



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

# Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias **RESEARCH DAY**

April 5, 2022 | noon–5 p.m. | Discovery Building and Livestream

ADRD Research Day is presented by the Wisconsin ADRC Research Education Component (REC)

## PROGRAM & AGENDA

- PM
- 12:00      **Poster Viewing and Registration**
- 12:30      **Opening Remarks and Research Update**  
*Barbara Bendlin, PhD, leader, Wisconsin ADRC Research Education Component (REC)*  
*Sanjaya Asthana, MD, director, Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*
- 12:45      **Keynote Speaker**  
"Blood Biomarkers for Alzheimer's Disease: Analyses, Interpretation and Clinical Utility"  
*Thomas Karikari, PhD, assistant professor, University of Gothenburg and*  
*University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center*
- 1:50      **Poster Session and Refreshments** (Cast your Fan Favorite Poster vote at [go.wisc.edu/xa779i](https://go.wisc.edu/xa779i))
- 3:15      **Featured Speaker**  
"Modeling Neurodevelopment and Neurodegeneration in Down Syndrome with Stem Cells"  
*Anita Bhattacharyya, PhD, assistant professor, Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology,*  
*University of Wisconsin–Madison*
- 3:50      **Lightning Presenters**  
"The Impact of APP C-terminal Editing on Endosomal/Lysosomal Pathway Dysfunction in Down Syndrome Fibroblasts" — *Hailey Feinzig*  
"Multi-omics Gene Regulatory Networks Linking Risk SNPs and Neuroimmunology to Alzheimer's Phenotypes" — *Saniya Khullar*  
"Higher Cortical Myelin Is Associated with Worse Performance on Cognitive Tests: Findings from the Alzheimer's Disease Connectome Project" — *Akshay Kohli*  
"The Association of Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor and Vascular Resistance in Individuals at Risk for Alzheimer's Disease" — *Alexis R. Nelson*  
"Motivating Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Risk Reduction Behaviors in Older Adults: Motivational Cessation Message Development Findings" — *Adrienne L. Johnson, PhD*
- 4:30      **Poster Awards and Closing Remarks**

## SPEAKERS



**Sanjay Asthana, MD**, Duncan G. and Lottie H. Ballantine Chair in Geriatrics, is associate dean for gerontology and head of the Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology within the Department of Medicine at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Asthana is director of the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and the William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans Hospital GRECC and PI of the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study.



**Barbara Bendlin, PhD**, is professor of medicine (geriatrics) at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Bendlin serves as director of the UW–Madison Neuroscience & Public Policy Program, deputy director of the UW Center for Health Disparities Research and leader of the Wisconsin ADRC Research Education Component (REC). Her research focuses on the interplay of factors contributing to healthy or diseased brain aging.



**Thomas Karikari, PhD**, is assistant professor at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden and also the University of Pittsburgh. The main research interest of his lab is to understand the processing of neurodegenerative proteins in the human brain and biofluids and apply this knowledge to develop new diagnostic tools for clinical use. To this end, he has been successful in discovering and developing tools to measure specific forms of the pathological tau protein in blood.



**Anita Bhattacharyya, PhD**, is assistant professor in the Department of Cell and Regenerative Biology at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, PI in the Waisman Center, and a Wisconsin ADRC REC Scholar. Dr. Bhattacharyya's research examines how brain development is altered in individuals with developmental disabilities. She uses human pluripotent stem cells to study the formation of the cerebral cortex.

**Hailey Feinzig** is an undergraduate neurobiology honors student in the College of Letters & Science and a member of the Saha Lab.

**Saniya Khullar** is a PhD student in biomedical data science and a member of the Daifeng Wang Lab.

**Akshay Kohli** is a PhD student in the Neuroscience Training Program and a member of the Bendlin Lab.

**Alexis R. Nelson** is an undergraduate neurobiology and psychology student and a member of the Okonkwo Lab.

**Adrienne L. Johnson, PhD**, is assistant professor of medicine (general internal medicine) at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, researcher in the UW Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention and recipient of a 2021-2023 Wisconsin ADRC Developmental Project Award.

## About the Wisconsin ADRC

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 Disease Centers (P30-AG062715). Find us online at [adrc.wisc.edu](http://adrc.wisc.edu).