

Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders

2024 Update



GLOBAL
BRAIN HEALTH
INSTITUTE

Atlantic Fellows

FOR EQUITY IN BRAIN HEALTH



Alzheimer's
Society

 ALZHEIMER'S
ASSOCIATION

PILOT AWARDS FOR GLOBAL BRAIN HEALTH LEADERS

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.

The Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI), the Alzheimer's Association, and Alzheimer's Society in the UK 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 for Equity in Brain Health and to advance pilot projects that improve outcomes in brain health. The program prioritizes activities that demonstrate potential to evolve into larger projects in the awardees' home regions, especially those that use an evidence-based approach to identify need, direct change, and improve care and outcomes around age-related cognitive loss and dementia.

AWARDS IMPACT

Since the program was established in 2017, 163 pilots across 45 countries and administrative regions* have been awarded a total of \$4.1M and resulted in...



*Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bermuda, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales), USA, Vietnam, Zimbabwe

AWARDS FUNDED

Funded pilot projects range from advocacy and systems change to applied research. Fellows are addressing challenges to brain health such as access to care, stigma, education, and social determinants of brain health. As the range of project topics grows, so does the geographical diversity, including new projects in Africa, Asia, and Oceania. Following is a sample of the diverse pilot projects funded to date.



MÚSICA PARA EL BIENESTAR (MUSIC FOR WELLBEING): Developing an intergenerational music and movement program and video for families with early onset Autosomal Dominant Alzheimer Disease in Colombia

Cathy Correa Lopera, MMus

Music and Movement Educator, Colombia

In Colombia, families facing autosomal dominant early-onset Alzheimer's disease endure emotional and economic hardships worsened by social disparities. Access to support is limited, intensifying isolation and family strife. Recognizing art's therapeutic potential, particularly music and movement, Correa Lopera aims to foster community and resilience.

“Art offers a lifeline for families affected by Alzheimer’s disease, bridging divides and fostering resilience in the face of adversity.”

The program, developed in collaboration with the Neuroscience Group of Antioquia, will offer workshops tailored to multigenerational families affected by Alzheimer's disease and socioeconomic challenges. To address diverse needs, Correa Lopera will use the Orff-Schulwerk method, a person-centered music and movement approach known for its inclusive, individualized, and creative nature. Drawing on her extensive experience, she seeks to create a nurturing environment where participants can explore creativity and strengthen familial bonds. By embracing art as a means of expression and connection, the project strives to alleviate the burden of Alzheimer's and empower these families in the face of adversity.

[View the project webpage.](#)





**CULTURAL ADAPTATION AND VALIDATION
OF BRAIN HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL IN
ETHIOPIA: Introducing a sensitive,
computerized cognitive testing tool for early
dementia diagnosis in Ethiopian primary care
settings**

Yared Zewde, MD
Neurologist, Ethiopia

In sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), focus has long been on diseases like malaria and malnutrition, but now aging-related issues like Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are rising due to rapid urbanization, economic growth, and longer lifespans. Ethiopia, a youthful nation, will see its elderly population double by 2040. Despite this, national policies haven't addressed these challenges. To tackle this, Zewde's project aims to adapt and validate a quick cognitive assessment tool called Brain Health Assessment (BHA) for the Ethiopian aging population. This tool, already tested in various countries, takes just 10 minutes and can be easily used in busy clinics.

**“Our aim is to
introduce a tool
that empowers
clinicians to detect
dementia early,
benefiting Ethiopia’s
aging population.”**

The project involves translating BHA into Amharic, the primary language in Ethiopia, and testing it with older adults. Their feedback will refine the tool before it's developed into software. The next step is to create population normative data and compare its accuracy against conventional tools, such as MoCA-B, across various literacy levels. Success would mean providing a vital and efficient method for diagnosing dementia early in Ethiopia's primary care settings, which would greatly benefit vulnerable older adults.

[View the project webpage.](#)





EXPLORING CLIMATE CHANGE, ECOLOGICAL STRESS AND BRAIN HEALTH FROM A MĀORI PERSPECTIVE: Investigating and raising awareness of links of climate change and brain health

Susanne Röhr, PhD

*Psychologist, Epidemiology & Public Health
Researcher, New Zealand*

The pilot project in Aotearoa/ New Zealand explores how climate change, social factors, and brain health intersect for older Māori, the Indigenous Polynesian people of New Zealand. Climate impacts like extreme weather events and coastal erosion affect living conditions, crucial for healthy aging and brain health. Māori perspectives and lived experiences, rooted in interconnectedness with nature, will shape qualitative research, co-conducted with Natasha Tassell-Matamua and Ariana Apiti from the Centre for Indigenous Psychologies, Massey University.

“Our research sheds light on how growing old in a changing climate affects health and wellbeing, amplifying voices of older Māori and inspiring action.”

Through storytelling supported by Atlantic Fellow Alex Kornhuber, the project aims to raise awareness globally about climate’s impact on aging and brain health. Ultimately, it envisions holistic public health interventions that promote sustainable living conditions, benefiting both the environment and brain health.

[View the project webpage.](#)



2023-24 PILOT AWARDS CYCLE

Identifying Ethnic Disparities in Alzheimer's Disease Risk and Blood Biomarkers in Israel

(Israel; Abu Raya, Maison)

Dementia Training for Primary Health Care Workers in Ethiopia

(Ethiopia; Anbessie, Mohammed)

Delirium and Dementia Diagnosis in Hospitalized Older Adults

(Brazil; Avelino-Silva, Thiago)

A Clinical Quality Registry for Dementia in Ethiopia (CQRD Ethiopia)

(Ethiopia; Ayele, Biniyam)

"Land of the Young": Changing Dementia Narratives in Hollywood

(United States; Bandler, Zach)

The Fortune Teller

(United States; Broder, Jake)

Digital Storytelling of Dementia for Healthcare Students

(Australia; Canty, Alison)

What's Your Passion? Reliving Memories Short Documentary

(Brazil; Chechetti, Carlos)

The Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Brain Health in South Korea

(South Korea; Cho, Hanna)

Promoting Wellbeing Through Music and Movement in Familial AD

(Colombia; Correa-Lopera, Cathy)

Crossing International Borders for Dementia Care: Migrating Indian Families

(India; Dasgupta, Jayashree)

Diet and Brain Health in Mexican Adults

(Mexico; De la Cruz, Vanessa)

Association of Multidimensional Poverty with Cognitive Function in Democratic Republic of the Congo

(Democratic Republic of the Congo; Epenge, Emmanuel)

Inclusive Environments for Persons with Dementia (PWD) from Rural Areas of Chile and Their Families

(Chile; Espina, Macarena)

Neureka Latin America: A Scalable Digital Tool to Assess Brain Health

(Chile; Fittipaldi, Sol)

Entirely Human: Performing the Person in Dementia

(United Kingdom; Gately, Dominic)

Hope - Ronald the Rooster and Other Short Stories in the Days of Dementia

(Ireland; Hanrahan, Mike)

Social Determinants of Health in People with Alzheimer's Disease in Peru

(Peru; Illanes-Manrique, Maryenela)

Develop a Culturally Valid Quality of Life Measure for Vietnam

(Australia; Nguyen, Kim-Huong)

Promoting Brain Health through Amazonian Dance

(Brazil; Haas, Aline)

A Training and Implementation Study on Dementia Risk Reduction in Nigeria

(Nigeria; Ogunyemi, Doyin)

Arts Workshops for Older Latino Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment at Museums

(United States; Rojas, Verónica)

Challenges in Health Seeking Behavior Among Hypertensive Adults in Nepal

(Nepal; Shrestha, Prabha)

Exploring the Priorities of People with Dementia and Multiple Comorbidities

(United Kingdom; Stirland, Lucy)

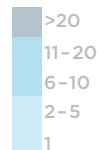
Digital Cognitive Markers in the Preclinical Stages of Genetic Alzheimer's

(Colombia; Trujillo, Natalia)

The Longitudinal Relationship Between Tinnitus and Cognitive Decline

(Ireland; Yasoda-Mohan, Anusha)

Number of Pilots



EMERGING LEADERS

The Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health program at the Global Brain Health Institute—which includes artists, journalists, and entrepreneurs, as well as neuroscientists, neurologists, and psychologists—takes an inter-professional approach to disrupt conventional thinking about aging and dementia. Fellows nurture and learn from each other in a unique bi-directional thought exchange, fostering innovative interventions.

The experience and knowledge around dementia prevention, care, and treatment varies greatly around the world, with regions facing the greatest increases in incidence of dementia also having the fewest resources to address it. The Atlantic Fellows program at GBHI strives to tackle these issues by training, mentoring, and supporting emerging global leaders across multiple disciplines to create a sustained and resourced momentum for equitable change and action on dementia.

JOIN A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Join a diverse community of over 200 Atlantic Fellows from nearly 50 countries dedicated to protecting the world's aging

populations from threats to brain health. To learn more, visit www.gbhi.org/apply.



If you are interested in finding out more about the Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders or how to get involved as a supporter, please contact pilots.projects@gbhi.org. You can also learn more at www.gbhi.org/pilots.

Global Brain Health Institute

The Global Brain Health Institute is a leader in the global community dedicated to protecting the world's aging populations from threats to brain health.

gbhi.org

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association leads 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.

alz.org

Alzheimer's Society (UK)

Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading dementia charity. Campaigning for change, funding research to find a cure and supporting people living with dementia today.

alzheimers.org.uk