

# The Women's Brain Project collaborators

The Women's Brain Project is structured into seven working groups and a three-part advisory board. The organisation is proud to have four ambassadors representing our cause worldwide.

Women's Brain Project is so proud of the team of volunteers and collaborators that work with and support our six staff members.



# Working Groups

## 1. Scientific Projects

**Lead: Maria Teresa Ferretti**

Annemarie Schumacher Dimech	Sara Tomiello
Antonella Santuccioni Chadha	Silvina Catuara Solarz
Marta di Meo	Simona Mellino
Anna Brugulat Serrat	Nina Hentzen
Nikolaos Mavridis	Carmela Tartaglia
Maria Ferrara	Laura Castro
Alekhya Pochiraju	Carla Abdelnour Ruiz
Bernadette Dwan	Cassandra Szoeki
Sathish Babu	Adelaide Jensen
Alberto Ferrari	Federica Franciosa
Julie Martinkova	Maria Guix
Davide Cirillo	Marta Milà Alomà
Frances-Catherine Quevenco	Gaia Segantini
Florencia Iulita	Melanie Einsiedler
Ewelina Biskup	Piera Marongiu
(Evelyne Bischof)	Risvin Naser
Guido Putignano	Elisa Garau
	Laura Stankeviciute
	Antonia Silvestri
	Giorgia Silani

## 2. Educational Activities

**Lead: Annemarie Schumacher Dimech, Marta di Meo**

Maria Teresa Ferretti	Francesca Baracchi
Antonella Santuccioni Chadha	Carmela Tartaglia
Beatrice Nasta	Simona Mellino
Nicoletta Iacobacci	Shirin Hund

## 3. Policy and Advocacy

**Lead: Anna Dé**

Gaia Segantin	Victoria Knobel
Simona Mellino	

## 4. Communications and Marketing

**Lead: Anna Dé**

Maya Ucheddu	Julie Beaudoin
Francesca Murenu	Shahnaz Radjy
Maria Guix	Alina Lupescu
Arianna Biancalani	Simone Büeler
Allison Dye	Martina de Gennaro
Emma Uhlenhopp	

## 5. Fundraising and Strategy

**Lead: Antonella Santuccioni Chadha**

Maria Teresa Ferretti	Matthias Burkhalter
Daniela Fazzotta	Tracy Laabs
Davide Criscione	Michaela Gruber
Anna Dé	Silvano Coletti
Eva Portmann	

## 6. Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Silvina Catuara Solarz	Enrico Santus Guido
Davide Cirillo	Putignano
Florencia Iulita	Nicoletta Iacobacci
Nikolaos Mavridis	Czuee Morey
Frances-Catherine Quaevenco	Laia Subirats
Nicola Marino	Nataly Buslon
Simona Mellino	Janita Nath
	Claudia Falchi Delgado

## 7. Legal and Partnership

**Lead: Victoria Knobel**

Claudia Aurisicchio	Antonella Santuccioni Chadha
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# Advisory Board

## Academic Advisors

### **Prof. Staci Bilbo**

Harvard Medical School

### **Dr. Charlotte Cordonnier**

Professor of Neurology, Lille, France; stroke specialist; vice-president European Stroke Organisation; Membre de l'Institut Universitaire de France

### **Prof. Claudio Cuello**

McGill University

### **Dr. Luisa Di Luzio**

Gynecologist

### **Dr. Liisa Galea**

Director, Neuroscience Program, University of British Columbia

### **Dr. Miia Kivipeto**

Professor, Research Director at Karolinska Institutet and Managing Director, Theme

### **Prof. Sabina Misoc**

Interdisciplinary Competence Center for Ageing, University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen

### **Dr. Mary S.**

### **Mittelman**

Research Professor of Psychiatry and Rehabilitative Medicine at NYU School of Medicine

### **Dr. Nathalie**

### **Rapoport-Hubschman**

Psychotherapist and author

### **Prof. Ezio Giacobini**

University of Geneva

### **Prof. Hélène Girouard**

Université de Montreal

### **Hadine Joffe, MD**

Vice Chair for Research, Department of Psychiatry, Brigham and Women's Hospital

### **Prof. Ann Kato**

Department of Basic Neuroscience, University of Geneva

### **Dr. Katrin Rauen**

Consultant Neurology/ Psychiatry, Psychiatric University

### **Prof. Cassandra Szeke**

Director, Healthy Ageing Program, University of Melbourne

### **Dr. Carmela Tartaglia**

Associate Professor, University of Toronto, and Marion and Gerald Soloway Chair in Brain Injury and Concussion Research

### **Prof. Giorgia Silani**

Associate Prof., Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, University of Vienna.

## Strategy Advisors

### **Phyllis Barkman Ferrell**

VP and Alzheimer's Disease Global Platform Leader

### **Dr. Elena Becker-Barroso**

Editor in Chief of The Lancet Neurology

### **Tania Dussey-Cavassini**

Founder & CEO of Forestay River Consulting Ltd

### **Dr. Ivana Vodopivec**

Medical Director, Biogen

### **Prof. Harald Hampel**

Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of the Neurology Business Group at Eisai Inc.

### **Dr. Carmen Mazzola**

Medical & Regulatory Affairs Director, Lundbeck Italy

### **Prof. Andrea Pfeifer**

CEO AC Immune

### **Valentina Vinante, MD**

First Attending Physician, Clinic of Obstetrics and Prenatal Medicine GZO Hospital/Gyn Zollikon

## Advocacy Advisors

### **Matthias**

### **Burkhalter**

Conference Manager, MDPI Sustainability Foundation

### **Meryl Comer**

Co-Founder of UsAgainstAlzheimer'sv

### **Annette Dumas**

ASDM Consulting, Director EU Affairs

### **Dr. Anna Erat**

Medical Director, Check-up Center, Hirslanden Clinic

### **Kathryn Goetzke**

Founder of ifred.org

### **Dr. Abi Hermann**

Postdoctoral researcher in the Centre for Cognitive and Neural Systems, University of Edinburgh

### **Brooks Kenny**

Women against Alzheimer

### **Lynn Posluns**

Women's Brain Health Initiative USA

## Honorary President

### **Mara Hank Moret**

# Ambassadors

Chéri Ballinger

Fagun Thakrar

Sofia Petersson

Sylvia Day





## Alberto Ferrari

### Scientific Projects

Alberto Ferrari graduated in neurobiology in 2011 and then took a PhD in molecular medicine with a focus on neuropsychopharmacology in 2015. Immediately afterwards he enrolled in a postgraduate course in medical statistics and genomics and started working as a biostatistician. His main fields of interests are phase I-IV clinical trial analysis, systematic reviews and meta-analyses of scientific literature and methods for the analysis of binomial clustered data.

He now works as a freelance statistical consultant in the pharma industry and started collaborating with the Women's Brain Project in 2020.



## Alekhya Pochiraju

### Scientific Projects

Alekhya is a Biomarker Operations Manager at Genentech where she provides clinical oncology biomarker operations expertise. She believes, with the future of healthcare geared towards personalized medicine, biomarkers are a critical element of cancer drug development and cancer therapeutics. Her recent talk at Healthcare Businesswomen's Association and conference at Biomarkers & Precision Medicine USA Congress and Salesforce Women's Summit, focus on health equity disparity among minorities and people of color. In her work towards promoting gender parity, Alekhya is involved with the Scientific and Educational teams at Women's Brain Project. Alekhya holds an undergraduate degree from BMS College of Engineering, India in Biotechnology Engineering and a masters degree from Northeastern University in Biotechnology.



## Alina Lupescu

### Communications and Marketing

Alina Lupescu is a Professional Coach certified by the International Coaching Federation, and NLP Practitioner with experience in both creative the entrepreneurial environment and corporate world. Alina enjoys a unique mix of experience spanning 16 years working in challenging regional roles at international companies like Unilever and Johnson&Johnson, as well as start-up environments, non-profit organizations, necessitating a dynamic and entrepreneurial approach.

She has provided customized strategies for businesses and sports professionals, supporting them in enhancing their performance, wellbeing and mental health (qualified Mental Health First Aider).

While continuing Psychology studies, currently her main coaching focus is self-mastery and mental strength.



## Adelaide Jensen

### Scientific Projects

She is a Ph.D. student in experimental psychology at the University of Ottawa, studying how oral contraceptive use influences episodic memory and executive functions in young women. Other research interests of hers include the role of sex hormones on cognition across the female lifespan as well as sex differences in aging and cognitive decline.

She has been a WBP volunteer and a proud scientific projects team member since January 2021, focusing on projects related to COVID-19 including sex differences in COVID-19 vaccine response and long COVID syndrome





## Allison Dye

### Social Media Content Manager - Communications

Allison has been working in social media and communications for over 5 years at various organizations and non-profits. She is a co-founder of the Italian online community and co-host of the podcast of the same name, "Ma Non Sembri Malata" which has been featured in la Repubblica, il Corriere della Sera, Over There, Viaggi Di Passioni, and Primo Canale. Her enthusiasm for effective communication as well as her experience living with two neurological conditions, Multiple Sclerosis and Functional Neurological Disorder make her uniquely passionate about the work of WBP. She works as the Social Media Content Manager on the Communications team at the Women's Brain Project.



## Anna Brugulat Serrat

### Scientific Projects

Anna Brugulat-Serrat is a neuropsychologist and post-doc researcher in the Barcelonaβeta Brain Research Center (Barcelona, Spain), focused on understanding the biological processes that precede the onset of Alzheimer's Disease to design prevention programs to delay or slow the onset of disease in at-risk asymptomatic people.

In 2019, she was selected as Atlantic Fellow for Equity Brain of the Global Brain Health Institute based in the Memory and Aging Center (University of California, San Francisco). Her contribution to WBP is focused on identifying sex-specific risk factors in women to better predict the risk of neurodegenerative diseases and accelerated aging as a gateway to precision medicine.



## Anna Dé

### Policy and Advocacy [Team Lead]

Anna leads the policy and advocacy activities of the WBP. Anna has supported the WBP since Autumn 2019. Anna is passionate about global health policy and advocacy projects that truly make a difference and this is exactly what the WBP aims to do regarding women's health, precision medicine, brain and mental health. Anna is a global health policy consultant, based in London, with her own consultancy. She has 22 years' international consultancy experience. She is a graduate of the London School of Economics and Political Science.





## **Annemarie Schumacher Dimech**

**Educational Activities [Team Lead] & Scientific Projects**

Annemarie Schumacher Dimech is one of the organization's co-founders. She heads the new Certificate of Advanced Studies in Palliative Care and the further education programme in Healthcare and Medical Leadership at the University of Lucerne.



## **Antonella Santuccioni Chadha**

**Fundraising and Strategy [Team Lead], Scientific Projects, Educational Activities & Legal and Partnership**

Antonella Santuccioni Chadha serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Women's Brain Project, and is also one of the organisation's co-founders. She is a medical doctor with a wealth of experience in the field of Alzheimer's disease and psychiatric disorders.



## Arianna Biancalani

### Communications and Marketing

Arianna Biancalani (Communication Support) Arianna Biancalani was born in Florence, she is a final-year medical student at the University of Bologna. Arianna has volunteered for Women's Brain Project since April 2021. Her main interest lies in the field of Psychiatry and Mental Health issues.



## Beatrice Nasta

### Educational Activities

Beatrice Nasta graduated in Clinical and Health Psychology at the University of Florence. Her major area of focus is clinical psychology, having previously developed diagnostic skills and the instruments required to have a positive impact on the support and rehabilitation of patients.





## Bernadette Dwan

### Scientific Projects

Bernadette is an Engagement Manager and a Program lead for Post authorisation safety studies at IQVIA, Basel, Switzerland. Bernadette holds a BSc in Applied Science from Trinity College Dublin, an MPHARM from University of Brighton and is a member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland. Her background includes practical clinical and RWE experience from her work identifying, developing and leading the coordination and implementation of clinical service partnerships across the UK. She has brought her global programme management skills and clinical knowledge to lead several innovative retrospective and prospective studies in various therapeutic areas to completion.



## Carla Abdelnour Ruiz

### Scientific Projects

Carla Abdelnour Ruiz is a neurologist working at Fundació ACE, Barcelona Alzheimer Treatment & Research Center. She is the Deputy Head of the Clinical Trials Unit and the coordinator of Fundació ACE Social Technology And Robotics Reseach (FACESTARR). Additionally, she is Associate Professor of Medicine at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya in Barcelona.

Her activity is focused in clinical trials for Alzheimer´s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders like dementia with Lewy bodies. Abdelnour has published 32 articles in indexed journals. She has participated in the writing of chapters of scientific books.





## Carmela Tartaglia

### Scientific Projects & Educational Activities

Dr. Tartaglia is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and cognitive-behavioral neurologist at the UHN Memory Clinic where she sees patients with neurodegenerative diseases and persistent symptoms of concussion. She is a scientist at the Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases where she uses a multi-modal approach for biomarker discovery to facilitate early detection of neurodegenerative diseases including chronic traumatic encephalopathy. The ultimate goal of her research programs is to develop biomarkers for early detection of disease so as to provide targeted, personalized treatments to her patients. She is on the board of the Women's Brain Project.



## Cassandra Szoeki

### Scientific Projects

Professor C Szoeki became an advocate for women's brain health after her talk on Hormones and Cognition at a 2009 MasterClass in Alzheimer's Disease for Australian health professionals. She is a Consultant Neurologist with a BSc with Honours in Genetics, PhD in Epidemiology and Postdoctoral Studies at Stanford in the Department of Public Health and Policy. A full academic Professor at the University of Melbourne, she is the principal investigator of the Women's Healthy Ageing Project – the longest ongoing study of women's health in Australia with baseline measures in 1990. She currently sits on the Council of the Australian Medical Association and is the chief medical officer for the Australian Healthy Ageing Organisation.



## Chéri Ballinger

### Ambassador

Chéri Ballinger got her start in film when she was discovered as a young girl and cast in the iconic 1998 remake of the Walt Disney classic *The Parent Trap*. She has worked in film steadily ever since.

With her passion for her second chance at life after a terrible accident and years of recovery, she is now back to work in Hollywood as a film producer. Chéri is also heavily focused on her international philanthropy efforts as well as being on the forefront of revolutionary medical technology with the goal of helping as many others as she possibly can.

A sought-after international speaker, she is the official US Ambassador for the Women's Brain Project. Chéri has vowed to use her background and personal comeback story from traumatic brain injury (TBI) to bring people hope and to inspire positive change through the medium of business and film.



## Claudia Falchi Delgado

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Claudia is finalizing her BA in Digital Society studies with a specific focus on Artificial Intelligence and technology ethics in the healthcare system and training to become an independent and certified auditor (FH) of AI, algorithmic and autonomous systems.

She is currently working as an AI researcher for an EU Horizon-based projects startup and have experience in Marketing, Communications, Information Technology consulting, and EU project management.

This year she will write her thesis on the topic: Sex and gender biases in artificial intelligence systems. Her inspiration for this thesis topic, which arrived from the Women's Brain Project work, will positively contribute to the scientific, AI, and communications teams at the Women's Brain Project.





## Czuee Morey

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Czuee Morey is a Biomedical Scientist and Digital Health Consultant with a PhD in Experimental & Computational Biology. She has broad experience in digital health strategy and operations at top biotech & pharmaceutical companies analysing technology trends and developing data products. Her goal is to improve patients' lives using innovations in science and digital technology. She deeply cares about healthcare innovations for women and underrepresented populations and hence identifies with the core mission of WBP. She has volunteered to publish policy papers with WBP.



## Daniel Vassall-Adams

### Communications and Marketing

Daniel's involvement with the Women's Brain Project dates back to the launch in 2017. Daniel originally met the founders at a conference, and was struck by their drive and ambition. Daniel then became part of the organization, supporting the launch event, and two of the three subsequent International Women's Brain Forums. Daniel's primary involvement is behind the scenes. He steps in on a 'needs be' basis with different tasks and projects.

Daniel's mother Dr. Nicola Vassall-Adams suffers from advanced Alzheimer's and is in a specialist care home in the UK.

Daniel has a background in financial services and corporate risk management.





## Daniela Fazzotta

### Fundraising and Strategy

Daniela Fazzotta acts as Chief Strategy Officer for the Women's Brain Project, supporting the CEO in developing, communicating, executing, and sustaining corporate initiatives. Economist by education, she holds an Executive MBA from the University of Lausanne in cooperation with the SDA Bocconi University of Milan and is passionate about transforming the healthcare ecosystem.

Her maxim is "Are we doing enough today to drive our lives where we want them to be?"

She is setting up and developing cross-entity (healthcare industry, policymakers, health authorities, ...) and cross-corporation synergies to facilitate the development of efficient treatments for brain and mental diseases with a gender-specific perspective.



## Davide Cirillo

### Scientific Projects & Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Davide Cirillo is a Computational Biologist with an MSc in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and a PhD degree in Biomedicine, currently working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC).

His main research interests lie in the field of Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, especially machine learning and predictive modelling. During his doctoral studies, he worked on genome-wide prediction of protein/RNA/DNA interactions with an emphasis on neurodegenerative diseases and cancer.



## **Davide Criscione**

### **Fundraising and Strategy**

With 25 years of sourcing-experience in IT, Davide Criscione is the expert for nearshoring and sourcing.

He has worked for a global industrial leader in CIO- and procurement positions as well as in a global market responsibility for a leading IT Service-Provider.

He has set-up several multi-national and global IT Delivery Centres, including financial planning, governance-concepts and roll-outs and is now ready for your IT Sourcing-project.





## Enrico Santus

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Enrico Santus is a senior data scientist at Bayer. He obtained his PhD at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and worked in several academic institutions, including CSAIL (MIT), in the group of Regina Barzilay. Enrico has published over 50 papers on topics such as AI for Precision Medicine, Epidemiology, Oncology and Cardiology. His publications also include papers on automatic fake news detection and sentiment analysis.

Enrico collaborated on the creation of The Prayer (artist: Diemut Strebe), a mouth-shaped robot exposed at the Paris Centre Pompidou. In 2019, he was also invited speaker at the Record Management Office of the White House. Enrico Santus



## Ewelina Biskup (Evelyne Bischof)

### Scientific Projects

Evelyne is Associate Professor at Shanghai University of Medicine and Health Sciences, MPH. She is an internal medicine specialist and longevity physician, trained a.e. at Harvard Medical School affiliated hospitals (Mass General Hospital, Beth Israel MD, Dana Farber) and Columbia University NYC. Specialist in internal medicine, with research focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital health, especially in the fields of oncology, preventative and precision medicine, biogerontology, and geronto-oncology.

Dr. Biskup has published over 80 peer-reviewed papers. She spent a decade practicing medicine, lecturing at medical schools and performing clinical and translational research in New York, Shanghai and Basel.





## Eva Portmann

### Fundraising and Strategy

Eva brings a broad background from various industries where she was actively involved in the development and roll-out of international programs. She successfully started her boutique consulting firm in 2018 and ever since supports start-ups in the setup of their International Operations from Switzerland. Her lifelong learner attitude brought her into the field of management topics, transcultural team & project management, network and knowledge management where she holds an MBA. Most recently she studied "The Science of Happiness" and "The Foundations of Happiness at Work" at the University of Berkley. Through her work in the Fem-Tech industry, Eva learnt about the many different facets of women's health and is intrinsically motivated to raise awareness. She is passionate about improving women's health and society's well-being which is her motivation to join forces with the Women's Brain Project



## Eva-Marie Göbbels

### Scientific Projects & Technology and Artificial Intelligence

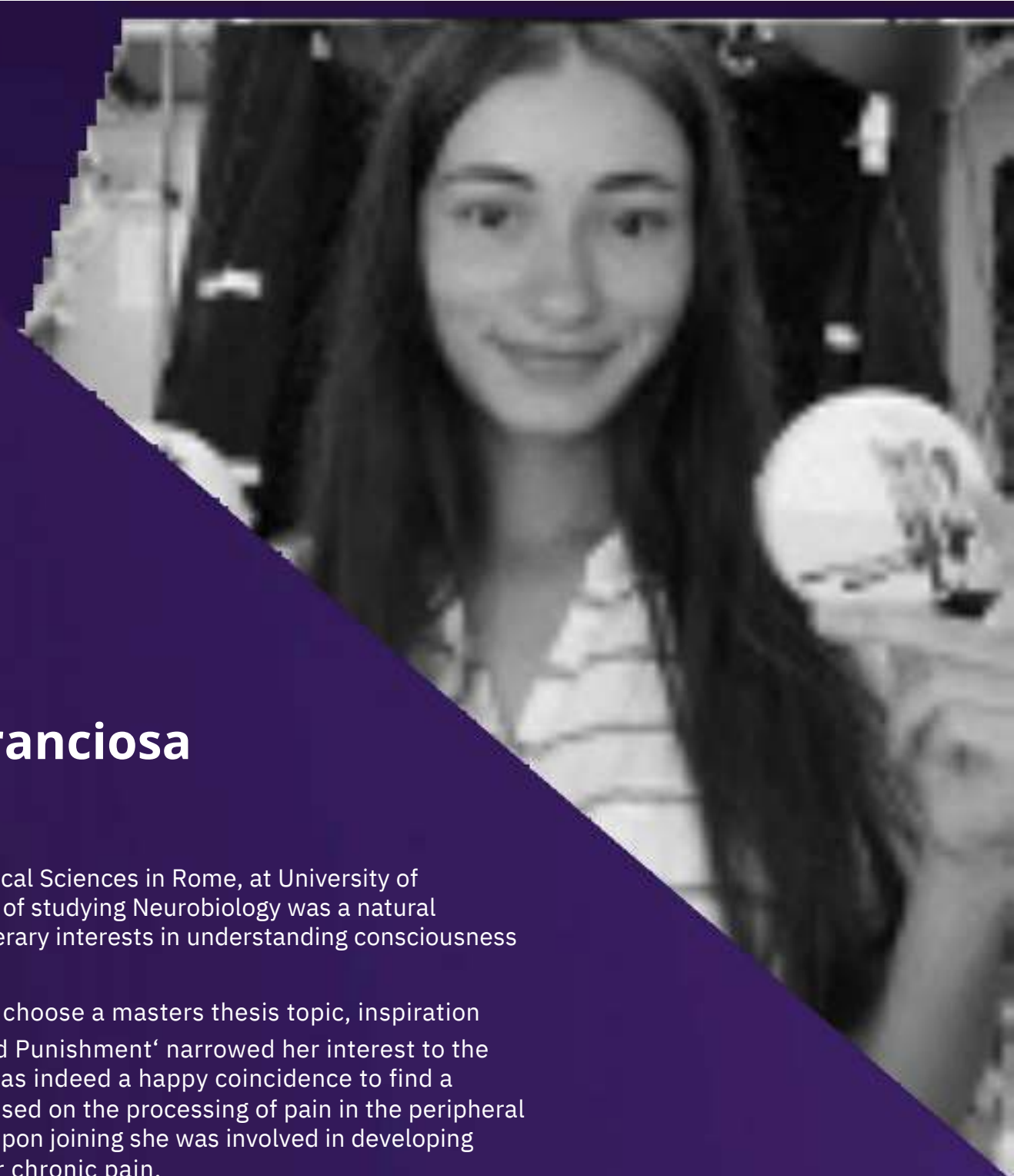
As a business student with a focus on information management and healthcare, Eva is passionate about exploring the intersection of technology, healthcare and business.



## Fagun Thakrar

### Ambassador

Fagun Thakrar has a multi-faceted career. She is a critically acclaimed British Actress, Writer-Director and Producer who has appeared in a number of international films and has starred alongside Academy award winners. Fagun studied Medicine at the University College London, where she developed an interest in neuroscience. Alongside her work as an actress, Fagun founded her own global non-profit, The Fagun Foundation, dedicated to empowering girls and women across the globe to overcome barriers in their educational, professional and personal lives through the transformative power of creativity. In addition to her work with global non-profits, Fagun has always been actively involved in local community organizations with children, girls, women and the health sector. She has worked with organisations such as The United Nations and Amnesty International. Fagun has established herself as a champion of health and wellbeing throughout the world guiding groups as diverse as disadvantaged children to world leaders and national presidents.



## Federica Franciosa

### Scientific Projects

Federica studied Biological Sciences in Rome, at University of La Sapienza. The choice of studying Neurobiology was a natural progression from her literary interests in understanding consciousness and free will.

When the time came to choose a masters thesis topic, inspiration from reading ‚Crime and Punishment‘ narrowed her interest to the complexity of pain. It was indeed a happy coincidence to find a laboratory in Rome focused on the processing of pain in the peripheral nervous system where upon joining she was involved in developing targeted treatments for chronic pain.

She has recently made the move up to the brain and is now pursuing her PhD at the University of Bern in the lab of Prof. Nevian, where she is studying how the nociceptive processing is performed in neuronal networks for the conscious and individual experience of pain.





## Florencia Iulita

### Scientific Projects & Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Florencia serves as Scientific Strategy and Network Engagement Lead supporting WBP in the development of scientific initiatives, such as the writing of research articles, special issues, support grants and academic partnerships. She leads WBP's Volunteer Engagement program, which involves students and professionals in WBP's activities globally.

Florencia's professional training combines the areas of neuroscience, pharmacology and cerebrovascular biology, focused on Alzheimer's disease. Her current research focuses on the development of novel technologies for the investigation of brain fluid biomarkers.

With WBP she hopes to bring awareness of the need for sex/gender research, with the goal of making precision medicine a reality for brain diseases.



## Frances-Catherine Quevenco

### Scientific Projects & Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Frances-Catherine Quevenco is an accomplished neuroscientist with a passion for enabling dementia patients to access timely and accurate diagnoses. She completed her studies in University College and Imperial College London before joining the National University of Singapore as an Associate Cognitive Neuroscientist. After 2 years of research at NUS, she joined Prof. Roger Nitsch's group at the University of Zurich.

She has since then broadened her field of expertise, working as an International Medical Manager at Roche for Alzheimer's disease and is committed to educating and establishing the value of a timely biomarker-based diagnosis in Alzheimer's disease and other neurological diseases.



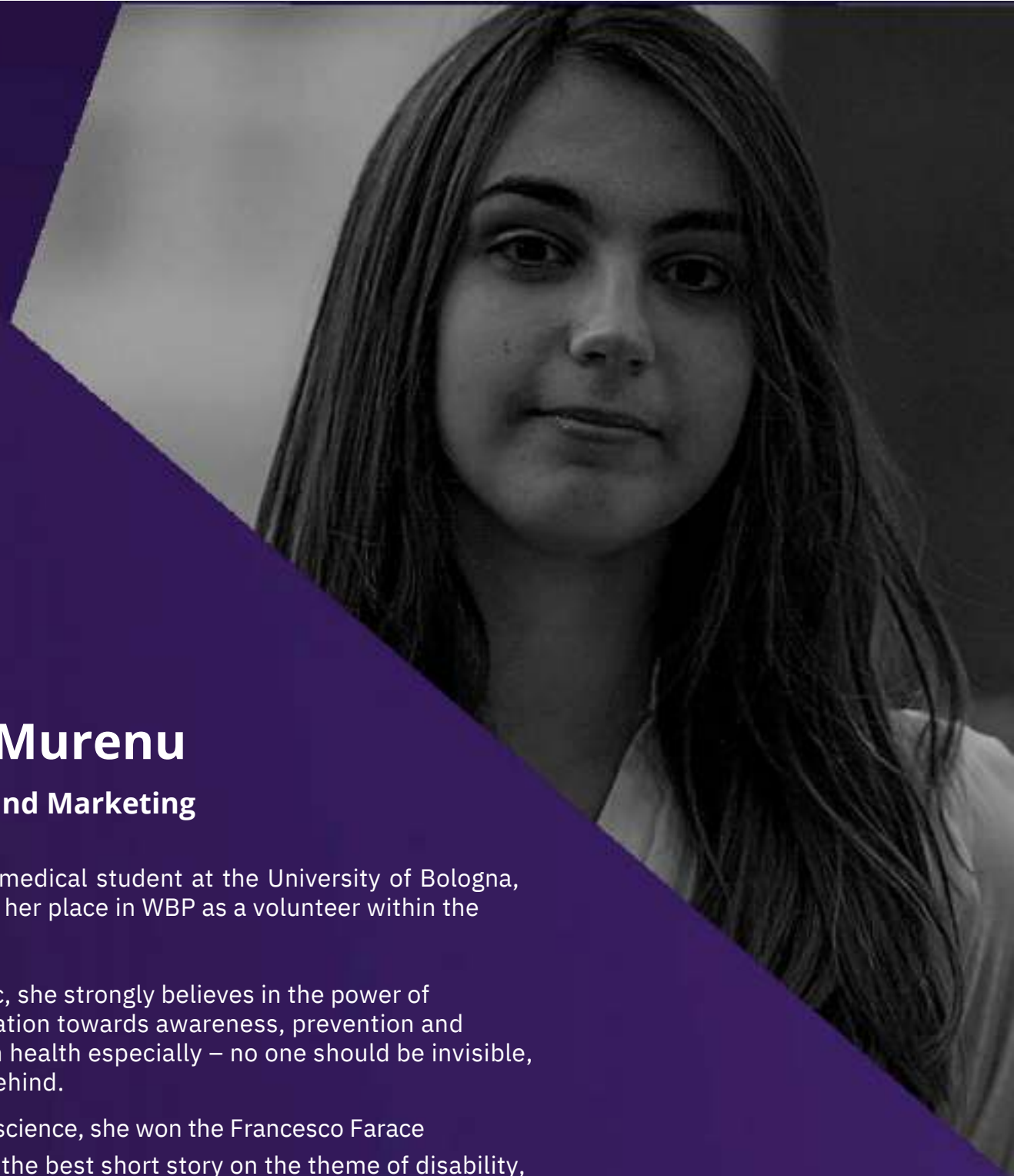


## Francesca Baracchi

### Educational Activities

After obtaining a MSc in Psychology, Francesca enrolled in a PhD program in Neuroscience. She spent 15 years in several post-doctoral positions around the world studying the mechanisms of sleep regulation and the influences of sleep on the immune functions.

She then decided to take a break from research to become a mother. The experience of motherhood reshaped her world and pushed her back to psychology. She therefore decided to specialize in clinical perinatal psychology to focus on the emotional changes and mood disorders in women during pregnancy and the post-partum period.



## Francesca Murenu

### Communications and Marketing

Francesca Murenu is a medical student at the University of Bologna, Italy, and happily found her place in WBP as a volunteer within the Communication Team.

Positive and empathetic, she strongly believes in the power of science and communication towards awareness, prevention and comprehension of brain health especially – no one should be invisible, no one should be left behind.

Passionate about neuroscience, she won the Francesco Farace scholarship in 2016 for the best short story on the theme of disability, and she wants to help speak up on mental health. She is also an animal and nature lover, yoga addict and photography enthusiast.



## Gaia Segantini

### Scientific Projects

Gaia Segantin has been a Women's Brain Project volunteer since 2020. She holds a Master degree in Law and a Master degree in Healthcare Management, Economics and Policy. She currently works in the medical devices industry within the government and public affairs department. Within the WBP's activities she is involved in the scientific team, the communication team and the policy teams.

She is deeply passionate about healthcare and gender equality and her interests are related to health economics and health economic evaluations, maternal health topics, epidemiology and public health policy. She is part of the WBP'S advocacy journey in which she firmly believes.



## Gautam Maitra

### Founder



## Giorgia Silani

### Scientific Projects

Giorgia Silani, Assoc. Prof., Department of Clinical and Health Psychology, University of Vienna.

She obtained her PhD in cognitive neuroscience at the University of Milano in 2006. Between 2004 and 2006 she worked at the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, London, under the supervision of Prof. Uta Frith and in 2007 at the Center for Social Neuroscience and Neuroeconomics, University of Zurich, as a post doc under Prof. Tania Singer. In 2010 she moved to the Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati, Trieste, as independent group leader. Since 2014 She is employed at University of Vienna where she lead the Clinical Social Neuroscience (CSN) Unit. Her major research focus lies in the neurobiological basis of social cognition, emotions, and behaviors.





## Guido Putignano

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence

A CEO, futurist and researcher, Guido Putignano is Vice-President at SAFES, where he focuses on Exponential Technologies. Guido works in the healthcare sector, focusing on treating biology like technology with synthetic biology. He is currently the Italian Representative of the AI Youth Council at the World Economic Forum.

Guido is an advisor at the Lifeboat Foundation, where his focus is on exponential medicine. In addition, Guido is Head of Exponential Technologies at SIMA, where he focuses on Environmental Medicine, and at Visionari, where he focuses on Artificial Intelligence.

In March 2021, Guido received the CGI U Fellowship from the Clinton Foundation.



## Julie Beaudoin

### Communications and Marketing

Julie is a commercial Pharma industry executive and Diversity and Inclusion Advocate. She is particularly passionate about patient inclusion and how to bring differentiated healthcare solutions to meet the unique needs of diverse patient groups and improve healthcare outcomes. Julie is Canadian and has lived and worked in Canada, the US, Ecuador and in Switzerland since 2003. She holds an MBA from Rice University (USA) and holds a Bachelor degree in Marketing from Université Laval (Canada).



## Julie Martinkova

### Scientific Projects

Julie Novakova Martinkova works within the WBP Science Projects team. She focuses on advancing precision medicine by studying sex and gender differences in cognitive neurology, especially Alzheimer's disease.

She is a medical doctor at the Department of Neurology of Motol University Hospital in Prague. She obtained her M.D. title at Charles University in Prague, where she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Neurosciences.

Her primary motivation is preventing the devastating consequences of cognitive disorders on patients and their caregivers. She has high hopes for the ability of WBP to promote personalized approaches to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through global collaboration.



## Laia Subirats

### Scientific Projects

Researcher at Eurecat - Technology Centre of Catalonia and part-time lecturer at the Open University of Catalonia.

Laia since 2018 has collaborated with the Women's Brain Project participating in scientific

activities such as review articles and hackathons.





## Laura Stankeviciute

### Scientific Projects

PhD candidate at Barcelona Beta Brain Research Centre, working on early diagnostics of Alzheimer's disease and modifiable risk factors. Specifically, researching the effect of sleep on Alzheimer's disease. Scientific communicator.



## Laura Castro

### Scientific Projects

Laura Castro is a neuroscientist at the Karolinska Institute and lecturer at ITESM with expertise in neurodegenerative disorders. She is currently studying the rescue of mitochondrial functions using pharmacological compounds in Alzheimer's disease (AD). Her interests are sex differences in neurodegenerative disorders, digital healthcare, virtual reality, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

She got her PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Manchester. Her thesis focused on mitochondrial dysfunction in iPSC-derived neurons of AD patients. As a PhD student, she developed a significant interest in why sex differences matter in experimental design. She believes that to develop new medical interventions, we need to start incorporating sex and gender differences in preclinical and clinical research.



## Mara Hank Moret

### Honorary President

Mara Hank Moret was raised in Tijuana, Mexico. She has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of San Diego, California, USA. After her studies she went on to work at the Mexican Embassy in London and the US Embassies in London and Paris. She has worked for several charities in her home country and abroad. Her philanthropic work has continued on a personal basis and on behalf of Lobnek Wealth Management.

Mara's focus in recent years has also been on her role as a mother. Her objective has been to be very present during the formative years of her daughter and two sons. She lives with her husband and children in Geneva, Switzerland.

Mara is the Honorary President of the Women's Brain Project (WBP).



## Maria Ferrara

### Scientific Projects

Maria Ferrara, MD Ph.D, is an Italian Psychiatrist, Assistant Professor at the Department of Neuroscience and Rehabilitation at the University of Ferrara, Italy, and Assistant Adjunct Professor at Yale University. Before joining the First Episode Psychosis Program at Yale in 2017, she led the implementation of the First Episode Psychosis Program in Modena, Italy. Her research interests include disparities in access to mental health services and strategies to reduce unnecessary delay to treatment. More recently, she has joined the WBP: she hopes to work towards the reduction of the disadvantages that women with psychosis face in their pathways to and through care.





## Maria Guix

### Scientific Projects & Communications and Marketing

Dr. Maria Guix received her PhD in Chemistry, M.S. degree in Nanotechnology and B.Sc. degree in Chemistry from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB). During her PhD she worked in the Prof. Merkoçi's group at Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2), working on the interaction of nanomaterials in biosensing platforms. As a PhD candidate, she did two short internships related to the development of catalytic nanomotors, first in EMPA (Switzerland) and then in the University of California San Diego (USA) under the supervision of Prof. Joseph Wang. She later joined Prof. Oliver Schmidt's group as a postdoctoral researcher at IFW Dresden, developing biocompatible micromotors for biomedical applications. Afterwards, she moved to Purdue University to work on the automation of magnetic microrobots for safe manipulation tasks by using visual-based control methods. She has been a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute since 2018 for Bioengineering of Catalonia (IBEC) under the supervision of Prof. Samuel Sánchez' group as a Beatriu de Pinós Marie-Curie COFUND PostDoc Fellow. Her current research line is focused on the development of advanced functional living robots.



## Maria Teresa Ferretti

### Scientific Projects [Team Lead], Educational Activities & Fundraising and Strategy

Maria Teresa Ferretti serves as Chief Scientific Officer at the Women's Brain Project, and is also one of the organisation's co-founders. She is a neuroscientist and neuroimmunologist with unique expertise on Alzheimer's and gender medicine.



## Marta di Meo

### Educational Activities [Team Lead] & Scientific Projects

Marta di Meo is a clinical psychologist, specialized in the treatment of Selective Mutism and anxiety.

After two masters in School Psychology and Family Mediation and a four-year specialization school in Cognitive-Behavioural Psychotherapy, she focused on Selective Mutism. She had collaborative experiences with FIU (Florida) and two different organizations in New York.

Based in Italy, Marta does clinical work with people who live in Italy and abroad; she has been working with online patient treatments for many years.

In 2020, she started to collaborate with WBP and she's now in the Scientific Team

and leads the Educational Team.



## Martina de Gennaro

### Scientific Projects

Martina graduated in biotechnology (BSc) from University “La Sapienza” in Rome (Italy), with an experimental thesis in immunology, and further pursued her studies at ETH Zurich (Switzerland), carrying out research projects in both molecular and clinical neurobiology. Here, she noticed how research is biased towards selecting male subjects on most of the basic and clinical studies, limiting our knowledge on the physiological and pathological mechanisms of the brain in female subjects as well as in other under-represented communities. She attained her master degree (MSc) in Biology, majoring in Neuroscience, defending a thesis on the development of inhibitory synaptic circuits. She then strengthened her scientific training in the IOB Institute of Ophthalmology Basel, where she studied the electrophysiology of visual circuits. She is currently a field application scientist at MaxWell Biosystems in Zurich, where she supports researchers investigating neuronal activity and networks. When she is not in the office, she travels the world to represent the company in public talks, tradeshow and conferences. Alongside her scientific side, she enjoys the creative part of divulging science, and loves to be involved in the marketing team efforts within her company. Her enthusiasm towards scientific communication and focus on health equity, have brought her to volunteer in Women's Brain Project in 2022.





## Matthias Burkhalter

### Fundraising and Strategy

Matthias Burkhalter has been elected President of WBP on the General Assembly held in Zurich in December 2021.

A pioneer in open access publishing at MDPI AG Basel, Matthias Burkhalter has launched, edited and managed a large number of journals such as Sensors, Energies, Viruses, Arts and many others over the past 20 years. Since 2015 he created and organized a number of international conferences and webinars mainly but not only on topics related to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Viruses and a series on „Fighting Fake Facts“. He joined the Women’s Brain Project in January 2020 to be involved in creating the first Sex and Gender Precision Medicine Institute.



## Maya Uccheddu

### Communications and Marketing

Maya is a freelance digital artist who designs visual content for the Women’s Brain Project in support of the communication team. She is the designer of the current logo.

She firmly believes in the importance of disseminating the message of the organization, not only within the scientific community but also to the general public, especially through the visual arts.

Maya has a Master’s Degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology and is the co-owner and manager of a para-pharmacy in a small Italian town.



## Melanie Einsiedler

### Scientific Projects

Melanie Einsiedler is a neuroscientist at the university of Basel, where she explores the underlying mechanism of multiple sclerosis. Her goal is to contribute to the prevention of neurodegeneration in humans and she thinks precision medicine is a gamechanger in achieving it.

This is one of the reasons why she supports the Women's Brain Project science team with her expertise in neuroscience.





## Nicola Marino

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Nicola Marino is focused on the analysis and implementation of artificial intelligence algorithms to achieve the aim of finding determinants of sex and gender differences in the different sectors of medical specializations.

He has a bachelor's degree in orthopaedic techniques, and is conducting his second course of study as an MD. He also works as a consultant for Health Catalyst and co-founded INTECH – Innovative Training Technologies startup, for which he was named among the „100 under 30“ by Forbes in 2020.

He strongly believes in the goals of the WBP team, values, and working methods that unite us.



## Nicoletta Iacobacci

### Educational Activities & Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Nicoletta Iacobacci (Ph.D.) is a professor at Webster University in Geneva, at Jinan University in Guangzhou (China) and member of the Executive Committee of the Women's Brain Project, aiming to support women's mental health. Her studies focus on ethics, emerging technologies, and the positive and negative effects of technological progress. Following a career in broadcasting in the USA and Europe, she completed a doctorate in philosophy and communication. A curator of 5 TEDx events, and ambassador of Singularity University in Switzerland, her first book, Exponential Ethics, supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, was published in 2018 in English and Chinese.



## Nikolaos Mavridis

### Scientific Projects & Technology and Artificial Intelligence

Dr. Nikolaos Mavridis has a PhD from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is founder and director of Interactive Robots and Media and a researcher at the National Centre of Scientific Research 'Demokritos'.





## Nina Hentzen

### Scientific Projects

Following a PhD in organic chemistry at ETH Zurich, Nina Hentzen moved to San Francisco where she is currently pursuing postdoctoral research as an SNSF fellow at UCSF. Here she is developing de novo proteins for targeting disordered proteins involved in neurodegenerative diseases. The vibrant biomedical community of UCSF provides her with exciting perspectives on how to use chemical tools to address biological questions and sparked her interest in brain research and precision medicine.

As a volunteer with Women's Brain Project, she is passionate about exploring the forefront of clinical and translational research in sex and gender-specific brain and mental health research.



## Piera Marongiu

### Scientific Projects

A former neuropsychologist, Piera Marongiu is passionate about the human dimension in the business. She has spent 15+ years in the field of inclusion and diversity, human capital and organisational development. Her mission is to melt the walls of implicit exclusion in organisations and making a positive impact in different areas: gender, LGBTIQ, culture, generation, different-abilities and neurodiversity. Her focus is to increase inclusion in healthcare.

She has worked with a 'diverse' range of organisations, from industry (Biogen, Dow Chemical) NGOs, and UN Women. Also across several countries (US, India, Switzerland, Spain, Italy). She is currently guest lecturer at University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland in diversity and inclusion and founder of IIE - Integrate Include Engage and collaborates with HBA Healthcare Businesswomen Association and Women's Brain Project.



## **Risvin Naser MBBS.MIHMEP**

### **Scientific Projects**

Risvin Naser is a life science consultant at Alira Health, Paris in the global market access and management consulting domain. He works with global pharma and medical device companies to support the medical and commercial challenges across different product portfolios.

Risvin is a medical doctor with experience in clinical practice as well as hospital administration at quaternary-care level. He graduated in medicine from Yenepoya University, India and holds a master's in international healthcare management, economics and policy from SDA Bocconi school of management, Milan. Being always keen on disruptive initiatives in the healthcare arena including precision medicine and digital health, at Women's Brain Project Risvin collaborates with a variety of projects which lead to the common goal of achieving precision medicine based on gender and sex difference.





## Sathish Babu

### Scientific Projects

After completing his bachelors and post graduate studies in Biotechnology from University of Mysore, India, he joined the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) which is one of the India's premier research institutes in Bangalore. He worked on understanding the molecular genetics of Diabetes mellitus.

In Germany, he pursued his doctoral studies at the University of Hamburg in cancer biology. He continued his post-doctoral studies at the Institute of Regenerative Medicine (inStem) in the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in India.

In the field of biotech, he has worked in R&D and commercial roles such as Research Scientist, Application Scientist and Product Manager.



## Sara Tomiello

### Scientific Projects

Sara Tomiello is a Medical Advisor for Takeda. A neuroscientist by training, she has a background in psychology and a passion for psychiatry. In particular, she enjoys using her skills in the effort to improve the process of diagnosing, aspiring to achieve individualized treatments. She believes this is only possible if sex and gender differences are considered. These differences are undeniable and fundamental for precision medicine but they must never be a reason for discrimination. This is exactly what WBP represents for her and why she is committed to working with the organization.



## Shirin Hund

### Educational activities

Dr. Shirin Karimi Hund is an American board certified Internal Medicine Physician and a Harvard Medical School residency program. She has extensive experience and publications in medical education, quality improvement, medical humanities, and clinical research in immunology.

She is also an advisory board member of Anhad India, a non-profit organization for equitable health care delivery in rural India and a medical advisor for Carity, a digital solution for cardiac rehabilitation.



## Shahnaz Radjy

### Communications and Marketing

Shahnaz is a freelance writer and communications consultant. She served as WBP's communication lead from 2018-2020 and is a strong believer in the power of advocacy and communication to enable healthier lives.

Previously, Shahnaz was the Senior Communications Specialist at the Vitality Institute in New York. Before that, she was on the Health Team of the World Economic Forum.

Half Iranian, half Bolivian, Shahnaz grew up in Switzerland. With an undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an Executive MBA in Healthcare Management, Shahnaz lives in rural Portugal where she is developing a farmstay and eco-tourism business.





## Silvina Catuara Solarz

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence & Scientific Projects

Silvina Catuara-Solarz, Ph.D. is a translational neuroscientist with expertise in neurodevelopmental, neurodegenerative and psychiatric disorders. She has experience in preclinical and clinical academic research, pharmaceutical industry and digital health sector in international environments.

Dr. Catuara-Solarz has supported the Women's Brain Project since 2017 as a Scientific Advisor. She has led the dissemination of scientific findings on the role of innovative technologies in our understanding of sex and gender differences in health through public speaking at conferences and scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals like [Cirillo, Catuara-Solarz, et al, NPJ Dig Med \(2020\)](#) and books such as [Cirillo, Catuara-Solarz, Guney, Elsevier \(2022\)](#).

Her main interests include the application of digital technologies and artificial intelligence into tools and services to prevent and manage neurological disorders in a personalized and scalable way.



## Simona Mellino

### Technology and Artificial Intelligence [Team Lead], Policy and Advocacy & Scientific Projects

Simona Mellino serves as Vice President of the Women's Brain Project.

Simona is a Life Sciences Senior Consultant at Accenture in Basel. She focuses on product strategy, commercial and digital health topics. Prior to joining Accenture, she worked at Procter and Gamble (P&G) (and Coty) as Product Development Manager for consumer healthcare and as a Strategy Consultant at EY-Parthenon.

A scientist by background, Simona holds a PhD in Computational Chemistry from Oxford University (UK) and a Master in Marketing (Rome, Italy).

She has a passionate interest in digital health, has published blogs with WBP, a review (in press, Nature Digital Medicine. Simona is the Vice President of the Women's Brain Project.



## Simone Büeler

### Communications and Marketing

Simone Büeler, MSc Pharm, is a Pharmacist and Senior Product Manager Rx with expertise and interests in pharmaceutical counseling, project management, marketing, sustainable health care system, market access, personalized medicine and diversity. She is a member of the association Business Professional Women in Zug and a volunteer at Women's Brain Project international.

Previously, she has studied Pharmacy at the University in Basel and has then further educated herself in Project Management/Marketing at the HSLU Luzern. During the ETH postgraduate program „Pharmaceuticals – From Research to Market“, she has acquired industry-specific knowledge regarding drug development while working full-time. The program provides the regulatory and economic framework and the most important processes from the pharmaceutical development to the marketing of a drug product.

In future, she is interested in contributing to the success of Women's Brain Project and personalized medicine.



## Sofia Petersson

### Ambassador

Sofia Petersson from Sweden was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease in her late 30s. Her father, uncle and grandmother also suffered from the disease. Sofia contributed a blog for the Women's Brain Project about living with Alzheimer's.

“I could not have imagined that seventeen years after my father's death, I would receive the news that I was affected as well. Unfortunately, I had to struggle at first to be believed by doctors. When I passed most of the standardized tests, the doctors said that it was nothing to worry about. I had to change doctors twice but I finally got the right help when I got in contact with my father's old retired doctor. While the medical investigation was going on, I studied to be a health educator and managed a three-year education at the university.

My goal is to write about the many challenges of young-onset Alzheimer's patients, and especially women's experiences.”

You can read Sofia's first-hand account on our website at [Sofia's Story](#).





## Sylvia Day

### Ambassador

Sylvia is honoured to be a Cause Ambassador for Women's Brain Project and has a deep personal connection as Alzheimer's disease has touched her family.

She is an international comedian, actress, writer, lyricist, impressionist, singer, pianist, director, producer and all-around entertainer. Born in the US to Swiss-Brazilian parents, Sylvia speaks five languages, has a BA in Communications and trained in acting and improvisation in Minneapolis, Chicago, New York and London. Her original comedy shows have been a hit with English-speaking audiences around the world including Off-Broadway. In 2020 when COVID-19 caused theatres everywhere to close, Sylvia started her own online show Sylvia Day Live (SDL) which airs Fridays on Facebook Live.



## Tracy Laabs

### Fundraising and Strategy

Following a PhD in Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge (UK), Tracy transitioned to scientific program management and support for high risk, high payoff neuroscience and neurotechnology projects both in the United States and now as the Assistant Director of the Wyss Center for Bio and Neuroengineering in Geneva, Switzerland.

Throughout her research and professional career, she has had the privilege of promoting strong peer-reviewed science and supporting science and technology development toward the better understanding and improvement of mental health. She supports the Women's Brain Project focus on the development of novel technologies and therapies specifically aimed at improving women's mental health.



## Tunahan Kirabali

### Scientific Projects

RDr. Tunahan Kirabali is a neuroscientist with a specific focus on Alzheimer's disease. He obtained his Master's degree in Molecular and Biological Chemistry at EPFL, Switzerland. Later, he joined Prof. Roger Nitsch's group at the University of Zurich for his doctoral studies focusing on fluid biomarkers for Alzheimer's disease. His research aimed to better understand vascular and inflammatory-immune mechanisms contributing to Alzheimer's disease pathology. After obtaining his PhD in Neuroscience, he joined Biogen to support stakeholder engagement activities and diagnostic operations during the pre-launch phase of Aducanumab. Currently, he is working as a life-science strategy consultant at Charles River Associates in Zurich.





## Victoria Knobel

### Legal and Partnership [Team Lead] & Policy and Advocacy

Dr. Victoria Knobel-Agius is an experienced international attorney with a career spanning over 20 years in Fortune 100 companies, working predominantly in cross-border transactional law, technology law, IP and negotiations. She now manages her own legal consulting business ([www.knobelegal.com](http://www.knobelegal.com)).

Victoria is also a qualified neuro-language coach and runs an executive English Language coaching establishment, where she shares her passion for language and communication (and gardening!) in an idyllic Mediterranean setting ([www.knobel.com.mt](http://www.knobel.com.mt)).

Victoria is proud to support the remarkable work of WBP in the field of Precision Medicine, Alzheimers, Dementia and provides pro bono legal support, advising on all legal and contractual matters.