

Plenary 1:

Title: Mental Health Needs of Older People in LMIC in a Connected World: a Latin America Perspective

Cleusa Ferri (Brazil)

The mental health of older people in Latin America has become increasingly significant due to population ageing and changes in social structures across the region. Older adults in the region, as in many parts of the world, face significant challenges that can impact their mental health, including poverty, social isolation, limited access to healthcare, and the stigma associated with both mental health issues and ageing.

Access to mental healthcare services in the region is particularly limited for older adults, with a shortage of geriatric specialists and mental health professionals trained to address their specific needs. Changes in family structures, and the lack of support received by informal caregivers, can influence the availability and quality of informal support and caregiving networks, affecting both older people and caregivers' mental health.

While the mental health of older people in Latin America is a subject that is gaining attention, significant gaps persist in terms of healthcare access, social support, and effective policy implementation. We will explore some of the key factors influencing the mental health of older adults in the region, alongside the current efforts and challenges in developing innovative policies and programs aimed at promoting their mental health and well-being.

Plenary 2:

Title: Elevating Geriatric Mental Healthcare within an Evolving Healthcare Landscape

Brent Forester (United States)

This presentation illuminates the imperative role of geriatric psychiatry amidst an ever-changing healthcare paradigm and the rising prevalence of older adults with mental health challenges and neurocognitive disorders that drive an escalation in health care spending. Utilizing a holistic approach to assessment and treatment, the field of geriatric psychiatry has the transformative potential to streamline care costs and elevate the quality of mental health services for older adults and individuals with dementia.

Exploring diverse healthcare frameworks such as the value-based care model in the US and global payment systems such as those in the Veterans Administration and other socialized medical environments, the lecture advocates for the implementation of integrated geriatric mental health care models. Through an evidence-based analysis of models such as Collaborative Care, Care Ecosystem and Alzheimer's Dementia Care (ADC), the presentation highlights the central role of geriatric mental health care in driving improvements in care quality while reducing overall healthcare expenditures.

Drawing from personal insights and professional experiences, the speaker offers a nuanced perspective on the journey towards comprehensive geriatric mental health integration within healthcare system environments. By championing innovation and advocating for integrated care practices, the presentation aims to inspire attendees to embrace a proactive stance in designing and implementing progressive and interdisciplinary geriatric mental health solutions on a global scale.