

ISTAART Professional Interest Area (PIA) Day

Saturday, July 11 > The InterContinental London - The O2



London, U.K. | All Times Are In British Summer Time (BST) | In-Person Attendance Only

ISTAART Professional Interest Area (PIA) Day is an exclusive event for current and new ISTAART members attending the Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC). The event features targeted sessions, interactive panels, debates and networking opportunities, running concurrently with the AAIC preconference and ISTAART Immersives workshop programs. PIA Day provides a platform for members to engage with peers and experts, fostering collaboration and engagement within the ISTAART community.

	Arora 1	Arora 11	Arora 2, 3, 5, 6	Arora 4, 7
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Vascular Cognitive Disorders Immunity And Neurodegeneration	Frontotemporal Dementia And Related Disorders	PIA To Elevate Early Career Researchers (PEERs)	Diversity And Disparities Nonpharmacological Interventions
9:45-10:45 a.m.	Biofluid Based Biomarkers	Neuropsychiatric Syndromes	Health Policy	Limbic-Predominant Age-Related TDP-43 Encephalopathy
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	PIA Collaboratory With PIA Executive Committees And PIA Members			
12:30-1:30 p.m.	Networking Lunch (Meal Room Upstairs)			
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Cognition Subjective Cognitive Decline	Lewy Body Dementias	Sleep And Circadian Rhythms	The Eye As A Biomarker For AD
2:45-3:45 p.m.	Clinical Trials Advancement And Methods	Atypical Alzheimer's Disease	Nutrition, Metabolism And Dementia	Sensory Health And Cognition
4-5 p.m.	Neuromodulatory Subcortical Systems Sex And Gender Differences In Alzheimer's Disease	Neurophysiology	Down Syndrome And Alzheimer's Disease	Perioperative Cognition And Delirium

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Saturday, July 11 > 8:30-9:30 a.m.



Vascular Cognitive Disorders and Immunity And Neurodegeneration

Arora 1

This PIA day session will feature a lively, evidence-driven debate about the role of vascular-immune crosstalk in Alzheimer's disease, hosted by the Vascular Cognitive Disorders and Immunity and Neurodegeneration PIA groups. Two contrasting interpretations of emerging data will address the central question of this session. By juxtaposing these perspectives, the session aims not only to illuminate the complexities of vascular-immune crosstalk in AD, but also to identify convergent mechanistic pathways and critical gaps requiring future investigation.

Frontotemporal Dementia And Related Disorders

Arora 11

The Frontotemporal Dementia and Related Disorders PIA will lead an interactive "show and tell" session that introduces emerging digital health technologies used to assess key phenotypic features of frontotemporal dementia. Through four rotating demonstrations, participants will explore tools measuring cognition, speech and language, motor function, and social cognition. Presenters will showcase cognitive apps, AI-based speech analysis, wearable motor measures, and VR social cognition tools, showing how digital methods support real-world assessment.

PIA To Elevate Early Career Researchers (PEERs)

Arora 2, 3, 5, 6

Do you want to own your expertise and connect with confidence? What is the real impact of your work? This PIA to Elevate Early Career Researchers (PEERs) workshop will help early-career researchers craft a focused 60-second research story that clearly communicates their expertise and value. Participants will define their core idea, clarify what sets their work apart, and practice articulating it with confidence through guided exercises and small-group feedback — leaving with a refined and compelling research pitch.

Diversity And Disparities and Nonpharmacological Interventions

Arora 4, 7

Rapid expansion of non-pharmacological interventions (NPIs) for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD) is addressing all stages of disease from risk reduction to end of life care using a wide range of strategies. NPIs hold potential for helping to mitigate disparities in disease burden due to social and economic inequities by addressing the social and structural determinants of health (SSDOH) that medication alone cannot remediate. While medication alters biology, NPIs can also target the environmental, behavioral, psychological and SSDOH factors that increase vulnerability of marginalized populations to ADRD. To build equity, it is essential that NPIs are developed, tested and implemented in ways that benefit all, particularly historically marginalized and underserved populations. This panel convened by the D&D and NPI PIAs will explore inclusive design and methods, adapting lifestyle interventions for real-world implementation, and how technologies can tackle stigma and raise awareness of ADRD.

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Biofluid Based Biomarkers

Arora 1

Biofluids play a central role in Alzheimer's disease research and diagnosis. CSF has long been the gold standard, while plasma biomarkers have recently reached major regulatory milestones. This Biomarker Based Biomarker PIA Day will feature a debate on whether plasma has replaced CSF as the primary biofluid in research and clinical settings. A second debate will examine which alternative biofluid — saliva, exosomes, tear fluid, or dried blood spots — holds the greatest promise for the field.

Neuropsychiatric Syndromes

Arora 11

Mild behavioral impairment (MBI) is recognized as an at-risk state for dementia, yet important questions remain among clinicians and researchers. Through chalk-talk-style discussions led by experts at the forefront of MBI, this session will provide a deep dive into the topic. Questions gathered from attendees through NPS PIA programs will be highlighted and addressed, as workshop leaders and participants work together to identify the "top 10 most common questions" and key areas for future research.

Health Policy

Arora 2, 3, 5, 6

In this session, the Health Policy PIA will provide an overview on blood based biomarkers for AD, potential areas of privacy, stigma, and discrimination. Additionally, this session will discuss how patients can be protected in the clinical setting, how information can be disclosed in culturally appropriate ways, and what legal structures are in place to protect individuals' medical records, workplace, insurance, and housing.

Limbic-Predominant Age-Related TDP-43 Encephalopathy

Arora 4, 7

This PIA day session will provide a deep dive into the neuropathological features of LATE Neuropathological Change (LATE-NC), both in primary LATE and as a co-pathology. Expert pathologists will present and describe cases with digitally scanned slides, enabling an interactive, virtual microscopy experience that allows examination across different brain regions and enhances understanding of the morphological features of LATE pathology.

PIA Collaboratory With PIA Executive Committees And PIA Members

Saturday, July 11 > 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



The PIA Collaboratory serves as a forum for ISTAART members to engage with PIA Executive Committee members during PIA Day. In this session, Executive Committee members and PIA participants will collaborate in an open forum to define goals, gather feedback, strategize activities, develop new objectives, identify areas for improvement and explore new opportunities.

Participants may rotate among different PIAs or focus on a single PIA throughout the session. Attendees are encouraged to locate their designated PIA Executive Committee member at a marked table in one of the rooms listed below.

Arora 1

Alliance Of Women Alzheimer's Researchers (AWARE)
Atypical Alzheimer's Disease
Clinical Trials Advancement And Methods
Cognition
Diversity And Disparities
Down Syndrome And Alzheimer's Disease
Frontotemporal Dementia And Related Disorders
Health Policy
Immunity And Neurodegeneration
Lewy Body Dementias
Limbic-Predominant Age-Related
TDP-43 Encephalopathy

Arora 11

Neurophysiology
Neuropsychiatric Syndromes
Nutrition, Metabolism And Dementia
Partnering With Research Participants
PIA To Elevate Early Career Researchers (PEERs)
Reserve, Resilience And Protective Factors
Sensory Health And Cognition
Sex And Gender Differences In Alzheimer's Disease
Sleep And Circadian Rhythms
Subjective Cognitive Decline
The Eye As A Biomarker For AD
Vascular Cognitive Disorders

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Saturday, July 11 > 1:30-2:30 p.m.



Cognition and Subjective Cognitive Decline

Arora 1

Digital tools for subjective and objective cognitive assessment can increase access to evaluations in non-specialty clinical and remote settings. There is ongoing debate, however, about optimal protocols for their administration, delivery, and interpretation. The Cognition and Subjective Cognitive Decline PIAs will host a debate discussing supervised and unsupervised digital assessments for subjective and objective cognitive function in ADRD. A panel discussion with audience Q&A will follow.

Lewy Body Dementias

Arora 11

Seed Amplification Assays (SAA) are emerging as transformative biomarkers in Lewy Body Dementia (LBD). This Lewy Body Dementias PIA-led session will explore real-world applications of CSF and skin SAA through case presentations and expert panel discussion. It will cover current challenges of implementing SAA in clinical settings and highlight activities and opportunities within the LBD PIA to foster collaboration.

Sleep And Circadian Rhythms

Arora 2, 3, 5, 6

Circadian disruption tracks dementia progression and may influence underlying pathology. The Sleep and Circadian Rhythms PIA day session will highlight key Delphi findings on priority circadian measures, including biomarker timing and study design considerations. A moderated panel will discuss best practices, methodological challenges, and strategies for integrating circadian metrics into clinical trials and broader care settings to enhance translation and support therapeutic development in dementia.

The Eye As A Biomarker For AD

Arora 4, 7

The Eye as a Biomarker for AD PIA day session will explore opportunities for future activities of the PIA, focusing on vascular changes in the retina and inflammatory events in the retina and their impact on neurodegeneration in the brain. Because small vessel disease, cerebral amyloid angiopathy, and neuroinflammation often occur in both the brain and retina of older adults, the retina offers a unique window into Alzheimer's disease pathology. This session will bring together experts to develop initiatives for harmonizing terminology in pathology and imaging for vascular and neuroinflammatory lesions across the retina and brain.

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Saturday, July 11 > 2:45-3:45 p.m.



Clinical Trials Advancement And Methods

Arora 1

Expanding clinical trials for Alzheimer's Disease into low-resourced areas is crucial for enhancing representation and equity in research. The Clinical Trials Advancement and Methods PIA session will explore increasing global representation in ADRD trials, examining what is needed to broaden participation, including sustainable HIC-LMIC collaborations, regulatory alignment, site readiness, and ethical considerations. Academic, nonacademic, and industry experts will discuss the field's readiness to accelerate inclusion while noting regulatory, operational, and ethical gaps, sharing insights on operations, regulatory science, ethics, and sustainability of global trial networks.

Atypical Alzheimer's Disease

Arora 11

The Atypical Alzheimer's Disease PIA day session will feature 4-6 scientific presentations showcasing the latest advancements in the field. The program will highlight emerging mechanistic, clinical, and methodological discoveries, focusing on atypical forms of Alzheimer's Disease that are non-amnesic and hippocampal-sparing. Early career researchers, including students and postdoctoral fellows, will present their work. Following the presentations, there will be an interactive discussion with audience Q&A to explore the implications of these findings.

Nutrition, Metabolism And Dementia

Arora 2, 3, 5, 6

The Nutrition, Metabolism, and Dementia PIA day session will explore how nutrition and metabolism shape brain health and dementia risk across the lifespan. Through five focused discussions on systemic brain coupling, microbiome brain links, vascular metabolic pathways, lipid biology, and neuroimmune diet interactions, participants will identify areas ready for study and promising emerging directions. This interactive session brings together population, clinical, and basic science perspectives to define priorities and advance prevention and treatment strategies in AD/ADRD.

Sensory Health And Cognition

Arora 4, 7

The Sensory Health and Cognition PIA day session will explore the critical role of sensory function in overall health and its potential impact on cognitive outcomes. Sensory loss is a potentially modifiable factor that could help reduce dementia risk. While evidence is growing for multi-modal interventions to improve cognition or lower dementia risk, most existing programs have not included sensory factors. This session will bring together world experts to examine the opportunities and challenges of incorporating sensory health into multi-modal interventions.

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Neuromodulatory Subcortical Systems and Sex And Gender Differences In Alzheimer's Disease

Arora 1

This joint session is a collaboration between the Neuromodulatory Subcortical Systems and Sex and Gender Differences PIAs and will feature a dynamic debate on whether cortical versus subcortical systems play a greater role in sex differences in Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Lea Grinberg from the Mayo Clinic will present arguments in favor of subcortical systems, while Dr. Sarah Banks from the University of California San Diego will emphasize cortical contributions.

Neurophysiology

Arora 11

The Neurophysiology PIA day session will explore how early Alzheimer's disease reflects interactions between molecular pathology and large-scale brain dysfunction, asking the central question: Which changes come first? This debate brings together evidence from resting-state EEG rhythms, CSF A β /tau biomarkers, brain connectivity, and glymphatic function (DTI-ALPS), with speakers discussing whether network and rhythm alterations precede, track, or result from impaired clearance and AD pathology.

Down Syndrome And Alzheimer's Disease

Arora 2, 3, 5, 6

Individuals with Down syndrome are genetically at-risk for Down syndrome-associated Alzheimer's Disease (DS-AD). As the field prepares for clinical DS-AD trials, questions have arisen about what and how to share research results with participants. A panel of clinical and research experts from the Down Syndrome and Alzheimer's Disease PIA will lead a discussion on the state of clinical DS-AD trials, NIH priorities, and perspectives from adults with Down syndrome and their families on result sharing.

Perioperative Cognition And Delirium

Arora 4, 7

Research repeatedly shows how individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders are at greater risk for postoperative delirium and cognitive complications. Yet, anesthesiology and perioperative practice guidelines for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders (ADRD) are very limited. Older individuals with common and atypical neurodegenerative disorders are, however, increasing internationally and routinely need surgical procedures. For this panel session, three executive committee members from the Perioperative Cognitive and Delirium PIA will separately provide insights and rationale for ADRD perioperative guidelines. Speakers will then lead an interactive group discussion with attendees to gather input on the unique needs of preoperative, intraoperative, and postoperative ADRD surgical patients. Acquired information will inform the development of perioperative guidelines across disciplines.