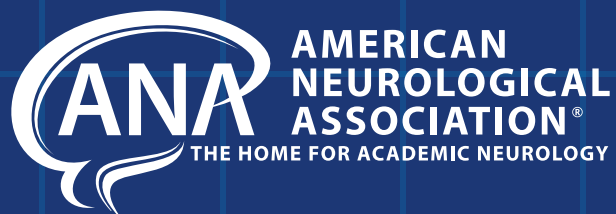


PROGRAM

ANA Global Neurology VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM



March 18–20, 2026





MISSION

Advancing science, education, and careers to
improve neurologic health for all.

VISION

A world without neurological disease.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The ANA is a community of academic neurologists and
neuroscientists dedicated to promoting brain health.
Our work is guided by the following principles:

Integrity in our professional work and communications

.....

Excellence across all programs and publications

.....

Community growth and cohesion

.....

Expanding diversity and ensuring inclusion

.....

Promoting innovation and discovery



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Welcome to the



ANA Global Neurology

VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

March 18–20, 2026

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, attendees will be able to:

- Discuss ongoing issues related to neurologic care and research Low- and Middle-Income Countries.
- Identify best practices to address gaps in neuroscience research capacity building in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.
- Develop a broad-based understanding of the practice of neurology in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, attendees will be able to:

- Understand and apply technical writing skills to produce clear, logical, and grammatically correct scientific manuscripts.
- Describe the fundamentals of conducting neurological research in resource-limited settings.
- Identify funding opportunities for researchers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2026

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

At the conclusion of this activity, attendees will be able to:

- Identify opportunities for partnership and collaboration within disease-specific and subspecialty-focused neurology fields.
- Build professional connections and networks with representatives from global neurology organizations to support future interdisciplinary and cross-border collaboration.
- Develop strategies for sustained engagement with neurology organizations to advance advocacy, education, research, and patient-centered initiatives within their area of interest.



CME INFORMATION

Day 1 and 2 of the program offers CME credit. You will have an opportunity to complete an evaluation for the entire meeting and claim CME, if desired, by visiting the ANA's OnDEC website: <https://education.myana.org/content/ana-global-neurology-virtual-symposium-2026>

PURPOSE/LEARNING OUTCOME

Following this activity, the ANA expects learners to share how they will change their research based on new knowledge or skills reviewed during the sessions.

ACCME ACCREDITATION & AMA DESIGNATION STATEMENTS

The American Neurological Association designates this live activity for a maximum of **5.75 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™**. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The American Neurological Association is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING CME

CME is immediately available, please navigate to OnDEC (<http://education.myana.org>) to complete an evaluation and obtain your certificate.

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS

The planners and faculty for this activity do not have any relationships to disclose. Any relevant relationships with ACCME-defined *ineligible companies* are mitigated according to ACCME Standards prior to the start of the activity.



AGENDA

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 AM	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA Chair, ANA Global Engagement Committee Associate Professor of Neurology University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill USA
9:05 AM	SYMPOSIUM OVERVIEW & KEYNOTE SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA
9:08 AM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Héctor H. García, MD, PhD Director and Professor, Center for Global Health, School of Sciences at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Lima, Peru Head, Cysticercosis Unit, Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Neurológicas Lima, Peru Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland USA
9:38 AM	Q&A Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA
9:53 AM	BREAK
10:05 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA

10:08 AM	INTEGRATING THROMBOLYSIS INTO ROUTINE STROKE CARE IN A GHANAIAN TERTIARY HOSPITAL, USING THE IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH LOGIC MODEL (IRLM) AS A GUIDING FRAMEWORK THE 'ACTIVATE' STROKE THROMBOLYSIS PROJECT <i>Priscilla Abrafi Opare-Addo, MD, MSCR, FWACP</i> Neurologist and Lecturer, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital Neurologist and Lecturer, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Kumasi, Ghana
10:18 AM	Q&A <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
10:24 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Stefano Sandrone, PhD, MEd, NTF ANA Global Engagement Committee Member</i> Principal Teaching Fellow Department of Brain Sciences Imperial College London United Kingdom
10:34 AM	PROGNOSTIC VALUE OF CYSTATIN-C AND MMP-9 IN HEMORRHAGIC STROKE AMONG PATIENTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES MELLITUS IN UZBEKISTAN <i>Sayyora Akbaraliyeva, MD</i> Neurologist Department of Neurology and Medical Psychology Tashkent State Medical University Uzbekistan
10:39 AM	Q&A <i>Stefano Sandrone, PhD, MEd, NTF</i>
10:44 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Monica M. Diaz, MD, MS</i> Assistant Professor of Neurology Division of Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroimmunology University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine USA

10:47 AM	LIMAFTD: DEVELOPING RESEARCH CAPACITY IN FRONTOTEMPORAL DEMENTIA IN PERU <i>Sheila Castro-Suarez , MD</i> Attending Neurologist Department of Behavioral Neurology Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Neurologicas Lima, Peru
10:57 AM	Q&A <i>Monica M. Diaz, MD, MS</i>
11:02 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH, FANA, FAAN ANA Global Engagement Committee Member</i> Associate Professor of Neurology Department of Neurology University of Maryland School of Medicine USA
11:05 AM	MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS IN SOUTH AFRICA: DIAGNOSTIC DELAYS, TREATMENT GAPS, AND THE FUTURE OF EQUITABLE CARE <i>Sibongile Tito, MBChB</i> Senior Neurology Resident MMED Neurology Candidate Department of Neurosciences Division of Neurology University of the Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa
11:15 AM	Q&A <i>Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH, FANA, FAAN</i>
11:25 AM	ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
11:30 AM	CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>



AGENDA

Thursday, March 19

9:00 AM	WELCOME & SESSION OVERVIEW - GETTING STARTED: CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN LIMITED RESOURCE SETTINGS <i>Farrah Mateen, MD, PhD, FANA</i> ANA Global Engagement Committee Member Charles L. Mix Professor of Neurology Research Chief, Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology Davee Department of Neurology Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University Chicago, Illinois USA
9:02 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Gretchen Birbeck, MD, MPH, DTMH, FANA</i> Professor Department of Neurology University of Rochester New York USA
9:04 AM	GETTING STARTED: CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN LIMITED RESOURCE SETTINGS (ZAMBIA) <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i> Chair, ANA Global Engagement Committee Associate Professor of Neurology University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill USA
9:19 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
9:21 AM	GETTING STARTED: CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN LIMITED RESOURCE SETTINGS (TURKEY) <i>Hakan S. Orer, MD, PhD</i> Professor Department of Pharmacology Koç University School of Medicine Istanbul, Turkey

9:36 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Monica M. Diaz, MD, MS ANA Global Engagement Committee Member Assistant Professor of Neurology Division of Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroimmunology University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine USA
9:38 AM	GETTING STARTED: CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN LIMITED RESOURCE SETTINGS (ARGENTINA) Jorge Correal, MD Chairman Department of Neurology Head, Neuroimmunology Fleni Neurological Research Institute Buenos Aires, Argentina Professor School of Pharmacy University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
9:53 AM	Q&A Farrah Mateen, MD, PhD, FANA
10:00 AM	BREAK
10:15 AM	SESSION OVERVIEW – ESSENTIALS OF WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS Felicia Chow, MD, MAS, FANA Professor Department of Neurology and Infectious Diseases University of California, San Francisco USA
10:18 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Felicia Chow, MD, MAS, FANA
10:20 AM	ADVICE FOR WRITING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS: AN EDITOR'S PERSPECTIVE José G. Merino, MD, MPhil, FAHA, FAAN Professor Department of Neurology Georgetown University Medical Center Washington, DC USA
10:45 AM	Q&A Felicia Chow, MD, MAS, FANA

11:00 AM	SESSION OVERVIEW – FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS IN LMICS <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
11:02 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
11:04 AM	ENSURING NEUROLOGICAL HEALTH FOR ALL THROUGH COORDINATED GLOBAL RESEARCH <i>Sudha Srinivasan, PhD, MPH</i> Program Director for Global Health Division of Clinical Research, NINDS National Institutes of Health Rockville, Maryland USA
11:19 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Angelina Kakooza Mwesige, MBChB, MMED, PhD, FANA</i> Associate Professor Paediatrics and Child Health Makerere University College of Health Sciences Kampala, Uganda
11:21 AM	FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS IN LMICS: NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS <i>Sunil Iyengar</i> Director Office of Research & Analysis National Endowment for the Arts Washington, DC USA
11:36 PM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
11:38 AM	FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS IN LMICS <i>Rufus Akinyeme, MBBS, MSc, PhD, MWACP, FMCP, FGBHI</i> Professor of Geriatric Neurology and Translational Neuroscience Director, Biomedical Research Centre College of Medicine, University of Ibadan Nigeria
11:51 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>

11:53 AM	FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCHERS IN LMICS: INTERNATIONAL BRAIN RESEARCH ORGANIZATION (IBRO) <i>Rebecca Hadid, PhD</i> Director of Grants and Programs International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) Brussels, Belgium
12:08 PM	Q&A <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>
12:30 PM	CLOSING REMARKS & ADJOURN <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i>



AGENDA

Friday, March 20

9:00 AM	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS <i>Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA</i> Vice President, American Neurological Association Professor of Neurology Director, Bayview Stroke Center Vice Chair of Education, Johns Hopkins Neurology Vice Chair of Clinical Operations, Bayview Neurology Associate Program Director, JHH Neurology Residency Program The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Department of Neurology Baltimore, Maryland USA
9:05 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA</i>
9:07 AM	AMERICAN NEUROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION'S GLOBAL NEUROLOGY INITIATIVE <i>Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA</i> Chair, ANA Global Engagement Committee Associate Professor of Neurology University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill USA
9:17 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA</i>
9:19 AM	EAN'S GLOBAL NEUROLOGY RELATED ACTIVITIES <i>Elena Moro, MD, PhD</i> President, European Academy of Neurology Professor Department of Neurology Grenoble Alpes University Saint-Martin-d'Hères France
9:29 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA</i>

9:31 AM	THE GLOBAL ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY Steven Lewis , MD, FAAN, FANA President, World Federation of Neurology Physician-in-Chief, Lehigh Valley Fleming Neuroscience Institute Timothy M. Breidegam Endowed Chair of Neurology, Lehigh Valley Health Network Regional Chief for the Lehigh Valley, Farber Institute for Neuroscience, Jefferson Health Adjunct Professor of Neurology, Thomas Jefferson University Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA
9:41 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA
9:43 AM	AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY LMIC INITIATIVES Natalia Rost, MD, MPH, FAAN, FAHA President, American Academy of Neurology C. Miller Fisher Endowed Chair in Stroke Research Research Scholar, Massachusetts General Hospital Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School Boston, Massachusetts USA
9:54 AM	CLOSING REMARKS Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA
9:58 AM	SUBSPECIALTY BREAKOUT GROUPS Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease: See Page 15 for Breakout Details Epilepsy: See Page 16 for Breakout Details Movement Disorders/Parkinson's Disease: See Page 18 for Breakout Details Stroke: See Page 19 for Breakout Details
12:00 PM	ADJOURN



AGENDA

Breakout Rooms
Friday, March 20

Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease

10:00 AM	WELCOME & SESSION OVERVIEW Adesola Ogunniyi, MBBS, FWACP, FMCP, FAS Emeritus Professor Department of Medicine, College of Medicine University of Ibadan Nigeria
10:03 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Adesola Ogunniyi, MBBS, FWACP, FMCP, FAS
10:05 AM	ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION Sheena Aurora, MD Vice President, Medical Affairs Alzheimer's Association Chicago, Illinois USA
10:15 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Anil Wadhvani, MD, PhD Instructor Department of Neurology University of Pennsylvania Philadelphia USA
10:17 AM	ADDRESSING DEMENTIA INEQUITIES IN LATIN AMERICA: EVIDENCE FROM REDLAT Joaquín Migeot, PhD Assistant Professor School of Psychology, Adolfo Ibáñez University Latin American Brain Health Institute, Adolfo Ibáñez University Santiago, Chile

Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease Breakout Continued

10:39 AM	GROUP DISCUSSION <i>Moderated by Adesola Ogunniyi, MD and Anil Wadhvani, MD, PhD</i>
12:00 PM	ADJOURN

Epilepsy

10:00 AM	WELCOME & SESSION OVERVIEW Melody Asukile, MBCHB, MMED, FC NEUROL(SA) Neurologist Department of Internal Medicine University of Zambia School of Medicine Lusaka, Zambia
10:03 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Melody Asukile, MBCHB, MMED, FC NEUROL(SA)
10:05 AM	THE INTERCONNECTIVITY OF GLOBAL EPILEPSY MANAGEMENT THROUGH CLINICAL CARE RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY Dave Clarke, MBBS, ABPN, ABCN Ex Officio Board Member, American Epilepsy Society Ex-Officio Board Member, American Epilepsy Society The Kozmetsky Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Pediatric Epilepsy Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin Chief, Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Center Dell Children's Medical Center Austin, Texas USA

Epilepsy Breakout Continued

10:15 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Omar Siddiqi, MD, MPH, FANA</i> Director, Global Neurology Program Department of Neurology Center for Virology and Vaccine Research Department of Internal Medicine Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Associate Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School Boston, Massachusetts USA Visiting Lecturer University of Zambia School of Medicine Lusaka, Zambia
10:17 AM	INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY <i>Alla Guekht, MD, PhD President, International League Against Epilepsy</i> Professor Department of Neurology Moscow Research and Clinical Center for Neuropsychiatry Moscow, Russian Federation
10:27AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION <i>Omar Siddiqi, MD, MPH, FANA</i>
10:29 AM	CANADIAN LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY: VIRTUAL EPILEPSY EDUCATION TO SPAN THE VAST WILDERNESS <i>Lysa Boissé Lomax MD, MSc, FRCPC , CSCN (EEG)</i> Professor and Division Chair Division of Neurology Queen's University Kingston, Ontario Canada
10:39 AM	GROUP DISCUSSION <i>Moderated by Melody Asukile, MBCHB, MMED, FC NEUROL(SA) and Omar Siddiqi, MD, MPH, FANA</i>
12:00 PM	ADJOURN

Movement Disorders/Parkinson's Disease

10:00 AM	WELCOME & SESSION OVERVIEW Lorraine Chishimba, MBChB, MMED Neurologist Department of Internal Medicine University Teaching Hospital - Adult Hospital Lusaka, Zambia
10:03 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Lorraine Chishimba, MBChB, MMED
10:05 AM	INTERNATIONAL PARKINSONS AND MOVEMENT DISORDER SOCIETY PRESENTATION Njideka Okubadejo, MD, FMCP, FANA Professor of Neurology and Director Centre for Neurological Sciences Research and Training College of Medicine, University of Lagos Nigeria
10:15 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Lorraine Chishimba, MBChB, MMED
10:17 AM	AMERICAN PARKINSON DISEASE ASSOCIATION: GLOBAL NEUROLOGY Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD Chief Mission Officer American Parkinson Disease Association Staten Island, New York USA
10:27 AM	GROUP DISCUSSION Moderated by Lorraine Chishimba, MMED and Njideka Okubadejo, MD, FMCP, FANA
12:00 PM	ADJOURN

Stroke

10:00 AM	WELCOME & SESSION OVERVIEW Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA Chair, ANA Global Engagement Committee Associate Professor of Neurology University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill USA
10:03 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA
10:05 AM	THE EUROPEAN STROKE ORGANISATION'S GLOBAL STROKE INITIATIVES Silke Walter, MD Consultant Neurologist and Vice-Chairman Department of Neurology Saarland University Saarbrücken, Germany
10:15 AM	SPEAKER INTRODUCTION Fiifi Duodo, MD Neurologist Department of Internal Medicine Korle Bu Teaching Hospital Accra, Ghana
10:17 AM	AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION STROKE COUNCIL PRESENTATION Cheryl Bushnell, MD, MHS Chair, American Heart Association Stroke Council Professor Department of Neurology Winston Salem, North Carolina USA
10:27 AM	GROUP DISCUSSION Moderated by Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA and Fiifi Duodo, MD
12:00 PM	ADJOURN

SPEAKERS

Wednesday, March 18



Sayyora Akbaraliyeva, MD

Neurologist

**Department of Neurology and Medical Psychology
Tashkent State Medical University
Uzbekistan**

Dr. Sayyora Akbaraliyeva is a neurologist and PhD candidate at the Department of Neurology and Medical Psychology, Tashkent State Medical University, Uzbekistan.

Dr. Akbaraliyeva completed her Master's degree in Neurology between 2021 and 2024. During this period, she simultaneously served as a clinical resident, gaining extensive hands-on experience in the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic neurological disorders, including cerebrovascular disease, neurodegenerative conditions, and metabolic-related neurological complications.

Since 2025, she has been pursuing her doctoral studies with a research focus on improving prognostic assessment and treatment strategies in hemorrhagic stroke among patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus. Her work investigates the clinical and biochemical correlations of biomarkers such as Cystatin-C and MMP-9 in the acute phase of intracerebral hemorrhage, with the aim of identifying early predictors of outcome and refining risk stratification models.

Dr. Akbaraliyeva's research is particularly directed toward strengthening evidence-based neurological care in low- and middle-income country settings, where access to advanced neurodiagnostic technologies may be limited. By integrating clinical evaluation with accessible biochemical markers, her work seeks to optimize early clinical decision-making and improve patient outcomes.

She has authored and co-authored multiple scientific articles and conference abstracts focusing on stroke prognosis, cerebrovascular risk factors, and the interaction between metabolic disorders and neurological disease.



Sheila Castro-Suarez , MD

***Attending Neurologist
Department of Behavioral Neurology
Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Neurológicas
Lima, Peru***

Dr. Sheila Castro-Suarez is a neurologist in the Department of Behavioral Neurology at the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Neurológicas (INCN), where she also conducts research at the Center for Dementia and Demyelinating Diseases Research. Her clinical and academic work focuses on cognitive and behavioral neurology, with particular emphasis on dementia and related disorders.

She is an Atlantic Senior Fellow for Equity in Brain Health at the Global Brain Health Institute at the University of California, San Francisco, reflecting her commitment to advancing brain health equity at a global level.

Dr. Castro-Suarez earned a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia. She serves as a graduate professor at the Universidad Científica del Sur and currently holds the position of Secretary of Scientific Affairs for the Sociedad Peruana de Neurología. Through her clinical practice, research, and leadership roles, she contributes significantly to neurology education and brain health initiatives in Peru and internationally.



Héctor H. García, MD, PhD

***Director and Professor, Center for Global Health,
School of Sciences at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano
Heredia
Lima, Peru***

***Head, Cysticercosis Unit, Instituto Nacional de Ciencias
Neurológicas
Lima, Peru***

***Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of
Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland
USA***

Héctor H. García, MD, PhD, is Director of the Center for Global Health and Professor in the School of Sciences at the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, as well as head of the Cysticercosis Unit at the Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Neurológicas in Lima, Peru, and an Adjunct Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, MD, USA.

Dr. García is one of the foremost researchers worldwide in the study of neurocysticercosis, a preventable parasitic infection of the central nervous system caused by the pork tapeworm *Taenia solium*. and has a long history in global health research and training, including the successful direction of a 10 year cysticercosis elimination program in northern coastal Peru, funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. He leads the Cysticercosis Working Group in Peru, a multi-institutional group working in varied aspects of cysticercosis research. His lab has over 400 peer-reviewed publications as a result of research in diverse subjects of public health importance in Peru.



Priscilla Abrafi Opare-Addo, MD, MSCR, FWACP

Neurologist and Lecturer, Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital

Neurologist and Lecturer, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Kumasi, Ghana

Dr. Priscilla Abrafi Opare-Addo (MD, MSCR, FWACP) is a neurologist and lecturer at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. She received an MD from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. She received her membership in internal medicine and fellowship in neurology from the West African College of Physicians and a Master of Science in Clinical Research from the Medical University of South Carolina. She is a PhD candidate in molecular medicine at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.

Dr. Abrafi Opare-Addo is a Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Research Training (S-CaRT)-Fogarty International Centre (FIC) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Fellow and a TALENTS (Training Africans to Lead and Execute Neurological Trials & Studies) Program scholar. She is a member of the WSO Future Stroke Leader's Program Cohort 3 and currently serves on the planning committee of the African Stroke Organization (ASO). Her research areas include stroke prevention, clinical trials, implementation science, biomarkers, genetics, and epigenetics.



Sibongile Tito, MBChB (UCT)

***Senior Neurology Resident
MMED Neurology Candidate Department of
Neurosciences Division of Neurology University of the
Witwatersrand Johannesburg, South Africa***

Sibongile Tito, MBChB, is a senior neurology resident in the Division of Neurology at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. She completed her medical degree at the University of Cape Town and is currently pursuing specialist training in neurology while providing care across tertiary referral and public sector health systems.

Dr. Tito's research focuses on multiple sclerosis in underrepresented populations, with particular interest in diagnostic delays, treatment access, and health system disparities affecting patients in resource-limited settings. Her work aims to improve recognition, timely diagnosis, and equitable management of multiple sclerosis in South Africa and across the African continent.

She is actively engaged in advancing neurological research and strengthening capacity for neurological care in Africa, with a commitment to addressing disparities in neurological disease diagnosis, treatment access, and health system infrastructure.

SPEAKERS

Thursday, March 19



**Rufus Akinyeme, MBBS, MSc, PhD,
MWACP, FMCP, FGBHI**

***Professor of Geriatric Neurology and Translational
Neuroscience
Director, Biomedical Research Centre
College of Medicine, University of Ibadan
Nigeria***

Professor Rufus Akinyemi, winner of the 2023 Gold Medal Prize (Life Sciences) of the Nigerian Academy of Science (NAS), is a Professor of Geriatric Neurology and Translational Neuroscience in the Institute for Advanced Medical Research and Training and Deputy Director of the Centre for Genomics and Precision Medicine, College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He is also a consultant neurologist to the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Nigeria. He holds a PhD from Newcastle University, United Kingdom; an MSc in Cell Biology and Genetics and a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. He also holds a fellowship of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria in Internal Medicine and Neurology.

His research focuses on vascular and degenerative brain disorders using a translational bench-bedside-community framework. Prof Akinyemi has led multiple funded projects including the African Neurobiobank for Precision Stroke Medicine ELSI Project. He currently serves as the African PI of the NIH/ NIA -funded READD – ADSP Project and recently spearheaded the establishment of the African Stroke Organization (ASO) and the African Dementia Consortium (AfDC). He has served on the steering committees of multiple global bodies including the International Stroke Genetics Consortium and the H3Africa Consortium. He currently leads the CoMUI Biobanking Committee. His work on stroke and dementia has attracted notable recognition including the James Kimani Award of the Society of Neuroscientists of Africa, the Bruce Schoenberg International Award in

Neuroepidemiology of the American Academy of Neurology, the Atlantic fellowship of the Global Brain Health Institute and more recently he was elected fellow of The Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria. He has over 220 peer - reviewed publications in reputable international journals including the Lancet, Science, New England Journal of Medicine and Nature. He has an H-index of 55 and 61,246 citations.

Jorge Correale, MD

Chairman

Department of Neurology

Head, Neuroimmunology

Fleni Neurological Research Institute

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Professor

School of Pharmacy

University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

Dr. Jorge Correale graduated with honors from the University of Buenos Aires School of Medicine in 1981. He completed his residency in Neurology at Ramos Mejía Hospital, where he served as Chief Resident. He subsequently pursued advanced training in Neuroimmunology at the Karolinska Institute and later at the University of Southern California (USC), where he was appointed Assistant Professor of Neurology and of Microbiology and Molecular Immunology.

In 1997, Dr. Correale returned to Buenos Aires to assume the role of Head of Neuroimmunology at the Fleni Neurological Research Institute, a position he continues to hold. He currently serves as Chairman of the Department of Neurology at Fleni and has also held academic appointments at Universidad Austral. In addition, he is Professor at the School of Pharmacy of the University of Buenos Aires.

Dr. Correale is a former President of the Argentine Society of Neurology and LACTRIMS, and currently serves as Vice President of the Medical and Scientific Council of the International Federation of Multiple Sclerosis.

An internationally recognized leader in neuroimmunology and multiple sclerosis research, Dr. Correale has authored more than 320 scientific articles, contributed 52 book chapters, and edited seven books in Neurology and Neuroimmunology, significantly advancing the understanding of immune mechanisms in neurological disease.





Rebecca Hadid, PhD

***Director of Grants and Programs
International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
Brussels, Belgium***

Rebecca Hadid is Director of Grants and Programs at the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), where she leads global initiatives that support neuroscience research, career development and training, with a strong focus on supporting early-career researchers in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). With over a decade of experience in international nonprofit and scientific organizations, Rebecca specializes in developing inclusive programs, strengthening global partnerships, and expanding access to funding opportunities, enhancing the impact and visibility of neuroscience worldwide.



Sunil Iyengar

***Director | Office of Research & Analysis
National Endowment for the Arts
Washington, DC
USA***

Sunil Iyengar is Director of Research & Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts. Under his leadership, the NEA has produced dozens of reports, webinars, blog posts, and podcast episodes about research on the value and impact of the arts. He has also established research and data partnerships with multiple federal agencies. Iyengar and his team designed and implemented three long-term research agendas, founded a national data repository for arts and culture and a statistical reporting center for the arts, and launched two research grant programs, including the NEA Research Labs initiative. He chaired a federal Interagency Task Force on the Arts and Human Development (2011-2023) and co-created the Sound Health Network (2020-2025). He and his team consistently lead strategic planning for the agency, and they provide research and evaluation support to Creative Forces: NEA Military Arts Healing Network. Iyengar formerly was an editor and reporter covering the biomedical research, medical device, and pharmaceutical industries. He writes poems, book reviews, and literary essays.



José G. Merino

Professor

Department of Neurology

Georgetown University Medical Center

Washington, DC

USA

José G. Merino, MD, MPhil, FAHA, FAAN, is Editor-in-Chief of Neurology and Professor of neurology at the Georgetown University Medical Center. He studied medicine at the Universidad Anáhuac in Mexico City and obtained a Master of Philosophy degree on the history of medicine from the University of Cambridge in England. He trained in the joint neurology and psychiatry program at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and in stroke at the University of Western Ontario. He has worked as faculty and clinical staff at the NINDS, the University of Florida, Johns Hopkins Medicine, and the University of Maryland. His research and clinical work have focused on the care of patients with acute stroke. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the AAN, where he has served in several committees. Throughout his career, Dr. Merino has been engaged in editorial pursuits. He has been a member of the editorial board of Stroke, the Revista Mexicana de Neurociencia, and Brain & Life en Español. He was The BMJ's US Research Editor from 2012 until 2019 and became Editor-in-Chief of Neurology and the Neurology family of journals in April 2020.



Hakan S. Orer, MD, PhD

Professor

Department of Pharmacology

Koç University School of Medicine

Istanbul, Turkey

Prof. Dr. Hakan S. Orer is Professor of Medical Pharmacology at Koç University School of Medicine (Istanbul). He earned his MD (Hacettepe University) and PhD in Pharmacology, including doctoral work at INSERM U288, Pitié-Salpêtrière (Paris) as a French Government Scholar, and completed postdoctoral training at Michigan State University. His research spans early-phase (Phase I/II) oncology/hematology drug development and translational studies of chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, building on earlier neurophysiology work on brainstem autonomic control. He chairs Koç University's IRBs and Animal Experiments Ethics Committee and serves on Türkiye's national clinical trials advisory bodies. He is President of the Science Academy (Turkey), an elected member

of the ORPHEUS Executive Committee, and a member of the International Science Council's Committee for Academic Freedom and Scientific Responsibility. He has served on UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee.



Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA

Chair, American Neurological Association Global Engagement Committee

***Associate Professor of Neurology
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
USA***

Dr. Deanna Saylor is an Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of North Carolina. She completed medical school, neurology residency, and neuro-infectious disease and neuroimmunology fellowship at Johns Hopkins. Her clinical and research interests include neurological complications of HIV, global health and neurology, and improving the diagnosis and management of neurological conditions in resource-limited settings. Dr. Saylor has lived and worked full-time in Zambia since 2018 as Director of the first and only neurology post-graduate training program. She also led the development of the first stroke unit in the country and has been a leader in efforts to develop tele-neurology services in Zambia and improve undergraduate medical education through the use of the flipped classroom to teach neurology. She is an active member of the African Stroke Organization, a founding member of the African Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis, and Chair of the Global Neurology Section of the American Academy of Neurology and of the Global Engagement Committee of the American Neurological Association.



Sudha Srinivasan, PhD, MPH

***Program Director for Global Health
Division of Clinical Research, NINDS
National Institutes of Health
Rockville, Maryland
USA***

Dr. Sudha Srinivasan has over 25 years of cumulative professional experience in leading, implementing, coordinating, and managing a breadth of multilateral public health programs and projects. Dr. Srinivasan has worked at multiple institutes at the NIH which includes National Human Genomics Research Institute, the Fogarty International

Center, the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, in addition to private sector experience. She has worked and managed projects in a wide variety of subject areas ranging from chronic diseases, maternal and child health, nutrition, food security, and genomics/ genetics. She is currently at the Division of Clinical Research at NINDs, and is the Program Director for Global Health focusing on international collaborations and partnerships and with the goals of improving US -domestic health outcomes through global health research promotion and coordination.

Dr. Srinivasan obtained her doctoral degree focused on Human Genetics and Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Public Health degree, from the Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan.



SPEAKERS

Friday, March 20



Steven Lewis, MD, FAAN, FANA

Physician-in-Chief, Lehigh Valley Fleming Neuroscience Institute

Timothy M. Breidegam Endowed Chair of Neurology, Lehigh Valley Health Network

Regional Chief for the Lehigh Valley, Farber Institute for Neuroscience, Jefferson Health

Adjunct Professor of Neurology, Thomas Jefferson University

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
USA*

Steven Lewis, MD, is the current President of the World Federation of Neurology (WFN) and has been a WFN Trustee since 2014.

He received his BA in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale, his MD from Stanford, and performed his neurology residency at the University of Chicago.

Dr. Lewis is Physician-in-Chief and Endowed Chair of Neurology at the Fleming Neuroscience Institute of Jefferson Health in Pennsylvania and Adjunct Professor of Neurology at Thomas Jefferson University. He is a Past Director and Past Chair of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) and a past Chair of the Neurology Residency Review Committee of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). He is the immediate past Editor-in-Chief of the AAN's Continuum: Lifelong Learning in Neurology; the Associate Editor for Global Neurology for the Journal of the Neurological Sciences; editor of World Neurology; and Editor-in-Chief of MedLink Neurology.

In 2019, Dr. Lewis received the A.B. Baker Award for Lifetime Achievement in Neurologic Education from the AAN, and in 2023, he received the ANA Award for Excellence in Education.

**Elena Moro, MD, PhD**

President, European Academy of Neurology
Professor
Department of Neurology
Grenoble Alpes University
Saint-Martin-d'Hères
France

Dr. Elena Moro is a Professor of Neurology at the Grenoble Alpes University (France). She graduated in Medicine at the University of Trieste (Italy) and completed her residency in Neurology at the Catholic University in Rome (Italy). She received her PhD in Neurosciences from the Catholic University in Rome. She is currently the Director of the Movement Disorders Center, and the Chair of the Department of Psychiatry, Neurology, Neurological Rehabilitation and Forensic Medicine at the CHU of Grenoble. Her major area of interest is surgical treatment of movement disorders, especially deep brain stimulation. She has been actively involved in the International Movement Disorders Society (MDS) and has become Honorary Member in 2024. She is currently the President of the European Academy of Neurology, a society representing 45,000 neurologists working in Europe, and the Treasurer of the Deep Brain Stimulation Society.

**Natalia Rost, MD, MPH, FAAN, FAHA**

President, American Academy of Neurology
C. Miller Fisher Endowed Chair in Stroke Research
Research Scholar, Massachusetts General Hospital
Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School
Boston, Massachusetts
USA

Natalia S. Rost, MD, MPH, FAAN, FAHA, is President of the American Academy of Neurology, C. Miller Fisher Endowed Chair in Stroke Research at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Rost is internationally recognized for her expertise in cerebrovascular neuroimaging and the application of big-data approaches to personalized stroke outcomes. As a clinician-scientist, she leads a robust research program on brain health and recovery, serving as an MGH Research Scholar and Principal Investigator of the NIH-funded DISCOVERY study, which advances precision medicine in stroke care. Her work integrates clinical insights with innovative analytics to improve outcomes for patients worldwide.

Dr. Rost's contributions to mentorship and leadership have been honored with the MGH Ray Adams Clinical Mentor Award, the AAN Michael S. Pessin Stroke Leadership Award, and the AAN Leading in Excellence Through Mentorship Award. Through her research, clinical practice, and commitment to education, she continues to shape the future of stroke neurology and inspire the next generation of physician-scientists.



Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA

Chair, American Neurological Association Global Engagement Committee

*Associate Professor of Neurology
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
USA*

Full Bio - see page 28

SUBSPECIALTY BREAKOUT ROOM SPEAKERS



Sheena Aurora, MD

*Vice President, Medical Affairs
Alzheimer's Association
Chicago, Illinois
USA*

Dr. Sheena Aurora is Vice President of Medical Affairs at the Alzheimer's Association. In this role, she works to translate emerging research into clinical practice and helps integrate feedback from clinicians, health systems, and individuals affected by dementia to improve strategies for risk reduction, diagnosis, treatment, and care delivery. She collaborates closely with mission engagement and health systems teams to develop tools and resources that support clinicians, health systems, and payers in providing safe and appropriate access to care for patients.

Dr. Aurora brings extensive experience in academic medicine, clinical care, and industry. Prior to joining the Alzheimer's Association in 2025, she served as Vice President of Medical Affairs at C2N Diagnostics and previously held the same role at Impel NeuroPharma. Earlier in her career, she was a medical fellow and launch leader at Eli Lilly and Company. Dr. Aurora spent more than

a decade in academic medicine, serving as a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Neurology at Stanford University and as an Assistant Professor of Neurology at University of Washington in Seattle.

In addition to her academic appointments, Dr. Aurora directed the Swedish Headache Center in Seattle for 12 years and served as Director of the Headache Clinic in the Department of Neurology at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Her clinical and research work has focused extensively on headache disorders and neurological care.

Dr. Aurora received her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery from Christian Medical College, Ludhiana in India. She completed her internship at Wayne State University and her neurology residency at Henry Ford Hospital, where she also completed a fellowship in headache and neurophysiology. Over the course of her career, Dr. Aurora has received multiple awards and research grants from the National Institutes of Health, foundations, and industry partners. She has authored hundreds of scientific manuscripts and articles and is a frequent invited lecturer at international conferences.

Lysa Boissé Lomax MD, MSc, FRCPC, CSCN (EEG)

*Professor and Division Chair
Division of Neurology
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
Canada*

Dr. Lysa Boissé Lomax is Neurology Division Chair and a Professor at Queen's University, jointly appointed to the Division of Neurology and the Division of Respiriology. She completed her clinical Epilepsy fellowship at the University of Melbourne in Australia with Professors Sam Berkovic and Ingrid Scheffer. She is certified in Sleep Medicine and polysomnography.

Dr. Boissé Lomax is the Director of the KHSC Comprehensive Epilepsy Centre and runs multidisciplinary epilepsy, neuromodulation, and transition clinics, and has an active virtual care practice. She has served on Canadian national and Ontario provincial boards that created guidelines for epilepsy genetic testing and epilepsy transition care. Her research focuses on genetic epilepsy syndromes in adult patients. She is Chair of ECHO Epilepsy Genetics and Executive co-chair of ECHO Epilepsy Ontario.



**Cheryl Bushnell, MD, MHS*****Professor******Department of Neurology******Winston Salem, North Carolina******USA***

Dr. Bushnell completed her neurology residency training, stroke research fellowship, and graduate degree in clinical research at Duke University. Since joining Wake Forest University School of Medicine in October 2007, she has had a number of leadership roles, including Associate Director of the Women's Health Center of Excellence, medical director of the Wake Forest Baptist Comprehensive Stroke Center, Stroke Section Chief, and Vice Chair for Research. Clinically, she is passionate about both inpatient and outpatient stroke treatment across the continuum, especially the transition of post-acute care and secondary prevention. Her research spans women's issues related to stroke, including sex differences in risk and outcomes. She has received funding from NIH, PCORI, AHRQ, AHA, and the WSO/WFN. She was the chair of the first AHA Guideline for the Prevention of Stroke in Women, and the latest update of the Primary Prevention of Stroke Guidelines in 2024. She is currently Director of the Wake Forest Center for Transformative Stroke Care and Chair of the AHA Stroke Council from July 25 through June 2027

**Dave Clarke, MBBS, ABPN, ABCN*****Ex-Officio Board Member, American Epilepsy Society******The Kozmetsky Family Foundation Endowed Chair of Pediatric Epilepsy******Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics******Dell Medical School, University of Texas at Austin******Chief, Comprehensive Pediatric Epilepsy Center
Dell Children's Medical Center******Austin, Texas******USA***

Dr. Dave Clarke received his medical degree at the University of the West Indies, completed training at Overlook Hospital, University of Michigan Medical Center, and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. He is a boarded diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (Pediatric Neurology, Sleep and Epilepsy) and the American Board of Clinical Neurophysiology. He has done research in medical/surgical epilepsy management with a focus on reducing epi-

lepsy-related disparities and improving access to care delivery. Dr. Clarke was a prior recipient of the Ambassador for Epilepsy ILAE Award in 2021 and the J Kiffin Penry Award for Excellence in Epilepsy Care from the AES, 2023. He also received the Arnold P Gold Humanism in Medicine award from the CNS in 2024.

Dr. Clarke been on several CNS and AES Committees and is presently on the CNS International Affairs Committee and was the prior Associate Chair of the Child Neurology Society's Scientific Program and Planning Committee (2024). He is presently an Ex-Officio AES Board Member and the Chair of the International League Against Epilepsy North America Region representing the AES, CLAE and ESC.



Rebecca Gilbert, MD, PhD

Chief Mission Officer
American Parkinson Disease Association
Staten Island, New York
USA

Dr. Rebecca Gilbert joined APDA in 2018 as Chief Scientific Officer, overseeing APDA's research portfolio and providing medical and clinical expertise to support APDA programming and educational content. Her role expanded when she became Chief Mission Officer, guiding the decisions that shape the programs, services, and research that inform APDA's mission. Dr. Gilbert received her MD degree at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and PhD in Cell Biology and Genetics at the Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences. She completed Neurology Residency training and Movement Disorders Fellowship at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center.

Before joining APDA, Dr. Gilbert was an Associate Professor of Neurology at the Fresco Institute for Parkinson's and Movement Disorders, NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City where she saw Movement disorders patients at both NYU and Bellevue Hospital Center, initiated and directed the NYU Movement Disorders Fellowship, and participated in clinical trials and other research initiatives for Parkinson's disease (PD). She continues to see patients one day a week at Bellevue Hospital Center which keeps her connected to the patient experience.

**Alla Guekht, MD, PhD**

President, International League Against Epilepsy

Professor

Department of Neurology

*Moscow Research and Clinical Center for Neuropsychiatry
Russian Federation*

Dr. Alla Guekht is the Professor in Neurology and Director of the Moscow Research and Clinical Center for Neuropsychiatry. She is a renowned neurologist and epileptologist with over 30 years of experience in clinical practice, research, and education in epilepsy and broader areas of neuroscience, including neuropsychiatry, cognitive disorders, and stroke. She has served the ILAE for over 25 years as the ILAE Treasurer, Vice-President and Chair of the Global Advocacy Council. She is the WHO expert in Brain Health. Prof. Guekht is the recipient of the Bruce Schoenberg International Award and Lecture in Neuroepidemiology (AAN), Ambassador for Epilepsy, European Epilepsy Educational and other prestigious awards. Her research focuses on epilepsy after stroke, epilepsy in older adults, and psychiatric comorbidities with over 400 peer-reviewed papers and H-index 54 (Google Scholar); 43 (Scopus).

**Joaquín Migeot, PhD**

Assistant Professor

School of Psychology, Adolfo Ibáñez University

Latin American Brain Health Institute,

Adolfo Ibáñez University

Santiago, Chile

Joaquín Migeot is an Assistant Professor at the Latin American Brain Health Institute whose research focuses on the intersection of social determinants of health, brain aging, and equity in brain health across Latin America. He is also an Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health. He has authored over 25 peer-reviewed publications in leading international journals, including Nature Medicine, Nature Communications, Nature Aging, Trends in Neurosciences, and Alzheimer's & Dementia. His work integrates social determinants of health, exposome science, and neurobiological markers to understand how structural inequality and lived environments shape brain aging and dementia risk. Methodologically, he combines multimodal neuroimaging, biomarkers, and advanced statistical and machine-learning approaches to model mechanisms linking adversity, allostatic load, interoceptive dysfunction, and neurocognitive decline. He contributes to

large-scale regional collaborations, including the ReDLat Consortium, where he leads the integration and analysis of social, clinical, cognitive, and neuroimaging datasets across multiple Latin American countries.



Njideka Okubadejo, MBChB, FMCP, FANA

***Professor of Neurology and Director
Centre for Neurological Sciences Research and Training
College of Medicine, University of Lagos
Lagos, Nigeria***

Njideka U. Okubadejo is a Professor of Neurology at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, and Consultant Neurologist at Lagos University Teaching Hospital. She specializes in Movement Disorders, and established the first Parkinson's Disease (PD) and Movement Disorders Clinic in west Africa. She was premier Chair of the Africa Section of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society (IPMDS), and is currently on the International Executive Committee. She is co-chair of the IPMDS Committee on Equality of Access to Care, working on enabling access to levodopa in LMICs. Her research is focused on the epidemiology, profile and genetics of PD and related neurodegenerative disorders, especially in African ancestry populations. She leads the Nigeria Parkinson's Disease Research network of about 40 neurologists working collaboratively to study the profile and genetics of PD in Nigeria, working collaboratively with colleagues in the Global Parkinson's Genetics Program (GP2). She serves on the ANA Global Neurology Initiative Workgroup. She is passionate about neurology education, improving access to care for people with neurological disorders, and mentorship.



Silke Walter

***Consultant Neurologist and Vice-Chairman
Department of Neurology
Saarland University
Saarbrücken, Germany***

Professor Silke Walter is a consultant neurologist with additional training in neurological intensive care and prehospital emergency medicine at the Department of Neurology, Saarland University, Germany.

She works as a Member at Large with the Executive Committee of the European Stroke Organisation.

Professor Walter has research experience in clinical and basic science research. Her principal research interests are around

stroke management and prehospital stroke treatment. She was involved in the implementation of the first Mobile Stroke Unit ambulance for prehospital stroke care in 2008 and the first outside-hospital acute stroke intravenous thrombolysis. She has been actively working in this field since then. She is passionate about improving acute stroke care involving the different health care professionals.



MODERATORS

Wednesday,
March 18



Monica M. Diaz, MD, MS

*Assistant Professor of Neurology
Division of Multiple Sclerosis & Neuroimmunology
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of
Medicine
USA*

Dr. Diaz is an assistant professor of neurology in the Division of MS/Neuroimmunology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is the current Vice-Chair of the Global Health section of the American Academy of Neurology and is a member of the Global Engagement Committee of the American Neurological Association. Dr. Diaz has led studies in Peru and Uganda since 2019 with the goal of improving neurological outcomes in Latin America, including studies on epidemiology/risk factors for dementia, cognitive impairment in Peruvians living with HIV and transverse myelitis in Peru. Dr. Diaz has been awarded grants from the NIH, American Academy of Neurology and Alzheimer's Association to study risk factors for dementia in marginalized and rural communities of low-to-middle income countries.



Stefano Sandrone, PhD, MEd, NTF

*Principal Teaching Fellow
Department of Brain Sciences
Imperial College London
United Kingdom*

Dr. Stefano Sandrone is an Italian neuroscientist and internationally recognized leader in neuroscience and medical education. He serves as Principal Teaching Fellow at Imperial College London, where he contributes extensively to innovation and excellence in teaching.

Dr. Sandrone has received numerous prestigious international honors for his contributions to neuroscience education. These include the Science Educator Award from the Society for Neuroscience; the A. B. Baker Teacher Recognition Award (awarded twice) from the American Academy of Neurology; the Miriam Friedman Ben-David

Award from the Association for Medical Education in Europe; the Distinguished Neurology Teacher Award from the American Neurological Association; and the National Teaching Fellowship conferred by Advance HE.

Through his leadership, scholarship, and dedication to teaching excellence, Dr. Sandrone has made significant contributions to advancing neuroscience and medical education globally.

Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA

Chair, American Neurological Association Global Engagement Committee

*Associate Professor of Neurology
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
USA*

Full Bio - [see page 28](#)



Mitchell Wallin, MD, MPH, FANA, FAAN

*Associate Professor of Neurology
Department of Neurology
University of Maryland School of Medicine
USA*

Dr. Wallin completed his medical school training at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis and internship at Northwestern University in Chicago. He trained as an adult neurologist at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and went on to Johns Hopkins to earn an MPH and complete a residency in public health and preventive medicine.

He is currently an academic neurologist holding appointments as Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of Maryland and Professor of Neurology at George Washington University. He is the National Director of the VA Multiple Sclerosis Center of Excellence and oversees 37 Regional MS Centers. Dr. Wallin is a faculty member in the Division of MS and Neuroimmunology at the University of Maryland Department of Neurology. His research interests include global health, neuroinfections and multiple sclerosis. Dr. Wallin is widely published and has receives funding from several non-profit and government sources. He enjoys teaching medical students, residents, and fellows in the DC-Baltimore region.



MODERATORS

Thursday,
March 19



Gretchen Birbeck

Professor
Department of Neurology
University of Rochester
New York
USA

Gretchen L. Birbeck, MD, MPH, DTMH is the Edward A. and Alma Vollertsen Rykenboer Professor of Neurology at the University of Rochester and an internationally recognized leader in global neurology. Her research focuses on epilepsy and other neurological disorders in resource-limited settings, with a particular emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa. For more than two decades, she has worked to expand neurological care, research capacity, and training programs in low-resource environments, including directing the Chikankata Epilepsy Care Team in Zambia.

Dr. Birbeck's research addresses the epidemiology, diagnosis, and treatment of epilepsy and neurologic complications of infectious diseases. Her work has been continuously supported by the National Institutes of Health and other international partners and has contributed to improving neurological care and research infrastructure in LMICs.

She received her medical degree from the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine and completed her neurology residency and epilepsy fellowship at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Birbeck also holds a Master of Public Health and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene and is widely recognized for her contributions to global epilepsy research and training

**Felicia Chow****Professor*****Department of Neurology and Infectious Diseases
University of California, San Francisco
USA***

Dr. Felicia Chow is a board-certified neurologist and neuro-infectious diseases physician who specializes in caring for patients with a wide range of neurological infections, including brain abscesses, neurocysticercosis, neurosyphilis, neurological complications of HIV and infectious causes of meningitis, encephalitis and myelitis. She directs the UCSF Neuro-Infectious Diseases Clinic on the Parnassus campus and also sees patients at San Francisco General Hospital. Dr. Chow has an active clinical research program focused on the epidemiology and pathogenesis of neurological complications of infections (e.g., cerebrovascular disease in HIV), with the goal of developing and implementing diagnostic tools and interventions to improve the outcomes of patients with neuro-infectious diseases worldwide. In addition, she is involved in global health education and mentorship for neurology trainees interested in the field of global health, coordinating international experiences for residents and supporting the development of their scholarly projects.

Dr. Chow earned her undergraduate degree from Columbia University and MD from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She completed an internship in internal medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital followed by a residency in neurology at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, where she was selected to serve as chief resident. She completed fellowship training in neuro-infectious diseases and HIV neurology and earned an MAS in clinical research from UCSF. Dr. Chow is an Associate Professor of Neurology and has a joint appointment in the Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases. She is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, American Neurological Association, Infectious Diseases Society of America and HIV Medicine Association.



Farrah Mateen

**Charles L. Mix Professor of Neurology Research
Chief, Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology
Davee Department of Neurology
Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
Chicago, IL
USA**

Farrah J. Mateen, MD, PhD, FAAN, FANA is a Professor of Neurology in the Division of Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago. She is a clinician-scientist whose work focuses on inflammatory and immune-mediated diseases of the central nervous system, including multiple sclerosis, neuromyelitis optica, transverse myelitis, and other neuroimmunologic disorders.

Dr. Mateen received her MD from the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine and later earned a PhD from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She completed her neurology residency at the Mayo Clinic and fellowship training in neuroimmunology and neurological infections at Johns Hopkins University.

Her research spans clinical neuroimmunology, global neurology, and neuroepidemiology, with a focus on improving diagnosis and treatment of neurological diseases worldwide. She has authored more than 200 peer-reviewed publications and has led or participated in numerous clinical trials investigating new therapies for multiple sclerosis and related disorders.

In addition to her clinical and research work, Dr. Mateen has been actively involved in international health and neurology initiatives, collaborating with organizations and programs that address neurological disease burden in underserved populations. Her contributions to the field have emphasized expanding neurological research capacity globally and improving care for patients with neuroimmunologic conditions.



**Angelina Kakooza Mwesige, MBChB,
MMED, PhD, FANA**

*Associate Professor
Paediatrics and Child Health
Makerere University College of Health Sciences
Kampala, Uganda*

Angelina Kakooza-Mwesige is an Associate Professor and Child neurologist in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health at Makerere University College of Health Sciences in Kampala, Uganda. She manages the pediatric out and in patients at the Mulago, National Referral Hospital, (the university training hospital) in Kampala. She has co-authored over 100 peer reviewed publications and participated as a Principal Investigator on multiple research studies in the fields of neurodevelopmental disorders in children with special emphasis on Epilepsy, Cerebral palsy and Nodding Syndrome. She is the past Chair for the International League Against Epilepsy for the African region (2017-2021). She is a board member of the African Child Neurology Association and the Women in World Neuroscience (WWN), a branch of the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) and founder treasurer of the East African Academy on Childhood Disability. She is also a member of the Uganda National Academy of Sciences, American Neurological Association and the Medical and Science Advisory Committee of Autism Speaks. She is the recipient of the 2025 TWAS-Fayzah M. Al Kharafi Award in Medical Sciences.

MODERATORS

Friday,
March 20



Melody Asukile, MBCHB, MMED, FC NEUROL(SA)

Neurologist

Department of Internal Medicine

University of Zambia School of Medicine

Lusaka, Zambia

Dr. Melody Asukile is a Zambian neurologist and epileptologist dedicated to advancing neurological care, education, and research in sub-Saharan Africa. She serves as an adult neurologist at the University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka and as a lecturer in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Zambia School of Medicine. In these roles, she is actively involved in clinical care, training the next generation of physicians, and strengthening neurology services in Zambia.

Dr. Asukile directs the electroencephalography (EEG) laboratory at the University Teaching Hospital and works to expand access to neurological diagnostics and epilepsy care across the country. Her clinical and research interests focus on epilepsy, particularly improving diagnostic pathways and management strategies in resource-limited settings. She is especially interested in EEG education, the development of sustainable neurology training programs, and innovative approaches to improving neurological care delivery.

In addition to her clinical and academic roles, Dr. Asukile serves as President of the Zambia League Against Epilepsy, where she leads national efforts to improve epilepsy awareness, diagnosis, and treatment. She collaborates with regional and international partners to strengthen epilepsy care and neurological capacity in Zambia and across the region.

Dr. Asukile is currently pursuing a PhD at University College London, where her research focuses on improving epilepsy diagnostic pathways and management in low-resource environments. Through her clinical work, research, and leadership, she is committed to reducing the treatment gap for epilepsy and strengthening neurology services in low- and middle-income countries.

**Fiifi Duodo, MD****Neurologist****Department of Internal Medicine****Korle Bu Teaching Hospital****Accra, Ghana**

Dr. Fiifi Duodo is a neurologist in Ghana and the Educational Chair of the Neurology Society of Ghana, where he plays an active role in neurology education and mentorship, teaching medical students and residents.

Dr. Duodo's clinical and research interests focus on multiple sclerosis, stroke and strengthening neurological care systems in resource-limited settings. He is actively involved in stroke research and initiatives aimed at improving acute stroke care. Through his leadership at Korle Bu Teaching Hospital, he contributed to the development of the national guidelines in stroke management and research collaborations focused on improving stroke outcomes in Ghana.

He is a recipient of the Du Pré Award from the Multiple Sclerosis International Federation in 2023, through which he completed a multiple sclerosis training program in Zambia under the mentorship of Deanna Saylor. During this program, he established the first national registry for Multiple Sclerosis in Ghana and founded the country's first patient support organization for individuals living with MS, advancing both research and advocacy for the disease.

Dr. Duodo has also received the 2025 Grant to Activate Global Engagement (GAGE) from the American Neurological Association to organize AFRICTRIMS inaugural Annual Hybrid Meeting in Ghana. He is a founding member of AFRICTRIMS and currently serves as a member of its executive council.

**Lorraine Chishimba, MBChB, MMED****Neurologist****Department of Internal Medicine****University Teaching Hospital - Adult Hospital****Lusaka, Zambia**

Dr. Lorraine Chishimba is one of the first Zambian trained adult neurologist, based at the University Teaching Hospital - Adult Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia. She is also an honorary lecturer at the University of Zambia School of Medicine in the Department of Internal Medicine. She is currently an executive committee member in the Movement Disorders and Parkinson's Disease Society, the Africa Section (MDS – AS) and has participated in a number of educational programs

for movement disorder offered by organization such as MDS. She has experience in Parkinson's disease and movement disorders, having conducted a study on microbial translocation in Parkinson's disease in Zambia for her dissertation, work which was presented at the virtual MDS congress in 2021. She was co-investigator on a study investigating the Impact of Parkinson's Disease in Zambia, whose manuscript is under preparation. She is the local principal investigator in the Global Parkinson's Genetic Program (GP2) in Zambia and is also currently a UJMT Fogarty fellow (2025/2026) investigating the environmental factors associated with Parkinson's disease in Zambia as well as the treatment response.



Elisabeth Marsh, MD, FANA

***Vice President, American Neurological Association
Professor of Neurology***

Director, Bayview Stroke Center

Vice Chair of Education, Johns Hopkins Neurology

Vice Chair of Clinical Operations, Bayview Neurology

Associate Program Director, JHH Neurology Residency Program

***The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine
Department of Neurology***

***Baltimore, Maryland
USA***

Dr. Marsh is a board certified vascular neurologist whose research interests include post-stroke recovery and post-stroke cognitive impairment. She received her BA in Neuroscience from the Johns Hopkins where she continued her training for medical school, neurology residency, and cerebrovascular fellowship. She is currently a Professor of Neurology at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine within the Cerebrovascular Division. She has greater than 75 peer reviewed publications along with 4 book chapters, 2 invited editorials, and multiple clinical guidelines. In 2014, Dr. Marsh was named the Medical Director of the Stroke Program at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center. She implemented the Bayview Stroke Intervention Clinic, a multi-disciplinary follow-up clinic designed to promote patient follow-up, reduce hospital readmission rates, & enhance post-stroke recovery. Her work focuses on under-reported neurologic deficits that significantly impair long-term functional outcomes. Her research, using magnetoencephalography (MEG) to determine the underlying pathophysiology of

cognitive deficits following minor stroke and neuromodulation to enhance recovery, is supported by the AHA and NIH.



Adesola Ogunniyi, MBBS, FWACP, FMCP, FAS

***Emeritus Professor
Department of Medicine, College of Medicine
University of Ibadan
Nigeria***

Adesola Ogunniyi, MBBS, FWACP, FMCP, FAS, is Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the College of Medicine, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, and a distinguished neurologist and neuroepidemiologist whose work has significantly advanced dementia research and training in Africa. His career has focused on neurodegenerative diseases, epidemiology, and the development of research capacity in low- and middle-income countries.

Professor Ogunniyi has played a central role in international collaborative research on dementia, serving as Director of Research and later Site Principal Investigator for the landmark Indianapolis–Ibadan Dementia Study, a long-running collaborative project examining dementia and aging in African and African American populations. Through this and other funded studies, he has contributed extensively to the understanding of dementia epidemiology and risk factors in African populations.

He is widely recognized for his commitment to mentorship and capacity building. Professor Ogunniyi has mentored numerous early-career investigators through initiatives such as the Medical Education Partnership Initiative (MEPI) and other international training programs, helping to strengthen neurological research and clinical training across Africa. His contributions to global brain health also include service as a member of the World Dementia Council and the Global Council on Brain Health.

Professor Ogunniyi's distinguished career has been recognized with several honors, including the Bruce S. Schoenberg International Neuroepidemiology Award from the American Academy of Neurology in 1991 and the Nature Lifetime Award for Mentoring in Science in 2024. He is a Distinguished Fellow of the Nigerian Postgraduate Medical College and a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science.

**Njideka Okubadejo, MBChB, FMCP, FANA**

*Professor of Neurology and Director
Centre for Neurological Sciences Research and Training
College of Medicine, University of Lagos
Lagos, Nigeria*

Full Bio - [see page 37](#)

**Deanna Saylor, MD, MHS, FANA**

*Chair, American Neurological Association Global
Engagement Committee*

*Associate Professor of Neurology
University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill
USA*

Full Bio - [see page 28](#)

**Omar Siddiqi, MD, MPH, FANA**

*Director, Global Neurology Program Department of
Neurology Center for Virology and Vaccine Research
Department of Internal Medicine Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center Associate Professor of Neurology,
Harvard Medical School
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USA*

*Visiting Lecturer
University of Zambia School of Medicine
Lusaka, Zambia*

Dr. Omar Siddiqi is an Associate Professor of Neurology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Harvard Medical School. He was based full-time at the University of Zambia School of Medicine from 2010 – 2021 where he continues to hold an appointment as Visiting Lecturer. Dr. Siddiqi's research attempts to understand the disease burden of central nervous system opportunistic infections in HIV-infected Zambian adults. He is one of the founding members of the Zambia Institute of Neurological Care, Research, and Education (ZINCARE).

**Anil Wadhvani, MD, PhD***Instructor**Department of Neurology**University of Pennsylvania**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**USA*

Anil Wadhvani, MD, PhD, is an Instructor in Neurology at the University of Pennsylvania and a behavioral neurologist. His research centers on tau pathology in aging and disease, with a focus on defining genetic and epigenetic modifiers of disease severity, spread, and resilience. Using translational multi-omic and biomarker-based approaches, his work aims to clarify why some individuals remain cognitively resilient despite neuropathology and how these insights may inform precision diagnostics and therapeutics. Dr. Wadhvani completed his medical and graduate training at Northwestern University, and neurology residency at the University of Pennsylvania. He will join New York University as an Assistant Professor of Neurology, where he will continue building a translational research program focused on healthy brain aging.

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