This year, the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference welcomed 4000 leading experts from 75 countries around the world, to Copenhagen, Denmark. Hundreds of brilliant minds within the medical and scientific research communities convened at the Bella Centre to discuss the most recent findings in Alzheimer’s disease research as well as future methods of treatment, care and prevention.

Upon our arrival we attended preconference meetings including one on Technology and Dementia which featured presentations by researchers who utilize mobile technology, social networking, and home-based technology to improve the care and support that is provided to individuals living with dementia as well as their caregivers. Among the organizing committee for this preconference, were some Canadians including Dr. Alex Mihailidis of the University of Toronto who has been supported by the Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP) over the course of his career.

The International Alzheimer’s Disease Research Funder’s Consortium also convened to discuss topics such as the G7 Legacy Event, Scientific Reproducibility and the International Alzheimer Disease Research Portfolio. This Consortium, composed of approximately 20 research funding organizations from around the world, was established to identify and promote new areas of common, global interest that the funders wish to develop and collaboratively fund.

Following that was the Third Annual Meeting of the International Research Teams of the CIHR International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer’s disease. Dr. Howard Chertkow, Principal Investigator of the Canadian Consortium of Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) presented on this initiative; followed by the CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Canada, Mimi Lowi-Young who shared the perspective of a national partner within the CCNA (seen below).
From July 12-17, 2014, the conference featured over 1700 scientific presentations including 5 plenary sessions, 8 symposiums, 17 Featured Research Sessions, 3 Focussed Topic Sessions, 59 oral sessions and 1481 poster presentations. Presenting within the oral sessions were 19 Canadian researchers, including the following, who have been supported by the Alzheimer Society Research Program:

**Dr. Ken Rockwood** of Dalhousie University spoke about how modeling the intensity of the initial treatment response forecasts dementia progression in Alzheimer’s disease.

**Dr. Simon Duchesne** of Laval University presented on how a fraction of cases of amnesic minimal cognitive impairment progression is attributable to the interaction between the severity of the cognitive decline and cardiovascular risk factors.

**Dr. Andrea Leblanc**, of McGill University discussed how NLRP1 inflammasome regulates Caspase-1-mediated Cspase-6 activation in human neurons.

**Dr. Carol Hudon** of Laval University and **Dr. Sylvie Belleville** from the University of Montreal spoke about genetic and epigenetic blood signature of mild cognitive impairment in prodromal Alzheimer’s disease.

In addition to ASRP funded researchers, **Dr. John Breitner** of McGill University, who serves on the ASRP Biomedical Panel, spoke about the association between lifetime occupational exposure to pesticides and cognitive decline in the elderly.

**Dr. Larry Chambers**, **Scientific Advisor to ASC** presented on how the Impact of memory testing in different care settings may result in mislabelling of Dementia.

**Mimi Lowi-Young**, CEO of ASC participated in a debate with representatives from the medical, university and stakeholder communities about *Corporate/financial interest or good patient care? Is research evidence about prevention and pharmaceutical interventions for dementia being oversold?*
Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark welcomed attendees to the Alzheimer Association International Conference prior to the opening plenary session.
Debbie Benczkowzki (COO, Alzheimer Society of Canada) and Mimi Lowi-Young (CEO, Alzheimer Society of Canada) at the opening reception for the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference at Tivoli Gardens.

In collaboration with CIHR Institutes of Aging and Neuroscience, the Alzheimer Society of Canada co-hosted a reception for Canadian Researchers and International Partners.

Mimi Lowi-Young welcomes international partners and Canadian researchers to the reception.
Marc Wortman (Executive Director of Alzheimer Disease International), Mimi Lowi-Young (CEO of Alzheimer Society of Canada), Dr. Tony Phelps (Deputy Director of Neurology, National Institute on Aging), Dr. Howard Chertkow (McGill University), Dr. Larry Chambers (Scientific Advisor, Alzheimer Society of Canada)

From left to right: Dr. Tony Phillips, (Scientific Director, Institute of Neuroscience Mental Health and Addiction), World Dementia Envoy, Dr. Dennis Gillings (Quintiles), Mimi Lowi-Young (CEO, Alzheimer Society of Canada), Dr. Yves Joannette (Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Aging), Joanne Goldberg (Assistant Director, CIHR Institute of Aging), Marc Wortmann (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Disease International), Dr. Philip Amouyel (French Foundation of Scientific co-operation in Alzheimer’s Disease), Dr. Étienne Hirsch, Aviesan, France.
Marc Wortmann (Executive Director, Alzheimer’s Disease International) and Debbie Benczkowski (COO, Alzheimer Society of Canada)

Nalini Sen (Director, Research Program, Alzheimer Society of Canada), Joanne Goldberg (Assistant Director, CIHR Institute of Aging), Dr. Heather Snyder (Director, Medical and Scientific Relations, Alzheimer’s Association)
“Father of Alzheimer’s research”, Dr. Zaven Khachaturian, (Khachaturian Radebaugh and Associates, Inc. and Reviewer of the Alzheimer Society Research Program), Mimi Lowi-Young (CEO of the Alzheimer Society of Canada), Dr. Alex Mihailidis (University of Toronto)

Dr. Yoshiki Niimi (Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan), Dr. Kenji Toba (National Center for Geriatrics and Gerontology of Japan) and guest
Victor Whitehead (CCNA, National Operations Manager), Dr. Larry Chambers (Scientific Advisor, ASC), Mimi Lowi-Young (CEO, Alzheimer Society of Canada), Debbie Benczkowski (COO, Alzheimer Society of Canada), Dr. Howard Chertkow (McGill University and PI of the CCNA), Dr. Yves Joanette (Scientific Director, CIHR Institute of Aging)

Throughout the week, 1481 posters were presented by investigators from around, within the main exhibit hall at the conference. Included, were presentations from 108 Canadians.

Accompanied by her supervisor, Dr. Frederic Calon, Milene Vandal from the University of Laval in Quebec presents her findings on how insulin can reverse the impact of a fat-induced diet on the brain by improving memory in animal models with Alzheimer’s disease. This research is supported by the Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP).
**Dr. Howard Chertkow** of McGill University presented on the Canadian Consortium for Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA). **Dr. Chertkow** is the Principal Investigator for the CCNA.

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**Dr. Annie-Kim Gilbert** and **Dr. Syvie Belleville**, a past ASRP grant recipient, presented on CIMA-Q—Quebec’s consortium which has been developed to identify prodromal (early symptoms of) Alzheimer’s disease.
ASRP recipient, **Dr. Simon Duchesne** and his student **Yuliya Bodryzlova** of Laval University present on the Clinical role of brain atrophy in amestic mild cognitive impairment progression to Alzheimer’s disease: follow-up study of patients with globally normal cognitive function.

Appointee to the Order of Ontario and past ASRP recipient, **Dr. Sandra Black**, of the University of Toronto, speaks about how repurposing drugs for hypertension may slow down the progression of Alzheimer’s disease.
ASRP funded research was presented on *Abnormal Regulation of Endogenous Tau Metabolism in Microna-132 Knockout Mice*.

World renowned neurologist and researcher **Dr. Donald Weaver**, from the University of Toronto, presents his ASRP supported work on the *Development of Tryptophan-based beta-Amyloid Anti-Aggregants*.
A poster was presented by an ASRP research grant recipient, **Dr. Collette Smart**, on *Structural Brain Changes in Default Mode Network Areas in Older Adults with Subjective Cognitive Decline Compared to Healthy Controls.*

The Alzheimer Society of Canada co-hosted an early career reception along with Alzheimer Society UK, Alzheimer’s Research UK, Alzheimer Nederland, Alzheimer Drug Discovery Foundation, CIHR, and the US National Institutes of Health to interact with doctoral and post-doctoral students as well as young investigators within their first faculty positions, and to speak to them about the various international funding opportunities that are available.

CEO of the Alzheimer’s Association (US), **Harry Johns** welcomes early career researchers to the reception.
It was a privilege to be apart of such an invigorating international forum that brought together hundreds of dedicated clinicians and scientists, the top research funders and industry leaders to exchange the latest knowledge and research results within the field. It is the unwavering commitment and astounding expertise from around the globe that excites me about the future; where I believe, we will one day live in a world that is free from Alzheimer’s disease.