

DemReCon 2019 - Dementia Research Symposium

14th September 2019



Saturday, 14 September 2019 | Royal Orchid Central, Bangalore



Organisers : Nightingales Medical Trust in association with ARSDI, Bangalore Chapter

Venue: Pinewood Hall, Royal Orchid Central, Bangalore

Session 1: Existing research in India

Dementia Research in India: An overview

Dr Rathnavalli Ellajosyula

Dr Rathnavalli Ellajosyula is a consultant neurologist at Neuro-care clinic Mysore.

Dr Rathnavalli Ellajosyula's talk on 'Dementia research in India: An overview' entailed few major research studies in India which has been completed, different types of studies, prevalence, risk and protective factors. Dr.Rathnavalli also spoke about challenges faced in the field of research, appropriate tools for assessment of cognition and advantages for Dementia Research. She closed her talk with ongoing and future projects on Dementia in India.

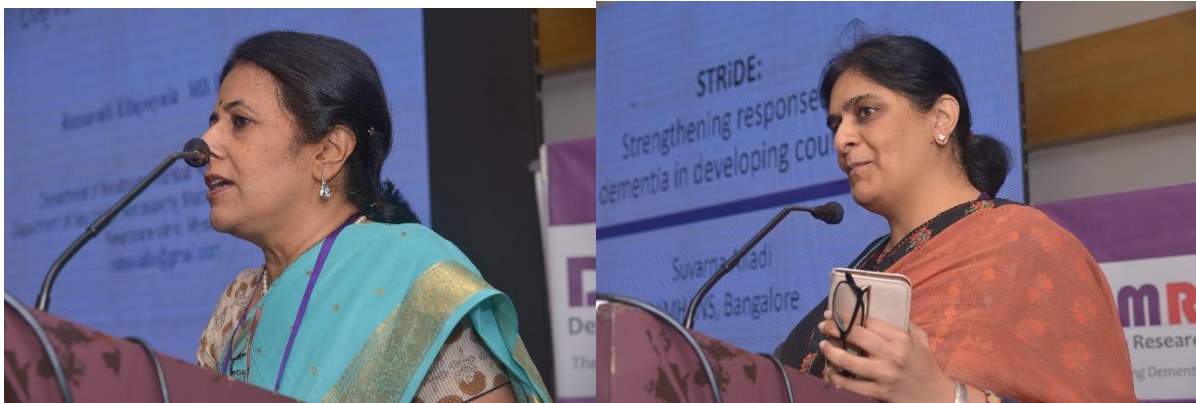
Strengthening Responses to dementia in developing Countries (STRiDE) Project.

Prof Suvarna Alladi

Dr Suvarna Alladi is a professor of Neurology, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bengaluru, India.

Dr Suvarna Alladi spoke about Strengthening Responses to dementia in developing Countries (STRiDE). She elaborated on the objectives, impacts and collaborators. Dr.Suvarna discussed in detail

about STRiDE India, building capability in Dementia Research, Theory of Change (ToC) workshop, impact of STRiDE India theory of change, key outcomes, and what STRiDE will do in India.



Major Current Projects

1. Sense – Cog (University of Manchester)

Prof S P Goswami is a senior lecturer in department of Speech Pathology at All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore.

Prof. Goswami spoke to the delegates about SENSE-cog a south Asian study coordinates by India, Pakistan and Bangladesh to understand whether interventions that improve hearing function may delay cognitive decline in Dementia and improve QOL for person with Dementia and care givers. He discussed the background of the study, stigma about dementia, need for the study, specific aims of the project, 18 weeks study design and study sites. He further explained about screening, consent form, both inclusion and exclusion criteria, baseline measures, intervention period, qualitative interviews and follow up visits. Prof Goswami also explained about adverse events and its reporting, death forms, policies and procedure and contractual obligations. He concluded his talk with briefing training and work initiated so far and the budget.

2. Cognitive stimulation Therapy. (UCL Landon)

Dr Anitha M S

Dr Anitha is a Consultant Geriatric Psychiatrist at Nightingales Centre for Ageing and Alzheimer's Centre. She also works closely with other specialists in a general hospital to sensitize other specialties about needs of elderly.

Dr. Anita began by giving an introduction about Cognitive Stimulation Therapy, she covered why CST is important, objectives, methodology, and different phases of the study, inclusion criteria, and intervention and outcome measures. Dr. Anita concluded her talk by introducing Cognitive Stimulation Therapy- International Team members to the delegates.

Dementia Research publications from India & choosing journals to publish

Prof Sandeep Grover

Prof Sandeep Grover is a Professor at Department of Psychiatry, PGIMER, and Chandigarh.

Prof Sandeep's talk covered Dementia Research publications from India & choosing journals to publish. He started with a brief introduction and he discussed about Dementia research in India, global publications and number of published papers in different countries contribution of different institutes in Dementia research, Indian journals which published dementia research, the 10/ dementia research group. Prof. Sandeep concluded his talk by explaining about the process of choosing journals to publish



Inaugural Programme:

Inaugural programme included welcome speech by Mr Raja, Co-founder of Nightingales Medical Trust. He highlighted the establishment of Research and Development Unit at the organisation which can enlighten the Dementia research capacity at institutional level and its importance of need for events like DemReCon 2019. Chief Guest Mr Subroto Bagchi, who arbitrated the need for improvisation in Dementia care and quality research that helps in inducing cost effective management which supports efficient validation in risk reduction activities. In this context Mr Subroto Bagchi launched the Research and Development unit of NMT. Ms Meera Pattibhiraman, Chairperson of Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India was the Guest of honour. She briefed about the role of ARDSI and its efforts to enhance dementia care in India. The inauguration was brought to a close by the vote of thanks conveyed by Dr Radha Murthy for all the delegates who have made it possible.



Session 2: Dementia Research in India: Priorities & Need

The Second session started with unique speakers Dr Ravinder Singh from ICMR and Dr Ranjana Sarma from DBT/ Wellcome Trust alliance discussing about the availability of grants and ways to apply, their timeline which helped audience. Dr G Prasad Rao spoke on the priorities in terms of future research. The session was chaired by Prof Sanjeev Jain and Dr Ratnavalli.

Funding opportunities In Dementia Research in India Dr Ravinder Singh

Dr Ravinder Singh is working as a Scientist at Indian Council for Medical Research at New Delhi

Dr Ravinder Singh spoke on Funding opportunities In Dementia Research in India. He started his topic by asking a question to the audience i.e. what is the first thing required to get the findings from any organizations? He says in order to get funding need to have a good idea and need to present it in good way. He explains about 2 stages in the Doc proposals i.e. first have to send pre proposals in 2 pages under 6 heading, then the full proposal. He spoke about two departments of research i.e. MRU and MRHRU. Recently created a Centre for Advanced Research and Excellence (CARE CENTRE) to have some strategies to prevent dementia.

Funding opportunities in Dementia Research in India from perspective of welcome Trust/ DBT Alliance.

Dr Ranjana Sharma

Dr ranjana sharma is Sr Grant adviser at DBT India Alliance, Hyderabad.

Dr Ranjana spoke on Funding opportunities in Dementia Research in India from perspective of welcome Trust/ DBT Alliance. She gave an introduction about India Alliance. She told about sphere of action of Indian Alliance, objective of IA fellowship program and salient features of IA fellowship. She also gave the picture of Pan India Distribution of IA fellows and board distribution of research areas funded under IA fellowship. She gave the information about how to apply for IA fellowship. Spoke about few funding schemes.

Priorities in Dementia Research

Dr G Prasad Rao

Dr Prasad Rao is Psychiatrist and director of ASHA hospital Hyderabad.

Dr G Prasad Rao says in order to work in the field of dementia research we need to know further about dementia, to get the early identification factors research is needed. He talks about raising prevalence of dementia and the diseases causing the dementia. He gave the new estimates of number of people with dementia worldwide and the estimation of number of people with dementia in India between 2000 and 2050. (Dementia India Report 2010) he says that development of improved symptomatic treatment is much needed. He also says that much research in the field of modifying the disease causing factor may help then he speaks about the common illness such as high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes can contribute to dementia. In summary he says that we need to continue to look epidemiological factors and need to improve the cognitive batteries and neuro imaging markers.

The Need for dementia Research in India

Prof Mathew Varghese

Dr. Mathew has been a Professor of Psychiatry at NIMHANS, Bangalore spanning over 30 years with immense experience in Clinical services, Training & Research in Geriatric Psychiatry, Adult Psychiatry & Community Mental Health.

Dr Mathew Varghese spoke about the need for dementia research in India. He spoke about core role of WHO in shaping the research agenda and stimulating the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge. He included why the research prioritization is important for.

He covered research domains (in rank order) which included prevention identification and reduction of risk, quality of care for people with dementia and their carers, delivery of care, diagnosis, pharmacological and non-pharmacological clinical translation research, public awareness & understanding and physiology and progression of normal ageing.



The Third session focussed on partnering and collaboration, began with Mr Chetan Mukundan discussing on the ways, approach in collaborating with Technology partners, followed by Prof Pravat Mandal discussing his research on imaging related techniques. Prof Iracema Leroi from Dublin discussed international collaborations and their opportunities. The session was chaired by Dr A Jagadish, Psychiatrist, Abhaya Hospital and Dr Suresh Sundaram from IISc.

Collaboration with Technology partners

Mr Chetan Mukundan

Mr Chetan Mukundan is Director of Axxonet Bangalore.

Mr Chetan mukundan spoke about source of research funds and funders. He showed the distribution of funding in academic Clinical research in UK in 2017-2018. He started with why we need collaboration and modes of collaboration. He spoke on national expenditure on research and development by sector. Then he compared the patent application filed in India and foreign entities (2015-16) which says need more collaboration between academia and industries. Then he capered the priorities between universities and industries. Spoke about the life cycle of industry. Spoke on difference in collaboration about Make Vs Made.

Approaches in Dementia research Involving artificial Intelligence.

Dr. Pravat Mandal

Dr. Pravat Mandal is currently a Professor at the National Brain Research Centre in Gurgaon, He spoke about artificial intelligence and reviewed few ongoing research in the field and multi centric studies

International Collaborations, opportunities and Pitfalls in Dementia Research

Prof Iracema Leroi

Professor Iracema Leroi is a Professor of Geriatric Psychiatry in Global Brain Health Institute at Trinity College Dublin.

Prof Iracema Leroi spoke about International Collaborations, opportunities and pitfalls in Dementia research. she says international collaboration has increased funding opportunities, easier means of communications across the countries etc. she spoke about SWOT analysis for dementia research, she gave an example of an exercise undertaken in Pakistan i.e building Research roadmap for dementia research in Pakistan- A Model of LMICs. She shared few challenges faced and threats. She spoke about research imperialism and ethical imperialism. Gave an outline about building a healthy international research collaboration for dementia research. Explained about principles of new science of collaboration and how to operationalize the guidance.

The last session started with Prof Mathew Varghese on the areas of need for future dementia research based on his past experience, Dr Mina Chandra speaking about career in dementia research and Dr Shaji KS highlighting the uniqueness in dementia research. The session was chaired by Dr Roopa Suresh, Geriatric Physician and Dr Soumya Hegde, Geriatric Psychiatrist.

Session 4: Uniqueness and Career in Dementia Research

Uniqueness in Dementia Research

Prof Shaji KS

Prof Shaji KS, professor of department of psychiatry at Government Medical College Thrissur.

Prof Shaji KS spoke about Uniqueness in Dementia Research. He gave the introduction about people living with Dementia and places where you can find these people. He told about the relevance /benefit of research in the field of dementia. He explained about prevalence/incidence, cross sectional studies, case control and qualitative studies. Evolution of research from 2001 to 2019. Then he displayed few photographs wherein he has worked towards the cause of dementia.

Career in Dementia Research:

Dr Meena Chandra

Dr Meena Chandra works in department of Psychiatry at Atal Bihari Vajapayee Institute of Medical science.

Dr Meena Chandra Spoke on careers in Dementia Research. She spoke about range of rolls in dementia and how to plan a career in dementia. She explained the nature of research profession. She also included the information about single and multidisciplinary research, challenges in implementing the research and also the ethical issues, publication and issues of authorship in research.

65 delegates participated in for the symposium and appreciated as it was a well conducted learning activity making way for collaboration in future in the field of Dementia research. A certificate with 2 Credit hours approved by Karnataka Medical Council was issued to each delegate.

Seven researchers presented their posters in the allotted venue, which included one poster of KAP study done by NMT. Prizes were distributed for the best three poster presentations.

Few participants were following on the live web streaming. This can still be accessed on weblink <https://youtu.be/kQc0NCTr9uw>

Supportive educational grants were received from Alkem ,Sunpharma and Intas.

Overall the learning and experience form the symposium was fruitful. Forum of network was made available to the young research scientists to push Dementia Research into higher heights. Leading researchers in the field of Dementia encouraging and guiding young researchers to thrust limits and break new grounds.

