

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

The Nairobi Declaration—Reducing the burden of dementia in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs): Declaration of the 2022 Symposium on Dementia and Brain Aging in LMICs

Delegates of the 2022 Symposium on Dementia and Brain Aging in Low- and Middle-Income Countries, representing over 40 countries, met in Nairobi, Kenya, December 5–9 to highlight advances in dementia prevention, diagnosis, care, and research, as well as explore the future needs of the global community.

Dementia poses a major threat to optimal brain health and remains a priority for the demographically ever-changing worldwide population. It incurs substantial individual, societal, and global costs. By 2030, the majority of the 78 million people with dementia will be living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Upon consideration of these grave statistics and new diagnostic paradigms with available prevention and treatment strategies, we, the undersigned delegates of the symposium, including the Organizing Committee and speakers, and the African Dementia Consortium (AfDC), with frontline and lived experience, call upon the global community, including governments, policymakers, international economic forums, health and social care providers, together with private and public research funding agencies, research-focused organizations such as universities, nongovernmental organizations, and technology and pharmaceutical companies, to act as follows:

- Rethink a global approach to dementia, being more focused on the diversity of underserved and underrepresented populations.
- Shift the balance of investment further toward LMICs, which bear a high burden, to tackle the challenges and seize opportunities and to mitigate the burden of various forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, and others, globally.
- Engage and influence policymakers and advocacy organizations to encourage implementation and evaluation of population-level dementia risk reduction interventions at a more diverse global level.
- In addition to promoting education, controlling cardiovascular risk, and preventing stroke, seriously consider nutritional factors as well as psychosocial activities for brain health and longevity.
- Ensure that the health and social care systems are equipped to meet the needs of aging populations in the LMICs as well as low-resource settings in high-income countries (HICs).
- Support research into more affordable, pragmatic, and effective solutions to improve the quality of life of people living with dementia and reduce the expenses of hospitalization, long-term care, and loss of income and indirect costs resulting from dementia.
- Equip higher education institutions in HICs and LMICs with the capacity to develop a pipeline of local highly motivated early career

researchers (ECRs) to ensure future research will be responsive to local population needs and to leverage opportunities offered by different countries.

- Ensure a research framework with international collaboration that will unwind the rigid structures in LMICs and encourage young, enthusiastic people to give the best of their potential in their countries, thereby preventing brain drain.

We believe that timely intervention to address these goals will bring about significant and sustainable improvements in the prevalence, outcomes, and personal and societal impacts of dementia, resulting in a higher quality of life, better care, and global benefits.

Nairobi, Kenya, December 9, 2022

Organizing Committee and Speakers of the 2022 Symposium on Dementia and Brain Aging in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.

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