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# The COAH Chronicle

Volume I, Issue 8 (February 23, 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.

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## Center Highlights

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**COAH Core Faculty**  
**Dr. Halima Amjad Quoted in**  
**New York Times Article:**  
***What is Mild Cognitive Impairment,***  
***and How Is It Diagnosed?***

The New York Times recently interviewed Dr. Halima Amjad for an important article about Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and its diagnosis. The Alzheimer's Association estimated that roughly 10-15% of people with MCI develop dementia—and there are millions of people living with MCI. Dr. Amjad contributes to the conversation with fellow national experts on the subject.

[Read The Open Access Article](#)

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# Registration & Call For Abstracts Now Open for The 17th Annual JHSPH Research on Aging Showcase

**Event Date: Fri., April 5, 2024**

**Abstract Deadline: Fri., March 15, 2024**



## Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Claudia Kawas

Al and Trish Nichols Chair  
in Clinical Neuroscience

Professor of Neurobiology &  
Behavior and Neurology

University of California, Irvine

The 17th Annual Research on Aging Showcase will be held on Friday, April 5, 2024. This year's Keynote Speaker will be **Claudia Kawas, MD**, Professor of Neurology in the School of Medicine and Professor of Neurobiology in the School of Biological Sciences at the University of California, Irvine. Dr. Kawas will present on "***Dementia and Resilience in the Oldest Old: The 90+ Study.***"

The keynote address will take place in Sheldon Hall (Room W1214) at the Bloomberg School of Public Health from 12:15pm – 1:20pm EST, followed by the poster and networking session in the Turner Concourse (720 Rutland Ave.) from 1:30pm – 3:30pm EST.

We hope you can join us for this free, student-led public health summit for emerging gerontology researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, hosted by Johns Hopkins

University with participation from the University of Maryland and the National Institute on Aging.

To register for the keynote address and/or the poster session, please visit: [17th Annual Research on Aging Showcase](#).

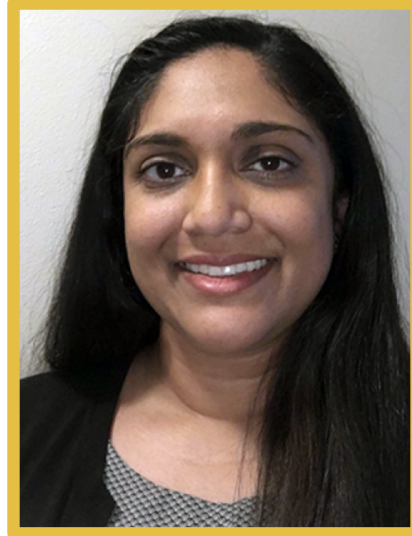
Students, fellows, and junior faculty are invited to submit an abstract for the poster session. Abstracts are due by no later than Friday, March 15, 2024 at 11:59pm EST; to do so, go here: [17th Annual Research on Aging Showcase Poster Abstract Submission Form](#).

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# News & Announcements

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**Drs. Westbrook & Nidadavolu  
Named Finalists for W. Leigh Thompson  
Excellence in Research Awards**



Here's some wonderful news from the 2024 Department of Medicine and Whiting School of Engineering retreat. Two Division of Geriatrics and Gerontology faculty members, Dr. Reyhan Westbrook and Dr. Lolita Nidadavolu, have been recognized as finalists for the prestigious 2024 W. Leigh Thompson Excellence in Research Awards.

Dr. Reyhan Westbrook's work, "Dual Treatment with Kynurenine Pathway Inhibitors and NAD+ Precursors Synergistically Extends Lifespan in *Drosophila*," was selected as a finalist in the Basic Research Faculty category.

In the Clinical Research Faculty category, Dr. Lolita Nidadavolu's research, "Identifying frailty sub-populations based on cell-free DNA tissue of origin," was the winner of this award.

Congratulations to both Dr. Westbrook and Dr. Nidadavolu for their outstanding achievements, and to their mentors, Drs. Peter Abadir, Esther Oh and Jeremy Walston (COAH Core Faculty member).

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## Healthy Longevity Global Competition 2024 Application Cycle is Now Open!

Please consider applying! This is a unique opportunity that only requires a 2-page narrative submission. Open to individuals and teams, the National Academy of Medicine's Catalyst Awardees will each earn a \$50,000 cash prize, unlock exclusive access to future funding opportunities, and become part of a global interdisciplinary network. The application period opened January 29, 2024, and it will close on March 11, 2024 at 11:59 pm EST.

[Learn More](#)

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# Happenings

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**Save the Date for the Inaugural  
William H. Adler, III, MD Lecture  
on Science and Aging  
Thursday, March 28th at 4pm ET  
Grossi Auditorium**

# Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center



## Featured Speaker:

### Huda Yaha Zoghbi, MD

Ralph D. Feigin, MD Endowed Chair  
Baylor College of Medicine  
Houston, Texas

Dr. Huda Zoghbi, an internationally known investigator who has helped to illustrate the importance of accumulation of abnormal proteins as the cause of many aging-related neurological conditions, will present at the William H. Adler, III, MD Inaugural Lecture on Science and Aging.

Dr. Zoghbi is a pediatrician who has spent her career doing basic medical science highly relevant to the aging population. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Zoghbi as the lecture's inaugural speaker. Please join us!

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*Sibley Senior Association Invites You to the*  
**LGBTQ+ SEXUAL HEALTH EQUITY  
PANEL DISCUSSION**

**Friday, February 23**

**4-6pm ET**

**Via Zoom**



**MODERATOR:**  
**Claire Madrigal, R.N.**



**PANELIST:**  
**Rufus Tony Spann,**  
**Ph.D., L.C.P.C., L.P.C.**



**PANELIST:**  
**Ron Swanda, Volunteer**  
**Advocate for Seniors**



**PANELIST:**  
**Anthony L. Teano,**  
**M.L.A**

COAH team member Tony Teano will deliver a presentation as part of the Sibley Senior Association’s LGBTQ+ Health Equity panel discussion on Fri., 2/23 from 4-6pm ET via Zoom. This free event is for members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies. Sexual and Gender Minorities often face discrimination and barriers regarding health care.

Tony has collaborated with leadership in JHU’s Division of Geriatrics and Medicine for the Greater Good to improve clinician’s knowledge of LGBTQ+ older adults’ social determinants of health and potential for negative health outcomes; as a result, Geriatricians Engaged and Ready for LGBTQ+ Aging, Health and Wellness (GEARed)” emerged in 2022 as an innovative Mosaic Initiative. At the Sibley Senior Association’s event, Tony will share a few insights and resources publicly available for medical professionals, LGBTQ+ elders, and their allies.

Tony is a communications specialist working with the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, the Center on Aging and Health, the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, the Frailty Science team, and the US Deprescribing Research Network. Additionally, he serves on JHU’s university-wide Diversity Leadership Council, and he was named a Johns Hopkins Medicine Pride Achievers Award recipient in 2021. Also, he volunteers as a Medicine for the Greater Good Ambassador to speak to LGBTQ+ health matters.

[Register](#)





# US Deprescribing Research Network 2024 Annual Meeting

May 15<sup>th</sup> · Boston, Massachusetts

- This highly interactive meeting welcomes all interested in research to enhance deprescribing and medication use in older adults.
- Great opportunities for learning from leaders in the field and for networking and idea- sharing among attendees.
- Held in conjunction with Society of General Internal Medicine's Annual Meeting.
- Scan the QR code to learn more!



## USDeN 2024 Annual Meeting Register Now!

The US Deprescribing Research Network will hold their 2024 Annual Network Meeting will be in-person on **Wednesday, May 15th in Boston, Massachusetts** in conjunction with the Society of General Internal Medicine's Annual Meeting. This highly interactive meeting is open to all with an interest in research that aims to improve deprescribing and medication use in older adults, and features tremendous opportunities to learn from leaders in the field and to network and share ideas with colleagues from across the US and the world.

### **Registration is now open!**

Click [here](#) to find more details and to register for the event.

### **Are you a student, resident, or fellow?**

Visit USDeN's annual meeting webpage to find out how to waive your meeting registration fee.

### **Submit an Abstract!**

USDeN strongly encourages and invites you to present at the USDeN annual meeting poster session; this may be a repeat or encore poster from SGIM or AGS or another meeting. Posters should be related to your research on deprescribing or a related topic. Posters about ongoing research projects are welcome; these should include a description of the study and the analysis plan. Click [here](#) to submit an abstract by March 14th.



**OAIC National Coordinating Center**  
Claude D Pepper Older Americans Independence Centers



**Wake Forest University**  
**School of Medicine**

**Registration is Open for the**  
**2024 William R. Hazzard, MD**  
**Translational Research in Aging Symposium**  
**“Closing Loops: Integrating Brain & Body”**

**Feb. 28, 2024**

**8:30 am - 3:30 pm**

**In-Person at Wake Forest University**  
**Or Virtually**

Featured speakers:

- Caterina Rosano, MD, MPH (University of Pittsburgh): Neural and energetic drivers of mobility resilience in older age
- Lisa Zukowski, PhD (High Point University): Beta amyloid deposition impacts gait and visuospatial attention during performance of complex everyday tasks in older adults
- Aron S. Buchman, MD (Rush University Medical Center): Loops or whoops: are our models of cognitive and motor decline sufficient?
- Jill K. Morris, PhD (University of Kansas): Feel the burn: effects of acute exercise on brain metabolism
- Kirk Erickson, PhD (AdventHealth): Exercise and brain health in late adulthood

**Register**

## Edmund G. Beacham 51<sup>st</sup> Annual **Current Topics in Geriatrics**



**From Thursday,  
Feb. 29, 2024, 7:30am ET  
To Saturday,  
March 2, 2024, 5:30pm ET  
Johns Hopkins Bayview  
Medical Campus  
Baltimore, MD**

[Learn More & Register](#)

Current Topics in Geriatrics is CME-approved training that is intended for geriatricians, internists, family practitioners, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, pharmacists, physical therapy, and other health professionals involved in caring for seniors.

### Objectives:

- Identify common geriatric syndromes and approaches to and limits of management of specific disease of organ systems that are common in older adults (Dementia, CHF, Diabetes, and Polypharmacy).
- Recognize the growing diversity in the older population and awareness of health inequities when providing care to meet their individual needs.
- Describe the path from diagnosis to management of a person with dementia and the role of the health care team.
- Describe important research developments that influence the clinical care of geriatric patients.

- Discuss the current status of the COVID-19 Pandemic and challenges faced by older adults and health care teams.
- 



**The Karen A. Armacost  
10th Annual Lecture on Geriatric Care  
Thursday, April 18, 2024  
4 to 5pm ET**

**Richard A. Grossi Auditorium - Asthma & Allergy Center  
Johns Hopkins Bayview Campus  
(Reception to follow)**

***Maryland Launches Longevity Ready Initiative:  
Planning for Maryland's Growing Older Population***

The Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center welcome **Maryland Department of Aging Secretary Carmel Roques** as presenter for this year's lecture. She was appointed to this role by Governor Wes Moore in 2023.

In January 2024, the governor signed an executive order establishing the Longevity Ready Maryland Initiative and directed the Maryland Department of Aging to develop a long-term plan to address the needs of the growing older population and the infrastructure that supports them. Speaking about these goals, Secretary Roques said:

***“Integrating a longevity lens into every government department, promoting coordinated responses, and helping the state shape how public services are delivered will help us prepare, serve and utilize our aging population.”***



Join Secretary Roques to learn about the goals, the rationale and the planning process of this ambitious, important initiative.

Seating is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis (no RSVP required), or attend via Zoom (no registration required—just tap the button below at 4pm on 4/18 and join the live broadcast).

[Attend Armacost Lecture Virtually \(Live Link\)](#)

## Upcoming Talks & Meetings

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## COAH Scientific Seminars & Meetings

- **17th Annual Research on Aging Showcase:**

- 4/5, 12:15pm - 1:20pm  
Keynote Speaker: Claudia Kawas, MD  
Sheldon Hall W1214  
Poster session follows at the Turner Concourse; abstracts due by 3/15

- **Scientific Seminars in May & June:**

- 5/6, 3:30pm - 5pm  
Stephen Kritchevsky, PhD, Professor, Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine,  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine  
Powe Room 1-500Q, or via Zoom
- 6/3, 3:30pm - 5pm  
Mark Dredze, PhD, John C. Malone Professor, Department of Computer  
Science, Johns Hopkins University  
Powe Room 1-500Q, or via Zoom

- **EBA Presentations:**

- Epi & Biostats of Aging Research-in-Progress  
2/26, 3:30 - 4:30pm  
Elizabeth Linton, PhD Candidate in Epidemiology  
“You've made it to a big number!': Chronic illness narratives characterizing  
aging among adults living with sickle cell disease.”  
SPH Room E6519
- Epi & Biostats of Aging Research-inProgress  
3/11, 3:30 - 4:30pm  
Pat Donahue, PhD Candidate in Mental Health  
“Investigating associations between wearable accelerometry measures  
and respiratory function with cognition.”  
SPH Room E6519

- **Epi of Aging Journal Club:**

- 3/11, 12:15pm - 1:15pm

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

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## Division of Geriatric Medicine & Gerontology

- **Grand Rounds**

- Every Thursday 4:00pm - 5:00pm Norman Library  
Asthma & Allergy Center, Room 2B.65
  - 2/29, (Beacham CME Topics in Geriatrics)
  - 3/7, (Faculty Development)

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

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## 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  
Next meeting: to be announced
- **Cognitive and Sensory Functions**  
3rd Monday of each month, 11:00am – 12:00pm  
Next meeting: to be announced
- **ENGAGE (Energy, Activity and Aging) Research Group**  
Every other Thursday, 12:15 – 1:15pm – Hybrid  
Next meeting: 3/7

- **Family and Social Resources**

4th Tuesday of each month, 8:30 – 9:30am – Zoom

Next meeting: 2/27

- **Frailty and Multisystem Dysregulation**

2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month, 9:00 – 10:00am – Zoom

Next meeting: 2/28

- **International Approaches to Aging**

3rd Wednesday of each month, 11:00am – 12:00pm – Hybrid

Next meeting: 3/19

- **Medicare Claims and EHR Analyses**

4th Wednesday of each month, 3:00 – 4:00pm – Hybrid

Next meeting: 2/28

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

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# Publications

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## Fresh from COAH Faculty and Fellows

- Abadir P, Oh E, Chellappa R, Choudhry N, Demiris G, Ganesan D, Karlawish J, Marlin B, Li RM, Dehak N, Arbaje A, Unberath M, **Cudjoe T**, Chute C, Moore JH, Phan P, **Samus Q**, **Schoenborn NL**, Battle A, **Walston JD**. *Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratories: Innovating aging research and Alzheimer's care*. *Alzheimers Dement*. 2024 Feb 7. doi: 10.1002/alz.13710. Online ahead of print.
- **Davoudi A**, Urbanek JK, **Etzkorn L**, Parikh R, Soliman EZ, **Wanigatunga AA**, Gabriel KP, Coresh J, **Schrack JA**, Chen LY. Validation of a Zio XT *Patch*



*Accelerometer for the Objective Assessment of Physical Activity in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study.* Sensors (Basel). 2024 Jan 24;24(3):761. doi: 10.3390/s24030761.

- Gill TM, Sherman AN, van der Willik O, Yaffe K, **Walston JD**. *Training and supporting subspecialty clinician-scientists in aging research through GEMSSTARand Clin-STAR.* J Am Geriatr Soc. 2024 Feb 17. doi: 10.1111/jgs.18811. Onlineahead of print.
- **Liu F, Schrack J**, Wanigatunga SK, Rabinowitz JA, He L, **Wanigatunga AA, Zipunnikov V**, Simonsick EM, Ferrucci L, **Spira AP**. *Comparison of sleep parameters from wrist-worn ActiGraph and Actiwatch devices.* Sleep. 2024 Feb 8;47(2):zsad155. doi: 10.1093/sleep/zsad155.
- Reed NS, Gravens-Mueller L, Huang AR, Goman AM, Mitchell CM, Arnold ML, Bolton S, Burgard S, Chisolm TH, Couper D, **Deal JA**, Evans J, Faucette S, Glynn NW, Gmelin T, Hayden KM, Miller E, Minotti M, Mosley T, Naylor S, Pankow JS, Pike JR, Sanchez VA, **Schrack JA**, Coresh J, **Lin FR**; ACHIEVE Collaborative Research Group. *Recruitment and baseline data of the Aging and Cognitive Health Evaluation in Elders (ACHIEVE) study: A randomized trial of a hearing loss intervention for reducing cognitive decline.* Alzheimers Dement (N Y). 2024 Feb 14;10(1):e12453. doi: 10.1002/trc2.12453. eCollection 2024 Jan-Mar.

# Funding Opportunities



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](#)



**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
BLOOMBERG SCHOOL  
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](#).



**RESEARCH CENTERS  
COLLABORATIVE NETWORK**  
of the National Institute on Aging, NIH

## **Spring 2024 RCCN webinar series on NIA K Career Development Awards**

To extend the impact of the RCCN, they will sponsor several webinars this spring targeting early career faculty affiliated with the center's programs to build awareness regarding the collaborative resources available across the programs:

- Fri., 3/22 at 2pm ET: Career Development Awards at NIA/NIH
- Tues., 4/2 at 2pm ET: Preparing Strong Career Development Applications
- Th., 5/9 at 12pm ET: NIH/NIA Grant Review Process

[Learn More & Register](#)

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**Want us to consider something for The COAH Chronicle?**

[Submit News](#)

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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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