NIH National Institute on Aging

National Institute on Aging Introductory Remarks

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Mission of the National Institute on Aging

To understand the nature of aging and the aging process, and diseases and conditions associated with growing older, to extend the healthy, active years of life.

- Support and conduct genetic, biological, clinical, behavioral, social, and economic research on aging.
- Foster the development of research and clinician scientists in aging.
- Provide research resources.
- Disseminate information about aging and advances in research to the public, health care professionals, and the scientific community, among a variety of audiences.

NIA's **Division of Behavioral and Social Research (DBSR)** supports social, psychological, economic, and behavioral research on the processes of aging at the individual and population levels.

DBSR's cross-cutting research themes:

- Understanding and addressing health disparities
- Life course perspective on aging processes
- Biobehavioral and biosocial integration

DBSR Research Priorities that Inform this Workshop

- Study aging earlier in the life course
- Enhance research on cognitive aging
- Improve understanding of health disparities in aging
- Study influences of macro-social trends on aging
- Support research on behavior change in individuals and organizations
- Support research to improve care for persons with dementia and caregivers
- Reduce barriers to accessing data for research

Source: https://www.nia.nih.gov/sites/default/files/2020-02/2019-BSR-Review-Committee-Report-508.pdf

NIA AD Milestones

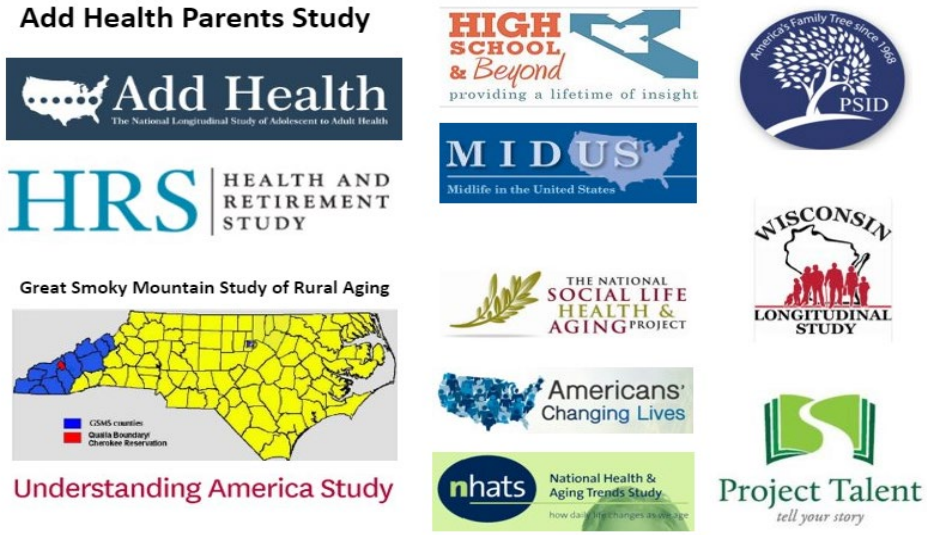
- Milestone 1.B: Quantify the exposome to gain a more precise measure of environmental exposure factors and their relationship to AD risk and individual trajectories of disease progression.

- Milestone 1.I: Identify life course and multi-level mechanisms of and pathways to AD/ADRD inequities and use the discoveries to reduce these inequities.

- Milestone 1.P: Leverage exposome AD/ADRD studies, including the impact of institutional and policy-level drivers of health inequities in AD/ADRD risk.

NIA Infrastructure to Support Life Course Research

- Data available to support research at no cost to investigators:



- Many allow for linkages to administrative data and cross-national comparisons
- Broad range of variables and topic areas
- Visit NIA repositories: NACDA, Gateway to Global Aging, Data Linkage Program

Goals for this Workshop

- Identify research gaps and opportunities to accelerate knowledge on pathways linking early life disadvantage to later life cognitive health. Specifically:
    - Identify key modifiable midlife exposures
    - Identify high-priority measures, data infrastructure needs, and analytic approaches

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Thank you