



sex and gender determinants
as gateway to precision medicine

The Women's Brain Project

Communication on Engagement to the UN Global Compact

From: 6 March 2020

To: 6 February 2022

6 February 2022

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the President

We are pleased to confirm that the Women's Brain Project reaffirms its support to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact with respect to human rights, labor, environment and anti-corruption. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the UN Global Compact advancing these principles, and will make a clear statement of this commitment to our stakeholders and the general public.

We further commit to participating in and advocating for the UN Global Compact in the following ways:

- Conduct applied research and thought leadership to advance best practices.
- Promote the UN Global Compact Ten Principles and educate a variety of audiences about sustainability
- Support UN Global Compact business participants in implementing and reporting on their sustainability efforts

Sincerely yours,

Matthias Burkhalter
President of the Women's Brain Project

Part II. Description of Actions

Over the past two years, we have continued our efforts to promote our mission to bring precision to medical research, towards sustainability in healthcare.

Men and women are different when it comes to disease risks – frequency, severity, symptomatology, diagnostic journey and even response to treatments. Our mission is to clearly identify such differences and leverage them for sex and gender tailored solutions, as well as to bring precision to novel technologies, clinical practice and policy for brain and mental disease. We publish research and lead a global debate, engaging with experts, policymakers, patients and the public, and campaign for sustainability in healthcare

Our approach to make a difference while focusing on the differences is defined on five pillars.

- Establishing the World's first Sex and Gender Precision Medicine Institute
- Improve novel technology use in medicine by leveraging sex and gender differences
- Addressing sex and gender differences in medical practice
- Generating scientific evidence to understand how sex and gender differences impact brain and mental diseases
- Promote policy changes to support men and women's specific medical needs

Our own processes for evaluating these solutions have been refined to streamline both the submission of innovator solutions and their evaluation by experts.

We have also developed and created a new website at <https://www.womensbrainproject.com/> and will create contents to interact with our partners and stakeholders and intensified our relationships with different UN entities, OECD, WEF and others.

We will resume to organize and expand our flagship event the Women's Brain Project International Forum on Women's Brain and Mental Health. The next Forum will take place in 2023. In 2022 we will also host and participate in a number of workshops and webinars.

Part III. Measurements of Outcomes

As of today, the Women's Brain Project is structured into seven working groups and a three-part advisory board. The organization is proud to have four ambassadors representing our cause worldwide.

Our expert's community has also grown to nearly 100 volunteers from all over the world.

The Brains behind the Women's Brain Project.

We are a group of academic scientists, medical doctors, and engineers who have decided to take action and initiate a discussion on the role of sex and gender in brain and mental diseases.

Working Groups

1. Scientific Projects Lead: Maria Teresa Ferretti Annamarie Schumacher Dimech Sara Tomiello Silvina Catuara Solarz Antonella Santuoccione Chadha Simona Mellino Marta di Meo Nina Hentzen Anna Brugulat Serrat Carmela Tartaglia Nikolaos Mavridis Laura Castro Maria Ferrara Carla Abdelhour Ruiz Alekhya Pochiraju Cassandra Szoeko Bernadette Dwan Adelaide Jensen Sathish Babu Federica Franciosa Alberto Ferrari Maria Guix Julie Martinkova Gaia Segantini Davide Cirillo Melanie Einsiedler Frances-Catherine Quevenno Piera Marongiu Marta Milà Alomà Florencia Iulita Elisa Garau Ewelina Biskup (Evelyne Bischof) Laura Stankeviciute Guido Putignano Antonia Silvestri	2. Educational activities Lead: Annemarie Schumacher Dimech, Marta di Meo Maria Teresa Ferretti Antonella Santuoccione Chadha Beatrice Nasta Nicoletta Iacobacci Francesca Baracchi Carmela Tartaglia Simona Mellino Shirin Hund	3. Policy and Advocacy Lead: Anna Dé Gaia Segantini Simona Mellino Victoria Knobel	4. Communications and Marketing Lead: Nelli Sanne Bettina Gebhardt Arianna Biancalani Maya Uchheddu Francesca Murenu Maria Guix Julie Beaudoin Daniel Vassalli-Adams Shahnaz Radjy Alina Lupescu Simone Büeler	5. Fundraising and Strategy Lead: Antonella Santuoccione Chadha Maria Teresa Ferretti Christa Dhimo Daniela Fazzotta Davide Criscione Anna Dé Matthias Burkhalter Tracy Laabs Michaela Gruber Silvano Coletti	6. Technology and Artificial Intelligence Silvina Catuara Solarz Davide Cirillo Florencia Iulita Nikolaos Mavridis Frances-Catherine Quevenno Christa Dhimo Nicola Marino Simona Mellino Enrico Santus Guido Putignano Nicoletta Iacobacci Czusee Morey Laila Subirats Nataly Buslon Janita Nath	7. Legal and Partnership Lead: Victoria Knobel Claudia Aurisicchio Christa Dhimo Antonella Santuoccione Chadha
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Advisory Board

Academic Advisors Prof. Staci Bilbo Harvard Medical School Dr. Charlotte Cordonnier Professor of Neurology, Lille, France; stroke specialist; vice-president European Stroke Organisation; Membre de l'Institut Universitaire de France Prof. Claudio Cuello McGill University Dr. Luisa Di Luzio Gynecologist Dr. Luisa Galea Director, Neuroscience Program, University of British Columbia	Dr. Miia Kivipeto Professor, Research Director at Karolinska Institutet and Managing Director, Theme Prof. Sabina Misoch Interdisciplinary Competence Center for Ageing, University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen Dr. Mary S. Mittelman Research Professor of Psychiatry and Rehabilitative Medicine at NYU School of Medicine Dr. Nathalie Rapoport-Hubschman Psychotherapist and author	Prof. Ezio Giacobini University of Geneva Prof. Hélène Girouard Université de Montreal Hadine Joffe, MD Vice Chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry, Brigham and Women's Hospital Prof. Ann Kato Department of Basic Neuroscience, University of Geneva Dr. Katrin Rauen Consultant Neurology/Psychiatry, Psychiatric University	Prof. Cassandra Szoeko Director, Healthy Ageing Program, University of Melbourne Dr. Carmela Tartaglia Associate Professor, University of Toronto, and Marion and Gerald Soloway Chair in Brain Injury and Concussion Research	Phyllis Barkman Ferrell VP and Alzheimer's Disease Global Platform Leader Dr. Elena Becker-Barroso Editor in Chief of The Lancet Neurology Christa Dhimo Professor at Northeastern University and Founder of Impono LLC Tania Dussey-Cavassini Founder & CEO of Forestry River Consulting Ltd Dr. Ivana Vodopivec Medical Director, Biogen	Prof. Harald Hampel Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the Neurology Business Group at Eisai Inc. Dr. Carmen Mazzola Medical & Regulatory Affairs Director, Lundbeck Italy Prof. Andrea Pfeifer CEO AC Immune Valentina Vinante, MD First Attending Physician, Clinic of Obstetrics and Prenatal Medicine GZO Hospital/Gyn Zollikon	Matthias Burkhalter Conference Manager, MDPI Sustainability Foundation Meryl Comer Co-Founder of UsAgainstAlzheimer's Emily Cook Senior Public Affairs Officer at Alzheimer's Research UK Annette Dumas ASDM Consulting, Director EU Affairs Dr. Anna Frat Medical Director, Check-up Center, Hirslanden Clinic	Kathryn Goetzke Founder of Ifred.org Dr. Abi Hermann Postdoctoral researcher in the Centre for Cognitive and Neural Systems, University of Edinburgh Brooks Kenny Women against Alzheimer Lynn Posluns Women's Brain Health Initiative USA
Honorary President Mara Hank Moret							

Finally, I am particularly pleased to continue my work with our four Ambassadors Chérie Ballinger, Sofia Petersson, Fagun Thakrar, Sylvia Day and our Honorary President Mara Hank Moret.

Get to know Sofia Petersson

Sofia Petersson from Sweden was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in her late 30s. Her father, uncle and grandmother also suffered from the disease. Sofia contributed a blog for the Women's Brain Project about living with Alzheimer's.

We're honored to have Sofia Petersson from Sweden as our ambassador for Alzheimer's Disease. Sofia was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in her late 30s. Her father, uncle and grandmother also suffered from the disease.

"I could not have imagined that seventeen years after my father's death, I would receive the news that I was affected as well. Unfortunately, I had to struggle at first to be believed by doctors. When I passed most of the standardized tests, the doctors said that it was nothing to worry about. I had to change doctors twice but I finally got the right help when I got in contact with my father's old retired doctor. While the medical investigation was going on, I studied to be a health educator and managed a three-year education at the university. My goal is to write about the many challenges of young-onset Alzheimer's patients, and especially women's experiences."

Sofia Petersson has been an on-going source of inspiration to the co-founders and members of the Women's Brain Project, and as is a WBP Ambassador. She was kind enough to share her story with us through the blogs you see below, as she navigated the challenging waters of living with early-onset Alzheimer's and trying to find a clinical trial who would accept her despite her young age. Despite no longer receiving updates from her to publish here, as she is now fully focused on her health and spending time with her loved ones, we are keeping these records public for anyone they may inspire to keep trying, and will continue to support Sofia as best we can offline.



Main Focus 2022/2023 - A Patient's Journey Through Alzheimer's Disease

The Women's Brain Project (WBP) is proud to announce a pioneering ground-breaking project exploring how sex and gender impact the Patient Journey specific to Alzheimer's disease. This will be a fundamental step towards personalized care for persons living with Alzheimer's disease (AD).

Over 55 million people live with dementia worldwide. The vast majority of patients are women representing 70 per cent of the patient population. Worldwide also caregivers are predominantly women. This is a staggering figure, made all the more striking as it rises on a daily basis, with forecasts reaching 78 million by 2030. This means that 55 million women in the world will have Alzheimer's disease by then. Sex and gender differences along the 'Patient Journey' – a first step towards optimizing care for persons living with Alzheimer's Disease. Sex and gender differences in Alzheimer's disease play a crucial role not only in prevalence and incidence of the disease but also in risk factors, biomarkers, symptoms onset and symptoms characteristic. Sex (biological) and gender (socio-cultural) differences in Alzheimer's disease are particularly relevant in the individual's diagnostic pathway and care journey. Even clinical trial recruitment is significantly impacted by sex as our recent JAMA work has proven.

Nevertheless, several sex and gender-based factors are not yet captured in a standard 'Patient Journey'. WBP's project takes a patient-centric approach to paint a comprehensive illustration of an individual's journey from symptom onset to treatment completion.

Considering sex- and gender-specific factors is a key step to improve access to and precision of diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, and to recognize the patient's specific needs throughout the lifecycle of treatment, solution development and care. A paradigm shift towards precision neurology will optimize the Alzheimer's disease diagnostic pathway and patient journey. "Alzheimer's disease is a medical condition which requires specific tailored approaches for innovative treatments and care; this project will set the basis to understand where the known biological differences in this disease will impact the patient's journey and how stakeholders can precisely intervene to ameliorate it", says pro bono WBP CEO Dr Antonella Santucci Chadha.

Strong partners join forces with the WBP to bring the Patient Journey to life.

The importance of this work is underlined by the fact that Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) will contribute to this project.

Wendy Weidner, Research and Policy Project Lead, Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) says. 'ADI is pleased to work alongside WBP on this project to explore sex and gender-specific impacts on the dementia journey. Ensuring equal access to a timely diagnosis and holistic post diagnostic care is a pillar of our global work. The opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the impact on women will help us strengthen this further and improve impact.'

The work will be initially sponsored by Lilly, while new stakeholders are welcomed to join in the effort. For more than 30 years, Lilly has been committed to Alzheimer's disease research and development with the ambition of bringing innovative Alzheimer's disease therapies and diagnostics to patients who need them most. We are delighted to support the Women's Brain Project study into the potential differences gender can make to patient diagnosis and treatment.

This will provide important insight for the Alzheimer's community in addressing potential inequities in care.

This landmark patient research study will be carried out in collaboration with the global consulting firm Charles River Associates (CRA), and will uncover differences in the AD patient journey between women and men.

Angela De Martini, Vice President at Charles Rivers Associates says. 'It's a privilege for Charles River Associates to have the opportunity to support WBP in this important project and we are looking forward to the moment when we can share the findings with the whole Alzheimer's disease community'

The patient research study will be conducted in the US, Germany, France, UK, Italy and Spain and will be published in the course of 2022. This will serve as the first pilot and has the potential to be increased to other countries at a later date.

Women's Brain Project | Switzerland

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Submitted by Matthias Burkhalter, Email: matthias.burkhalter@me.com

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