

## **ISTAART Immersives: Advancing Alzheimer's Trials Through BEST Biomarker Practices and Study Design**

Saturday, July 11, 2026 | 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Arora 12, 13, 15, 16 — InterContinental — London, United Kingdom

All times are in British Summer Time

*In-person attendance only*

### **Overview**

This interactive workshop at the 2026 Alzheimer's Association International Conference (AAIC) in Toronto will provide Alzheimer's researchers with an integrated understanding of biomarker science and its application to clinical trial design. Through expert-led sessions on the ATNIVS framework, vascular contributions to cognitive impairment (STRIVE), neuroinflammation, and regulatory perspectives on the BEST (Biomarkers, Endpoints, and other Tools) framework, participants will gain a comprehensive view of how biomarkers inform drug development and approval. Building on this scientific foundation, the workshop will demonstrate how to define biomarker "context of use," align biological mechanisms with study populations and endpoints, and incorporate statistical considerations into trial design. An interactive trial design lab will allow participants to apply these principles in practice using a case-based approach. Expected Outcomes: Participants will leave with a deeper understanding of biomarker validation best practices and practical tools for Alzheimer's study design. They will gain collaborative insights into using the BEST framework, and how it can be applied to AD biological frameworks, to enhance research quality and address both neurodegenerative and vascular factors in Alzheimer's studies.

### **Organizing Committee**

- Myuri Ruthirakuhan, PhD

### **Target Audience**

This ISTAART immersive workshop is designed for researchers at the beginner, intermediate, and advanced levels.

### **Learning Objectives**

- Understand the principles of the BEST framework and its relevance to Alzheimer's disease research, including applications within the ATNIVS framework.
- Identify best practices for defining the "context of use" in biomarker validation.

- Apply statistical considerations to the discovery, validation, and implementation of biomarkers in AD.

## 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](http://alz.org/AAIC).

## Agenda: Friday, July 11, 2026 | 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Time	Session Details	Speakers and Moderator
1:00 p.m. - 1:05 p.m.	Introduction - The drug and the challenge	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
1:05 p.m. - 1:25 p.m.	Implications of biomarkers in AD research (ATNIVS framework), drug approvals and clinical practice	Dr. Jeff Cummings
1:25 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.	Introduction to the BEST framework and establishing “context of use”	Dr. Peter Mol and Ms. Lysbeth Bakker
1:45 p.m. - 2:05 p.m.	Translating “context of use” to trial design: Statistical considerations of diagnostic, prognostic, and monitoring markers in AD research	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
2:05 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.	Q&A	
<b>2:20 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
2:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	1) Vascular contributions to cognitive impairment 2) Biomarkers of vascular neuroimaging	Dr. Donna Wilcock and Dr. Joel Ramirez
3:20 p.m. - 4:10 p.m.	1) Neuroinflammation and its role in Alzheimer’s disease 2) Imaging biomarkers of inflammation	Dr. Michael Heneka and Dr. Julie Ottoy

4:10 p.m. - 4:40 p.m.	Interactive Trial Design Lab	
4:40 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Q&A and Final Remarks	