

Waves from
Lake Mendota
splash the iconic
Memorial Union
Terrace chairs.



Wisconsin Alzheimer's
Disease Research Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Headlines

SPRING 2017

WELCOME

ADRC welcomes Dr. Chin

Nathaniel Chin, MD, joined the Wisconsin ADRC on March 1, 2017. Dr. Chin grew up in Watertown, Wisconsin, and earned his undergraduate and medical degrees from UW-Madison.



Chin

He completed his internal medicine training at the University of California, San Diego, and it was during this time that Dr. Chin's father was diagnosed with early onset Alzheimer's disease. His father's condition influenced the way he began to look at his profession, and Dr. Chin decided to pursue a career as a geriatrician and scientist focused on treating Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

Dr. Chin sees patients in the UW Health Memory Clinic in Madison three half-days a week and runs a research program focused on Alzheimer's disease and dementia patient care.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Current studies look at preventive measures to delay onset of Alzheimer's disease

Much of the funding that supports investigation in the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) is from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). These dollars are highly competitive, and it is a testament to our center's talent and expertise that we have been able to secure substantial funding from the federal government, with even more research grants under consideration. I am extremely proud of the investigators and staff who work in our center. I am also grateful for the volunteers who participate in our studies — they are the source of our data and integral to our research.

The support we receive from the NIH allows us to pursue new lines of investigation into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Our scientists are exploring the impact of life-long social employment on disease risk

and prevention, symptom-reversing medications, and unique risk factors in African American and Native American communities that make them more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.

Our center has a special focus on prevention studies. Current work will tell us how healthy diet, exercise, healthy lifestyles, and controlling heart and vascular disease can help prevent Alzheimer's disease or slow the onset of symptoms.

I am excited for the future of Alzheimer's disease research. In 2011, the National Alzheimer's Project Act set a goal to "prevent and effectively treat AD" by 2025. We are closing in on the half-way mark, and the progress is incredible. Thank you to our volunteers and supporters for helping us achieve these goals and bring an end to this terrible disease.



Sanjay Asthana, MD
Associate Dean for Gerontology
Director, Wisconsin ADRC & Madison VA GRECC
Professor, UW School of Medicine and Public Health

NEWS BRIEFS

The Federation of Associations in Behavioral & Brain Sciences (FABBS) honored **Ozioma Okonkwo, PhD**, with



Okonkwo

an Early Career Impact Award, naming him the 2017 National Academy of Neuropsychology Award Winner.

Early Career Impact Awards are presented to early career scientists and recognize researchers who have made major contributions to the sciences of mind, brain, and behavior.

Subhojit Roy, MD, PhD, was one of 21 investigators from



Roy

across campus who were funded through the UW2020: WARF Discovery Initiative awards. His

project, "A CRISPR/Cas9 Based Therapeutic Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease," aims to stop the progression of Alzheimer's disease through gene editing.

Fabu Carter, MA, outreach specialist in the ADRC's



Carter

Minority Recruitment Satellite Program, was one of six women honored in April at the

UW-Madison Outstanding Women of Color Awards celebratory reception.

Wisconsin ADRC hosts Alzheimer's disease investigators from Germany

The Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) hosted six scientists from the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases (DZNE) March 21-22, 2017, in Madison. The group was made up largely of brain imaging specialists.

Following comments from Dr. Rick Moss and Dr. Sanjay Asthana, delegates from the DZNE and UW researchers presented research

updates in dementia. During the rest of the visit, group members identified research questions that could be best answered by harnessing strengths from both centers.

Investigators at the ADRC and the DZNE expect to submit a joint grant proposal later this year, as well as lay



Alzheimer's disease experts from Germany and UW-Madison met in March 2017 to discuss joint research and clinical trial projects.

the groundwork for a future multi-site clinical trial.

This is the fourth face-to-face meeting between the ADRC and the DZNE. The researchers will meet again at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in London in July 2017.

Solomon Carter Fuller Memory Screening Day

Another successful Solomon Carter Fuller Memory Screening Day was held February 24-25, 2017. Guest speaker Keith Whitfield, PhD, provost of Wayne State University, met with students and staff Friday afternoon.

Friday evening, Dr. Whitfield joined members of the community for dinner at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and gave a community lecture on cognitive aging in African American men. The event continued on Saturday at the Urban League of Greater Madison with seminars for caregivers and free memory screenings.

The Solomon Carter Fuller Memory Screening Day and Community Lecture is co-sponsored by the



Dr. Keith Whitfield, center, and two attendees at his public talk on cognitive aging in African American men.

Alzheimer's & Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Geriatric Education Center. Watch a video of Dr. Whitfield's talk on our YouTube channel: go.wisc.edu/qi35c6.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Participant Appreciation Event

Join us for our annual participant appreciation event on August 1 at DeJope Residence Hall. Several of our investigators and clinicians will be in attendance to present updates on Alzheimer's disease research, listen to your comments, and answer your questions. All volunteer members of our Clinical Core Study are invited. Look for your invitation in the mail in the coming weeks.

Date: August 1, 2017

Time: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Location: DeJope Residence Hall, 640 Elm Drive, Madison

Annual Fall Lecture

Save the date for our Annual Fall Lecture, which will be held in the evening of October 4 at Gordon Dining and Event Center on the UW-Madison campus. Our keynote speaker will be Rozalyn Anderson, PhD, associate professor in the UW Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology and a world-renowned expert in aging and caloric restriction. Event details will be shared in the Summer 2017 issue of the newsletter.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Medical school names Alzheimer's disease a top priority for research and development

The world is full of worthy causes, but none go deeper into protecting the core of who we are as humans than finding a cure for Alzheimer's disease. As our population ages, many of us will experience firsthand the despair, grief, and hardship that comes from living with or caring for someone with this disease. At the University of Wisconsin, physicians, scientists, and staff are working to change that every day.

Founded in 2016, the UW Initiative to End Alzheimer's features internationally renowned programs and collaborations between the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Institute within

the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Working across the spectrum of Alzheimer's disease, from research to community outreach to improved patient care, the UW is positioned and ready to develop the next breakthrough.

Today, 5.5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, but with your help, there is hope for a future without Alzheimer's. By participating in research, sharing your story, being an ambassador, or giving a gift of financial support, you are helping to move our mission forward.

To learn more about the Initiative to End Alzheimer's or to share your story with us, please contact me.



Dori Suddarth, Director of Development Initiative to End Alzheimer's
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
dori.suddarth@supportuw.org
(608) 381-3638



Every 66 seconds, someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's. Now, imagine a world where Alzheimer's disease no longer exists.....



School of Medicine and Public Health
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Initiative to End Alzheimer's

Give today and learn more at alwaysforward.org/alzheimers



At the University of Wisconsin-Madison, our goal is to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Your support will play an essential role in helping us achieve our goal.

SELECTED OPEN STUDIES

ADRC Registry (Clinical Core Study)

People who join this study undergo annual memory and thinking evaluations and participate in other ADRC-affiliated studies. Interested volunteers may join if they can attend a yearly visit with a study partner and either have MCI or are healthy, 45-65 years old, with or without a parental history of Alzheimer's disease.

EXERT

Exercise programs may improve memory and thinking abilities for adults. The purpose of EXERT is to examine the effects of stretching, balance, and range of motion exercise versus moderate- to high-intensity aerobic exercise on memory and thinking skills. Participants must be 65-89 years old with mild memory loss or diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment, in otherwise good health, and have no metal in the body.

BRAVE-EPA

The purpose of this study is to evaluate whether EPA, an omega-3 fatty acid, improves biomarkers of Alzheimer's disease and thinking abilities in middle-aged, cognitively healthy military veterans. We are looking for veterans aged 50-70 years old with normal memory who have a parent with Alzheimer's disease.

Connectome

The purpose of this study is to utilize MRI to make the most detailed measurements of brain networks to date in people with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer's disease. We are currently recruiting people 55-90 years old who can undergo MRI. Must be a member of the Clinical Core Study to join.

Predicting Alzheimer's from Metabolic Measures and Sleep (PAMMS)

PAMMS evaluates brain changes over time by examining metabolic measures and sleep to see how they affect the brain. We are currently recruiting people with healthy memory aged 45 and older. Must be a member of the Clinical Core Study to join.

ADRC Registry

New studies start frequently at the Wisconsin ADRC, and we're looking for men and women volunteers. The Wisconsin ADRC has created a research database – the Wisconsin ADRC Registry – to hold the names and eligibility information of potential volunteers. To join the Registry, you will be asked to complete a phone questionnaire.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact the ADRC at (608) 263-2582.

You can find a full list of recruiting studies on our website at www.adrc.wisc.edu/open-studies.

MEET A RESEARCHER

Dr. Carey Gleason

Does your emotional health, or the neighborhood you live in, affect your risk for developing dementia or Alzheimer's disease? How does heart health or mental



Gleason

health impact healthy aging?

Dr. Carey Gleason, an associate professor of medicine in

the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology and co-leader for the Minority Recruitment Satellite Program in the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), works to answer these questions.

Dr. Gleason joined the University of Wisconsin in 2001 as a geriatric neuropsychologist. She has been a scientist with the Wisconsin ADRC since its inception in 2009. She researches dementia and Alzheimer's disease in African Americans and Native Americans, groups traditionally under-represented in research.

Her new study – African Americans Fighting Alzheimer's in Mid-life (AA-FAiM) – will investigate risk factors for Alzheimer's disease that can be changed, such as heart health, mental and emotional health, and neighborhood disadvantage. Another component of her study will explore ways to empower participants to take control of their health and live healthier lives.

About Us

The Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) combines academic, clinical, and research expertise from the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health and the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) of the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital in Madison, Wisconsin. Founded in 2009, the ADRC receives funding from private, university, state, and national sources, including a National Institutes of Health/National Institute on Aging grant for Alzheimer's Research Centers (P50-AG033514).