

**The Memory:**

# A Symposium Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of an Aging Global Population

**Sala Pio XI, Palazzo San Calisto, Vatican City**

May 9–10, 2025



**FONDAZIONE  
ETÀGRANDE**



# The Memory: A Symposium Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of an Aging Global Population

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## **AGENDA**

### **DAY 1: FRIDAY, MAY 9**

08:00 – 08:25      **GUESTS ARRIVE AND SETTLE**

08:30 – 08:40      **WELCOME AND LOGISTICS**

**PETER RUNDLET**, VICE PRESIDENT, AARP INTERNATIONAL

Brief opening and overview of program and logistics. Introduction of S.E. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia.

08:45 – 09:15      **OPENING ADDRESSES**

**S.E. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia**, *President of the Pontifical Academy for Life and Founder of the Età Grande Foundation*

S.E. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia will provide an overview of the Symposium's structure and objectives, focusing on the ethical responsibility of defending and promoting the value and the dignity of older adults and the importance of fostering family and community connection.

**H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdel-Salam**, *Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders and Secretary-General of Zayed Award for Human Fraternity and Co-President, Religions for Peace*

His Eminence will provide opening remarks.

09:20 – 09:30      **OPENING REMARKS BY AARP**

**Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan**, *Chief Executive Officer, AARP*

Dr. Minter-Jordan will provide an introductory overview and address the critical need for world leaders and global institutions to promote brain health and to plan for the dramatic demographic shift toward aging populations, particularly in lower-income countries.

09:35 – 10:40      **SESSION I – AN INTERRELIGIOUS AND INTERCULTURAL PERSPECTIVE  
ON SHIFTING DYNAMICS IN THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY**

*This session aims to explore various perspectives on family and community dynamics, particularly with respect to older adults, while highlighting the interreligious dimension, fostering a dialogue on the socio-ethical responsibilities of aging societies, and integrating diverse*



*spiritual and cultural insights to redefine aging with dignity, purpose, and social inclusion.*

### **Speakers**

**Omar Abboud**, *Co-President of the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue in Buenos Aires*

**Gregor Sneddon**, *Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing*

**Avraham Steinberg**, *Director, Medical Ethics Unit, Shaare Zedek Medical Center and Director, Yad Harav Herzog Institute*

**Moderated by Giulio Maira**, *Neurosurgeon and President of Atena Foundation and National Committee for Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences (Italian Presidency of the Council)*

10:45 – 11:15

**COFFEE BREAK**

11:20 – 12:50

**SESSION II – CARING FOR OUR CARERS: APPROACHES TO SUPPORTING FAMILY CAREGIVERS OF PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA**

*Globally, dementia is a leading cause of disability and dependency among older people. Currently affecting 55 million individuals worldwide, this session will discuss the latest data and research revealing the range of responsibilities undertaken by informal carers, the heavy toll caregiving can have on carers and their families, and promising practices and policies to support informal carers during their caregiving journey.*

### **Speakers**

**June Andrews**, *Visiting Senior Research Fellow, School of Medicine, University of Leeds*

**Dévora Kestel**, *Director, Department of Mental Health, Brain Health, and Substance Use, World Health Organization*

**Sarita Mohanty**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, The SCAN Foundation*

**Joanne Pike**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Alzheimer's Association*

**Moderated by Dale Goldhawk**, *Chairman of the Board, Alzheimer's Disease International*

### **Featured Discussants**

**Mercè Boada**, *Founder and Medical Co-Director, Ace Alzheimer Center Barcelona and Member of the Executive Committee of the European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium (EADC)*

**Christopher Butler**, *Global Programme Director in Multiple Long-Term Conditions, The George Institute for Global Health; Clinical*



*Reader in Global Brain Health, Department of Brain Sciences,  
Imperial College London*

**John Hodges**, *Emeritus Professor of Cognitive Neurology, Brain Mind  
Centre, University of Sydney (Australia)*

**Shereen Hussein**, *Professor of Health and Social Care Policy, London  
School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*

**Leonardo Palombi**, *Rector of the Catholic University "Our Lady of  
Good Counsel" of Tirana, Albania*

**Lenny Shallcross**, *Executive Director, World Dementia Council*

**Rani Snyder**, *Acting President, The John A. Hartford Foundation*

12:50 – 14:15

**SESSION III – STRATEGIES TO MAINTAIN BRAIN HEALTH AS WE  
AGE: STEPS TO ACHIEVE HEALTHY LONGEVITY ACROSS THE LIFE  
COURSE**

*This session examines evidence-based strategies for preserving  
cognitive function and mitigating cognitive decline, emphasizing  
lifestyle, medical, and brain-healthy interventions to enhance brain  
health and longevity across the life course. Moving beyond the lab,  
discussion will also touch on the importance of raising awareness and  
increasing education on the topic of brain health in our communities.*

**Speakers**

**Chiara Costa**, *Head of Programs, Fondazione Prada (Prada  
Foundation)*

**Bruce Miller**, *Founding Director, Global Brain Health Institute and  
A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor in  
Neurology, University of California-San Francisco*

**Alfred K. Njamnshi**, *Founder and Executive Director of Brain  
Research Africa Initiative (BRAN) and Professor of Neurology and  
Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, The  
University of Yaoundé (Cameroon)*

**Kristine Yaffe**, *Chair, The AARP Global Council on Brain Health and  
Scola Endowed Chair and Epstein Endowed Chair, Vice Chair,  
Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Epidemiology,  
University of California-San Francisco*

**Moderated by Facundo Manes**, *Founder and Honorary President,  
The Institute for Cognitive Neuroscience (INECO) Foundation and  
Member, Chamber of Deputies (Argentina), and:*

**Christopher Butler**, *Global Programme Director in Multiple Long-  
Term Conditions, The George Institute for Global Health; Clinical  
Reader in Global Brain Health, Department of Brain Sciences,  
Imperial College London*



### **Featured Discussants**

**Claudio Lino Alberto Bassetti**, *Dean, Medical Faculty, University of Bern and Vice-President, European Brain Council and Past President, European Academy of Neurology*

**Elena Becker-Barroso**, *Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Neurology*

**Masud Husain**, *Professor of Neurology & Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Oxford and Editor-in-Chief, Brain*

**Zul Merali**, *Founding Director, Brain and Mind Institute, Aga Khan University*

**Jacobo Mintzer**, *Professor, College of Health Professions, Medical University of South Carolina and Past President of the International Psychogeriatric Association*

**Oscar Lopez**, *Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Clinical and Translational Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*

**Sebastien Thuault**, *Editor-in-Chief, Nature Aging*

14:15 – 15:30

**LUNCH BREAK**

15:35 – 16:45

**SESSION IV – PROTECTING THE RIGHTS AND DIGNITY OF OLDER ADULTS**

*This session will explore the treatment of older adults and provide background on the existence of ageism and age discrimination, emphasizing the need to ensure the legal protection of their rights, the implementation of best practices, and the moral, legal, and institutional responsibilities that uphold the dignity of older persons and reflect civilization's commitment to equity.*

### **Speakers**

**Federico Borello**, *Acting Executive Director, Human Rights Watch*

**Agnès Callamard**, *Secretary General, Amnesty International*

**Dimitri Chalev**, *Chief, Rule of Law, Equality, and Non-Discrimination Branch, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*

**Moderated by Cherian Mathews**, *Chief Executive Officer, HelpAge International*

### **Featured Discussants**

**Martín Abregú**, *Vice President, International Programs, Ford Foundation*

**Laura Tamblyn Watts**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, CanAge*

**Diana Rodriguez**, *Special Advisor on Gender and Diversity to the President, Inter-American Development Bank*

16:45 – 17:10

**COFFEE BREAK**





17:15 – 18:25

**SESSION V – AGING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: FOSTERING  
INCLUSIVE PRACTICES FOR RAPIDLY AGING POPULATIONS**

*The session aims to put a spotlight on the critical need for global and national policymakers to plan for the dramatic societal transformation that demographic change will bring to lower- and middle-income countries, explore policy frameworks that promote equitable social inclusion, and discuss innovative strategies for sustainable development.*

**Speakers**

**Alexandre Kalache**, *President, International Longevity Centre-Brazil, and Past Director, Department on Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization*

**Cherian Mathews**, *Chief Executive Officer, HelpAge International*

**Maria Eugenia Genoni**, *Lead Economist, Poverty Global Development, World Bank Group*

**Moderated by Lina Walker**, *Senior Vice President, Global Thought Leadership, AARP*

**Featured Discussants**

**Patricia Araya Gutiérrez**, *Ambassador of Chile to the Holy See*

**Shereen Hussein**, *Professor of Health and Social Care Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*

**Antonella Sberna**, *Vice President, European Parliament (Responsible for Art. 17 TFEU)*

18:30 – 18:40

**MC WRAP-UP AND PREVIEW OF NEXT DAY**

19:00 – 21:00

**DINNER AT VENUE****DAY 2: SATURDAY, MAY 10**

08:00 – 08:55

**GUESTS ARRIVE AND SETTLE**

09:00 – 09:10

**MC OPENING AND PREVIEW OF DAY**

09:15 – 10:30

**SESSION I – THE ROLE OF MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS IN  
ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL MEGATREND OF POPULATION AGING**

*This session aims to foster a comprehensive dialogue on the role of multilateral institutions in planning for the transformational change that will come with rapid global aging and emphasizing collaborative approaches to ensure sustainability and social inclusion for older populations worldwide.*



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## The Memory: A Symposium Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of an Aging Global Population

### Speakers

**Irene Arias Hofman**, *Chief Executive Officer, IDB Lab, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

**Sabine Henning**, *Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations*

**Albert Park**, *Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank*

**Moderated by Amal Abou Rafeh**, *Chief, Programme on Aging Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations*

### Featured Discussants

**Maurizio Martina**, *Deputy Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations*

**Paul Ong**, *Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Strategy Officer, Tsao Foundation*

**David Velasco**, *Director, Department of the Elderly, La Caixa Foundation*

10:35 – 10:55

**COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 – 12:15

**SESSION II – UNLEASHING THE “SILVER ECONOMY”: HOW DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE WILL TRANSFORM SOCIETIES AND PRESENT NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

*The session will critically explore the transformative societal impacts, and the evolving economic dynamics associated with demographic aging, analyzing its implications for economic growth, labor markets, social policies, and other impacts while addressing the structural adjustments necessary to foster long-term economic resilience.*

### Speakers

**Akira Chiba**, *Ambassador of Japan to Holy See*

**Antón Leis García**, *Director, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)*

**Roberto Speranza**, *Member, Chamber of Deputies and Past Minister of Health, Italy*

**Debra Whitman**, *Executive Vice President and Chief Public Policy Officer, AARP*

**Moderated by Diana Rodriguez**, *Special Advisor on Gender and Diversity to the President, Inter-American Development Bank*

### Featured Discussants

**Karabi Acharya**, *Senior Director, Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*





**Alexandre Kalache**, *President, International Longevity Centre-Brasil and Past Director, Department on Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization*

**Rani Snyder**, *Acting President, The John A. Hartford Foundation*

12:30-12:55

**SPECIAL REMARKS AND REFLECTIONS**

**Hana Jalloul**, *Member, European Parliament (For Spain)*

**Maria Teresa Bellucci**, *Vice Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Government of Italy*

**Yolanda Diaz**, *Second Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and Minister of Labour and Social Economy, Government of Spain (Video Message)*

**Elma Saiz**, *Minister of Inclusion, Social Security, and Migration, Government of Spain (Video Message)*

**H.E. Cardinal Carlos Aguilar Retes**, *Archbishop of Mexico City (Written Message Read Aloud)*

13:00 – 13:20

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Dr. Myechia Minter-Jordan**, *Chief Executive Officer, AARP*

**S.E. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia**, *President of the Pontifical Academy for Life and Founder of the Età Grande Foundation*

13:25 – 13:50

**PRESENTATION OF JOINT DECLARATION**

Presentation and formal reading of the “Pontifical Academy of Life – AARP – Council of Muslim Elders Declaration,” which delineates key commitments and strategic priorities for global aging initiatives, with a particular emphasis on fostering international cooperation and policy development to addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with demographic aging.

Official presentation of the Declaration by:

**Dr. Minter-Jordan and S.E. Mons. Paglia**

Note: *A formal group photograph of all participants will be taken immediately following the conclusion of the meeting.*

14:00 – 15:30

**CLOSING LUNCHEON**



## CONFIRMED PARTICIPANTS

(listed alphabetically)

### The Memory: A Symposium Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of an Aging Global Population

*Sala Pio XI, Palazzo San Calisto, Vatican City  
May 9–10, 2025*

- **Omar Aboud**, *Co-President of the Institute for Interreligious Dialogue in Buenos Aires*
- **H.E. Judge Mohamed Abdel-Salam**, *Secretary-General of the Muslim Council of Elders and Secretary-General of Zayed Award for Human Fraternity and Co-President, Religions for Peace*
- **Martín Abregú**, *Vice President, International Programs, Ford Foundation*
- **Karabi Acharya**, *Senior Director, Global Ideas for U.S. Solutions, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*
- **June Andrews**, *Visiting Senior Research Fellow, School of Medicine, University of Leeds*
- **Alberto Medardo Barranco Chavarria**, *Ambassador of Mexico to the Holy See*
- **Claudio Lino Alberto Bassetti**, *Dean, Medical Faculty, University of Bern and Vice-President, European Brain Council and Past President, European Academy of Neurology*
- **Elena Becker-Barroso**, *Editor-in-Chief, The Lancet Neurology*
- **Maria Teresa Bellucci**, *Vice Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Government of Italy*
- **Mercè Boada**, *Founder and Medical Co-Director, Ace Alzheimer Center Barcelona and Member of the Executive Committee of the European Alzheimer's Disease Consortium (EADC)*
- **Federico Borello**, *Interim Executive Director, Human Rights Watch*
- **Christopher Butler**, *Global Programme Director in Multiple Long-Term Conditions, The George Institute for Global Health; Clinical Reader in Global Brain Health, Department of Brain Sciences, Imperial College London*
- **Agnès Callamard**, *Secretary General, Amnesty International*
- **Dimitar Chalev**, *Chief, Rule of Law, Equality, and Non-Discrimination Branch, United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- **Akira Chiba**, *Ambassador of Japan to Holy See*
- **Chiara Costa**, *Head of Programs, Fondazione Prada (Prada Foundation)*
- **Yolanda Diaz**, *Second Deputy Prime Minister of Spain and Minister of Labour and Social Economy, Government of Spain*
- **Kathryn Fencel**, *Special Projects Senior Advisor, Office of the Chief Executive, AARP*
- **Antón Leis García**, *Director, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID)*
- **Maria Eugenia Genoni**, *Lead Economist, Poverty Global Development, World Bank Group*
- **Dale Goldhawk**, *Chairman of the Board, Alzheimer's Disease International*



- **Paola Groom**, *Senior Director, External Relations, AARP*
- **Patricia Araya Gutiérrez**, *Ambassador of Chile to the Holy See*
- **Robin Hendrix**, *External Affairs Associate, World Bank Group*
- **Sabine Henning**, *Chief, Sustainable Demographic Transition Section, Social Development Division, Economic Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations*
- **John Hodges**, *Emeritus Professor of Cognitive Neurology, Brain Mind Centre, University of Sydney (Australia)*
- **Irene Arias Hofman**, *Chief Executive Officer, IDB Lab, Inter-American Development Bank*
- **Masud Husain**, *Professor of Neurology & Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Oxford and Editor-in-Chief, Brain*
- **Shereen Hussein**, *Professor of Health and Social Care Policy, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine*
- **Vijeth Iyengar**, *Director of Global Aging, AARP International*
- **Hana Jalloul**, *Member, European Parliament (for Spain)*
- **Alexandre Kalache**, *President, International Longevity Centre-Brazil and Past Director, Department on Ageing and Life Course, World Health Organization*
- **Dévora Kestel**, *Director, Department of Mental Health, Brain Health, and Substance Use, World Health Organization*
- **Kristin LaRoche**, *Deputy Chief of Staff, AARP*
- **Stefania Lenoci**, *Special Representative to Southern Europe, the Holy See and the United Nations Agencies in Rome, World Bank Group*
- **Oscar Lopez**, *Professor of Neurology, Psychiatry, and Clinical and Translational Sciences at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*
- **Giulio Maira**, *Neurosurgeon and President of Atena Foundation and National Committee for Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences (Italian Presidency of the Council)*
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- **Cherian Mathews**, *Chief Executive Officer, HelpAge International*
- **Zul Merali**, *Founding Director, Brain and Mind Institute, Aga Khan University*
- **Bruce Miller**, *Founding Director, Global Brain Health Institute and A.W. and Mary Margaret Clausen Distinguished Professor in Neurology, University of California-San Francisco*
- **Laura Mills**, *Researcher, Age & Disability, Crisis Response Programme, Amnesty International*
- **Myechia Minter-Jordan**, *Chief Executive Officer, AARP*
- **Jacobo Mintzer**, *Professor, College of Health Professions, Medical University of South Carolina and Past President of the International Psychogeriatric Association*
- **Sarita Mohanty**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, The SCAN Foundation*
- **Alfred K. Njamnshi**, *Founder and Executive Director of Brain Research Africa Initiative (BRAIN) and Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, The University of Yaoundé (Cameroon)*



- **Paul Ong**, *Deputy Chief Executive Officer and Chief Strategy Officer, Tsao Foundation*
- **S.E. Mons. Vincenzo Paglia**, *President of the Pontifical Academy for Life and Founder of the Età Grande Foundation*
- **Leonardo Palombi**, *Rector of the Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel" of Tirana, Albania*
- **Albert Park**, *Chief Economist, Asian Development Bank*
- **Joanne Pike**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Alzheimer's Association*
- **Amal Abou Rafeh**, *Chief, Programme on Aging Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations*
- **Diana Rodriguez**, *Special Advisor on Gender and Diversity to the President, Inter-American Development Bank*
- **Peter Rundlet**, *Vice President, AARP International*
- **Elma Saiz**, *Minister of Inclusion, Social Security, and Migration, Government of Spain*
- **Antonella Sberna**, *Vice President, European Parliament (Responsible for Art. 17 TFEU)*
- **Laura Segal**, *Senior Vice President, External Relations and Outreach, AARP*
- **Lenny Shallcross**, *Executive Director, World Dementia Council*
- **Gregor Sneddon**, *Secretary General, International Federation on Ageing*
- **Rani Snyder**, *Acting President, The John A. Hartford Foundation*
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- **Sebastien Thuault**, *Editor-in-Chief, Nature Aging*
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- **Laura Tamblyn Watts**, *President and Chief Executive Officer, CanAge*
- **Debra Whitman**, *Executive Vice President and Chief Public Policy Officer, AARP*
- **Kristine Yaffe**, *Chair, The AARP Global Council on Brain Health and Scola Endowed Chair and Epstein Endowed Chair, Vice Chair, Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Epidemiology, University of California-San Francisco*

The **Pontifical Academy for Life** is a Pontifical Academy of the Catholic Church dedicated to promoting the Church's consistent life ethic. It also relates research on bioethics and Catholic moral theology. The academy was founded in 1994. Its members are selected by the pope and are to represent different branches of biomedical sciences to promote the Church's life ethic.

**[www.academyforlife.va](http://www.academyforlife.va)**

**Età Grande Foundation** aims to promote and safeguard the rights of elderly individuals, as well as the corresponding responsibilities of the community. The Foundation seeks to promote, with creativity and insight, new and wiser policies in support of the elderly, in areas such as employment, culture and education, public health, economic protection, active aging, and social inclusion.

**[www.fondazioneetagrande.it](http://www.fondazioneetagrande.it)**

The **Franciscus Memorial**, established by the express will of His Holiness and inspired by the importance of preserving the legacy and honoring the memory of those who have been part of our lives, has as its primary objective the implementation of concrete actions aimed at improving living conditions, promoting well-being, and supporting a dignified existence for older adults who find themselves in situations of neglect, vulnerability, and hardship.

**[www.memorialpapafrancisco.mx](http://www.memorialpapafrancisco.mx)**

**AARP** is the United States' largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to the more than 100 million Americans 50-plus and their families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment.

**[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) | [www.aarpinternational.org](http://www.aarpinternational.org)**



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