

ISTAART Immersives: Speech and Language Measures in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias

Friday, July 10, 2026 | 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Aurora 1 — InterContinental — London, United Kingdom
All times are in British Summer Time
In-person attendance only

Overview

Speech and language measures are emerging as scalable, patient-centered indicators of cognitive change in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). However, fragmented methodologies across studies, including diverse tasks, recording setups, and analytic pipelines, hinder comparability and slow translation to clinical applications. This interactive session will convene clinicians, neuropsychologists, linguists, and data scientists to harmonize approaches to speech and language biomarkers in ADRD. The session will: (1) map existing datasets and methodologies; (2) identify key divergences in constructs (e.g., fluency, discourse coherence, prosody), languages, and validation practices; and (3) co-develop standardized recommendations for data collection and analysis. A primary focus will be on the explainability, interpretability, and cross-linguistic generalizability of speech features to ensure their clinical relevance. Attendees will engage in demonstrations and hands-on activities using open datasets and reproducible workflows. Expected outcomes can include a harmonization framework, quality-control checklist, and potential roadmap for consensus on best practices.

Organizing Committee

- Alexandra König
- Adolfo Garcia, PhD
- Sofia Alexopoulou
- Jet Vonk

Target Audience

This ISTAART immersive workshop is designed for...

Learning Objectives

- Analyze the current landscape of speech and language measures in ADRD, including

datasets, tasks, and analytic pipelines.

- Apply harmonization practices to data collection and analysis by co-developing a QC checklist for speech/language biomarkers in ADRD.
- Compare cross-cultural adaptation challenges in speech and language assessment for ADRD and discuss solutions for longitudinal monitoring in clinical trials.
- Understand and apply the concepts of explainability and interpretability in speech and language features, ensuring that these biomarkers are both accurate and clinically actionable.

Registration

Pre-conferences are offered for in-person attendance only. Preconferences require a separate registration fee in addition to AAIC full conference registration, or they may be purchased as stand-alone events. Visit alz.org/AAIC.

Agenda: Friday, July 10, 2026 | 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Time	Session Details	Speakers and Moderator
1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.	Introductions, overview of goals, and audience poll on roles and experience	
1:15 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Overview: Landscape of speech and language measures in ADRD - datasets, tasks, methods, etc.	Alexandra König
1:45 p.m. - 2:25 p.m.	Live demonstration: Extracting clinically relevant features from text	Hali Lindsay
2:25 p.m. - 2:40 p.m.	Break	
2:40 p.m. - 3:35 p.m.	Challenge 1: Cross-linguistic/cross-cultural generalizability	Adolfo Garcia & Gonzalo Perez
3:35 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.	Challenge 2: Interpretability and clinical explainability of speech & language features	Olga Ivanova
4:20 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.	Building consensus/panel discussion	

4:50 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Next steps, suggestions for future topics & events, and final evaluation	
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