Worldwide FINGERS Network Teleconference
www.alz.org/wwfingers

Tuesday, October 20, 2020
7am Eastern Time/1pm Central European Summer Time/11am Greenwich Mean Time

I. Welcome

Miia Kivipelto, MD, PhD & Maria Carrillo, PhD

- Professor Miia Kivipelto and Dr. Heather Snyder welcomed the WW FINGERS network members and shared new funding for SINGER and UK MET FINGER studies.
- Harmonization of the WW FINGERS network is ongoing. This includes development of a recently funded federated database and creation of a science and publication policy to support members and facilitate collaboration.

II. Surveying WW FINGERS Network Study Participants During the Global Pandemic

a. FINGER Survey

Tiia Ngandu, MD, PhD

- Dr. Ngandu shared the state of Finland and COVID-19, with more than 13,000 cases that are currently on the rise. Both the infection and the measures in place to contain COVID-19 have an impact on the older population.
- The FINGER study started 10 years ago. Five and seven year follow up visits have been completed and COVID-19 has interfered with the 10-year follow up.
- The FINGER SARS-CoV2 survey was developed to understand how the participants have been impacted by the pandemic and to estimate the contribution of COVID-19 on long-term effects of FINGER.
- Preliminary data from the first 600 participants was shared and overall, there were few changes in lifestyles, health and well-being of the participants. Further, even in the situation like the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible to adhere to healthy lifestyle.

b. WW-FINGERS-SARS-Cov-2 Initiative

Francesca Mangialasche, MD, PhD

- Dr. Mangialasche shared that use of the FINGER SARS-CoV2 survey is open to the WW FINGERS Network. This survey is part of the WHO Neurology & COVID-19 Global Forum and 28 countries have expressed interest.
Objectives for this survey are to explore relevant research questions, inform better care of older adults and understand how to adapt and successfully deliver WW FINGERS trials.

The main research questions will cover how the pandemic and pandemic restrictions have affected lifestyle, the management of non-communicable diseases, affected overall physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The survey will have core questions and optional questions depending on the target population. There is flexibility in delivery methods (pen/paper, online and by phone), language and length of survey. Data collection will be done through REDCap (or excel file if REDCap is not available).

c. Moderated Discussion

Christopher Chen shared the progress surveying study participants in Singapore. Regulatory requirements have been achieved and the study team has begun to interview participants with a target of 300+ participants in a year. Some issues have been identified including the length of the questionnaire.

III. Methodological Challenges Continuing Discussions & Next Steps

a. Next steps

Mark Espeland, PhD

A methodological forum was hosted in September that focused on statistical plans/design among WW FINGERS trials related to COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has been particularly challenging for behavior intervention trials due to suspension of in person contact and the social isolation may adversely affect lifestyle comorbidities.

An opportunity was identified to put together paper on how statistical design and analysis plans in WW FINGERS network trials are affected by pandemic.

A writing group has been formed that includes representation from FINGER, US POINTER, AgeWell.de and J-MINT, with the intention of a broad acknowledgment of WW FINGERS study group.

Lefkos Middleton shared that preliminary data was published in A&D TRCI in August that outlined key methodological challenges and how mitigated them. These papers will be shared with the network members.

b. Group Discussion

Moderator: Markku Peltonen, PhD

The methodological technical meetings will continue as well as the discussion of the method paper. Upcoming meetings will be announced to the network soon.

IV. Closing Remarks

Plans for a work group on the harmonization of methods for fluid based biomarkers was discussed. Progress will be announced at the March meeting.