

Your Majesty, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tack så mycket. Det är en stor ära att få ta emot detta pris.

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to the Prize Committee, to Alzheimerfonden, and to Her Majesty Queen Silvia for their extraordinary dedication to advancing research and care in Alzheimer's disease — and for shining a light on the work of researchers in this field.

Science is never an individual achievement. It's built on collaboration, trust, and shared purpose. I therefore want to thank my mentors, Professors Kaj Blennow and Henrik Zetterberg, for their continuous support and encouragement — and for motivating me to keep going even after rejections, which, as we all know, are a huge part of the job.

I still remember one day, after a paper had been rejected, talking with Kaj in his office. He looked at me and said: *“Laia, in science, you must be like a goose — rejections should simply slip away.”* Then he smiled and added, *“Please be happy.”* That moment stayed with me. And Henrik. He has taught me to always look beyond, to think boldly, and to stay curious. His enthusiasm for science is contagious, and it constantly reminds me why I fell in love with research in the first place.

I also want to thank all the brilliant scientists I've had the privilege to work with. This prize belongs just as much to the colleagues and collaborators who have shared this journey with me. It has been an incredible joy to work alongside such talented, generous, and passionate people. We must always remember: collaboration is what drives progress.

I am also profoundly grateful for the opportunity to conduct research in Sweden — a country that stands at the forefront of Alzheimer's and dementia research. Thanks to the commitment of institutions, the government, and private donors, Sweden has been home to some of the most transformative discoveries of recent years — from the development of fluid biomarkers, especially in blood, to therapeutic breakthroughs such as Lecanemab.

And the truth is — it's a genuinely exciting time to be part of this field at this moment in time! From my PhD in anti-amyloid immunotherapy to now working with fluid biomarkers, I'm amazed by how quickly our field is evolving — and by how close we are to truly changing the future for people living with Alzheimer's disease.

But as we look ahead with hope, we must also remember that our work is far from finished. Scientific breakthroughs only achieve their full meaning when they reach people's lives. We must make sure that advances in diagnosis and treatment are accessible to everyone — not just in specialised centres, but across societies and around the world. That will take continued commitment and collaboration among researchers, institutions, governments, and society as a whole.

Part of my work has focused on making blood biomarkers more accessible. In our team, we are developing workflows to measure Alzheimer's disease biomarkers from capillary blood — collected through a simple fingerstick. This could make blood biomarkers even more scalable, so that in the near future these tests can reach a wider population, including people with limited access to infrastructure and underserved populations.

Another part of my work — one I am especially proud of — focuses on staging Alzheimer's disease through blood biomarkers. With the recent approval of new therapies, now finally also in Europe, we are entering a new era in the management of the disease. An era of more individualised care and personalised medicine. Staging the disease using blood biomarkers will allow us to tailor prevention and treatment strategies in an accessible manner, improving patient care and increasing the chances of better outcomes with these new therapies.

Finally, I would like to mention that, although tremendous progress has been made in Alzheimer's research, we must not forget that other dementias exist — and that many patients have mixed pathologies, which complicate diagnosis and potential treatments. There is still so much to learn about Alzheimer's disease related dementias, and continued research — and continued funding — are essential if we are to fully understand and address these complex conditions.

I would like to conclude by saying how deeply honoured I am to receive this award. To be in the company of past laureates whom I deeply admire is truly humbling. This recognition renews my motivation to keep moving forward — to pursue my research with energy and to contribute to improving the lives of those affected by Alzheimer's disease.

Thank you so much. Tack så mycket.