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JOHNS HOPKINS
CENTER *on* AGING & HEALTH

The COAH Chronicle

Volume I, Issue 6 (January 26, 2024)

The COAH Chronicle aims to bring you the Center's latest: news and highlights; upcoming seminars, events, and meetings; recent publications from our faculty and fellows; and aging-related research funding opportunities.

Want us to consider something for The COAH Chronicle?

[Submit News](#)

Center Highlights

COAH Scientific Seminar

With Dr. Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen

Monday, February 5 from 3:30pm to 5:00pm
In-person or Virtual



“Addressing Health Disparities Among Sexual And Gender Minority Older Adults: Findings From The National Health, Aging And Sexuality/Gender Study (NHAS)”

[Learn More/Register](#)

COAH Postdoctoral Fellow Erica Twardzic Develops Tool to Identify Accessibility Roadblocks in Public Transportation Systems

The Journal of Transportation and Health recently published a study led by COAH postdoctoral fellow Erica Twardzic, “TRansit ACcessibility Tool (TRACT): Developing a novel scoring system for public transportation system accessibility.”



The research team also included COAH colleagues Drs. Jennifer A. Schrack and Bonnielin K. Swenor, and more researchers from the Bloomberg School of Public Health. The team found significant variation in the accessibility information presented on public transportation system websites. Since websites are a primary way users obtain objective information about public transportation systems, the absence of accessibility information therefore creates barriers for the disability community—thus restricting equal access to public transportation.

[TRACT Research Article](#)

News & Announcements



Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Jonathan K. Leer, MHA, FHFMA, FACMPE**, upon taking on the Division of Hematology as division administrator in addition to serving as the administrator for the Division of Geriatric Medicine & Gerontology!

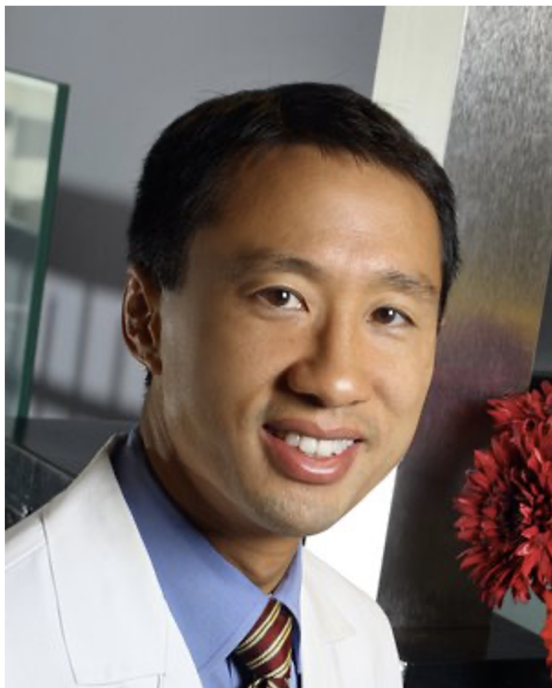
[Read All About It](#)

Dr. Cudjoe Selected for Prestigious Mentorship Program

Dr. Thomas Cudjoe was selected as a “Protégé” in Johns Hopkins Medicine’s Levi Watkins, Jr., Mentorship Program, which supports high-potential leaders.



[Learn More](#)



COAH Faculty Members

Drs. Frank Lin & Jeremy Walston

Featured in the News

In their “Full Frame: Aging Well” segment (which you may find [here](#)), *CGTN America* recently featured COAH Senior Associate Faculty Dr. Frank Lin and COAH Core Faculty Dr. Jeremy Walston. Dr. Lin discussed the link between hearing loss and dementia, and Dr. Walston described what healthy aging actually looks like. In addition to the story online, *CGTN America* also made great video interviews with each of these experts on those topics.

Watch Dr. Lin's Interview

Watch Dr. Walston's Interview

Upcoming Talks & Meetings

COAH Scientific Seminars & Meetings

- **Scientific Seminar:**
2/5, 3:30pm - 5:00pm
Karen Fredriksen-Goldsen, PhD

“Addressing Health Disparities Among Sexual And Gender Minority Older Adults: Findings From The National Health, Aging And Sexuality/Gender Study (NHAS)”
Powe Room, 1-500Q, or via Zoom

- **Journal Club:**

2/12, 12:15pm - 1:15pm

PhD student Sunan Gao will be presenting

Paper/Topic: *Unraveling the metabolic underpinnings of frailty using multicohort observational and Mendelian randomization analyses. Mak JKL, et al. Aging Cell. Apr 2023.*

- **Epi & Biostats of Aging Research-in-Progress:**

2/12, 3:30pm - 4:30pm

Katie Kurgansky, PhD student in Epidemiology

Title TBA

SPH Room E6519

Visit [COAH Events](#) or email [Monique Lee](#) for more information, such as Zoom links if you are unable to join us in-person.



Division of Geriatric Medicine & Gerontology Grand Rounds

- Every Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm Norman Library
Asthma & Allergy Center, Room 2B.65
 - 2/1, Dr. Anna Goroncy
 - 2/8, Dr. David Hurwitz
 - 2/15, Dr. Amal Wanigatunga

For more information, contact [Teresa Sponaugle](#).

COAH Research Working Groups

(Groups meet in the COAH Large Conference Room, unless otherwise noted)

- **Biostatistics and Research Design**
2nd Wednesday of each month
11:00am – 12:00pm
- **Cognitive and Sensory Functions**
3rd Monday of each month
11:00am – 12:00pm
- **ENGAGE (Energy, Activity and Aging) Research Group**
Every other Thursday – Hybrid
12:15pm – 1:15pm
- **Family and Social Resources**
4th Tuesday of each month via Zoom
8:30am – 9:30am
- **Frailty and Multisystem Dysregulation**
2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month - Zoom
9:00am – 10:00am
- **International Approaches to Aging**
3rd Wednesday of each month – Hybrid
11:00am – 12:00pm
- **Medicare Claims and EHR Analyses**
4th Wednesday of each month – Hybrid
3:00pm – 4:00pm

Visit [Research Working Groups](#) for descriptions and faculty contact information.

Publications

Fresh from COAH Faculty and Fellows

- Assi S, **Twardzik E**, **Deal JA**, Martin Ginis K, Palta P, **Schrack JA**, Reed NS, **Martinez-Amezcuca P**. *Hearing Loss and Physical Activity Among Older Adults in the United States*. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2024 Jan 1;79(1):glad186. doi: 10.1093/gerona/glad186.
- Dunlap PM, **Crane BM**, Perera S, **Moored KD**, **Carlson MC**, Brach JS, Klatt BN, Rosso AL. *Global Positioning System Indicators of Community Mobility and Future Health Outcomes Among Older Adults*. J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci. 2024 Jan 1;79(1):glad209. doi: 10.1093/gerona/glad209.
- Gleason KT, Wu MMJ, Wec A, Powell DS, Zhang T, Gamper MJ, Green AR, **Nothelle S**, **Amjad H**, **Wolff JL**. *Use of the patient portal among older adults with diagnosed dementia and their care partners*. Alzheimers Dement. 2023 Dec;19(12):5663-5671. doi: 10.1002/alz.13354. Epub 2023 Jun 24.
- Gottesman RF, Lutsey PL, Benveniste H, Brown DL, Full KM, Lee JM, Osorio RS, Pase MP, Redeker NS, Redline S, **Spira AP**; American Heart Association Stroke Council; Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing; and Council on Hypertension. *Impact of Sleep Disorders and Disturbed Sleep on Brain Health: A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association*. Stroke. 2024 Jan 18. doi: 10.1161/STR.0000000000000453. Online ahead of print.
- Li M, Huang J, Budhathoki C, Li Q, **Samuel L**, **Szanton SL**, **Schrack JA**, Li J. *Social Factors and Older Adults' Use of Wearable Activity Trackers: Before and During the First Wave of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. J Appl Gerontol. 2024 Feb;43(2):182-193. doi: 10.1177/07334648231205417. Epub 2023 Oct 20.
- **Marino FR**, Chen X, **Deal JA**, Simonsick EM, Ferrucci L, **Schrack JA**, **Wanigatunga AA**. *Perceived Fatigability, Fatigue, and Mortality in Mid-to-Late*

Life in the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2024 Feb 1;56(2):307-314. doi: 10.1249/MSS.0000000000003306. Epub 2023 Sep 12.

- Moore AZ, Simonsick EM, Landman B, **Schrack J, Wanigatunga AA**, Ferrucci L. *Correlates of life course physical activity in participants of the Baltimore longitudinal study of aging*. Aging Cell. 2024 Jan 16:e14078. doi: 10.1111/accel.14078. Online ahead of print.
- Suri A, VanSwearingen J, Baillargeon EM, **Crane BM, Moored KD, Carlson MC**, Dunlap PM, **Donahue PT**, Redfern MS, Brach JS, Sejdic E, Rosso AL. *Association of Gait Quality With Daily-Life Mobility: An Actigraphy and Global Positioning System Based Analysis in Older Adults*. IEEE Trans Biomed Eng. 2024 Jan;71(1):130-138. doi: 10.1109/TBME.2023.3293752. Epub 2023 Dec 22.
- **Twardzik E**, Guralnik JM, Falvey JR. *Community Mobility Among Older Adults Who Are Socioeconomically Disadvantaged: Addressing the Poverty Penalty*. Phys Ther. 2023 Dec 29:pzad182. doi: 10.1093/ptj/pzad182. Online ahead of print.

Funding Opportunities



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of PUBLIC HEALTH

Cochlear Center for
Hearing and Public Health

Johns Hopkins Cochlear Center

Hearing and Aging Mentoring Program (Summer CHAMP)

Summer CHAMP is intensive multidisciplinary 1-week in-person program will be held from Saturday, June 22 to Friday, June 28, 2024 at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA. This intensive program is designed for audiology, public health, allied health, and medical graduate students currently enrolled in an AuD, MD, or public-health related PhD program who are interested in building a foundation in age-related hearing loss and public health research. The program concludes with a final research project.

Applications are due by February 15, 2024, 11:59pm ET.

The Summer CHAMP application can be found [here](#).

Please email epitts4@jhmi.edu with any questions.



The Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (JHAD-RCMAR) Request for Pilot Research Proposals

JHAD-RCMAR funds are available to encourage innovative research focused on basic, clinical, psychosocial, or health service aspects of minority aging, Alzheimer's disease or related disorders (ADRD), and health disparities.

The overarching goal of the JHAD-RCMAR is to prepare the next generation of underrepresented minority researchers. However, the application is open to all individuals interested in the conduct of Alzheimer-related research that is culturally

relevant and has the potential to bridge research from discovery to implementation in ADRD minority aging.

Investigators awarded pilot research funds through this mechanism will become JHAD-RCMAR Scientists and will receive additional career development support through the JHAD-RCMAR.

- Funds available: \$30,000 (direct costs), plus F&A for each pilot. Each pilot project is expected to last one year.
- Due Date: February 1, 2024, by 5pm
- Start Date: July 1, 2024

For eligibility requirements and the application process, please [email](#) the RCMAR or visit their [website](#).



There is currently an open window for Letters of Inquiry from the Retirement Research Foundation (RRF). RRF funds research that seeks to identify interventions, policies and practices to improve the well-being of older adults (60 and older) and/or their caregivers in the US.

RRF does not fund: biomedical research; basic theory development for social science research; or research and development for new technology; or dissertation research, tuition expenses, or education programs for undergraduate or graduate students.

10% of the direct expenses requested from RRF can be allocated to indirect expenses. When developing project budgets, RRF encourages organizations to consider the “true cost” of the proposed project and include all relevant expenses.

LOIs are due by February 1, and each department is limited to one application.

For more information, visit RRF's Research Grants webpage [here](#).



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of PUBLIC HEALTH

Roger C. Lipitz Center for
Integrated Health Care

Applications are open for the T32 Training Program in Health Service & Outcomes Research for Aging Populations!

"It is clear that everyone who is a part of the T32 genuinely supports each other and is willing to offer help and advice. This was the perfect year"

From the T32 Training Program trainee feedback survey

The Health Services and Outcomes Research for Aging Populations T32 Training Program at Johns Hopkins University seeks to produce the next generation of scientists with rigorous training in person and family-centered health services and outcomes research with a focus on older adults. A call for post-doctoral fellows to begin before August 1, 2024 is available [here](#).



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Hopkins Economics of
Alzheimer's Disease
& Services Center

Hopkins' Economics of Alzheimer's Disease & Services (HEADS) Center Call for 2024-25 Pilot Project Proposals

The 2024-25 HEADS pilot award cycle is open! Several \$25,000 grant awards are available, with additional funding possible. The HEADS Center seeks promising post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty, but applicants may be of any rank from Johns Hopkins University as well as from external institutions. Minorities and people with disabilities encouraged to apply.

The full proposal is due by 2/2/24.

See RFA



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RESEARCH

Catalyst & Discovery Awards

The [Johns Hopkins University Catalyst Awards](#) are for early-career faculty across the university who are undertaking exceptional research or creative endeavors. The awards of up to \$75,000 will help these individuals launch their promising careers during the crucial years when startup funds are depleted and external funding or other support may be elusive. They are available to faculty members appointed to a full-time tenure-track or tenure-track equivalent faculty position within no less than three years and no more than 10 years of July 1, 2024.

The [Johns Hopkins University Discovery Awards](#) focus on cross-university, faculty-led research and discovery. We aim for these awards of up to \$100,000 to spark new interactions among faculty from across the university. Faculty teams use these funds to get started while they seek an externally funded large-scale grant or cooperative agreement.

The application deadline for both programs is midnight on Thursday, Feb. 15.

Learn more



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has issued a Call For Proposals to fund research studies to produce new, actionable evidence about how to help medical, social, and public health systems work together to address forms of systemic racism.

This Call For Proposals offers two distinct categories of research awards: Developmental Research; and Impact Research.

Deadline: February 7, 2024

[Learn more](#)



NON-DILUTIVE FUNDING FOR
AI / TECH + AGING

including Alzheimer's disease and related dementias

The NIA has earmarked \$40 million to fund technology demonstration projects that utilize artificial intelligence (AI) approaches and technology to improve care and health outcomes for older Americans, including persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (AD/ADRD), and their caregivers.

Applications for the fourth annual a2 Pilot Awards will be accepted from March 1 to April 30, 2024.

There will be a Q&A webinar on March 25th at 12pm ET.

[Learn more](#)

Follow us on X (Twitter): [@jhu_coah](#)

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COAH was established in 1997 as a center of excellence for aging research at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions. Our mission is to optimize the health and well-being of older adults through innovative research, leadership, education, and service that meet the needs and goals of a diverse aging population.

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