

## **ISTAART Immersives: How to Approach Representativeness in Clinical Studies?**

Saturday, July 11, 2026 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Peninsula West — InterContinental — London, United Kingdom

All times are in British Summer Time

*In-person attendance only*

### **Overview**

Ensuring representativeness in clinical research on Alzheimer's disease remains a fundamental yet persistently misunderstood challenge. This 4-hour education session provides a rigorous yet accessible methodological exploration of the concept of representativeness, grounded in epidemiologic principles but with clear and explicit implications for clinical research. Participants will examine what it means for a study base—or source population—to truly represent a target domain, and how misconceptions about representativeness can compromise inference, generalizability, and causal interpretation. The session will focus on the methodological underpinnings of representativeness in the context of clinical research, with special attention to patient recruitment strategies, diagnostic pathways, and disease heterogeneity in Alzheimer's disease. Through targeted lectures, interactive exercises and captivating examples from global Alzheimer's research, we will examine topics like valid selection of reference subjects in clinical case-control studies, strategies to ensure valid representation of the underlying study base, and consideration of equity and diversity with respect to internal and external validity if not conceptualized and managed appropriately. We will discuss challenges to representative research, both generic and specific to the cultural environment of setting in which the research takes place. As such, participants will learn how to balance validity, fairness, and scientific rigor in designing representative and informative Alzheimer's disease studies.

### **Organizing Committee**

- Frank Wolters, MD, PhD
- Arfan Ikram, MD, PhD

### **Target Audience**

### **Learning Objectives**

- To define representativeness in descriptive, causal and diagnostic research, and explain

its methodological implications for clinical Alzheimer’s disease studies.

- To identify and characterize appropriate study bases for clinical case-control research and select reference subjects consistent with the underlying source population.
- To understand and obtain tools to address the challenges in representative research on Alzheimer’s disease across different cultures and settings.
- To discuss how diversity initiatives intersect with etiologic validity, including the roles of heterogeneity and confounding in Alzheimer’s research.

## 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 | 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Time	Session Details	Speakers and Moderator
8:00 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.	Opening & Introductions	
8:15 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Theory I, ‘When is my sample representative, and what does it mean?’	
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	Theory II, ‘When are my findings representative, and what does it mean?’	
<b>9:45 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>	
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Exercise	
10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Global experiences & panel discussion on ‘Representative research across the globe’	
11:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Recap & Closing	