The COAH Chronicle

Volume I, Issue 11 (April 12, 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
“Can Advocacy Co-Exist With Objectivity?
Seeking The Right Balance In Our Applied Research”
With Dr. David L. Roth
Tues., April 23rd from 8:30 to 9:30 AM 
Via Zoom

Join us on April 23rd at 8:30 am for a special presentation from COAH’s Family and Social Resources Working Group!

We are delighted to have Dr. David L. Roth present for us one last time before his retirement. Dr. Roth's talk will bring an important question to the forefront: Can advocacy co-exist with objectivity? Dr. Roth invites us to discuss being seekers of truth and advocates in ways that remain true to, and objective in, our research while promoting social good. And he will briefly discuss his own work in family caregiving research and common biases, both in caregiving research and in general publication.

No registration or RSVP is required. Simply tap the link below to join the live presentation in progress at the appointed date and time.

Join the Special Presentation Live on 4/23 at 8:30 AM

Sincere Thanks to Participants in the
17th Annual Research on Aging Showcase

The Research on Aging Showcase co-sponsored by COAH and the Bloomberg School of Public Health that was held on April 5th was a huge success! Many thanks to our fabulous keynote speaker and former Hopkins faculty, Dr. Claudia Kawas (pictured above), poster presenters and poster judges, event organizers, and all attendees.

Congratulations to Poster Session Winners!

Pictured left to right: Juan Vazquez; Yiqing Qian; Joseph Shen; Kening Jiang; and Jason Smith. Not pictured: Sahar Assi.

In addition to the exciting aging research led by Johns Hopkins University students, fellows, and faculty, the showcase included great work by colleagues at the University of Maryland, the National Institute on Aging, and beyond.

For more photos and a brief summary of the showcase, please read our blog:

Read the ROAS Recap Here
News & Announcements

Congratulations to COAH Trainee

Fangyu Liu
on successfully defending her thesis on 3/26!

Thesis title: “Etiology and prevention of late-life frailty: a proteomic approach”

Also, Dr. Liu was selected as a co-recipient of the 2024 Louis I. and Thomas D. Dublin Award for the Advancement of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Congratulations to COAH/EBA Trainee

Pat Donahue
on successfully defending his thesis on 4/4!

Thesis title: “Investigating the associations between respiratory function and wearable accelerometry measures with cognition in older adults”
Happenings

COAH Core Faculty
Sevil Yasar, MD, PhD
will make a presentation on
“The curious case of the renin angiotensin system in dementia” at the next
Geriatric Psychiatry & Neuropsychiatry Noon Conference
Friday, April 12, 2024
12 -1 PM

This presentation will be via Zoom. No registration required. Just click the button below to join the meeting in progress.

Live Zoom Link: Join on 4/12 at Noon
April 15, 2024
4:00 to 5:00 PM
Via Zoom

“The Status of Inhibitory Neuronal Populations in Normal Cognitive Aging”

Cristina Banuelos, PhD
Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience, NIA

No registration required—simply click the button below to join the meeting.

Join the JH Dementia Consortium Meeting on 4/15 at 4 PM

Cochlear Center Research Day:
Fri., April 19th from 9 AM to 3:30 PM
This annual, in-person event includes presentations from Center faculty and collaborators focused, this year, on aspects of the ACHIEVE study.

Check-in and breakfast begin 8 AM. Stay for lunch and enjoy poster presentations from trainees, junior faculty, and research staff. Research Day concludes with a celebratory happy hour. Advance registration is required. Registration is free. CART services will be provided. For accessibility accommodations, please contact JHCochlearCenter@jhu.edu.

For the agenda and to register, click below.

Learn More & Register
older adults every day.

Learn about these topics and many more by signing up for one of DMH's 15 all-virtual Summer Institute courses. Courses begin on May 28 and run from two days to two weeks. JHU faculty and staff may qualify for tuition remission.

Questions?

E-mail COAH Faculty member Dr. Michelle Carlson, or Dr. Patty Scott.

Learn More & Register

RCCN WEBINAR SERIES
A GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR NIA K CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The presentations aim to provide valuable information to both early career researchers seeking K award funding and their mentors.

Upcoming webinars:

- NIH/NIA Grant Review Process
  Thursday, May 9 from 12-1pm ET
- Stories of Successful K Awards
  June 2024, TBA

Recordings of past webinars in this series are available online—just click the link below to access them.
USDeN 2024 Annual Meeting: 5/15

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.

Students, residents, fellows, and community members may use comp code **USDEN2024** when registering at checkout to waive the $75 registration fee.
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. 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:

- **Scientific Seminars in May & June:**
  - 5/6, 3:30pm - 5pm
    Stephen Kritchevsky, PhD, Professor, Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine
    "The Hallmarks of Mobility"
    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
    Title TBA
    Powe Room 1-500Q, or via Zoom

- **Epi & Biostats of Aging:**
  - 9th Annual Joint Presentation of the BHS Lab, ENGAGE, & SMART/WIT Groups
    Date, Time, & Location TBA
  - **Meeting**
    4/8/24, 3:30 - 4:30pm
    5/13, 3:30 - 4:30pm
    Career Development Session
    SPH Room E6519

- **Epi of Aging Journal Club:**
  - 5/13, 12 - 1pm
    Details TBA
    COAH Large Conference Room (Room 2-701)

Visit [COAH Events](link) or email [Monique Lee](email) 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
      - 4/18, Armacost Lecture
      - 4/25, No Grand Rounds (replaced by AGS Practice Session)

For more information, contact [Teresa Sponaugle](mailto:teresa.sponaugle@coah.org).

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: TBA

- **Cognitive and Sensory Functions**
  - 3rd Monday of each month, 11:00am – 12:00pm
  - Next meeting: TBA

- **ENGAGE (Energy, Activity and Aging) Research Group**
  - Every other Thursday, 12:15 – 1:15pm – Hybrid
  - Next meeting: 4/18

- **Family and Social Resources**
  - 4th Tuesday of each month, 8:30 – 9:30am – Zoom
  - Next meeting: 4/23

- **Frailty and Multisystem Dysregulation**
2nd & 4th Wednesdays of each month, 9:00 – 10:00am – Zoom  
Next meeting: 4/24

- **International Approaches to Aging**  
  3rd Wednesday of each month, 11:00am – 12:00pm – Hybrid  
  Next meeting: TBA

- **Medicare Claims and EHR Analyses**  
  4th Wednesday of each month, 3:00 – 4:00pm – Hybrid  
  Next meeting: 4/24

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

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## Publications

**Fresh from COAH Faculty and Fellows:**


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**Funding Opportunities**

https://mailchi.mp/685678ca315e/the-coah-chronicle-april-12-2024?e=cc20c4de95
Request for Letters of Intent (LOI)
JHU OAIC Awards, Grant Year 2024-2025
Due April 12

The National Institute on Aging-supported Johns Hopkins Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (OAIC) is soliciting Letters of Intent (LOI) for scientific projects related to physical frailty in older adults. These proposals should aim to elucidate the etiology of frailty, develop interventions/management strategies for frailty, or develop methodologies to better study physical frailty in older Americans. Proposals leveraging large databases to evaluate inflammatory etiological pathways as well as modern biomarkers for frailty, advancing translation of frailty concepts or measures for improved clinical care and management, technology focused on the treatment/management of frailty, or addressing health equity concerning frailty in older adults are particularly welcome. Applicants from historically underrepresented groups are strongly encouraged to apply. Mechanisms for funding are:

- **Pilot/Exploratory Studies Core Award** (max $40K), which supports faculty conducting a frailty-related research project
- **Clinical Translation Core Development Project Award** (max $35K), which supports methods-focused research on clinical translation related to frailty
- **Technological Assessment and Solutions Core Award** (max $35K), which supports methods-focused research on technological projects related to frailty

In addition to these funds, awardees will have access to biostatistical/analytical, molecular measurement, clinical translational, and technological core support.

**LOI Submission Process:**

- Applicants must be from Johns Hopkins. The LOI should be targeted to one of the awards described above, be up to 2 pages in length, and include the
following components:
  - Overview and study aims
  - Statement of significance to the field of frailty research
  - Summary of research, study design, and data analysis approach
  - For junior faculty applicants, a named mentor and brief overview of proposed career development activities

- **LOI and NIH Biosketch should be submitted as either Word or PDF documents to the JHU OAIC Administrator, Brian Buta, MHS, by Friday, April 12, 2024.**

**Review Process and Next Steps:**

- LOIs will be reviewed in mid-April, 2024.
- **Selected projects will be invited to submit full project proposals, due by Friday, May 24, 2024.** (Detailed information on full proposal requirements will be provided.)
- The award period for funded applications will be July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss the suitability and relevance of proposed scientific projects ahead of the LOI deadline. Please direct questions to Brian Buta, MHS.

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**2024 JHU Center for Equity in Aging:**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS PILOT RESEARCH INITIATIVE**

**Due April 15**
The JHU Center for Equity in Aging invites applications for its 2024 Pilot Research Initiative. The research opportunity will provide funding for up to two junior faculty grants up to $10,000 each and up to two post-doctoral fellow or PhD student grants up to $5,000 each. This pilot research initiative is designed to provide seed funding for the development or advancement of research on aging and/or palliative care research.

The Center will award funds to research projects consistent with the goals and activities of the Center to enhance equity by improving the well-being of older adults and those living with serious illness. Studies may include primary data collection or secondary data analysis.

Priority will be given to proposals focusing on advancing health equity and the following Center priority areas: Dementia; Home-based care delivery; Hospice and palliative care; Behavioral Interventions; and Lifecourse approaches to aging.

These small research funding amounts are designed to contribute to the overall advancement of an existing study and/or to obtain pilot data for an NIH (R34, R03, R21, R01, etc.) or foundation grant application.

**TIMELINE:**

- **APPLICATION DEADLINE:** April 15, 2024
- **AWARDEES ANNOUNCED:** May 31, 2024
- **START DATE:** July 1, 2024

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**Mid-Atlantic Center for Cardiometabolic Health Equity (MACCHE) Pilot Project Award Program**

**Call For Applications!**

**Intent to Submit Deadline: April 15**
MACCHE is dedicated to addressing multiple co-occurring chronic diseases among socially disadvantaged populations across Maryland and Washington, D.C. The Pilot Project Program will support projects related to cardiometabolic disease disparities led by new and early-stage investigators who are affiliated with Institutions in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

Learn more & apply here

Applications for the 4th Annual a2 Pilot Awards

Due April 30

https://mailchi.mp/685678ca315e/the-coah-chronicle-april-12-2024?e=cc20c4de95
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.

Learn more about a2 Pilot Awards

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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