

Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders

2025 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.

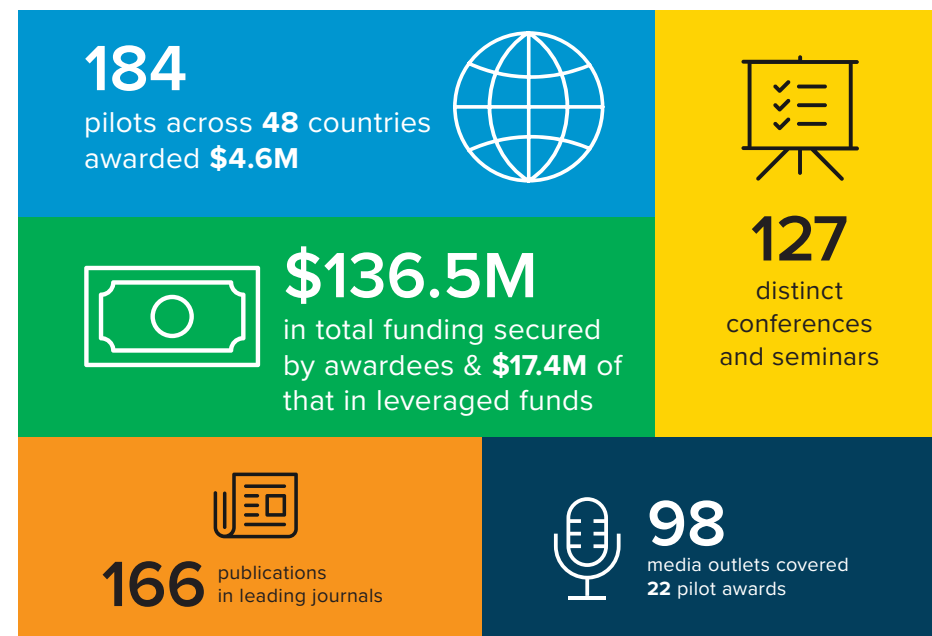
The goal of the Pilot Awards for Brain Health Leaders is to both support leadership development of the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health and to advance pilot projects that improve outcomes in brain health. The program prioritizes activities that demonstrate potential to evolve into larger projects 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.

[Watch a video about the Pilot Awards for Global Brain Health Leaders program.](#)



AWARDS IMPACT

Since 2017, the Pilot Awards Program has sparked global progress in brain health. Their collective impact is reflected in the data below.



Countries and administrative regions that have been awarded grants: 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, Kenya, Lithuania, Mexico, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Turkey, UK (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales), USA, Vietnam, Zambia, and 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.

[Watch a video about this project.](#)





**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.

[Watch a video about this project.](#)





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.

[Watch a video about this project.](#)



2024-25 PILOT AWARDS CYCLE

A Multicomponent Intervention for Women Dementia Caregivers in Colombia

(Colombia; Baez, Sandra)

Adaptation & Usability of Post-Diagnostic E-Intervention for Dementia in India

(India; Bajpai, Swati)

Improving Dementia Assessment and Diagnosis in Nepal

(Nepal; Bogati, Umesh)

Paving the Way for Better Huntington Care: “Online Course for Arab Families”

(Egypt; El-Jaafary, Shaimaa)

Sensitize, Educate & Evaluate Dementia (SEED) Project in Southeast Nigeria

(Nigeria; Eze, Lazarus)

Musical Walking for Well Being – A Feasibility Study

(Ireland; Gainza, Mikel)

ADVICE – Advance Dementia Information, Care and Education

(Kenya; Karanja, Wambui)

A Pilot Trial of Cognitive Training Among Low-Educated Old Arab Adults

(Israel; Khalaila, Rabia)

“Dementia Diaries”: A Multimedia Initiative to Transform Dementia Awareness

(Ethiopia; Lakew, Elul)

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; McGettrick, Gráinne)

Memories Unleashed: A Performance Arts-Dementia Awareness Campaign

(USA; Myricks II, William Eric)

Mapping Brain Health Inequalities: Brazilian Area Deprivation Index

(Brazil; Paradela, Regina)

Examine the Association between AD Biomarkers and Atrophy Pattern in Chile

(Chile; Pozo Castro, Natalia)

Establishing a Cognitive Database Harmonized with International Initiatives

(Mexico; Ruiz Castillo, Karla Paulina)

Identifying the Needs of People Living with Young Onset Dementia in Poland

(Poland; Skrobas, Urszula)

Enhancing the perspective of the Mexican Population on Brain Health

(Mexico; Solis, Sara)

START-Nepal: Cultural Adaptation and Feasibility for Family Carers in Nepal

(Nepal; Thapa, Prekshya)

The Navigate Project

(Turkey; Uysal, Armagan Hasan)

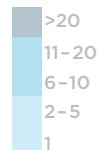
Multimodal Exploration of Synaptic Dysfunction in Dementia with Lewy Bodies

(France; Vrillon, Agathe)

An Online Dementia Training Course for Family Practitioners in Ghana

(Ghana; Yalley, Sally)

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 260 Atlantic Fellows from more than 60 countries dedicated to protecting the

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

Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health the AAIC Satellite Symposium in South Africa



SUPPORT

GBHI welcomes partners to secure the success of this unique program. For more

information about how to support GBHI, please visit www.gbhi.org/support-us.

“Dementia poses a growing threat to people around the globe. The Atlantic Fellows program answers the world’s urgent call for well-equipped leaders ready and able to tackle this challenge.”

– *Mary Robinson, former Chancellor, Trinity College Dublin
and former President of Ireland*



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