

cingulum ( $p$ -value = 0.015). Under tau 1, higher brain entropy was also found in LLD than in MCI in right orbital part of medial frontal gyrus and left globus pallidus ( $p$ -value = 0.007 and 0.005).

**Conclusions:** Our result is consistent with prior hypothesis where higher brain entropy was found during early aging process as compensation. We found such phenomenon particular in left globus pallidus in LLD, which could be served as a discriminative brain region. Being a key region in reward system, we hypothesis such region may be associated with apathy and with unique pathway of cognitive decline in LLD. We will undertake subsequent analysis longitudinally in this cohort

**Key words:** resting-state fMRI, Late-life depression, Brain entropy, globus pallidus, cognitive decline

## **FC49: Alzheimer's Symposium: A Perspective from the Academy**

**Author:** Florencia Velazquez-Morales

The World Health Organization (WHO) proclaimed September 21 as World Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Day and extended the observance to the entire month. Various awareness campaigns are being conducted around the world, with special emphasis on the importance of education to improve the quality of life for patients, families, and the community at large, and to eliminate stigma and ageism.

It is estimated that there are approximately 44 million people worldwide with some form of dementia, while in the United States it reaches 5.4 million. In Puerto Rico, it is estimated that there are approximately 60,000 people with Alzheimer's disease. An AARP study (2021) showed that there are over 500,000 caregivers of older adults, making Puerto Rico one of the top three countries with the largest aging population and the 6th country in the world. While in Latin America and the Caribbean there is a prevalence between 6.2 and 6.5 per 100 adults aged 60 years or older (WHO).

This health and social situation require an educated and empowered society to meet the challenges. Muñoz et. al (2023) conducted a qualitative study with caregivers and found that 91% of the participants stated that training would help them provide better care to the elderly. Social work is one of the main disciplines dealing with this social phenomenon and should therefore play a leading role in education and therapeutic intervention.

For the past five years, the Department of Social Work at Inter-American University, Metro Campus, has joined and supported the cause through the celebration of the Alzheimer's Symposium: A Perspective from the Academy. This event involves the entire university community, as well as the community at large, which includes caregivers, government and non-profit agencies, and professionals from various disciplines. There will be concurrent lectures, Discussions among local and international professionals, a film forum, poster presentations, artistic expressions, and educational tables. The 6th Symposium will be held on September 20, 2024. The Symposium is promoted through various media. This activity has generated alliances, recommendations and new educational projects that contribute to the well-being of older adults.

**Keywords:** Education, Alzheimer's, Caregivers, Academia, Stigma, Partnerships, Dementia, Elderly, Symposium, Aging, Quality of Life, Quality of Life, Puerto Rico