



Worldwide FINGERS Network Teleconference
www.alz.org/wwfingers

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

10am Eastern Time/3pm Central European Time/2pm Greenwich Mean Time

I. Welcome

Miia Kivipelto, MD, PhD &
Maria Carrillo, PhD

The meeting was called to order. Professor Miia Kivipelto and Dr. Maria Carrillo welcomed the WW FINGERS Network members, announcing the new members Age.well.de (Germany), AGELESS study (Malaysia) and the team from Taiwan.

II. Worldwide FINGERS Discussion

a. Scientific Discussion

Miia Kivipelto, MD, PhD

It is great to see how the WW-FINGERS Network has been growing exponentially since its launch in 2017: we have reached approximately 30 countries. Professor Kivipelto shared that EURO-FINGERS has received funding from JPND. Professor Kivipelto and her scientific team are continuing to engage new and diverse countries to join WW-FINGERS, including Israel, Iran and countries in Africa (South Africa, Cameroon).

Thank you everyone who assisted in the development of the first WW FINGERS scientific publication. The manuscript is based on the proceedings from the first two WW FINGERS F2F meetings (2018, 2019). We have addressed the questions from Alzheimer's and Dementia and the manuscript was resubmitted on March 10, 2020.

A core methodological aspect that was clarified is that the WW-FINGERS is not a single study with multiple centers around the world. The aim is to test adaptations of the FINGER RCT in different settings, to test feasibility and effectiveness. WW-FINGERS studies are separate studies with their own research questions. Through Prospective Harmonization of interventions and outcomes joint analysis can be done (increased power for subgroup analysis) to measure the effects of multidomain interventions in divergent populations. To support harmonization, the WW-FINGERS Harmonization protocol will address alignment in study population, interventions, outcome assessments, data analysis and data sharing. A writing team has been working to finalize a draft of the protocol to be shared in a few weeks. While this is being finalized, Prof. Kivipelto and her team support scientific requests for groups that need to finalize their national project or related funding requests.

b. Coordination Discussion

Maria Carrillo, PhD

Dr. Carrillo shared the new WW FINGERS website on Alz.org (www.alz.org/wwfingers) will be launched in coordination with the manuscript publication. Please contact Emily Meyers (easmeyers@alz.org) with questions or study updates.

The Alzheimer's Association has approved funding for AU-ARROW (Australia). Currently the Alzheimer's Association is pending final review to fund LatAm FINGERS (Latin America).

Concerning the current COVID-19 outbreak, we recognize that this is affecting many studies. Keeping track of what happens at country-level will help better interpreting results of ongoing studies in countries affected by the pandemic.

c. Upcoming Meetings

Maria Carrillo, PhD

WW FINGERS face-to-face meeting at AAIC will be held on July 24, 2020 2pm local time. Calendar invitations have been sent and registration will be opening soon. WW FINGERS will be hosting a Featured Topic Session at AAIC led by Professor Kivipelto and Dr. Carrillo to cover key activities, introduction of new countries and ongoing efforts of the consortium (e.g., harmonization, data sharing, etc.). More details, including date of the session, will be provided soon.

Save the date for the next Network Video Conference that will occur on October 20, 2020.

III. Discussion & Questions

All

Dr. Zaven Khachaturian shared that *Alzheimer's and Dementia* has started a special topic section to highlight the broader topic of vascular factors.

With wider awareness from scientists and public health sectors, we hope to advance the presence of WW-FINGERS into regions not yet represented in the Network, such as Africa and the Middle East, also in Russia and Eastern Europe. The Association will help coordinate in order to bring individuals from other countries/continents to attend the WW-FINGERS F2F meeting at AAIC (e.g. can help with travel expenses, etc.). As additional countries are being mobilized, WW-FINGERS members will be asked to provide assistance, if possible, whether it be through funding or experience. We must try to alleviate any barriers from participation.

WW-FINGERS is a global network including several research teams worldwide, and dissemination of WW-FINGERS scientific activities to the community can support public health initiatives for dementia prevention. Discussions began on the possibility to facilitate the dissemination of WW-FINGERS scientific activities in events targeting the community, (e.g., WW-FINGERS public meeting, possibly every 2 years) to share more details of trials with a larger audience. We discussed a WW FINGERS Press conference at AAIC to get the message to a wider audience and we will work with Media and PR teams to elevate the WW FINGERS FTS at AAIC.

Key partners in activities aiming to reach communities and general public, the scientific community and other key stakeholders, include the WHO and the World Dementia Council. Representatives from the WHO are participating in the WW FINGERS network and reinforced the statement about risk reduction guidelines, which are periodically updated. Dissemination of scientific information to key stakeholders is a priority and noted Miia's presentation on WW-FINGERS at the Qatar National Dementia Workshop to many stakeholders was very well received.