

Current as of 4/22/2026

UsAgainstAlzheimer's

Advancing Women's Brain Health: A Policy Convening

THURSDAY
04.23.2026

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session Name Confirmed Speakers</i>
8:00AM	Check-In & Breakfast
8:45AM	Welcome & Opening Remarks Catherine Patterson, MPP, Acting Chief Operating Officer, UsAgainstAlzheimer's George Vradenburg, Chairman and Co-Founder, UsAgainstAlzheimer's
9:00AM	Keynote Address Rachel F. Buckley, PhD, Associate Professor of Neurology, Mass General Brigham and Harvard Medical School
9:35AM	Setting the Stage – Women's Real-World Experiences This panel will set the tone for the day, providing an intimate look into how Alzheimer's affects women. Participants will share how Alzheimer's disease has impacted their lives, from navigating career shifts, determining how best to understand and navigate sex-based genetic and biological differences, to embrace differential risk reduction strategies, and to mitigate the barriers and to adopt the facilitators they've identified along the way. Meryl Comer, Co-Founder, UsAgainstAlzheimer's, caregiver (Moderator) Wendy Nelson, PhD President & Founder, Boston Biotech Forum LLC, living with APOE4 gene, caregiver Angela F. Williams, JD, MDiv, Immediate Past President and Chief Executive Officer United Way Worldwide, caregiver
10:35AM	Advancing Research on Sex Differences in Dementia In the biomedical research panel, experts will discuss key hypotheses regarding the differential risk of Alzheimer's disease in women, including contributions of life course factors ranging from maternity to adolescence to mid-life and to later life stages, from social determinants of health and genetics to life-stage endocrine changes to the influence of chronic disease. Participants will also consider how data availability and access influence research and how NIH can prioritize policy changes that can accelerate our ability to optimize brain health in women. Jennifer Luray, Senior Vice President, Strategy and Public Engagement, Research!America (Moderator) Kaitlin Casaletto, PhD, Associate Professor, UCSF Fein Memory and Aging Center, Ann S. Bowers Women's Brain Health Initiative Lori Frank, PhD, Chief Scientist, AD PACE, UsAgainstAlzheimer's; Strategic Advisor for Research, Women's Health Access Matters (WHAM); Senior Research Fellow, National Alliance for Caregiving Jill M. Goldstein, PhD, MPH, Professor of Psychiatry and Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Founder & Exec. Director, Innovation Center on Sex Differences in Medicine (ICON-X); Helen T. Moerschner Endowed Research Institute Chair in Women's Health, Massachusetts General Hospital & Mass General Brigham Healthcare
11:35AM	Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-38), Member, House Ways & Means Committee
12:00PM	Senator Susan Collins (ME), Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations; Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
12:15PM	Buffet Lunch provided

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1:00PM	Senator Andy Kim (NJ) , Member, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Member, Senate Aging Committee
1:20PM	Women's Brain Health in the Clinical Pipeline In the drug development panel, experts will discuss ideas and strategies to ensure that sex-based differences in FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatments are identified and addressed. Discussion will focus on how to ensure that clinical trials and real world studies produce sex-disaggregated data and analyses. Kathryn Godburn Schubert, MPP, CAE , President & CEO, Society for Women's Health Research (Moderator) Dawn A. Brooks, PhD , Global Development Leader, Alzheimer's Disease, Eli Lilly & Co Teresa Buracchio, MD , Director, Neuroscience, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Suzanne Hendrix, PhD , CEO, Pentara Sarah Kleinpeter , Senior Vice President, Alzheimer's and Dementia Franchise Head, Biogen, Inc.
2:30PM	Closing the Gender Gap – Public Health Strategies for Reducing Women's Dementia Risk In the public health panel, participants will discuss how our nation's public health system, including CDC, can adapt to meet the unique needs of men and women. Experts will address the unique contributors to dementia risk in women, how to translate population-level research into action, and how the nation's public health infrastructure must adapt and evolve. John Auerbach, MBA , Senior Vice President, Public Health ICF (Moderator) Karen Hacker, MD, MPH , Adjunct Professor and Health Policy Fellow, Department of Health Policy and Management, Emory University, Rollins School of Public Health; Former Director, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Paula F. Nickelson , Founder + CEO, Impact-Leader; Former state health officer, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Judy Pa, PhD , Professor, Neurosciences; Co-Director, Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study, University of California, San Diego
3:30PM	Policy Priority Setting - Audience Discussion In this session, all participants will engage in a moderated discussion of the highest-level policy priorities in addressing sex-based differences in brain health that have emerged from the course of the panel presentations and discussions. Participants are encouraged to highlight needs in data, resources, and federal policies and practices; identify individuals and organizations who can play critical roles in leveraging current opportunities and prompting change; and document future workstream needs and deliverables, as well as metrics by which the initiative can be assessed. Framing the group's recommendations in the context of making women's brain health a national priority, and not only a federal priority, will be critical. Erika Sward , Chief Advocacy Officer, UsAgainstAlzheimer's (Moderator)
3:55PM	Closing Remarks Jill Lesser , Board Member, UsAgainstAlzheimer's; Founding President, WomenAgainstAlzheimer's