

Advancing Alzheimer's Research Through BEST Practices in Study Design

Friday, July 25, 2025 | 1-5 p.m.

Westin Harbour Castle- Harbour A — Toronto, Canada

All times are in Eastern Standard Time

In-person attendance only

Overview

This workshop will introduce Alzheimer's researchers to the BEST (Biomarkers, Endpoints, and other Tools) resource, a vital framework for designing impactful studies. While the BEST resource offers foundational guidance on biomarker validation, our workshop extends this knowledge by integrating it with two key frameworks: the ATNIVS (Amyloid, Tau, Neurodegeneration, Vascular, Inflammation, and Synuclein) criteria and the STRIVE guidelines, which address vascular contributions to cognitive impairment. Through a combination of expert presentations and interactive sessions, participants will apply these concepts by designing a hypothetical trial. This hands-on approach ensures that attendees leave with practical experience in integrating validated biomarker strategies into Alzheimer's research.

Organizing Committee

- Myuri Ruthirakuhan, PhD
- Jeffrey L. Cummings, MD
- Donna Wilcock, PhD
- Michael T. Heneka, PhD
- Mario Masellis, MD, PhD
- Elisabeth Bakker
- Joel Ramirez, PhD
- Julie Otttoy, PhD
- Ivan Martinez-Valbuena, PhD

Target Audience

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

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the principles of the BEST framework and its relevance to Alzheimer's disease research, including applications within the ATNIVS framework and STRIVE criteria
2. Identify best practices for defining the "context of use" in biomarker validation and its utility in clinical trials
3. Design a hypothetical trial based on knowledge gained from validated biomarker frameworks and updated insights in AD-related biomarkers

Registration

Educational workshops are offered for in-person attendance only. Workshops 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: July 25, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 5:00 PM

Time	Session Details	Speakers and Moderator
12:00 - 1:00 pm	Lunch (<i>Westin Metropolitan Ballroom</i>)	
1:00-1:05 pm	Introduction - Let's design a trial!	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
Foundation Concepts		
1:05 - 1:30 pm	Implications of biomarkers in Alzheimer's disease clinical trials	Dr. Jeffrey Cummings
1:30-1:55 pm	Introduction to the BEST framework and establishing "context of use"	Elisabeth Bakker
1:55-2:05 pm	Let's design a trial: Part 1	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
Biomarkers related to AD-related processes		
2:05 – 2:45 pm	i) Vascular contributions to	Dr. Donna Wilcock

	cognitive impairment and their candidate biomarkers ii) Biomarkers of vascular neuroimaging	Dr. Joel Ramirez
2:45 - 2:55 pm	Let's design a trial: Part 2	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
2:55 - 3:05 pm	Coffee/wellness break	
3:05 - 3:45 pm	i) Neuroinflammation and its role in Alzheimer's disease ii) Imaging glia and inflammation in Alzheimer's disease	Dr. Michael Heneka Dr. Julie Otttoy
3:45 - 3:55 pm	Let's design a trial: Part 3	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
3:55- 4:35 pm	i) Synuclein and biomarkers on the horizon ii) Assessment of alpha-synuclein in CSF	Dr. Mario Masellis Dr. Ivan Martinez-Valbuena
4:35 - 4:45 pm	Let's design a trial: Part 4	Dr. Myuri Ruthirakuhan
4:45 - 5:00 pm	Concluding remarks & QA	All