The COAH Chronicle

Volume I, Issue 14 (May 30, 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
Next COAH Scientific Seminar: June 3rd at 3:30pm

Please join us for the next COAH Scientific Seminar on June 3, 2024, 3:30-5:00pm, with Mark Drezde, PhD. The title of his talk is, “Large Language Models (LLMs) in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities.” Dr. Drezde is the John C. Malone Professor, Department of Computer Science Johns Hopkins University, and the Director of Research (Foundations of AI) for the JHU Data Science and AI Institute. Dr. Drezde’s research develops statistical models of language with applications to social media analysis, public health and clinical informatics.

The seminar will take place at 2024 E. Monument Street, Powe Room 1-500Q. We encourage you to attend in-person, and light refreshments will be served. No RSVP is required to attend in-person. Alternatively, you may register to attend via Zoom via the button above.

This event is sponsored by: The Matthew Tayback, Sc.D., Memorial Lecture Fund; Center on Aging & Health; Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology; Johns Hopkins Older Americans Independence Center; Epidemiology and Biostatistics of Aging Training Program.
Brain Health Awareness Month:  
Dr. Marilyn Albert to Present at  
#BrainMatters Webinar on  
Wed, 6/12, 7-8 pm

June is Brain Health Awareness Month, and COAH Senior Associate Faculty Dr. Marilyn Albert will make a Brain Health & Lifestyle Factors presentation as part of the next #BrainMatters webinar slated for Wed., June 12 from 7-8pm.

To learn more about the #BrainMatters webinar, which will also feature a panel discussion including several JHADRC study participants, please visit our blog.

Register Here  
Read the blog
COAH Faculty Contribute to “Aging in America”

COAH Faculty members and colleagues are featured in a new series of articles on “Aging in America” in the Spring/Summer 2024 edition of the Hopkins Bloomberg Public Health Magazine, which you may find online here.

- "The Mysteries of Aging Well" editorial written by Dr. Jennifer Schrack, COAH Director
- "Caregivers: Health Care's Hidden Workforce" featuring Dr. Jennifer Wolff, COAH Core faculty member
- "A Wider Lens on Aging" including Dr. Sean Leng, Professor of Geriatric Medicine
- "Activity, Sleep & Dementia" featuring COAH faculty members Drs. Jennifer Schrack, Adam Spira, Amal Wanigatunga, and Vadim Zipunnikov
- "For Healthy Aging, Stay Connected" featuring COAH faculty members Drs. Thomas Cudjoe and Cynthia Boyd, as well as Dr. Alison Huang
- "Reducing Racial Disparities in Dementia" featuring COAH faculty members Drs. Roland Thorpe, Jr., Sarah Szanton, Karen Bandeen-Roche, and Aisha Dickerson
- "5 Fixes for Aging in America" featuring pieces written by COAH faculty Drs. Frank Lin and Karen Bandeen-Roche, COAH postdoctoral fellow Dr. Erica Twardzik, and Dr. Colleen Christmas, Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine
An Exit Interview with Former COAH Director, Dr. David L. Roth

We couldn’t resist the temptation to highlight some of Dr. Roth’s recent works and ask him a few more questions on the record before he retires. Find out what he has to say about his most interesting research over the past year, advocacy in research, reflections on his legacy, his plans to remain active in retirement, and his thoughts about finding joy, meaning, and purpose in a career—and in life.

Read the blog

Happy Retirement, Dr. Roth!

COAH recently celebrated the retirement of Dr. David Roth with a reception in honor of his dedicated leadership as COAH Director for more than 11 years. Dr. Roth was celebrated by current and former faculty colleagues and staff, as well as his family, both in person and through video congratulations. We also saluted Dr. Roth on his recent appointment as a Professor Emeritus in the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.
Pictured above from left to right: Dr. Roth with Orioles Socks; Dr. Chris Durso (Executive Vice Chair, Johns Hopkins University Department of Medicine) & Dr. Roth; and the 2024 East Monument Street Building Atrium decorated for the retirement party.

News & Announcements

Congratulations to Our Graduating Students

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Convocation Ceremony was held on Wednesday May 22, 2024 at Homewood Field. COAH students Pat Donahue, Francesca Marino, and Fangyu Liu were among the graduating class.
From left to right in the image above:
Drs. Jennifer Schack, Pablo Martinez Amezcua, Pat Donahue, Francesca Marino,
Fangyu Liu, Karen Bandeen-Roche, and Amal Wanigatunga.

COAH Reno In Progress
We are excited to share that renovations are underway to update the COAH suite. These upgrades will include: new flooring, accent walls, new cubicle and office furniture, and a new conference room AV system, among other updates. Renovations aim to be completed by July 2024.

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**Happenings**

**SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 11**
Annual Conference on Aging and Dementia

Tuesday, June 11, 2024
9:30 am – 2:30 pm
Owens Auditorium, Bunting Blaustein Building, JHMI

Speakers:

Anja Soldan, PhD; Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Blood and CSF Biomarkers for Predicting Onset of Mild Cognitive Impairment

Tim Hohman PhD; Vanderbilt University
Genetic Drivers of Alzheimer’s Disease Risk and Resilience

Gil Rabinovici, MD; University of California, San Francisco
The Molecular Era of AD Diagnosis and Therapies

Arnold Bakker, PhD; Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
Efficacy of Low Dose Levetiracetam for Slowing Decline in MCI and Reducing Brain Atrophy: The HOPE4MCI Clinical Trial

Sponsored by the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center
Advance registration not required
Lunch will be provided
Division Town Hall Meeting

The Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology Town Hall will take place Tuesday, June 4 from 3:30-4:30pm in the Grossi Auditorium. Refreshments will be served starting at 3pm in the Atrium.

Division of Geriatric Medicine & Gerontology Annual Family Picnic
Sun., July 16 at Noon
**Upcoming Talks**
COAH Scientific Seminars & Meetings:

- **EBA Presentations & Epi of Aging Journal Club:**
  - Thanks for a great academic year! We'll see you for the fall!

- **Scientific Seminar:**
  - 6/3, 3:30pm - 5pm
    Mark Dredze, PhD, John C. Malone Professor, Department of Computer Science, Johns Hopkins University presents: *Large Language Models (LLMs) in Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities.*
    Powe Room 1-500Q, or via Zoom

Visit [COAH Events](https://mailchi.mp/0301968702b4/the-coah-chronicle-may-30-2024?e=cc20c4de95) 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
      - 6/6, Invocation: Dr. Westbrook; Patient Story: Dr. Hurwitz; APP: Dr. Xue
      - 6/13, Fellows Graduation (No Grand Rounds)
For more information, contact Teresa Sponaugle.

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Publications

Fresh from COAH Faculty and Fellows:


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Funding Opportunities

https://mailchi.mp/0301968702b4/the-coah-chronicle-may-30-2024?e=cc20c4de95
Human Aging Project Scholar
Call for Proposals

Due: Fri., 5/31

The JH Human Aging Project (HAP) has issued a call for proposals for the HAP Scholars program. The HAP facilitates basic biologists, engineers, bioengineers, and translational investigators to develop and implement novel diagnostics, treatments or preventive strategies for all older adults. As part of this effort, the HAP Scholars Program has been launched to fund junior and mid-career faculty from a wide variety of backgrounds to grow important aging research projects in these areas.

Learn More
The Maryland Department of Aging has announced a competitive funding opportunity for grant awards under the Aging-In-Place Program. This funding opportunity is part of the Department’s strategy to increase the resources and capacity for local Area Agencies on Aging, Senior Villages, and nonprofit organizations serving older Marylanders and their caregivers to provide high-quality services and supports, develop social connection and community engagement, and foster the cultivation of social capital, enabling older Marylanders to thrive in their communities. Total funding available is $100,000. At least 20% of the funding appropriated will be used to support senior villages.

Applications are due by Fri., 5/31 at 5pm.

Detailed application information can be found by clicking the “Learn more” button.

JHU SOM Clinician Scientist Career Development Awards

In an effort to promote the research career development of young faculty physicians in the clinical departments, the School of Medicine has created a fund for the provision of salary and fringe benefits. Allocations from this fund are based on a competitive application process tied closely to concurrent efforts to obtain external support of research. The purpose of these awards is to protect the research time of qualified young faculty.

Two Application Cycles Each Year:

- Spring Cycle (Award Start – 7/1): Currently Open
- Fall Cycle (Award Start – 1/1): TBA

Award Amounts:
Awards may be made for up to $80,000 per year for a maximum of two years to support up to 75% of the applicant’s salary and benefits. Salary support from external awards will be subtracted from the 75% figure in determining the exact amount of the internal award. The CSA is not intended to supplement external support in order to enable the applicant to devote more than 75% effort to research.

Want us to consider something for The COAH Chronicle?

Submit News
Follow us on X (formerly 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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