



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND



NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

# The real potential to prevent Alzheimer's disease

**Miia Kivipelto, MD, Geriatrician, PhD  
Professor, Director**

**Karolinska Institutet, Center for Alzheimer Research  
and Karolinska University Hospital**

CAHS FORUM ON DEMENTIA, September 17, 2015

# Are there ways to prevent cognitive impairment and dementia/AD?

- **State of the art**
- **Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability**

 FINGER

- **Future directions: Multi-domain, multinational studies and pragmatic prevention programs**



# Dementia as a public health priority

**47 million**: number of people living with dementia worldwide in 2015; this number is expected to almost **double by 2030** and more than **triple by 2050**.

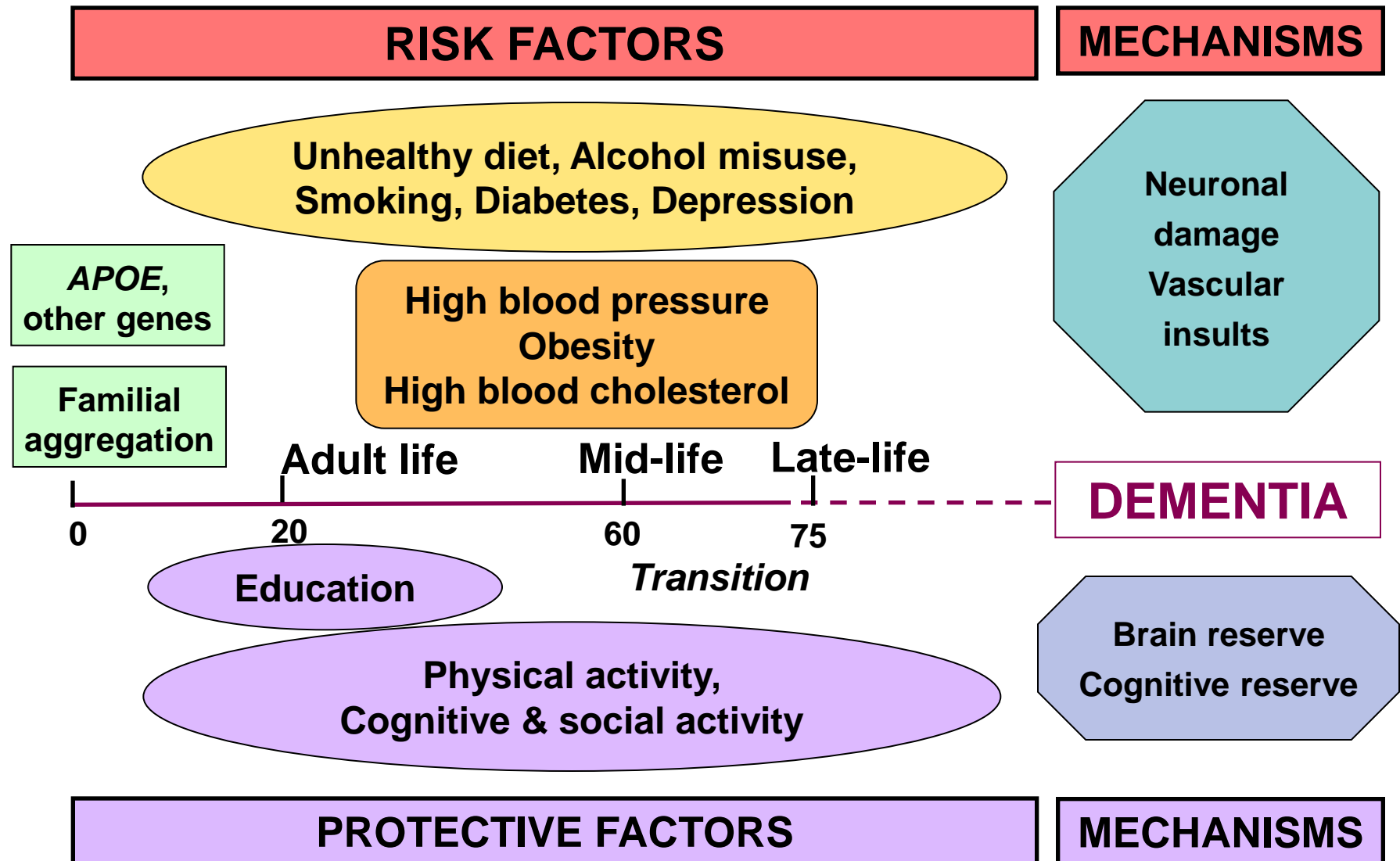
**US \$818 billion**: global cost of dementia estimated in 2014.

**AD prevention and adequate care**: worldwide priorities

**AD drug development**: major political, academic and industrial effort

WHO 2012 report; Alzheimer Disease International 2015; G8 Dementia Summit, Health Ministers, 2013; **WHO Ministerial Conference on Global Action Against Dementia, 2015**

# Dementia and Alzheimer disease: importance of life-long exposure to multiple factors



# Trends of reduced dementia occurrence

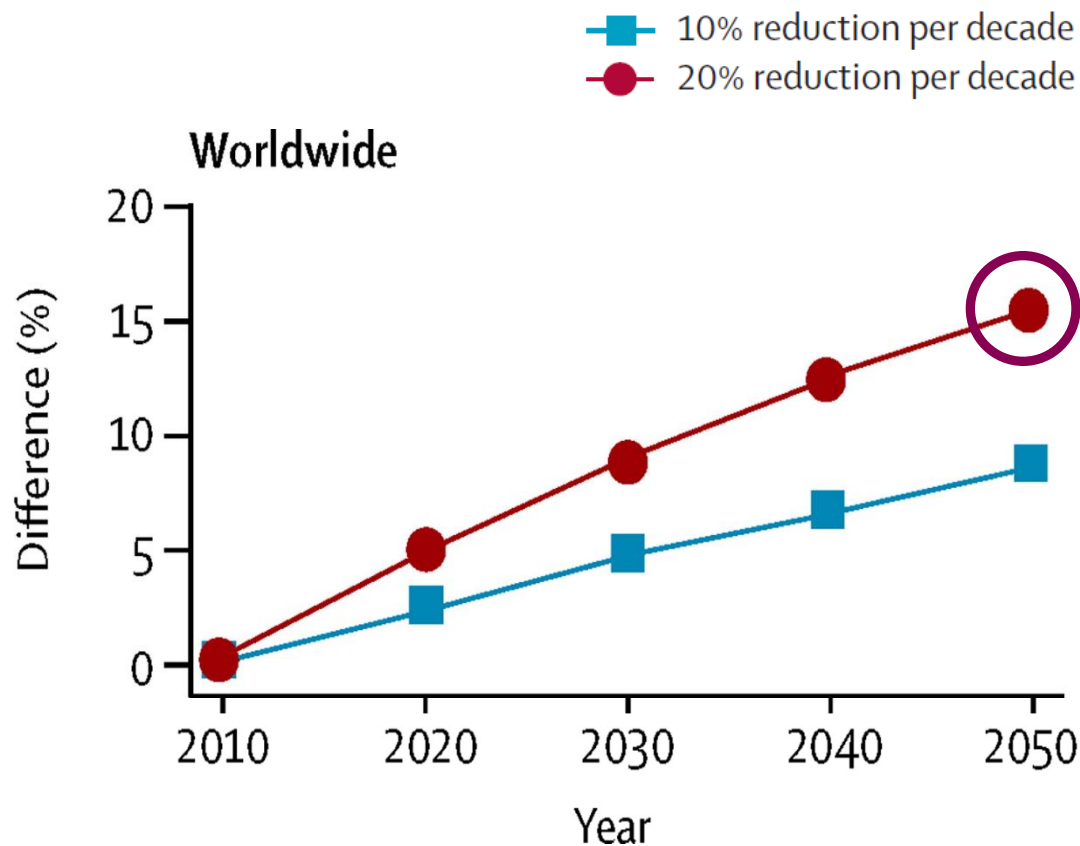
Selected Recent Studies of the Dementia Epidemic.

| Study   | Outcome                                   | Data Source   | Key Findings  | Factors  |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| Manton et al.<br>(United States) <sup>1</sup> | Prevalence of severe cognitive impairment | National long-term care survey interviews, 1982–1999  | Decline in dementia prevalence among people ≥65 yr of age (5.7% to 2.9%)  | Higher educational level, decline in stroke incidence  |
| Langa et al.<br>(United States) <sup>2</sup>  | Prevalence of cognitive impairment        | Ongoing population-based survey of people ≥51 yr of age                                     | Prevalence of cognitive impairment among people ≥70 yr of age (12.2% in 1993 vs. 8.7% in 2002)  | Higher educational level; combination of medical, lifestyle, demographic, and social factors |
| Schrijvers et al.<br>(Rotterdam) <sup>3</sup> | Incidence of dementia                     | Population-based cohort ≥55 yr of age in 1990, extended in 2000                             | Incidence rate ratios (6.56 per 1000 person-yr in 1990 vs. 4.92 per 1000 person-yr in 2000)   | Higher educational level, reduction in vascular risk, decline in stroke incidence            |
| Qiu et al.<br>(Stockholm) <sup>4</sup>        | Prevalence of DSM-III-R dementia*         | Cross-sectional survey of people ≥75 yr of age, 1987–1989 and 2001–2004                     | Age- and sex-standardized dementia prevalence (17.5% in 1987–1989 vs. 17.9% in 2001–2004); lower hazard ratio for death in later cohort suggests decreased dementia incidence | Favorable changes in risk factors, especially vascular risk; healthier lifestyles            |
| Matthews et al.<br>(England) <sup>5,†</sup>   | Prevalence of dementia in 3 regions       | Survey interviews of people ≥65 yr of age, 1989–1994 (in CFAS I) and 2008–2011 (in CFAS II) | Dementia prevalence (8.3% in CFAS I vs. 6.5% in CFAS II)  | Higher educational level, better prevention of vascular disease                              |

*Larson et al., NEJM 2013*

# To what extent can Alzheimer dementia be prevented?

| Risk factor          | PAR   |
|----------------------|-------|
| Diabetes mellitus    | 2.9%  |
| Midlife hypertension | 5.1%  |
| Midlife obesity      | 2.0%  |
| Physical inactivity  | 12.7% |
| Depression           | 7.9%  |
| Smoking              | 13.9% |
| Low education        | 19.1% |
| Combined PAR*        | 28.2% |



PAR=population-attributable risk.

\*Adjusting for non-independence of the risk factors.

**Randomize**  **led trials**

# The pre-FINGER framework

- Long tradition in risk factor monitoring: The FINRISK Study



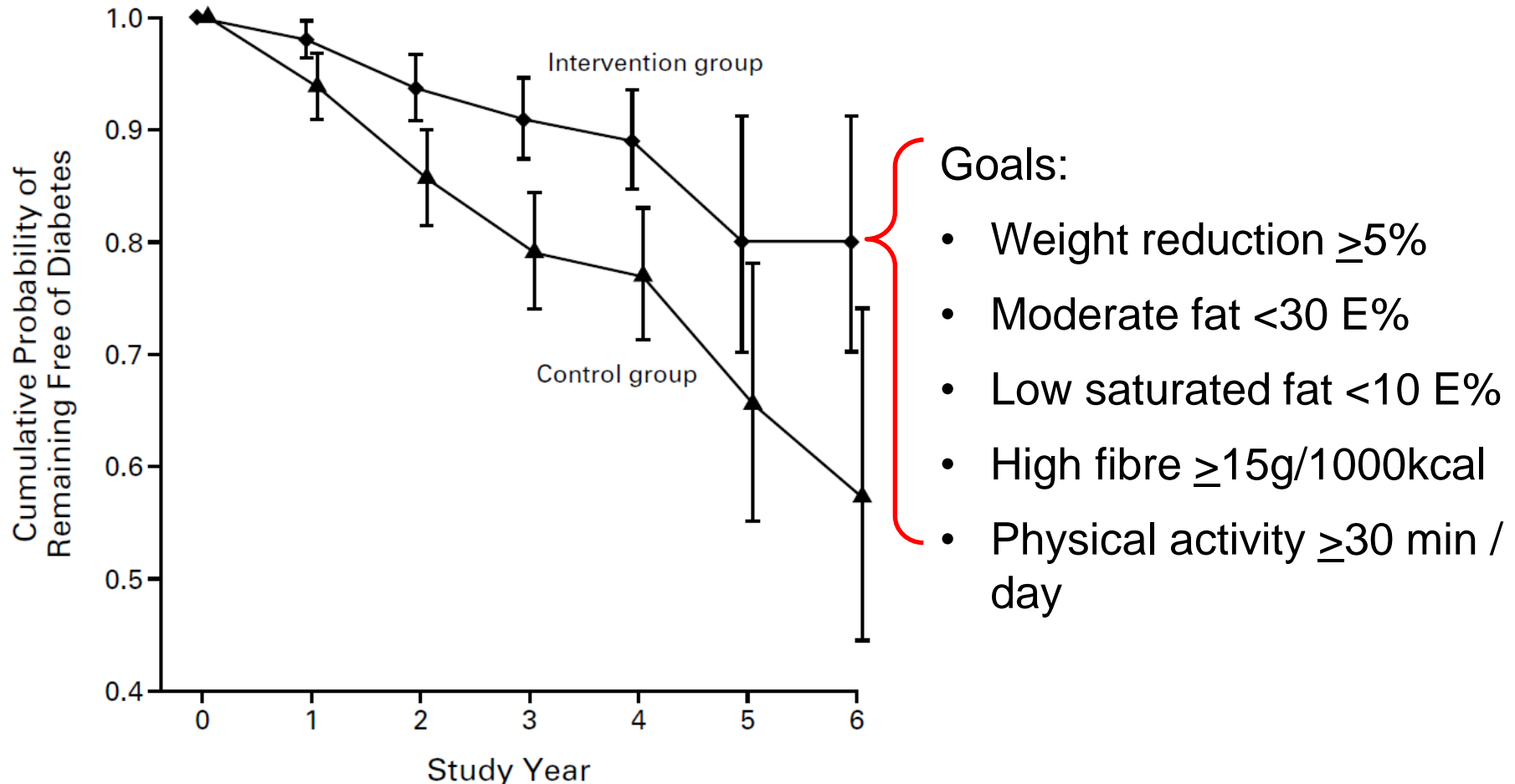
CAIDE

- Intervention studies: North Karelia Project, Finnish Diabetes Prevention Study, Dose-Responses to Exercise Training
- Integrating multidomain intervention to prevent cognitive impairment into the existing framework

 FINGER



# The Finnish Diabetes Prevention Study (DPS): Diabetes incidence was decreased by 58%



# FINGER

## Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND



NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE



Karolinska  
Institutet

OULUN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY OF OULU



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku



# FINGER

- **Proof-of-concept trial - multidomain approach to cognitive decline prevention**
- **At-risk segment** of the general elderly population (not patients)
- **2-year multi-domain lifestyle intervention:**
  - Nutritional guidance
  - Physical activity
  - Cognitive training and social activities
  - Monitoring of metabolic and vascular risk factors: hypertension, dyslipidemia, obesity, impaired glucose tolerance

**Clinicaltrials.gov NCT01041989**

Protocol in *Kivipelto, Solomon et al., Alzheimer & Dementia* 2013

# FINGER

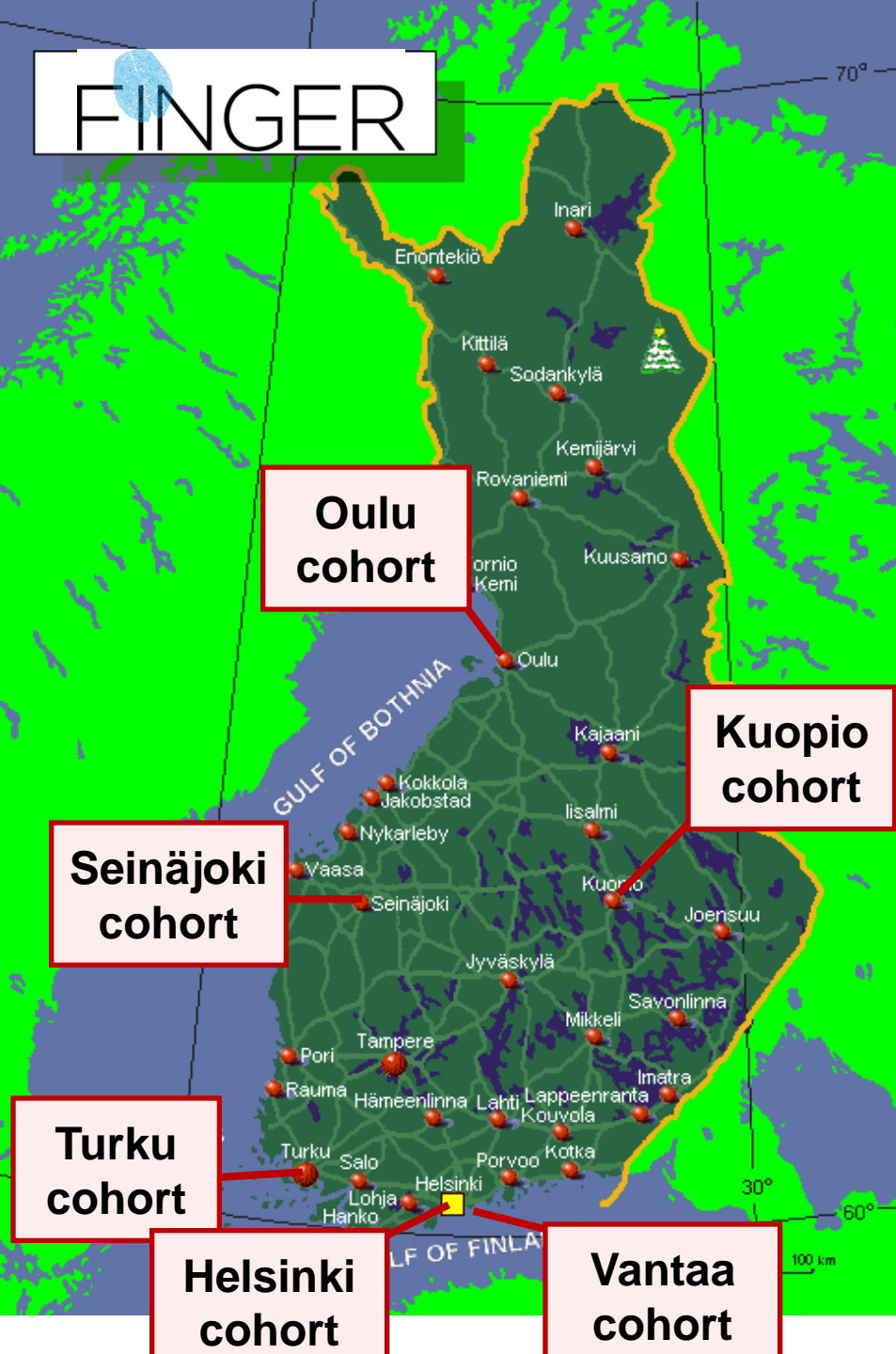
Principal Investigator:  
Prof. Miia Kivipelto

## Participants:

- Previous national surveys (FINRISK)
- N=1260
- Age 60-77y
- Randomized into 2 groups (1:1)

## Time schedule:

- Intervention completed February 2014
- Extended 5-year follow-up starts April 2015
- Extended 7-year follow-up planned



# FINGER

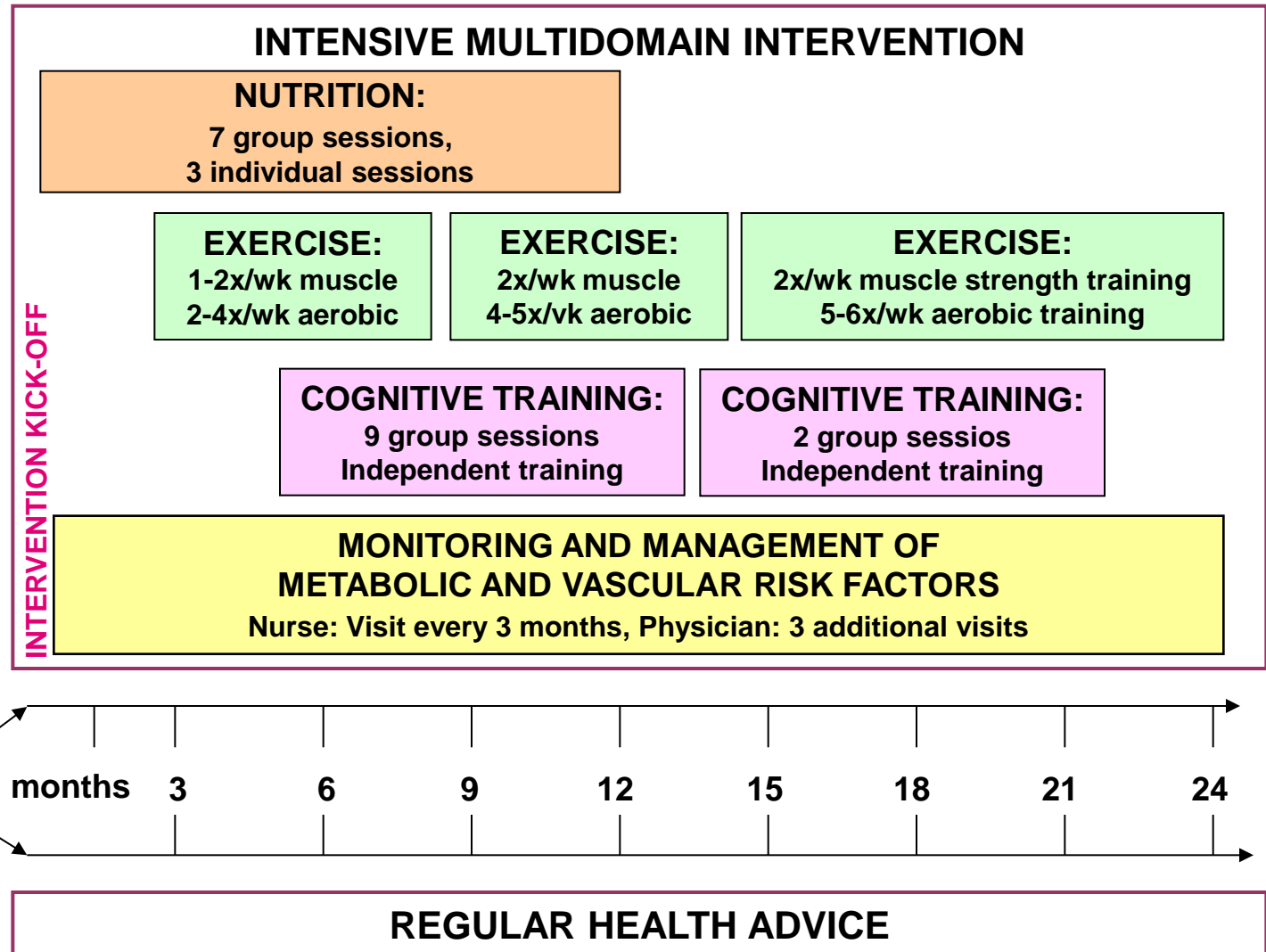
## **INCLUSION CRITERIA: persons at risk of dementia/cognitive decline**

### ➤ **Dementia Risk score $\geq 6$ points**

**Based on risk factors assessed in earlier population surveys: Age, Education, Sex, SBP, Cholesterol, BMI, Physical Activity** (Kivipelto et al., Lancet Neurology 2006)

## **AND**

### ➤ **Cognitive performance at mean level or slightly lower than expected for age** (based on CERAD test battery)



# FINGER

## OUTCOMES

### ➤ Primary:

→ **Neuropsychological Test Battery (NTB) total z score (cognitive change)**

### ➤ Secondary:

#### ➤ Dementia/AD (after 7 years)

→ Depressive symptoms (Zung scale)

→ Vascular risk factors, morbidity and mortality

→ Disability (questionnaire, ADL + IADL)

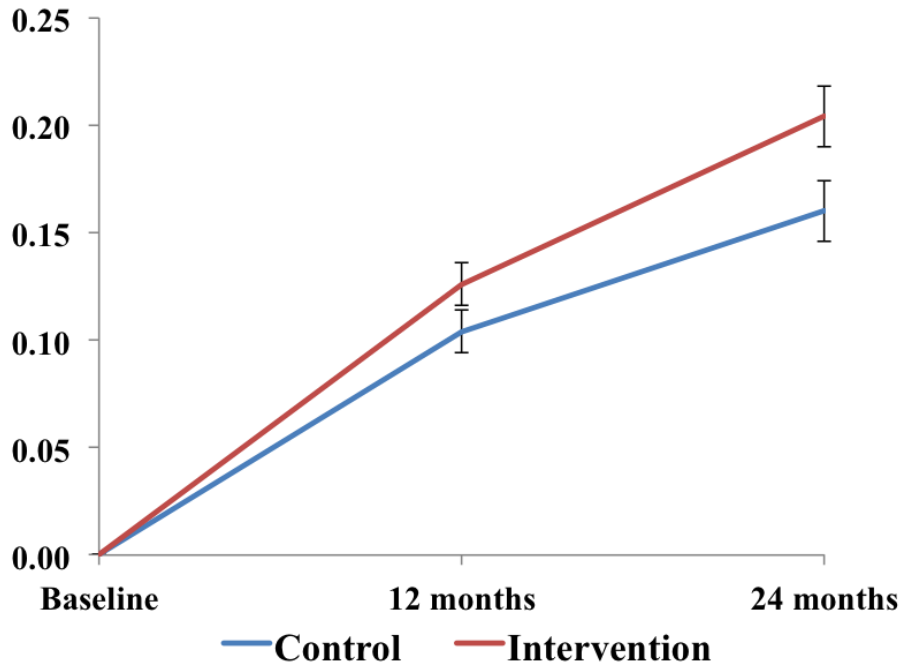
→ Quality of life (RAND-36, 15D)

→ Utilization of health resources

→ Blood markers (i.e. inflammation, redox status, lipid and glucose metabolism, telomere length)

→ Brain MRI measures (n=200) and PET (n=60)

# Primary efficacy outcome: global cognition (NTB composite Z score)



**Intervention group: 25%  
higher improvement**

**Difference between intervention and  
control groups per year:**  
Estimate (95% CI) = 0.022 (0.002-0.042)  
**p=0.03**

**Lines** = estimates for cognitive change from baseline to 12 and 24 months

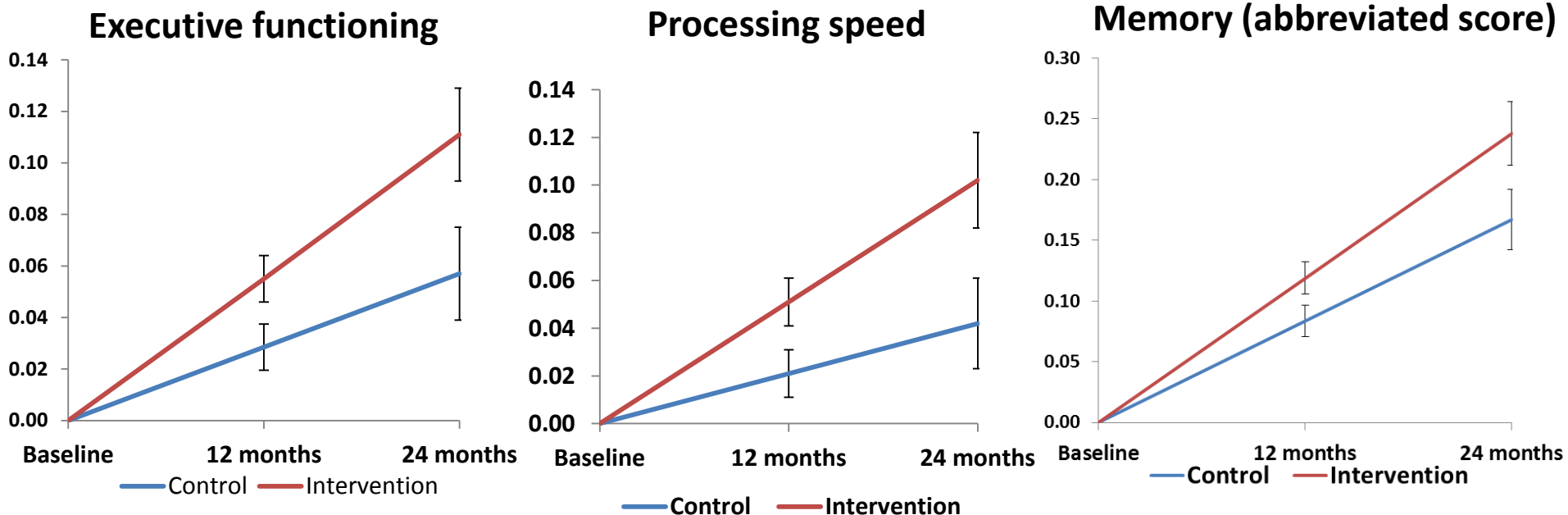
**Higher scores** = better performance

**Error bars** = standard errors

**P-values** = difference in trajectories over time between groups



## Intervention effects on various cognitive domains (secondary outcomes)



**83% higher improvement**

**150% higher improvement**

**40% higher improvement**

**Difference between intervention and control groups per year:**

Estimate (95% CI), p-value

0.027 (0.001-0.052)

**p=0.04**

0.030 (0.003-0.057)

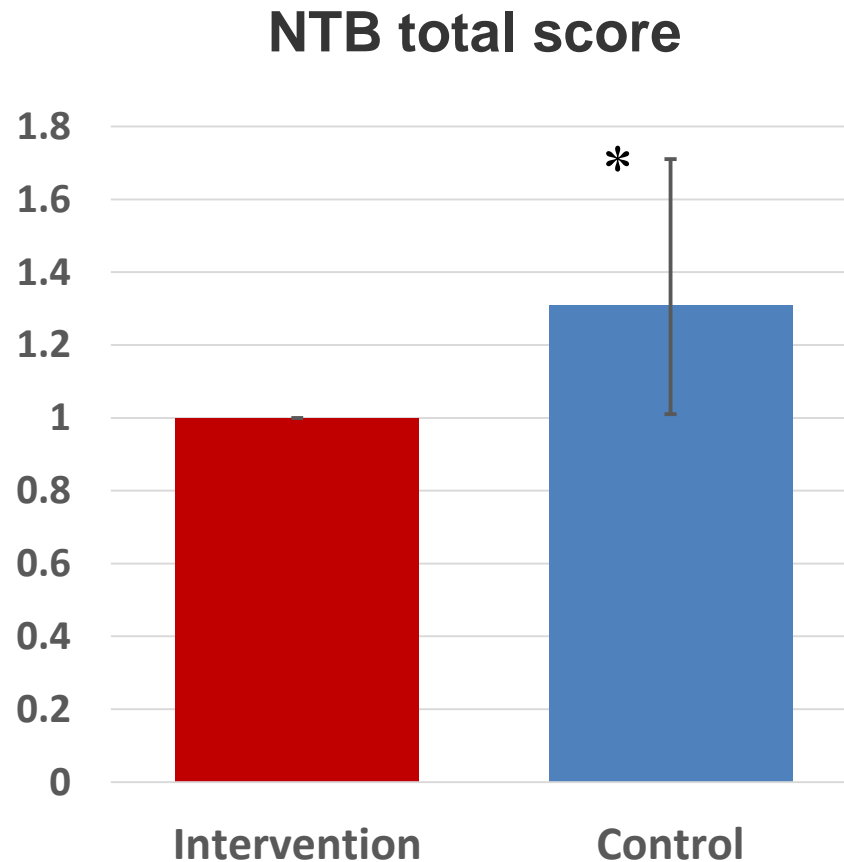
**p=0.03**

0.038 (0.002-0.073)

**p=0.04**

# Risk for cognitive decline

FINGER



**Control group:**  
**30% increased risk**  
**Cognitive decline**

\*  $p < 0.05$

*Kivipelto, Ngandu, Mangialasche et al., Lancet 2015*

# Intervention effects on secondary outcomes

|  | Control<br>Mean change<br>(SE) | Intervention<br>Mean change<br>(SE) | Difference between intervention<br>and control groups per year |         |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------|
|  |                                |                                     | Estimate (95% CI)  | P value |
| <b>Vascular factors</b>                    |                                |                                     |  |         |
| <b>Body mass index (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b>  | -0.33 (0.05)                   | -0.49 (0.05)                        | -0.077 (-0.149 - -0.006)                                       | 0.02    |
| <b>Lifestyle factors **</b>                |                                |                                     |  |         |
| <b>Fish intake at least twice/week (%)</b> | +0.8                           | +11.0                               | 10.2   | <0.001  |
| <b>Daily intake of vegetables (%)</b>      | -1.0                           | +2.9                                | 3.9  | 0.023   |
| <b>Physical activity ≥2 times/week (%)</b> | -2.1                           | +7.0                                | 9.1  | <0.001  |

*Mixed-model repeated-measures analyses*

*\*\* Multinomial logistic regression (change in % units between baseline and 24 months)*

# Self-reported adverse events during the study and health care register follow-up

| Event   | Total<br>(n=1260) | Intervention<br>(n=631) | Control<br>(n=629) |
|---|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Self-reported adverse events or negative experience of the study</i> |                   |                         |                    |
| All   | 52                | 46                      | 6                  |
| Slight musculoskeletal pain   | 32                | 32                      | 0                  |
| Stress  | 8                 | 6                       | 2                  |
| Time-consuming  | 4                 | 1                       | 3                  |
| Other*  | 8                 | 7                       | 1                  |
| <i>Dead during the study</i>  | 10                | 5                       | 5                  |
| <i>Health care register information</i>                                 |                   |                         |                    |
| Myocardial infarction   | 6                 | 1                       | 5                  |
| Stroke  | 8                 | 4                       | 4                  |

**No serious adverse events**

*Kivipelto et al, Lancet 2015*

# Self reported adherence

| Domain                  | Any participation, % |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Nutrition               | 99.7%                |
| Exercise                | 90.3%                |
| Cognitive training      | 84.9%                |
| Risk factors monitoring | 87.0%                |

| No of domains | Any participation, % |
|---------------|----------------------|
| 1             | 1.4%                 |
| 2             | 6.2%                 |
| 3             | 20.8%                |
| 4             | 71.6%                |

# **Prevention of dementia: Future?**

**Necessary of multi-national  
studies and pragmatic  
prevention programs**



[www.edpi.org](http://www.edpi.org)

# European Dementia Prevention Initiative

- **FINGER** Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability
- **Pre-DIVA** Prevention of Dementia by Intensive Vascular Care
- **MAPT** Multidomain Alzheimer Preventive Trial



**Data pooling and  
joint analyses  
> 6000 participants**





# Healthy Aging Through Internet Counseling in the Elderly



- **Main goal:** prevention of dementia and cardiovascular diseases in the elderly
- **Strategy:** motivate and support lifestyle changes to improve management of vascular risk factors
- **Tool:** new easily accessible, interactive internet platform, with readily available nurse-support



[www.HATICE.eu](http://www.HATICE.eu)

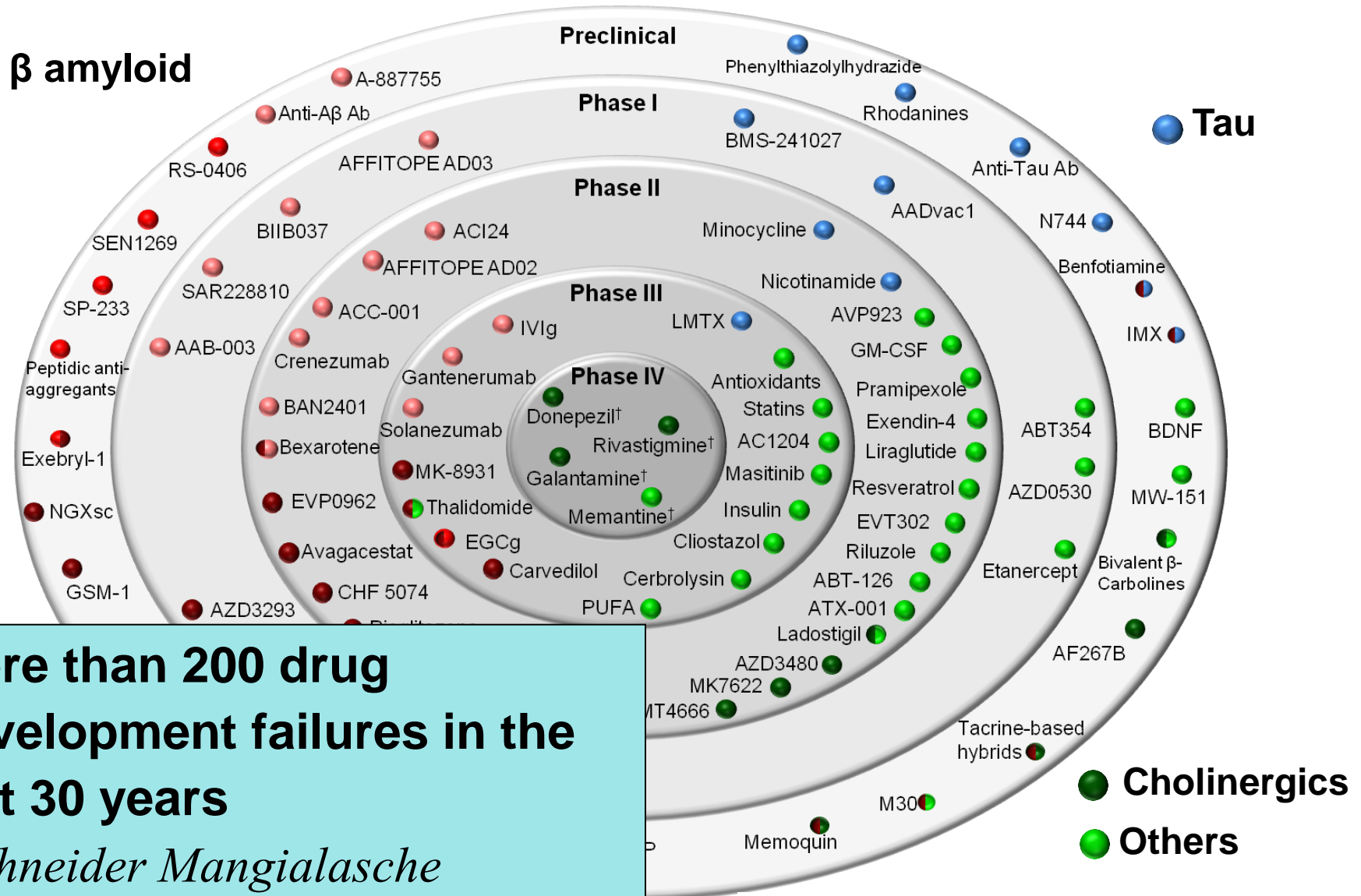


- Pilot Studies on Preventive Strategies related to Neurodegenerative Diseases

## Multimodal preventive trials for Alzheimer's Disease: towards multinational strategies (MIND-AD)



## Ongoing clinical trials in Alzheimer disease (AD)



# More than 200 drug development failures in the last 30 years

*(Schneider Mangialasche  
Kivipelto et al., JIM 2014)*

*Valasche, Kivipelto et al, modified 2013 from Lancet Neurology, 2010*

# **Take home points: how to prevent dementia**

**1. Timing: starting early, at-risk persons**

**2. Multi-factorial aetiology – multi-domain interventions effective for several cognitive domains**

**3. FINGER: a pragmatic model that can be tested and adapted in various settings and populations**

**4. Future: Multi-national prevention RCTs & Pragmatic prevention programs, integrated interventions**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Grant support:** Academy of Finland, Novo Nordisk Foundation, Alzheimer's Research and Prevention Foundation, Alzheimer Association, VR, La Carita säätiö, The Social Insurance Institution of Finland and Juho Vainio Foundation



UNIVERSITY OF  
EASTERN FINLAND

**Hilkka Soininen**

Rainer Rauramaa

Raimo Sulkava

Merja Hallikainen

Tuomo Hänninen

Teemu Paajanen

**Alina Solomon**

Anna-Maija Tolppanen

Minna Rusanen

Marjo Eskelinen

Miika Vuorinen



NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR HEALTH AND WELFARE

**Tiia Ngandu**

Jenni Lehtisalo

Esko Levälahti

Tiina Laatikainen

Antti Jula

Jaana Lindström

Markku Peltonen

Satu Pajala



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

**Jaakko Tuomilehto**

OULUN YLIOPISTO  
UNIVERSITY of OULU



**Timo Strandberg**

**Riitta Antikainen**



Turun yliopisto  
University of Turku

**Turku PET Centre**

**Juha Rinne**



**Karolinska  
Institutet**

**Francesca Mangialasche**

Laura Fratiglioni

Bengt Winblad

Lars Bäckman

Ingemar Kåreholt

Shireen Sindi

Gabriela Spulber

Babak Hooshmand

**Göran Hagman**

Ulrika Akenine

Karin Wallin

Krister Håkansson

Anders Wimo



**Sandrine Andrieu**

**Carol Brayne**

**Edo Richard**

**Willem A. van Gool**





**Life  
matters!**

