of values-based practice lies in its recognition that outcomes depend on understanding and respecting diverse viewpoints.”

—Atlantic Fellows Alison Canty, Jayashree Dasgupta, Joyla Furlano, and Aline Haas



Images used in salon events dedicated to each of the GBHI values.

Training & Connection

In 2024–25, GBHI and the Atlantic Fellows came together across Ghana, Ireland, Peru, and England to learn, connect, and strengthen leadership for brain health equity.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT IN LONDON

In July 2024, Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health alumni gathered at the Alzheimer’s Society in London for a Leadership Development Day designed to strengthen skills, foster connection, and deepen commitment to brain health equity.

Hosted by GBHI in collaboration with the Alzheimer’s Society and Alzheimer’s Disease International, the event brought together 32 alumni fellows from across six continents, along with GBHI faculty and staff. The gathering offered fellows an opportunity to nurture relationships with these global partners while connecting ahead of the annual Global Atlantic Fellows Convening in Oxford.

The program emphasized four core goals: grounding, communications, action, and listening. Fellows reflected on their leadership journeys, practiced communicating their work with clarity and excitement, and explored how



Atlantic Fellow David Brodie-Mends in Accra, Ghana. Photo credit: Selorm Attikpo.

to translate research into real-world change. Interactive sessions highlighted the role of vision, evidence, storytelling, and coalition-building in driving progress, while creative activities—such as an energizing dance session and a musical performance inspired by lived experience—reinforced the power of arts and empathy in leadership.

Through workshops, panel discussions, and informal conversations, fellows shared insights from their own regions and strengthened connections across the network. The meeting underscored the importance of pausing to reflect, recharge, and recommit—equipping alumni with tools and inspiration to continue leading for equity in brain health worldwide.

CULTIVATING GLOBAL LEADERSHIP IN BRAIN HEALTH

In November 2024, Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health gathered for Leadership Week in two locations: Ghana, for fellows based at UCSF, and in Ireland for fellows based at Trinity. Both weeks focused on building community, learning from local contexts, and strengthening leadership for brain health equity.

In Ghana, fellows experienced the country’s vibrant culture while reflecting on challenges and opportunities in health. At Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra, they saw how dedicated teams deliver care and research despite limited resources. A panel discussion emphasized Africa’s important role in advancing global medicine. A visit to Cape Coast Castle offered powerful lessons about memory and history, connecting national legacies with the impact of dementia. Fellows also visited Agape Academy, where they joined students and local artists to create a mural with the message “Brain health matters.”

In Ireland, fellows explored leadership through self-reflection, creativity, and collaboration. They engaged in interactive workshops, experimented with drama-based practices, and worked together on a virtual reality film about dementia. Visits to the Rock of Cashel and an Acquired Brain Injury Ireland center highlighted the importance of heritage, community, and care, and provided insights into supporting people with brain injury in their return to life and hope in rural communities. The week ended with alumni sharing how the fellowship has shaped their journeys, offering inspiration for the future.

Together, these experiences strengthened fellows’ commitment to lead with respect, creativity, and collaboration to improve brain health worldwide.

[Read firsthand accounts of the events:](#)



GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH LEADERS GATHER IN PERU

In May 2025, GBHI co-hosted the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference (AAIC) Satellite Symposium in Lima, Peru, alongside its Annual Conference. Together, these gatherings created a powerful space for training, connection, and collaboration in brain health.

The symposium welcomed more than 600 participants from 63 countries, spotlighting regionally led dementia research and innovation. Sessions ranged from biomarkers and drug development to caregiving and public health, with contributions from GBHI faculty, Atlantic Fellows, and regional leaders.

A highlight of the week was a community event at Hospital Víctor Larco Herrera, where experts, caregivers, and advocates joined a public panel

titled Bridging Neurology, Psychiatry, and Art in Diagnosis and Holistic Care. The discussion emphasized culturally informed care, early diagnosis, and creative engagement to reduce stigma and improve support for people living with dementia.

Another powerful session, [Care as a Form of Leadership](#), featured Atlantic Fellow Sonata Mačiulskytė, who reflected on how caring for her mother transformed her understanding of brain health and revealed care as a vital form of leadership. She was joined by Atlantic Fellows Alex Kornhuber, Fernando Aguzzoli Peres, Michelle Memran (and her mother), Sarah Cullum, and Sonia Sánchez, who shared deeply personal perspectives on caregiving, creativity, and resilience—showing how lived experience can inspire more compassionate and equitable systems of care.

A follow-up [Action Workshop](#), co-hosted by IMPACT Salud and GBHI, gathered clinicians, policymakers, caregivers, and communications experts to advance Peru’s first national dementia plan. Peruvian photographer Alex Kornhuber presented a moving photo exhibition capturing the vulnerability and resilience of older adults across Peru.

[Read more about the symposium and conference.](#)



Atlantic Fellows and faculty at the Victor Larco Herrera Hospital in Lima, Peru. Photo credit: Mario Colón Photography.



Prevention & Intervention

THE PILOT AWARDS FOR GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH LEADERS

GBHI, the Alzheimer’s Association, and Alzheimer’s Society share the commitment to developing the next generation of brain health leaders and aim to support these emerging leaders by funding small-scale pilot projects, activities or studies to advance skills, knowledge, and general efforts to delay, prevent, and mitigate the impact of dementia.

The goal of the Pilot Awards for Brain Health Leaders is to both support leadership development of the Atlantic Fellows and to advance pilot projects that improve outcomes in brain health. As Atlantic Fellows return to their home communities, these pilot awards help them to achieve regional impact while maintaining a link to GBHI through mentoring.

Diversity of discipline, profession, and region is key to our success. Funded pilots range from advocacy to systems change to applied research. Fellows are addressing challenges with access to care, stigma, social determinants of brain health, education, and more.

2024–25 Pilot Awards

The 2024–25 awards will support projects aimed at bridging the gaps in dementia diagnosis, treatment, and care among underserved populations worldwide. They span 18 countries, including Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Poland, Türkiye, the United States, and Zambia.

The 21 awardees have joined the 163 previously funded pilots, bringing the total awarded to date to \$4.6 million for 184 pilots in 48 countries. Over the past eight years, awardees have leveraged their projects for an additional \$17.5 million investment directly related to their pilot projects. The visionary work of the awardees has led to a total of more than \$136.8 million to further advancements of dementia-related resources.



To date, 184 pilots across 48 countries and administrative regions have been awarded a total of \$4.6 million.

Prevention & Intervention

Featured Pilot Awards



Carlos Chechetti
Storyteller, Filmmaker & Social Entrepreneur, Brazil
What's Your Passion? Reliving Memories Short Documentary

People living with dementia often face social stigma, leading to isolation, loneliness, and loss of identity. In Brazil, where the aging population is rapidly increasing, innovative interventions are needed to support them and foster community engagement.

Reliving Memories, founded by Carlos Chechetti at the Hospital das Clínicas of the University of São Paulo, uses individual passions—such as sports, music, cinema, or literature—to provide tailored cognitive stimulation and socialization, making each participant’s experience unique and deeply engaging. During the pandemic, the program reached over 1,000 participants online, and Chechetti has since partnered with art, science, and soccer museums to expand in-person engagement with his social entrepreneurship project. A trained cinematographer, Chechetti is developing a short documentary to capture the impact of this work.

“This film aims to show how the passions of people living with dementia can empower them, foster understanding, and challenge social stigma,” said Chechetti.

The documentary will highlight the daily experiences of people living with dementia and demonstrate how families and caregivers can use the personalized passions methodology to create positive experiences for their loved ones. It also seeks to strengthen advocacy to challenge stigma and promote understanding of dementia.



[View the project webpage.](#)



Prabha Shrestha, MNS, MA
Nursing Lecturer, Nepal
Challenges in Health-Seeking Behavior Among Hypertensive Adults in Nepal

Hypertension is one of the most common health conditions among older adults in Nepal and a major risk factor for dementia. Yet it remains poorly managed: over half of those receiving treatment have uncontrolled blood pressure, and more than 30% of older adults do not seek medical care even when facing health problems.

Led by Prabha Shrestha, Assistant Professor of Nursing at Kathmandu University School of Medical Sciences, this study explored factors influencing how older adults manage hypertension. Using data from the Dhulikhel Healthy City Initiative, researchers examined prevalence and risk factors such as age, sex, diabetes, and cholesterol. The project included home visits, blood pressure checks, and interviews to understand barriers and supports for better outcomes.

Findings showed that despite good medication adherence, blood pressure control remained poor. Participants cited barriers like limited family support, poor communication with providers, transportation challenges, and lack of infrastructure. Organizational gaps such as fragmented care, staff shortages, and absence of geriatric services added strain. At the policy level, exclusion from health insurance, weak medicine supply systems, and lack of structured programs were major challenges.

Results will guide local governments and health institutions in improving blood pressure control, strengthening community support, reducing dementia risk, and establishing a geriatric clinic at Dhulikhel Hospital.



[View the project webpage.](#)



Laz Eze, MBBS, MPH, FAPH
Physician, Sustainable Development Consultant, Nigeria
Sensitize, Educate and Evaluate Dementia (SEED) Project in Southeast Nigeria

Dementia is an escalating public health challenge in Africa, with prevalence in Nigeria ranging from 2% to 20%. Primary healthcare providers—many of whom are non-physicians—serve as the first point of medical care for over 80% of the population, particularly in rural communities where most older adults reside. Yet dementia knowledge and screening at the primary care level remain limited.

The SEED Project, led by Laz Eze, is a cross-sectional survey assessing the current dementia knowledge, attitudes, and practices of primary healthcare providers in the Ohaozara area of Southeast Nigeria. The study is examining knowledge of risk factors, causes, symptoms, and signs of dementia, cognitive assessment practices, and attitudes towards people living with dementia. The findings, which will help bridge knowledge gaps, guide qualitative research and support policy advocacy—have the potential to inform development of a future national survey.

“This research will provide valuable insights into dementia-related practices and skills, helping to advance brain health and dementia prevention in Nigeria,” said Eze.

The project will fill existing knowledge gaps and generate evidence to design scalable public health interventions, including healthcare provider training, cognitive screening, awareness campaigns to reduce stigma, and further research initiatives.



[View the project webpage.](#)

Prevention & Intervention

Cycle	Awards Funded	Countries Represented	Total Funding
2024–25	21	Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, India, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Poland, Türkiye, the United States, and Zambia.	\$525K
2023–24	26	Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, South Korea, the United Kingdom (England, Scotland), and the United States.	\$650K
2022–23	23	Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Mongolia, Nigeria, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Türkiye, and United States	\$575K
2021–22	26	Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Germany, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Sweden, United Kingdom (England), United States, and Zimbabwe	\$650K
2020–21	23	Argentina, Belgium, Bermuda, Brazil, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, France, Ireland, Israel, Nigeria, Peru, Spain, Türkiye, United Kingdom (Scotland) and the United States	\$573K
2019–20	27	Argentina, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Ireland, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Romania, South Africa, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Scotland), and the United States	\$675K
2018–19	21	Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Jordan, Mexico, Taiwan, Türkiye, United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland), and the United States	\$522K
2017–18	17	Brazil, Cuba, France, Greece, Ireland, Spain, United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), and the United States	\$447K

Pilot awards funded to date



2024-25 Pilot Awards	Location	Awardee
A Multicomponent Intervention for Women Dementia Caregivers in Colombia	Colombia	Sandra Báez
Adaptation and Usability of Postdiagnostic E-Intervention for Dementia in India	India	Swati Bajpai
Improving Dementia Assessment and Diagnosis in Nepal	Nepal	Umesh Bogati
Paving the Way for Better Huntington Care: Online Course for Arab Families	Egypt	Shaimaa El-Jaafary
Sensitize, Educate & Evaluate Dementia (SEED) Project in Southeast Nigeria	Nigeria	Laz Eze
Musical Walking for Well-Being: A Feasibility Study	Ireland	Mikel Gainza
ADVICE: Advance Dementia Information, Care and Education	Kenya	Wambui Karanja
A Pilot Trial of Cognitive Training Among Low-Educated Older Arab Adults	Israel	Rabia Khalaila
“Dementia Diaries”: A Multimedia Initiative to Transform Dementia Awareness	Ethiopia	Elul Lakew
Establishing a Peer-Led Dementia Care Support Network in Lusaka, Zambia	Zambia	Mataa Mataa
Making the Invisible, Visible: Creative Arts for Brain Injury Advocacy	Ireland	Gráinne McGettrick
Memories Unleashed: A Performance Arts Dementia Awareness Campaign	USA	Eric Myricks
Mapping Brain Health Inequalities: Brazilian Area Deprivation Index	Brazil	Regina Paradela
Examining the Association Between Alzheimer’s Disease Biomarkers and Atrophy Patterns in Chile	Chile	Natalia Pozo Castro
Establishing a Cognitive Database Harmonized with International Initiatives	Mexico	Karla Paulina Ruiz Castillo
Identifying the Needs of People Living with Young-Onset Dementia in Poland	Poland	Urszula Skrobas
Enhancing the Perspective of the Mexican Population on Brain Health	Mexico	Sara Solis
START-Nepal: Cultural Adaptation and Feasibility for Family Carers in Nepal	Nepal	Prekshya Thapa
The Navigate Project	Türkiye	Armagan Hasan Uysal
Multimodal Exploration of Synaptic Dysfunction in Dementia with Lewy Bodies	France	Agathe Vrillon
An Online Dementia Training Course for Family Practitioners in Ghana	Ghana	Sally Yalley

Funded pilot awards 2024–25

Photo (left): Atlantic Fellows Wambui Karanja and Jayashree Dasgupta at the GBHI South Asia Regional Convening in Bengaluru, India. Photo credit: DK Photography.

Prevention & Intervention

BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE FUTURE FOR BRAIN HEALTH IN PERU

Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health are leading efforts to develop Peru’s first national dementia plan. In February 2025, clinicians, researchers, caregivers, and policymakers gathered in Lima for the *Action Workshop: Advancing Brain Health in Peru*.

The event was co-organized by GBHI and IMPACT Salud, with support from the GloCal Health Fellowship. It was led by neurologist and Atlantic Fellow Maritza Pintado-Caipa, geriatrician and Atlantic Fellow Marcela Mar Meza, and neurologist and GBHI faculty member Serggio Lanata. All Peruvian Atlantic Fellows contributed to the formation of the two-day workshop together with IMPACT Salud team members.

Discussions gave space for families and caregivers to share their experiences, emphasizing the urgent

need for practical, inclusive policies. “Having the voices of caregivers made a difference,” said José Cuenca Alfaro from Peru’s National Institute of Neurological Sciences.

The workshop produced actionable recommendations and strengthened national and international partnerships. Fellows are now drafting key scientific documents to guide policy and planning.

In May 2025, momentum continued at the GBHI Annual Conference and the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference Satellite Symposium in Lima. A working session on Peru’s national dementia plan, hosted with IMPACT Salud, brought together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders. The session led to new public awareness campaigns, scientific input shaping national policy, and other advances that continue to move this work forward.

These connected efforts lay a strong foundation for a dementia plan rooted in Peru’s cultural and social diversity—one that reflects the voices of caregivers, clinicians, and community leaders across the country.

[Learn more about advancing brain health in Peru.](#)



TACKLING DEMENTIA IN ETHIOPIA AND KENYA THROUGH BRIDGE-AFRICA

A new project called BRIDGE-AFRICA is building capacity to improve dementia care and research in East Africa. The initiative—short for Building Research Infrastructure for Dementia Gaps in East Africa—is led by Atlantic Fellows and GBHI partners in collaboration with UCSF, the University of Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, and Aga Khan University in Kenya.

The project, funded by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, will create Centers of Excellence for Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias in Ethiopia and Kenya. Atlantic Fellow Chi Udeh-Momoh, a neuroscientist at Aga Khan University and Wake Forest University, emphasized

prevention: “By identifying and addressing risk factors early, and by supporting local scientists and health workers, we can reduce the impact of dementia.”

During the first phase, the team is adapting culturally sensitive cognitive assessments, refining diagnostic tools, and developing safe methods for biological sample collection. In later phases, they will test new approaches, including blood-based tools for early detection.

Atlantic Fellow Yared Zewde, Chair of Neurology at Addis Ababa University, noted that the project is grounded in community needs. GBHI faculty member Elena Tsoy highlighted its equity focus: “We’re creating tools that are truly shaped by the people and cultures they are meant to serve.”

By addressing modifiable risk factors such as high blood pressure, poor nutrition, and social isolation, BRIDGE-AFRICA aims to reduce dementia risk and create lasting systems of care.

[Learn more about BRIDGE-AFRICA.](#)



Photo (left): GBHI community members Camellia Latta (middle) and Maritza Pintado-Caipa (right) lead an interactive session at the Action Workshop, gathering insights to inform a national dementia plan in Peru. Photos by Pedro Matias Vega Norell. Photo (right): Launch of the BRIDGE-Africa group. Photo credit: Aga Khan University.

Prevention & Intervention

YOUNG ADULTS AS PARTNERS IN DEMENTIA PREVENTION

Dementia prevention is often framed as a concern for older adults, but new research highlights young adulthood as a critical window for intervention. Atlantic Fellows neuroscientist Francesca Farina and social gerontologist Laura Booi, along with colleagues from 15 countries, published findings in *The Lancet Healthy Longevity* showing that risk factors for dementia—such as hypertension, hearing loss, and poor lifestyle habits—are already common among people ages 18 to 39.

The study urges governments to introduce brain health strategies that engage young adults as partners in prevention. Recommendations include education programs in schools, public health campaigns tailored to younger audiences, and policies addressing gender-specific risks like hormonal health and intimate partner violence.

“By investing in brain health during young adulthood, we can significantly reduce dementia risk later in life,” said Farina. Booi added that many young people are eager to learn about brain health, pointing to growing awareness around neurodiversity.

The authors stress the importance of equity, particularly for young people in low- and middle-income countries who face disproportionate exposure to risks such as air pollution, limited education, and poor access to healthcare.

This research reframes dementia prevention as a life-course challenge, with young adulthood at its core.

[Read the full paper in *The Lancet Healthy Longevity*.](#)



HOW SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS SHAPE BRAIN AGING

Our brains do not all age at the same pace. A recent international study led by Atlantic Fellows Sebastian Moguilner, Sandra Báez, and Agustín Ibáñez, neuroscientists, introduces innovative “brain clocks” to measure the biological age of the brain.

By comparing brain scans with chronological age, researchers identified “brain age gaps” that reflect the impact of social and environmental factors. The study, published in *Nature Medicine*, involved more than 5,000 participants from 15 countries, including many in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The findings show that people exposed to greater inequalities, poverty, pollution, and limited healthcare often had “older” brains than their actual age. Women in these regions, particularly those living with Alzheimer’s disease, showed some of the largest brain age gaps—highlighting the influence of both biological and gender-related disparities.

These insights open new paths for personalized medicine by identifying who may be at greater risk for dementia. They also emphasize the urgent need for policies that address social and environmental factors alongside medical care.

“Our brain’s age isn’t just about time—it’s about the conditions we live in,” the authors noted.

[Read the full study in *Nature Medicine*.](#)



Photo (right): Atlantic Fellows Carolina Bidó Bello and Aaron Colverson in Accra, Ghana. Photo credit: Selorm Attikpo.

Education & Advocacy

Highlights of GBHI’s aim to share knowledge and engage in advocacy.

UNEQUAL SCENES, UNEQUAL BRAINS: A VISUAL STORY OF HEALTH DISPARITY

Driven by a shared commitment to expose inequality, Latin American neuroscientists and Atlantic Fellows Joaquín Migeot, Agustín Ibáñez, and Agustina Legaz collaborated with photographer Johnny Miller (Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity) on *Unequal Scenes Chile*, merging neuroscience and visual storytelling to reveal how inequality shapes brain health.

Although Chile has achieved notable economic growth, it remains one of Latin America’s most unequal societies. Lifelong social and environmental conditions affect how the brain develops and ages and strongly influence dementia risk, explaining 62% of cases in Chile and reflecting disparities in education, healthcare, nutrition, and community engagement. This finding contradicts evidence from other populations, where higher levels of deprivation are typically associated with a higher explanation of dementia cases—making Chile’s case, and the specific risk profile of its population, all the more intriguing.

The latest in Miller’s *Unequal Scenes* series, the aerial images from Chile do more than document inequality—they reveal the geography of brain

health risk. By exposing social and spatial disparities, these visuals make visible what science, statistics, and policy often obscure. By translating research into striking visual evidence, *Unequal Scenes Chile* highlights the need for community-based solutions and structural interventions to promote equitable brain health.

[Read more about the project.](#)



CREATIVE BRAIN WEEK: CONNECTING BRAIN HEALTH, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITIES

Since launching in 2022, Creative Brain Week has grown into a global platform for collaboration and exploration of the powerful intersection between brain science and creativity and the potential benefits it can bring to humanity.

Focusing on the theme “Activating Kindness,” the June 2025 event at Trinity marked the tenth Creative Brain Week to date — four in Dublin and six events across Africa, Europe, Oceania, and, most recently, Asia and Latin America — championed by Atlantic Fellow Dominic Campbell, cultural producer. The week combined thought-provoking talks and a rich creative program with small expert group sessions aimed at shaping the

future of brain health through practical, real-world action.

Regional gatherings are also expanding the initiative’s reach. In February 2025, Creative Brain Week Argentina, led by Atlantic Fellow Agustín Ibáñez, neuroscientist, was an interdisciplinary festival integrating local and international perspectives to highlight the role of the arts in brain health, resilience, and social inclusion. Creative Brain Week Singapore, held in October 2024 in partnership with LASALLE College of the Arts, brought together regional experts, fusing artistic and neuroscientific perspectives to examine brain health and health equity across Southeast Asia.

Through this growing international network, driven by Atlantic Fellows and engaging local and global expertise and lived experience, the initiative continues to build momentum, fostering the exchange of knowledge and emerging practices — and advancing the transformative potential of creativity and the arts for brain health.

[Learn more and view recordings.](#)



UNITING ACROSS BORDERS FOR BRAIN HEALTH: GBHI SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL CONVENING

In April 2025, GBHI at Trinity hosted the inaugural South Asia Regional Convening in Bengaluru, India. The event brought together GBHI faculty and staff, Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health with connections across South Asia and Africa, and two of India’s leading brain health institutions — the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and the Centre for Brain Research (CBR). The convening established a foundation for long-term collaboration, creating a platform for researchers,

clinicians, and educators to share expertise, address challenges, and develop transnational solutions to brain health issues.

The program included presentations, workshops, and strategic discussions on opportunities for joint research, training programs, and faculty exchange. Participants also visited the SANSCOG project site, which studies risk and protective factors associated with cognitive changes in aging and dementia. The visit provided valuable insight into community-based research conducted in rural India.

Notable developments included advancing the evolution of the International Dementia Academy South Asia into a pan-Africa clinician-training program and launching the GBHI South Asia Network, a platform to drive fellow-led regional impact.

“This gathering has set the stage for lasting partnerships and pioneering research,” said Jayashree Dasgupta, Atlantic Fellow and clinical psychologist. “Working together, we can transform shared knowledge into real-world solutions across South Asia and beyond.”

[Learn more about the convening.](#)



MEMORIES UNLEASHED: JAZZ AND BRAIN HEALTH

In March 2025, audiences at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music experienced *Memories Unleashed: Jazz & Brain Health*, an evening blending music, culture, and advocacy. Led by Eric Myricks (Arist name: Elijah Rock), an Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health, the performance highlighted the power of music—especially jazz and the Great American Songbook—to



Partitioned neighborhoods in the wealthy Peñalolén area of Santiago. Unequal Scenes - Chile. Photo credit: Atlantic Fellow Johnny Miller.

Education & Advocacy

spark memory, bridge generations, and raise awareness about dementia.

Rock performed classics by artists such as Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat “King” Cole, and Tony Bennett, alongside original arrangements with Conservatory musicians. These songs, beloved across decades, offered nostalgic resonance for older listeners while inspiring new appreciation in younger audiences.

The program was more than a concert. A post-performance panel featuring UCSF neurologist and GBHI faculty member Charles Windon and Atlantic Fellows Aaron Colverson and Wepnyu Yembe Njamnshi explored how music supports brain health and why inclusive participation in dementia research is so critical. Together, they emphasized that music not only soothes and connects but also helps break down stigma and encourages community engagement.

Memories Unleashed is also the title of Rock’s newly released album, supported by a Pilot Award for Global Brain Health Leaders. By combining artistry with advocacy, the project expands public understanding of dementia, promotes equity, and inspires action—reminding us all of the profound link between memory, culture, and brain health.

[Watch a documentary about Memories Unleashed.](#)



FRAGMENTS OF MEMORIES: MUSIC, THEATER, AND THE EXPERIENCE OF DEMENTIA

What if dementia could tell its own story from the inside? That question inspired *Fragments of Memories*, a performance created by İdil Özkan, Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health and Hellman Artist in Residence at the UCSF Memory and Aging Center.

Premiered in June 2025 at the San Francisco Community Music Center, the work blends chamber music, theater, and artificial intelligence to portray one man’s journey through normal aging, Alzheimer’s disease, and frontotemporal dementia. Performed by actors and a live ensemble, the piece turns symptoms into sound—looping phrases, fractured melodies, and shifting rhythms that mirror the disorientation of memory loss.

The cast included actors Geoff Hoyle and Melinda Matice, with musicians such as Atlantic Fellows Aaron Colverson, Daniel Macri, and Özkan herself. Together, they created an immersive experience that helped audiences feel—not just understand—the realities of cognitive decline.

A post-show panel with Özkan, GBHI and UCSF faculty members Kate Rankin and Bruce Miller, and community partners reflected on memory, identity, and what it means to remain human in the face of loss.

Fragments of Memories highlights how art can bridge science and emotion, offering new ways to understand dementia and connect with those who live with it.

[Read more and watch and interview about Fragments of Memories.](#)



VIRTUAL REALITY FOR HEALING MOTHER EARTH AND OURSELVES

Can virtual reality (VR) help us reconnect with one another and with the planet? That question guided Myriam Hernández, Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity, during her visit to GBHI at UCSF in October 2024.

Hernández is a Mexican immersive storyteller who co-created GAWI, a VR film with Indigenous

communities in northern Mexico. The project shares cultural wisdom about caring for the Earth while showing how co-creation can spark more inclusive approaches to art, science, and health. At GBHI, she presented the film and reflected with fellows and faculty on how Indigenous perspectives and immersive media can enrich equity and brain health.

A highlight was sharing GAWI with older adults at the On Lok 30th Street Senior Center in San Francisco. For many, it was their first VR experience. Participants described joy, nostalgia, and pride as the film evoked memories of home and tradition. The session was co-led with Laura María Calderón Cuevas, Atlantic Fellow for Equity

in Brain Health, and Gloria Aguirre, Creative Minds Outreach Director and Atlantic Fellow for Health Equity, who helped create a safe and welcoming space.

The visit underscored the intersections of brain health, memory, climate justice, and cultural identity—and the power of collaboration across the Atlantic Fellows programs to build shared solutions.

[Learn more and read a reflection from Myriam Hernández.](#)



Photo (right): Members of the Atlantic Fellows community celebrate during Creative Brain Week. Photo credit: Paul Sharp, Sharppix.

Community Members

Fellows (2016 – 2024)

GLOBAL REACH

THE FELLOWS COME FROM THE FOLLOWING REGIONS:

29%	LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN
16%	MEDITERRANEAN
15%	NORTHERN EUROPE
14%	NORTHERN AMERICA
7%	EASTERN AFRICA
5%	WESTERN AFRICA
3%	SOUTHERN ASIA
2%	EASTERN ASIA
2%	SOUTHERN AFRICA
2%	WESTERN EUROPE
2%	OCEANIA
1%	EASTERN EUROPE
1%	MIDDLE AFRICA
1%	SOUTH-EASTERN ASIA

INTER-PROFESSIONAL

THE FELLOWS COME FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF PROFESSIONS INCLUDING:

MEDICINE	LAW
SOCIAL SCIENCE	TECHNOLOGY
PUBLIC POLICY	ARCHITECTURE
HEALTH ECONOMICS	COGNITIVE SCIENCE
JOURNALISM	PUBLIC HEALTH
MUSIC	EPIDEMIOLOGY
BUSINESS	FINE ARTS
ADVOCACY	HUMANITIES
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE	BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
ANTHROPOLOGY	EDUCATION
JOURNALISM	NURSING
NUTRITION	URBAN HEALTH
ENGINEERING	DESIGN



Community Members

Fellows (2016–2024)

Meron Abey Theater Arts Ethiopia, 2019	Mohammed Anbessie, MD, MPH Psychiatry & Epidemiology Ethiopia, 2022	Mircea Balasa, MD, PhD Neurology Spain, 2016	Laura Booi, PhD, MA Gerontology Canada, 2018
Maison Abu Raya, MD Neurology Israel, 2022	Jalayne Arias, JD, MA Neuroethics United States, 2016	Zach Bandler Film United States, 2022	Lenisa Brandão, PhD Speech-Language Pathology Brazil, 2018
Kunle Adewale Visual Arts Nigeria, 2019	Faheem Arshad, MD, DM, FICN Neurology India, 2020	Nicole Batsch, PhD Gerontology United Kingdom (England), 2016	Jake Broder, MA Theater, Film & Music United States, 2022
Emily Adrion, PhD, MSc Health Economics United States, 2019	Aya Ashour, MD, PhD Neurology Egypt, 2019	Petronilla Battista, PhD Neuropsychology Italy, 2020	Anne Browning, PhD, MA Education & Wellness United States, 2019
Fernando Aguzzoli Peres Journalism & Writing Brazil, 2019	Thiago Avelino-Silva, MD, PhD Geriatrics Brazil, 2022	Eléonore Bayen, MD, PhD Neurology & Research France, 2016	Anna Brugulat-Serrat, PhD Neuropsychology Spain, 2019
Funmi Akindejoye, MPH Public Health Nigeria, 2020	Biniyam Ayele, MD Neurology Ethiopia, 2022	Phaedra Bell, PhD Education & Theater United States, 2017	Laura María Calderón Cuevas Music, Human Rights Colombia, 2023
Rufus Akinyemi, PhD, MSc Neurology Nigeria, 2018	Yavuz Ayhan, MD Psychiatry Türkiye, 2021	Jane Bentley, PhD Music United Kingdom (Scotland), 2018	Dominic Campbell Cultural Events Ireland, 2016
Tala Al-Rousan, MD, MPH Epidemiology Jordan, 2017	Sandra Báez, PhD, MS Neuroscience & Neuropsychology Colombia, 2023	Alissa Bernstein Sideman, PhD, MPH Medical Anthropology & Public Health United States, 2016	Alison Canty, PhD Neuroscience Australia, 2022
Arianna Almirall Sanchez, MD, MSc Medicine & Biostatistics Cuba, 2019	Swati Bajpai, PhD Neuropsychology India, 2023	Kirsty Bobrow, MBChB, MSc, DPhil Public Health & Epidemiology South Africa, 2018	María Carmona-Iragui, MD, PhD Behavioral Neurology Spain, 2016

Siobhan Casey Aging Policy & Advocacy Ireland, 2018	Heidi Clare, MMA Music United States, 2016	Sarah D'Alessio, MSW Health Policy Bermuda, 2019	Elisa de Paula França Resende, MD, PhD Neurology Brazil, 2016
Olga Castañer, MD, PhD Vascular Medicine Spain, 2024	Laurent Cleret de Langavant, MD, PhD Neurology & Statistics France, 2016	Eduardo Danilo Schmitz, MS, PhD Health Promotion Brazil, 2024	Naiara Demnitz, DPhil, MSc Cognitive Neuroscience Brazil, 2019
Sheila Castro-Suarez, MD Neurology Peru, 2019	Marcia Cominetti, PhD Biology Brazil, 2021	Tselmen Daria, MD Clinical Science Mongolia, 2021	Karin Diamond Theater Arts United Kingdom (Wales), 2019
Melissa Chan Service Design & Social Entrepreneurship Singapore, 2021	Carlos Coronel, PhD Neuroscience Venezuela, 2023	Beniam Daniel Darge, MSc Mental Health Ethiopia, 2023	Clara Domínguez Vivero, MD Neurology Spain, 2019
Carlos Chechetti Research, Social Entrepreneurship & Teaching Brazil, 2020	Cathy Correa Lopera, MMus Music Colombia, 2022	Jayashree Dasgupta, PhD, MPhil Clinical Psychology & Social Entrepreneurship India, 2022	Geeta Dorkhy, MPH, MBBS Medicine Mauritius, 2023
Yaohua Chen, MD, PhD Neurogeriatrics France, 2019	Bárbara Costa Beber, PhD Speech & Language Brazil, 2016	Walter Dawson, DPhil Health Policy United States, 2018	Derya Durusu Emek Savaş, PhD Neuroscience Türkiye, 2017
Hanna Cho, MD, PhD Neurology South Korea, 2022	Krystal Culler, DBH, MA Behavioral Health United States, 2017	David De Jong-Bambagioni, MA Entrepreneurship The Netherlands, 2024	Elizabeth Dzeng, MD, PhD, MPH Sociology & Medicine United States, 2017
Gabri Christa, MFA Choreography & Film Curaçao/United States, 2018	Sarah Cullum, MBChB, MSc, PhD Old Age Psychiatry United Kingdom (England)/New Zealand, 2024	Vanessa De la Cruz-Góngora, PhD Nutrition Mexico, 2022	Shaimaa El-Jaafary, PhD, MSc, MBBCH Neurology Egypt, 2022
Marius Čiurlionis, MS Advisor Lithuania, 2020	Emma Cunningham, MRCP, PhD Geriatrics United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), 2017	Myriam De La Cruz Puebla, MD, PhD Neurology Ecuador, 2018	

Community Members

Fellows (2016–2024)

Emmanuel Epenge, MD
Neurology
Democratic Republic
of Congo, 2022

Macarena Espina Díaz
Industrial Design &
Entrepreneurship
Chile, 2022

**Dafne Estefania Durón
Reyes, MD**
Geriatrics
Mexico, 2024

Tavia Evans, MSc, PhD
Neuroscience
United Kingdom
(England)/The
Netherlands, 2024

**Laz Eze, MBBS, MPH,
FAPH**
Medicine & Sustainable
Development
Nigeria, 2023

Laís Fajersztajn, PhD
Epidemiology
Brazil, 2018

Neus Falgàs, MD, PhD
Neurology
Spain, 2019

Gillian Fallon, MA, MFA
Arts Administration,
Curation & Production
United States, 2021

Francesca Farina, PhD
Neuroscience
Ireland/Italy, 2020

**Temitope Farombi, MBBS,
PhD, FMCP (Neurol)**
Neurology
Nigeria, 2024

Sol Fittipaldi, MS
Neuroscience
Argentina, 2022

**Christine FitzGerald, PhD,
MA**
Psychosocial Research
Ireland, 2016

Sarah Fox, PhD
Public Involvement &
Engagement
United Kingdom
(England), 2020

Adit Friedberg, MD
Behavioral Neurology
Israel, 2019

Joyla Furlano, PhD
Neuroscience
Canada, 2022

Mikel Gainza, PhD, BSc
Music & Entrepreneurship
Spain, 2023

**Miriam Galvin, PhD, MSc,
MA**
Social Science &
Health Services
Ireland, 2018

Adolfo García, PhD
Neuroscientist
Argentina, 2020

Dominic Gately
Performing Arts
United Kingdom
(England)/Ireland, 2021

**Muthoni Gichu, MBChB,
MSc**
Medical Gerontology
Kenya, 2021

Joni Gilissen, PhD
Health Services
Belgium, 2019

Sandra Giménez, MD, PhD
Clinical Neurophysiology
Spain, 2021

Corrina Grimes, RD, MSc
Palliative Care
Ireland, 2017

Jennie Gubner, PhD
Ethnomusicology
United States, 2019

Maëlen Guerchet, PhD
Epidemiology
France, 2019

**Alejandra Guerrero
Barragán, MD, MPH**
Neurology
Colombia, 2017

**Aníbal Gutiérrez Torres,
MD**
Geriatrics
Mexico, 2023

**Raquel Gutiérrez Zúñiga,
MD, PhD**
Neurology
Spain, 2021

Aline Haas, PhD
Dance
Brazil, 2022

Rafi Hadad, MD
Neurology
Israel, 2021

**Sana-e-Zehra Haidry, MA,
MPH, MSc**
Psychology & Language
Pakistan, 2018

Mike Hanrahan
Music & Writing
Ireland, 2022

Krista Harrison, PhD
Policy & Palliative Care
United States, 2017

Kate Hayden, MA, PhD
Psychiatric Epidemiology
United States/Ireland,
2024

Sandra Higuét, MD
Geriatrics
Belgium, 2017

Tanisha Hill-Jarrett, PhD
Neuropsychology
United States, 2021

Gráinne Hope
Music & Social
Entrepreneurship
Ireland, 2020

Elaine Howard, MS
Care Models
Ireland, 2016

Lauren Hunt, PhD
Nursing
United States, 2019

Agustín Ibáñez, PhD
Neuroscience
Argentina, 2018

Hany Ibrahim, MD, PhD
Geriatric Medicine
Egypt, 2016

**Ignacio Illán Gala, MD,
PhD**
Neurology
Spain, 2019

**Maryenela Illanes-
Manrique, MD**
Psychiatry
Peru, 2022

Ştefania Ilinca, PhD
Health Economics
Romania, 2018

Fasihah Irfani, MD
Neurology
Indonesia, 2021

Catherine Jordan, PhD
Cognitive Neuroscience
Ireland, 2017

Magda Kaczmarska, MFA
Arts & Education
Poland/United States,
2020

**Elissaios Karageorgiou,
MD, PhD**
Neurology &
Neuroscience
Greece, 2016

Wambui Karanja
Dementia Advocacy
Kenya, 2019

**Dearbhla Kelly, MB BCH
BAO, DPhil, MRCPI**
Academic Nephrology
Ireland, 2020

Brian Kennedy, MA, PhD
Arts Consulting
Ireland/United States/
Australia, 2024

Ophir Keret, MD
Neurology
Israel, 2018

**Rabia Khalaila, PhD, MPH,
MBA**
Nursing & Gerontology
Israel, 2022

Hanan Khalil, PhD
Physiotherapy
Jordan, 2020

Irina Kinchin, PhD, MSc
Health Economics
Australia, 2019

Emi Kiyota, PhD
Environmental
Gerontology
Japan, 2018

Silvia Kochen, MD, PhD
Neuroscience
Argentina, 2016

Josh Kornbluth
Comedy & Performance
United States, 2016

Alex Kornhuber
Photography
Peru, 2018

Carmen Lage, MD, PhD
Behavioral Neurology
Spain, 2021

Elul Lakew, MS
Psychotherapy & Clinical
Psychology
Ethiopia, 2023

Yue Leng, MD, PhD
Epidemiology
China, 2017

Tomás León, MD
Psychiatry
Chile, 2020

Jorge Leon Salas, MD
Neuropsychiatry
Costa Rica, 2018

**Jorge Llibre Guerra, MD,
MS**
Neurology
Cuba, 2016

**Mariana Longoria
Ibarrola, MD**
Psychiatry
Mexico, 2017

**Milton López, MD,
MGeron, MPH**
Geriatrics
Nicaragua, 2020

**Ignacio López
Barrenechea, MD**
Neurology
Chile, 2024

**José David López
Hincapié, MSc, PhD (Eng)**
Engineering
Colombia, 2024

David Loughrey, PhD
Research Psychology
Ireland, 2017

Dani Macri
Music, Education &
Engineering
Argentina, 2023

**Sonata Mačiulskytė, MSc,
PhD**
Political Science &
Gerontology
Lithuania, 2024

Community Members

Fellows (2016–2024)

Nahuel Magrath Guimet, MD
Neuropsychiatry
Argentina, 2020

Marcela Mar Meza, MS
Geriatrics
Peru, 2019

Luciano Mariano, MS
Neuropsychology
Brazil, 2020

Jeronimo Martin, MD
Emergency Medicine
Mexico, 2017

Luis Martinez, MD, MPH
Neurology
Colombia /Argentina, 2021

Mataa Mataa, MBChB
Neurology
Zambia, 2023

Inbal Mayan, MD
Geriatrics
Israel, 2020

Lingani Mbakile-Mahlanza, DPsyc
Neuropsychology
Botswana, 2018

Claire McEvoy, PhD, RD
Nutrition & Public Health
United Kingdom
(Northern Ireland), 2016

Shamiel McFarlane, MBBS, MSc
General Practice Medicine
Jamaica, 2018

Gráinne McGettrick, MA
Social Science & Policy
Ireland, 2022

Eimear McGlinchey, PhD
Intellectual Disability
Ireland, 2018

Karen Meenan
Theater & Radio
Ireland, 2020

Joaquín Migeot, MSc, PhD
Neuroscience
Chile, 2024

Cheyenne Mize, MT-BC
Music Therapy
United States, 2019

Tatyana Mollayeva, MD, PhD
Neurology
Canada, 2021

Paul Modjadji
Arts
South Africa, 2021

Sebastian Moguilner, MS
Neuroscience
Argentina, 2019

Michelle Moses-Eisenstein, MPH
Public Health & Performing Arts
USA, 2022

Djibril Moussa, MD, MBBS, MSc
Psychiatry & Public Health
Djibouti, 2023

Luis-Arnoldo Muñoz-Nevarez, MD
Geriatric Medicine
Mexico, 2017

Eric Myricks aka Elijah Rock
Performing Arts, Advocacy & Philanthropy
USA, 2023

Khanyo Ngcobo, MBChB, FcPsych, MMed
Psychiatry
South Africa, 2021

Kim-Huong Nguyen, PhD, MSc
Economics
Australia/Vietnam, 2022

Rafal Nowak, PhD
Neuroscience
Poland/Spain, 2021

Temesgen Nurye
Neurology
Ethiopia, 2023

Primrose Nyamayaro, MRes
Research Psychology
Zimbabwe, 2020

Chukwuanugo Ogbuagu, MBBS, PhD, MWACP
Public Health
Nigeria, 2021

Doyin Ogunyemi, MBBS, MA, FWACP
Public Health
Nigeria, 2022

Maira Okada de Oliveira, MS
Neuropsychology
Brazil, 2018

Mick O’Kelly, PhD, MFA
Visual Arts
Ireland, 2021

Obiora Okoye, MD, MPH
Global Public Health Research
Nigeria, 2020

Didem Öz, MD, PhD
Neurology
Türkiye, 2019

Idil Özkan, MA
Music, Composition & Speech
Türkiye, 2023

Rogério Panizzutti, MD, PhD
Neuropsychiatry & Public Health
Brazil, 2016

Regina Paradela
Neuroscience
Brazil, 2023

Geeske Peeters, PhD
Public Health & Preventive Medicine
Netherlands, 2016

Brenda Pérez Cerpa, MD
Geriatric Medicine
Mexico, 2017

Lucía Pertierra, MD
Neurology
Argentina, 2023

Ieva Petkutė, MA
Arts Research & Management
Lithuania, 2019

Stefanie Piña Escudero, MD
Geriatrics
Mexico, 2018

Maritza Pintado-Caipa, MD
Neurology
Peru, 2018

Natalia Pozo Castro
Neurology
Chile, 2023

Claudia Ramos, MD
Psychiatry
Colombia, 2017

Kirti Ranchod, MBBCh
Neurology
South Africa, 2018

Miguel Rentería, PhD
Human Genetics, Data Science & Policy
Mexico/Australia, 2020

Rowena Richie, MFA
Art & Education
United States, 2018

Moïse Roche, MSc
Dementia Research
Guadeloupe/France, 2021

Silvia Rodrigo-Herrero, MD, MSc
Neurology
Spain, 2019

Ana Margarita Rodriguez Salgado, MS
Neuropsychology
Cuba, 2017

Lorna Roe, PhD, MSc
Health Services
Ireland, 2018

Adrià Rofes, PhD
Neuroscience
Spain, 2016

Nicole Rogers, MD, PhD
Neurology
Chile, 2019

Susanne Röhr, PhD
Clinical Psychology, Public Health
Germany, 2020

Verónica Rojas, MFA
Arts
Mexico/Sweden 2022

Talita Rosa, MD, MS
Health Economics
Brazil, 2017

Mollie Rose
Pilates
United States, 2020

Paulina Ruíz
Geriatrics
Mexico, 2023

Sanjib Saha, PhD
Health Economics
Sweden, 2019

Mohamed Salama, MD, PhD
Neurotoxicology
Egypt, 2018

Hernando Santamaría-García, MD, MSc, PhD
Psychiatry
Colombia, 2021

Kwaku Sarfo Manu, MBChB, MPH
General Medicine
Ghana, 2024

Dvera Saxton, PhD
Medical & Environmental Anthropology
United States, 2019

Cristiano Schaffer Aguzzoli, MD
Neurology
Brazil, 2021

Claire Sexton, DPhil
Neuroscience
United Kingdom
(England), 2017

Raluca Sfetcu, MA, PhD
Psychology
Romania, 2024

So Young Shin, PhD, RN, GCNS-BC
Nursing
South Korea, 2021

Prabha Shrestha, MNS, MA
Nursing
Nepal, 2022

Ula Skrobas
Neurology
Poland, 2023

Erin Smith
Creative Technology
United States, 2021

Sara Solis, MD
Geriatrics
Mexico, 2023

Community Members

Fellows (2016–2024)

Lucy Stirland, MBChB, PhD, MRCPsych

Old Age Psychiatry
United Kingdom
(Scotland), 2022

Fionnuala Sweeney

Journalism
Ireland, 2016

Konstantina Sykara, MA

Clinical Psychology
Greece, 2017

Jamie Talan, MPH

Neuroscience &
Journalism
United States, 2016

Ioannis Tarnanas, PhD, MSc

Neuroscience & Computer
Science
Greece, 2016

Nicky Taylor

Theater Arts
United Kingdom
(England), 2020

Boon Lead Tee, MD, MS

Neurology
Taiwan, 2017

Ayda Tefera

Psychiatry
Ethiopia, 2023

Prekshya Thapa, MSN, BSN

Psychiatric Nursing
Nepal, 2023

Kuri Tituaña, MD

Geriatrics
Cuba/Ecuador, 2020

Natalia Trujillo, PhD

Psychology
Colombia, 2022

Valentine Ucheagwu, PhD

Neuropsychology
Nigeria, 2022

Chi Udeh-Momoh, PhD, MSc, FHEA

Neuroscience
United Kingdom
(England), 2022

Martha Unaicho Pilalumbo, MD

Neurology
Ecuador, 2020

Armagan Uysal

Neurology & Performing
Arts
Türkiye, 2023

Lina Velilla, MS

Psychology &
Epidemiology
Colombia, 2016

Paulina Vergara, MS

Geriatrics
Chile, 2024

Agathe Vrillon

Neurology
France, 2023

Dana Walrath, PhD, MFA

Writing, Arts, &
Anthropology
United States, 2018

Fiona Walsh, BArch

Architecture
United Kingdom
(England)/Ireland, 2018

Greg Walsh

Life Sciences Business
Ireland, 2018

Adam Waskow

Animal Therapy & Training
United States, 2016

Cindy Weinstein, PhD

Higher Education
United States, 2018

Berenice Werle, MD, MSc

Geriatrics
Brazil, 2020

Wilby Williamson, MD, MSc

Sport & Exercise Medicine
United Kingdom
(Northern Ireland), 2018

Sally Yalley, MD, MSc

Medicine & Advocacy
Ghana, 2023

Anusha Yasoda-Mohan, PhD

Neuroscience
India, 2022

Selam Yoseph, MD

Psychiatry
Ethiopia, 2021

Lina Zapata, MD

Psychiatry
Colombia/France, 2020

Jonathan Adrián Zegarra, MSc

Neuroscience
Perú, 2020

Yared Zewde, MD

Neurology
Ethiopia, 2021

Jennifer Zitser, MD

Neurology
Venezuela/Israel, 2017

Stelios Zygoris, MS, PhD

Neuropsychology
Greece, 2016



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Leadership

GOVERNING BOARD

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Alzheimer's Association

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Professor of Neurology and Chair
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Executive Committee Member, GBHI
Professor of Neurology and Pathology, UCSF

Brian Lawlor, MD

Founding Director, GBHI
Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, Trinity

Iracema Leroi, MD

Site Director, GBHI, Trinity
Professor in Geriatric Psychiatry, Trinity

Stephen McConnell, PhD

President
Civic Participation Action Fund

Bruce L. Miller, MD

Founding Director, GBHI
Professor of Neurology, UCSF

Lorina Naci, PhD, MSc

Executive Committee Member, GBHI
Associate Professor of Psychology, Trinity

Tracey Naledi, MBChB, FCPHM (SA), PhD

Deputy Dean, Social Accountability and Health
Systems, Faculty of Health Sciences
University of Cape Town

Andrea Slachevsky, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine
University of Chile

Emma Stokes, PhD

Vice President for Global Engagement
Trinity

Victor Valcour, MD, PhD

Site Director, GBHI
Professor of Geriatric Medicine in Neurology, UCSF

The GBHI Governing Board completed its service in May 2025.



GBHI Governing Board members Maria Carrillo and Andrea Slachevsky join Atlantic Institute Executive Director Lysa John on a speaker panel at the GBHI Annual Conference in Lima, Peru.
Photo credit: Mario Colón Photography.

Faculty & Staff

FACULTY & STAFF

Gloria Aguirre

Community Outreach
UCSF

Isabel Elaine Allen, PhD

Epidemiology &
Biostatistics
UCSF

**Aaron Berkowitz, MD,
PhD, FAAN**

Neurology
UCSF

Alissa Bernstein

Sideman, PhD, MPH
Medical Anthropology
UCSF

Ronan Breathnach, MA

Fellowship Experience
Trinity

**Winston Chiong, MD,
PhD**

Neuroethics
UCSF

Anna Chodos, MD, MPH

Geriatrics
UCSF

Ciaran Conneely

Operations
Trinity

Eoin Cotter, PhD

Education & Strategy
Trinity

Mary De May, MD

Psychiatry
UCSF

Amanda Delaney

Operations
Trinity

Aura DeMare, MS

Program Manager
UCSF

Elisabetta Favero, NT

Alumni Relations
Trinity

**Michael Geschwind,
MD, PhD**

Neurology
UCSF

Claire Gillan, PhD

Psychology
Trinity

Anne-Marie Glynn, PhD

Operations & Strategy
Trinity

**Marilu Gorno Tempini,
MD, PhD**

Neurolinguistics
UCSF

Lea Grinberg, MD, PhD

Neuropathology
UCSF

Carmen Hart

Events & Logistics
UCSF

Barbara Hewitt

Finance
Trinity

Agustín Ibáñez, PhD

Neuroscience
Trinity

Shireen Javandel

Operations & Impact
UCSF

Matenyeh Kaba, MA

Research Support
UCSF

James Kahn, MD, MPH

Health Economics
UCSF

Niall Kavanagh

Communications
UCSF

Kai Kennedy, PT, DPT

Physical Therapy
& Leadership
Development
UCSF

**Alessandra Khodaverdi,
MPH**

Fellowship Experience
UCSF

Joel Kramer, PsyD

Neuropsychology
UCSF

Renaud La Joie, PhD

Neuroimaging
UCSF

Serggio Lanata, MD, MS

Behavioral Neurology
UCSF

Camellia Latta, MLA

Alumni Relations &
Special Initiatives
UCSF

Brian Lawlor, MD

Old Age Psychiatry
Trinity

Suzee Lee, MD

Neurology
UCSF

Iracema Leroi, MD

Geriatric Psychiatry
Trinity

Peter Ljubenkov, MD

Neurology
UCSF

Nicholas Johnson

Drama
Trinity

**Alejandro López
Valdés, PhD**

Neural Engineering
Trinity

Malu Mandelli, PhD

Language, Imaging
UCSF

Community Members

Faculty & Staff

Kailey Mateo Program Evaluation UCSF	Kate Possin, PhD Neuropsychology UCSF	Virginia Sturm, PhD Neuroscience UCSF	Mary Warbelow, MA Learning Experience Trinity
Mindy Matice, MA Learning Experience UCSF	Caroline Prioleau Communications UCSF	Boon Lead Tee, MD, MS Neurology UCSF	Sara Wessen Chang Arts & Sciences UCSF
Sarah McDonagh, MSW Research Support UCSF	Kate Rankin, PhD Neuropsychology UCSF	Katy Tobin, PhD Biostatistics Trinity	Rob Whelan, PhD Psychology Trinity
Eimear McGlinchey, PhD Intellectual Disability Trinity	Ian Robertson, PhD Psychology Trinity	Dominic Trépel, PhD Health Economics Trinity	Charles Windon, MD Neurology UCSF
Andjelika Milicic, MPH Research Analysis UCSF	Adam Roche, MB, BCh, BAO, MRCPI Geriatrics Trinity	Winnie Tsou Technology UCSF	Evelyn Wong Finance & Operations UCSF
Bruce Miller, MD Neurology UCSF	Román Romero Ortuño, Lic Med, MSc, PhD Gerontology Trinity	Elena Tsoy, PhD Neuropsychology UCSF	Kristine Yaffe, MD Neuropsychiatry & Epidemiology UCSF
Helen Murray Communications Trinity	Howie Rosen, MD Neuroimaging UCSF	Victor Valcour, MD, PhD Geriatric Medicine UCSF	Stacey Yamamoto, MPH Program & Strategy UCSF
Lorina Naci, PhD Psychology Trinity	Salvatore Spina, MD, PhD Neurology UCSF	Jon VanLeeuwen, PhD Neurology UCSF	Jennifer Yokoyama, PhD Neurogenetics UCSF
Elaine Olivera, MBA Operations Trinity	Melanie Stephens, PhD Neuropsychology UCSF	Sven Vanneste, PhD Psychology Trinity	
Andrew Philipoff Technology UCSF			





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Atlantic Fellows

The Atlantic Philanthropies established the Atlantic Fellows in 2015 to culminate the foundation's work in the geographies and issue areas in which it historically focused, and its decades of investing in people and in their vision and ability to realize a better world. The seven interconnected Atlantic Fellows programs together create a global community to advance fairer, healthier, and more inclusive societies. Each of the programs is distinct and grounded in its local context, but all share a deep commitment to advancing equity. All programs start with a core fellowship experience and continue with fellows joining the lifelong global community.

The Atlantic Philanthropies provided initial funding to establish GBHI and maintain a level of operational support for 15 years to educate and support 600 international leaders in brain health.

GBHI welcomes partners in philanthropy to secure the long-term sustainability of this unique program, to expand and deepen its reach across communities and diverse professions, and to increase the number of fellows that can be trained. For more information about how to support GBHI,

www.gbhi.org/support-us.



Atlantic Fellows help paint a community mural in Accra, Ghana. Photo credit: Selorm Attikpo.

Reducing the
scale and impact of
dementia worldwide





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UCSF and Trinity College Dublin are the two founding sites and host institutions for GBHI and the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health Program at GBHI, providing critical infrastructure, renowned faculty, and affiliation with two of the leading institutions in brain health research.