

World Federation of Neurology: Specialty Group on Aphasia, Dementia and Cognitive Disorders.

Biennial Meeting 2026

Program

Thursday, February 19 th	
10:30	Welcome Aida Suarez Gonzalez, UK
10:40	The History of the WFN Specialty Group Thomas Bak, UK
<i>Symposium</i> From Molecules to Communities: Precision Prevention of Dementia Across Global Populations	
11:10	Precision prevention in a global health framework; insights from Africa-FINGERS Chi Udeh-Momoh, Kenya/USA
11:35	Co-designing dementia risk-reduction programs with culturally and linguistically diverse communities Jo Antonaides, Australia
12:00	Compression of disability in dementia Aida Suarez Gonzalez, UK
12:25	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>Symposium</i> The challenge of diagnosing behavioural variant frontotemporal dementia—exploring the interface with false-positives, phenocopies and mid-life psychiatric illness	
13:30	Is there a difference between a bvFTD phenocopy and a false-positive bvFTD diagnosis and does it even matter? Peter Nestor, Australia
13:55	Is it possible to diagnose bvFTD at the prodromal or very early stage of dementia based on symptomatology? Manabu Ikeda, Japan
14:20	The psychiatric bvFTD phenocopy: Disentangling bvFTD from primary psychiatric disorders. Joshua Flavell, Australia
14:45	How to recognize phenocopy bvFTD and how to manage it Yolande Pijnenburg, Netherlands
15:10	Differential diagnosis of cognitive impairment in adult mental health consumers – dementia or other? Simone Mangelsdorf-Collett, Australia
15:35	<i>Break</i>
<i>Symposium</i> Changing Communication Together – Supporting Better Communication Across Aphasia, Brain Injury and Dementia	
16:00	Communication Partner Training in post-stroke aphasia: implementation barriers, facilitators and the impact of tailored implementation strategies on improving practice Kirstine Shrubsole, Australia
16:25	Making it work everywhere: Digital and cross-cultural adaptations of communication partner training for people with TBI and their communication partners Petra Avramović, Australia
16:50	Co-creating and adapting communication partner training: What are the needs of people impacted by dementia and speech pathologists to ensure feasible, accessible, and successful training? Naomi Folder, Australia
17:15	Implementing communication partner training as part of an enhanced communication environment in a stroke rehabilitation unit: Insights from the coalface. Erin Godecke, Australia
18:00	<i>Welcome reception BBQ</i>

Friday, February 20 th	
<i>Symposium</i> What actually causes cognitive decline in the elderly – new pathologies beyond Alzheimer’s disease	
9:00	PART & LATE Glenda Halliday, Australia
9:25	CTE & ARTAG Claire Shepherd, Australia
9:50	Cerebrovascular disease Amy Brodtmann, Australia
10:15	From promise to practice: latest findings from The MiND Study and the future of blood and other markers for earlier and accurate dementia diagnosis, and improved care and outcomes for patients and their families Dhamidhu Eratne, Australia
10:40	<i>Break</i>
<i>Symposium</i> Rare dementias: tailoring support for different people with different diagnoses and different needs	
11:00	Relative prevalence of rare dementias and developing a theory of change for support services Sebastian Crutch, UK
11:25	Environmental adaptations for supporting people with young-onset dementia in Japan Maki Suzuki, Japan
11:50	A realist evaluation of Rare Dementia Support Canada Mary Pat Sullivan, Canada
12:15	Providing Support for frontotemporal dementia in Australia: a blueprint for the future Tracey Wardill, Australia
12:40	The Joint Solutions Project for Young-onset Dementia Samantha Loi, Australia
13:05	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>Symposium</i> New insights into primary progressive aphasia: Classification, manifestations, mechanisms and interventions	
14:00	Primary progressive aphasia: How ‘primary’ does it need to be? Olivier Piguet, Australia
14:25	Beyond words: Distinct social cognition profiles across primary progressive aphasia variants Natacha Cordonier, Switzerland
14:50	Tract-weighted functional connectivity as a predictor of cortical atrophy in primary progressive aphasia Ramon Landin-Romero, Australia
15:15	Long-term effects of brain stimulation in primary progressive aphasia Jordi Matías-Guiu, Spain
15:40	<i>Break</i>
16:00	The structure of the lexical-semantic space for the animal category: Implications for the analysis of cluster and executive/linguistic contributions to semantic fluency. Olivier Godefroy, France
16:25	Understanding deficits of semantic memory and language in bilingual patients with Semantic Dementia and Alzheimer’s Disease Ratnavalli Ellajosyula, India
16:50	Cross-linguistic comparison of psycholinguistic speech parameters in Primary Progressive Aphasia: An Australian and Spanish investigation Lucia Fernandez-Romero, Spain
17:15	<i>Close Day 2</i>

Saturday, February 21st	
<i>12:30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>Symposium</i>	
Spotlight on Neuropsychiatric Disturbances in Younger-Onset Dementia	
13:00	Rewards and rituals: mechanisms of motivational disturbances in frontotemporal dementia. Muireann Irish, Australia
13:25	Exploring Neuropsychiatric Symptom Heterogeneity in Frontotemporal Dementia Samuel Warren, Australia
13:50	Ecological assessment of apathy and anhedonia in younger-onset dementias in the home. Julie Behenska, Australia
14:15	Why spotting neuropsychiatric symptoms is important: a clinician's perspective. Samantha Loi, Australia
14:40	Beyond the Algorithm for Management of Neuropsychiatric Symptoms in Dementia Morris Freedman, Canada
<i>15:05</i>	<i>Break</i>
15:30	Exploring frontal lobe hypometabolism as a potential marker for major depressive disorder Kalhara Batuwana, Australia
15:55	Is the Mini Cognitive Evaluation test superior to the MMSE and MoCA in detecting mild vascular neurocognitive disorders? Martine Roussel, France
<i>Symposium</i>	
Looking forward: Brain health equity and culturally responsive practice with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to dementia and cognitive disorders	
16:20	Engaging respectfully with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in research and clinical settings: An introduction to the cultural context Adrienne Withall, Australia
16:45	What have we learned from two decades of dementia research in partnership with diverse Aboriginal communities and where to next? Kylie Radford, Australia
17:10	Community-informed, Place-based approaches to dementia prevention and brain health services Antonia Clarke, Australia
<i>17:35</i>	<i>Cocktail reception</i>

Sunday, February 22 nd	
9:00	Between Collapse and Compensation: Network Dynamics in Preclinical and Symptomatic Stages Lara Migliaccio, France
<i>Symposium</i> Understanding and Addressing Cognitive Impairment as part of Long COVID: From Mechanisms to Rehabilitation and Cross-Disease Perspectives	
9:25	Cognitive Covid as distinct clinical syndrome and mechanisms underpinning it Jordi Matias-Guiu, Spain
9:50	What the Post-Infective Fatigue Syndrome (PIFS) framework can teach us about the post-acute Covid-19 sequelae associated cognitive disturbances Lucette Cysique, Australia
10:15	Is cognitive covid a functional neurological condition? Simone Mangelsdorf-Collet, Australia
10:40	Can behavioural interventions improve functioning in people with cognitive Covid? Aida Suarez Gonzalez, UK
11:05	<i>Break</i>
11:30	OptimA: Mapping the Aphasia Therapy App Landscape and Understanding SLT Decision-Making in Clinical Practice Vasiliki Kladouchou, UK
11:55	Executive control of language: A brief verbal-based assessment tool Gail Robinson, Australia
12:20	Preliminary validation of the International Graded Object Naming Test (IGONT) Ben Wang, Australia
12:45	Carer Conversations – "The Oxygen of Shared Experience": FTD-Specific Caregiver Support Groups Wendy Kelso, Australia
13:10	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>Symposium</i> Speech Pathology Interventions for Primary Progressive Aphasia	
14:10	Considerations selecting effective Speech Pathology Interventions for people with PPA Cathleen Taylor-Rubin, Australia
14:35	What do people with PPA really want from Speech Pathology? Initial results from the Core Outcome Set Study. Rachel Kingma, Australia
15:00	Key principles to the design and implementation of single word level interventions in PPA Sharon Savage, Australia
15:25	Taking words into discourse contexts: A multilevel intervention for improving everyday communication in PPA Jade Cartwright, Australia
15:50	Closing remarks Aida Suarez Gonzalez, UK
16:00	<i>Conference close</i>