

FINAL REPORT

1st UK – Israel dementia prevention conference

Tel Aviv University campus, Dan David building, Tel Aviv, Israel

17-18 June 2019

Conference chairs

Prof Robert Perneczky, Imperial College London, School of Public Health, London, UK

Prof Amos Korczyn, Tel Aviv University Medical School, Tel Aviv, Israel

Conference program

<https://www3.tau.ac.il/alzheimerconferences/>

Summary of outputs

The conference aimed to strengthen links in dementia prevention research between British and Israeli groups from a variety of professional disciplines. The meeting focussed on the interface between basic, clinical and epidemiological research and on factors and mechanisms that may promote individual brain health and prevent or delay the onset of dementia. Topics covered included population-based research, meta-analyses, neuroimaging and other biomarker studies, genetics, healthcare policy, interventional strategies, animal research and basic science. A range of relevant disorders were discussed, including Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, cerebrovascular disease and frontotemporal dementia.

Before this conference, there was a striking lack of dedicated scientific meetings in this important field, despite the significant interest of the international scientific community and the importance of dementia prevention. The conference was held jointly with the 27th Tel Aviv University Alzheimer's disease conference and attracted ~200 attendees, including leading British and Israeli scientists and policy makers and a delegation of 14 researchers from the UK (see detailed list below). The meeting was successful in creating a forum for the UK-Israel dementia research community and to enhance the effective exchange of innovative ideas between the scientists. Seven early-career researchers could present their findings (data blitz presentations) and two of them were awarded prizes for the best talks. There was ample opportunity to network during breaks, the faculty dinner on 17 June and a day trip to the Dead Sea.

Overall feedback from the UK delegates was excellent. They appreciated the opportunity to engage in discussions with their Israeli colleagues and praised the high quality of the scientific talks. They also lauded the work of the organising committee in arranging this notable meeting, which has already resulted in new connections in specific areas of research. The following email feedback from individual delegates showcases this success.

Delegate feedback

Gill Livingston: *"I really enjoyed the conference and am just about to be in touch with the Israeli health ministry. I've just added one of Robert's references to the next Lancet commission and hope to have future links with several participants."*

Tamas Revesz: *"Many thanks to you [Amos] and Robert for the invitation and everybody else who contributed to the smooth running of this excellent meeting. I would also like to thank John (Levy) for arranging our trip."*

Klaus Ebmeier: *"we have already linked up with Noa Bregman (<https://www.tasmc.org.il/sites/en/Personnel/pages/bregman-noa.aspx>) and her excellent Dementia Fest idea to inspire our Stakeholder involvement programme in Lifebrain (<https://www.lifebrain.uio.no/lifebrain-project/wp-1/>)!"*

Rajesh Kalaria: *"Many thanks for hosting an excellent symposium! Also appreciated your kind hospitality."*

Future plans

The delegates' enthusiasm underlines the need for a forum to discuss research ideas between the UK and Israel in the dementia prevention space. Ultimately, this scientific exchange will lead to more collaboration across regional boundaries. Therefore, the 2019 UK-Israel dementia prevention conference is only the beginning of a series of similar events to be planned in the next years. Hosting a joint meeting with the annual Tel Aviv University Alzheimer's conference has proven very effective and we will start exploring options for a second UK-Israel conference in 2020.

We are grateful for the generous financial and administrative support from The Academic Study Group and we look forward to continuing the successful collaboration.

UK delegation

Baroness Prof Susan Greenfield, House of Lords
Prof Gill Livingston, University College London
Prof Klaus Ebmeier, University of Oxford
Dr Marc Aurel Busche, Dementia Research Institute (UCL)
Dr Marc-David Ruepp, Dementia Research Institute (KCL)
Prof Patrick Kehoe, University of Bristol
Prof Robert Perneczky, Imperial College London
Prof Peter St George-Hyslop, University of Cambridge
Prof Rajesh Kalaria, University of Newcastle
Dr Catherine Robb, Imperial College London
Sergi Costafreda Gonzalez, University College London
Prof Tamas Revesz, University College London
Dr Vladyslav Vyazovskiy, University of Oxford
Dr Paul Morrill, Neuro-Bio Ltd.

Israeli speakers

Dr Shelley Sternberg, Ministry of Health
Prof Michal Schnaider Beeri, Sheba Medical Center
Dr Yakir Kaufman, Herzog Medical Center Jerusalem
Dr Roni Bar, Tel Aviv University
Dr Shai Zilberzwige-Tal, Tel Aviv University
Dr Yuval Nash, Tel Aviv University

Dr Ido Rippin, Tel Aviv University
Dr Gregory Peters-Founshtein, Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center
Dr Tomer Illouz, Bar-Ilan University
Prof Daniel Michaelson, Tel Aviv University
Dr Anan Moran, Tel Aviv University
Prof. Anat Mirelman, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center
Prof Stephen Levine, University of Haifa
Prof Daniel Offen, Tel Aviv University
Dr Ramit Ravona-Springer, Sheba Medical Center
Dr Yuval Nir, Tel Aviv University
Dr Noa Bregman, Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center
Prof Amos Korczyn, Tel Aviv University
Prof Itzhak Fried, Tel Aviv Medical Center