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.

Center Highlights
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
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.

News & Announcements

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 Nidadvolu'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. Nidadvolu for their outstanding achievements, and to their mentors, Drs. Peter Abadir, Esther Oh and Jeremy Walston (COAH Core Faculty member).
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.

Happenings

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!

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

Friday, February 23
4-6pm ET
Via Zoom
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.
The US Deprescribing Research Network will hold their 2024 Annual Network Meeting 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.
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
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).
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-in-Progress
    - 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


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**Funding Opportunities**

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.

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.
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/HHI
- 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

Want us to consider something for The COAH Chronicle?

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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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