



Worldwide FINGERS Network Teleconference
www.alz.org/wwfingers

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

7am Eastern Time/1pm Central European Summer Time/11am Greenwich Mean Time

I. Welcome

Miia Kivipelto, MD, PhD &
Maria Carrillo, PhD

- Professor Miia Kivipelto and Dr. Heather Snyder welcomed the WW FINGERS network members and shared new funding for SINGER and UK MET FINGER studies.
- Harmonization of the WW FINGERS network is ongoing. This includes development of a recently funded federated database and creation of a science and publication policy to support members and facilitate collaboration.

II. Surveying WW FINGERS Network Study Participants During the Global Pandemic

a. FINGER Survey

Tiia Ngandu, MD, PhD

- Dr. Ngandu shared the state of Finland and COVID-19, with more than 13,000 cases that are currently on the rise. Both the infection and the measures in place to contain COVID-19 have an impact on the older population.
- The FINGER study started 10 years ago. Five and seven year follow up visits have been completed and COVID-19 has interfered with the 10-year follow up.
- The FINGER SARS-CoV2 survey was developed to understand how the participants have been impacted by the pandemic and to estimate the contribution of COVID-19 on long-term effects of FINGER.
- Preliminary data from the first 600 participants was shared and overall, there were few changes in lifestyles, health and well-being of the participants. Further, even in the situation like the COVID-19 pandemic, it is possible to adhere to healthy lifestyle.

b. WW-FINGERS-SARS-Cov-2 Initiative

Francesca Mangialasche, MD, PhD

- Dr. Mangialasche shared that use of the FINGER SARS-CoV2 survey is open to the WW FINGERS Network. This survey is part of the WHO Neurology & COVID-19 Global Forum and 28 countries have expressed interest.

- Objectives for this survey are to explore relevant research questions, inform better care of older adults and understand how to adapt and successfully deliver WW FINGERS trials.
- The main research questions will cover how the pandemic and pandemic restrictions have affected lifestyle, the management of non-communicable diseases, affected overall physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- The survey will have core questions and optional questions depending on the target population. There is flexibility in delivery methods (pen/paper, online and by phone), language and length of survey. Data collection will be done through REDCap (or excel file if REDCap is not available).

c. Moderated Discussion

- Christopher Chen shared the progress surveying study participants in Singapore. Regulatory requirements have been achieved and the study team has begun to interview participants with a target of 300+ participants in a year. Some issues have been identified including the length of the questionnaire.

III. Methodological Challenges Continuing Discussions & Next Steps

a. Next steps

Mark Espeland, PhD

- A methodological forum was hosted in September that focused on statistical plans/design among WW FINGERS trials related to COVID-19 pandemic.
- The pandemic has been particularly challenging for behavior intervention trials due to suspension of in person contact and the social isolation may adversely affect lifestyle comorbidities.
- An opportunity was identified to put together paper on how statistical design and analysis plans in WW FINGERS network trials are affected by pandemic.
- A writing group has been formed that includes representation from FINGER, US POINTER, AgeWell.de and J-MINT, with the intention of a broad acknowledgment of WW FINGERS study group.
- Lefkos Middleton shared that preliminary data was published in A&D TRCI in August that outlined key methodological challenges and how mitigated them. These papers will be shared with the network members.

b. Group Discussion

Moderator: Markku Peltonen, PhD

- The methodological technical meetings will continue as well as the discussion of the method paper. Upcoming meetings will be announced to the network soon.

IV. Closing Remarks

- Plans for a work group on the harmonization of methods for fluid based biomarkers was discussed. Progress will be announced at the March meeting.