

Identifying Midlife Social Exposures that might Modify Risk for Cognitive Impairment Associated with Early Life Disadvantage: A Workshop

Committee

Robert A. Hummer

Chair

Robert A. Hummer is Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor of Sociology and fellow of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). Prior to moving to UNC-CH in 2015, he was a faculty member in the Department of Sociology and Population Research Center (1996-2015) at the University of Texas at Austin. He served as president of the Population Association of America in 2021 and, in 2023, was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. His research focuses on the accurate description and more complete understanding of population health and mortality patterns and trends in the United States. He currently serves as director and principal investigator of the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health), which is currently in its sixth wave of data collection. Dr. Hummer earned his Ph.D. in sociology from Florida State University. He is a current member of the National Academies' Committee on Population and was a member of the Committee on Rising Midlife Mortality Rates and Socioeconomic Disparities and the workshop planning committee for Population Health Science in the United States: Trends, Evidence, and Effective Policy.

Jennifer Ailshire

Member

Dr. Ailshire is professor of gerontology, associate dean of research and associate dean of international programs and global initiatives at the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California (USC). Dr. Ailshire's research has demonstrated the importance of physical and social environments, and their interactions, in determining health and wellbeing across the adult life course. Her current projects focus on the role of air pollution and neighborhood social stressors in cognitive and epigenetic aging in older U.S. adults. She is the architect of the Contextual Data Resource (CDR), which can be linked to longitudinal studies of aging in the U.S. to facilitate examination of socioenvironmental determinants of health and aging. She is currently expanding the CDR for researchers interested in understanding the role of the exposome in dementia and AD/ADRD risk. Dr. Ailshire co-directs the USC/UCLA Center on Biodemography and Population Health and the USC AD/ADRD RCMAR. She holds a Ph.D. in sociology, with a specialization in demography, from the University of Michigan. Dr. Ailshire is currently a member of the National Academies' workshop planning committee on Aging in Place, the Physical Environment, and Dementia Friendly Communities.

Hector M. Gonzalez

Member

Hector M. González is a professor of neurosciences in the School of Medicine at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. González is a population neuroscientist and the principal investigator of the Study of Latinos-Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (SOL-INCA) whose goals are to discover sociocultural, cardiovascular and genetic risks and resilience factors for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias among diverse Latinos. Dr. González' primary research expertise is in examining modifiable health and sociocultural factors related to healthy cognitive aging, and unhealthy cognitive aging, impairment, and disorders among diverse Hispanics/Latinos at the population level. Dr. González is also PI of the NIH/NIA-funded Study of Latinos-Investigation of Neurocognitive Aging (SOL-INCA) and leads a research program based on the lifecourse research framework for cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease among diverse U.S. Latinos to leverage this deeply phenotyped and genotyped representative cohort. He also serves on the advisory boards of several NIA-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers and studies. Dr. González has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Alliant International University. He is currently a member of the National Academies' committee on Research Priorities for Preventing and Treating Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

Jennifer J. Manly

Member

Jennifer J. Manly is associate professor of neuropsychology at the Gertrude H. Sergievsky Center and the Taub Institute for Research in Aging and Alzheimer's disease at Columbia University. Her research on cultural, medical, and genetic predictors of cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease among African Americans and Hispanics has been funded by the National Institute on Aging and the Alzheimer's Association. Dr. Manly aims to improve the diagnostic accuracy of neuropsychological tests when used to detect cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease among African American and Hispanic elders. Dr. Manly has a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of California, San Diego and completed her graduate training in neuropsychology at the San Diego State University/University of California at San Diego joint doctoral program in clinical psychology. After a clinical internship at Brown University, Dr. Manly completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Columbia University. Dr. Manly is currently a member of the National Academies' Committee on Population, the workshop planning committee on Aging in Place, the Physical Environment, and Dementia Friendly Communities, and a member of the National Academy of Medicine.

Jacqueline M. Torres

Member

Dr. Torres is an associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics at the University of California San Francisco (UCSF). Her research focuses on policy, societal, and family-level determinants of mid and late-life health and health inequities. Her current research focuses on policy-modifiable social determinants of mid and late-life cognitive aging and dementia risk factors, often with a focus on how these factors operate through family dynamics (e.g. caregiving, the intergenerational transmission of resources). She currently leads two National Institute on Aging-funded R01s, including one focused on how the socio-economic resources of adult children shape health outcomes for older parents and another that examines social and environmental determinants of midlife health inequities among immigrant women living in an underserved agricultural region of California. She has received the Matilda White Riley Early Investigator Award from the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Science Research. Dr. Torres received her Ph.D. in public health from the University of California, Los Angeles and was a Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society Scholar at the University of California Berkeley and UCSF.

Atheendar S. Venkataramani

Member

Atheendar S. Venkataramani is an associate professor in the Department of Medical Ethics and Health Policy, a staff physician at the Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, and the director of the Penn Opportunity for Health Lab. He is a health economist who studies how social and economic factors and policies affect health and well-being throughout the life-course. His research combines insights from economics, public health, and clinical medicine, employing a range of descriptive and quasi-experimental approaches. Dr. Venkataramani is a faculty research fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research and winner of early and mid-career awards from Academy Health and the Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science. He received his M.D. from the Washington University School of Medicine, Ph.D. in health policy (economics) from Yale University, and his B.S. in economics and biology from Duke University. He completed his internal medicine residency at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Bradford Chaney

Staff Officer