Center for Health Disparities Research

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

CHDR Seminar Series

MECHANISTIC HEALTH DISPARITIES RESEARCH IN AGING AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

April's Featured Speakers

Barbara Bendlin PhD

Megan Zuelsdorff PhD

Andrea Gilmore Bykovskyi PhD, RN

Ryan Powell PhD

APRIL 15
2022

10:00 AM
CDT

Click to join via Zoom

Webinar ID: 952 0949 2266 | Passcode: 095670
Contact: chdr_seminarseries@medicine.wisc.edu

Photo: UW Department of Neuroscience, Roopra Lab, Dr. Avtar Roopra

Description of Seminar

April's featured seminar speakers will discuss how social contextual factors may impact the brain, including affecting trajectories of cognitive brain aging, as well as risk for pathologic brain changes. Attendees will learn more about how factors such as stressors, social isolation, and time and material scarcity may impact brain health and cognition. Research presentations will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Barbara Bendlin, Megan Zuelsdorff, Andrea Gilmore Bykovskyi, and Ryan Powell.

Barbara Bendlin, PhD

Dr. Barbara Bendlin, Ph.D. is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's School of Medicine and Public Health, Deputy Director of the Center for Health Disparities Research (CHDR), and Director for the Neuroscience and Public Policy Program. Dr. Bendlin also leads the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center's Research Education Component, centered on training the next generation of ADRD investigators, and is MPI for the Neighborhoods Study, an NIA-funded, nationwide 22-site Alzheimer Disease Research Center project connecting the social exposome to ADRD brain health outcomes. Dr. Bendlin's lab studies the development of neurodegenerative disease and factors that increase or decrease risk of dementia.

Megan Zuelsdorff, PhD

Dr. Megan Zuelsdorff, Ph.D. is a social epidemiologist and an Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin –Madison School of Nursing, where she approaches cognitive aging and dementia from a public health and equity perspective and uses multilevel social-ecological models of health production to guide her research program. Her work centers on proximal and distal social determinants of later-life cognitive health, including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; identifying novel modifiable individual- and environment-level risk exposures and resources that influence cognitive trajectories in older adults; and improving assessment of risk and protective factors within underrepresented and underserved populations. As PI for the Stress and Resilience In Dementia (STRIDE) study, an NIA- and Alzheimer's Association-funded project, Dr. Zuelsdorff's work prioritizes the inclusion and dementia concerns of local African American, Native American, and rural residents.

Andrea Gilmore Bykovskyi, PhD, RN

Dr. Andrea Gilmore Bykovskyi, Ph.D., RN is an Assistant Professor in the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing, Deputy Director for the Center for Health Disparities Research (CHDR), and holds affiliations in the Division of Geriatrics and Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), where she serves as the Informatics Lead, ADRC Care Core. Dr. Gilmore Bykovskyi leads a research program aimed at improving identification of AD through EHR data screening approaches to promote greater participation in clinical research and access to effective care and therapies, specifically targeting high-risk, disadvantaged populations. Her research operates at the intersections of care delivery, equity, and ethics and employs a range of methodologies, health informatics, and data sources.

Ryan Powell, PhD

Dr. Ryan Powell, Ph.D. is a Scientist in the Center for Health Disparities Research at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He is the Data Science Director for the Neighborhoods Study, an NIA-funded, nationwide 22-Alzheimer Disease Research Center project connecting the social exposome to ADRD brain health outcomes. Dr. Powell brings 17 years of experience conducting quantitative social science research focused on methods development, health disparities, and social determinants of health to his work in these critical research areas.