

## Diversity and Disparities PIA Newsletter, Fall 2019 Edition

The Diversity and Disparities PIA focuses on identifying potential differences in risk reduction strategies, diagnosis, and treatment effectiveness in individuals of diverse backgrounds. A major emphasis is placed on underlying cultural and cognitive differences and brain mechanisms. The PIA also explores culturally-responsible strategies for dementia risk reduction in these populations.

The goal of the D&D PIA Newsletter is to keep you informed on all the latest news from our PIA. We encourage you to send us content for the newsletter! To tell us about new publications, events, awards, opportunities and more, please email [mlzuelstd@wisc.edu](mailto:mlzuelstd@wisc.edu) or [yquiroz@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:yquiroz@mgh.harvard.edu).

To learn more about the D&D PIA, please visit:

<https://action.alz.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Default.aspx?TabID=1561>

### Executive Committee Updates

We welcome the following returning and new members to our leadership team:

**Chair:** Yakeel T. Quiroz, PhD

**Vice Chair:** Ganesh Babulal, PhD, OTD

**Program Chair:** Mario Parra, MD PhD

**Communications Chair:** Megan Zuelsdorff, PhD

**Student/Postdoc Representative:** Miguel Arce Renteria, PhD

The Executive Committee would like to thank Dr. Alejandra Guerrero for serving as Student/Postdoc Rep for the past year (2018-2019). We also welcome Dr. Miguel Arce Renteria to his new role in the committee.



Miguel Arce Rentería, Ph.D. is a postdoctoral fellow at the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain at the Columbia University Medical Center working under the mentorship of Dr. Jennifer Manly. He is originally from Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico. He moved to the United States to pursue a college degree in psychology. He received a BA in Psychology from San Diego State University in 2008 and received his Ph.D. from the Clinical Psychology program at Fordham University specializing in neuropsychology under the mentorship of Dr. Monica Rivera Mindt in 2017. Throughout his diverse research and clinical experiences, he has developed a strong interest in targeting the sociocultural and environmental determinants of disparities in cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). His current focus has been on determining factors of reserve and resilience to ADRD among racial/ethnic minorities such as understanding the role of bilingualism, literacy, and quality of education to cognitive reserve. Furthermore, as a bilingual and bicultural clinical neuropsychologist, Dr. Arce Rentería provides clinical assessments in both English and Spanish as part of his postdoctoral training through the Neuropsychology Service within the Department of Neurology at Columbia University.

*With your support and engagement, the committee will continue to work to achieve the goals of the PIA. We look forward to working together!!*

## Announcements

### Join ISTAART!

ISTAART is now offering membership discounts for those who live in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). Check out the below information:

#### Membership Pricing

Professional: \$185

Postdoctoral Trainee: \$120

Student: \$75

#### LMIC - Upper Middle Income Pricing

Professional: \$120

Postdoctoral Trainee: \$78

Student: \$49

#### LMIC - Lower Middle Income Pricing

Professional: \$56

Postdoctoral Trainee: \$36

Student: \$23

#### LMIC - Low Income Pricing

Professional: \$19

Postdoctoral Trainee: \$12

Student: \$83

### Funding/Grant Opportunities

Alzheimer's Association Research grants are available to researchers around the world. The Association currently funds over 500 projects in 27 countries. More information:

<https://www.alz.org/grants>

### D&D PIA Ambassadors Program

The PIA launched its Ambassadors Program in September 2019. All PIA members are welcome to join the program. As a PIA Ambassador, you will help disseminate the PIA activities and will help reach investigators in your own communities who are not yet involved or participating. The Ambassadors will have bi-monthly conference call and will meet in person at the annual AAIC.

The Ambassadors will also have a dedicated section in our D&D Newsletter, "The Ambassador's Corner", to voice their views, suggestions, activities, achievements, etc.

### Next Ambassadors' meeting: November 19, 2019 at 4pm (EST)

### PIA Members in the News

Yakeel T. Quiroz, Ph.D, Chair of the D&D PIA, was recently featured on the Alzheimer's Association Blog. She talked about the power of the global Alzheimer's research community and how the Latino community can help the future of dementia research.

Read the full blog here:

<https://alz.org/blog/alz/october-2019/harvard-alzheimer-s-researcher-focused-on-enrollin>

## The UNITED Consortium

The Uncovering Neurodegenerative Insights Through Ethnic Diversity (UNITED) consortium is a new collaboration whose primary objective is to create brain maps of various neurodegenerative disorders, particularly focusing on detailed imaging markers that describe the structure of the brain using thousands of measures. Read the UNITED call here:

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanneur/article/PIIS1474-4422\(19\)30324-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanneur/article/PIIS1474-4422(19)30324-2/fulltext)

## Biennial meeting of World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Aphasia, Dementia & Cognitive Disorders (WFN RG ADCD)

March 24-27, 2020 in Nara, Japan.

For more info: [adcd2020nara.com](http://adcd2020nara.com)

Deadline for Symposia Proposals: 11/15/2019. Please send your proposals to: Suvarna Alladi, Chair of WFN ADCD, [alladisvarna@hotmail.com](mailto:alladisvarna@hotmail.com)

## Webinar: Subjective Cognitive Decline (SCD) in Diverse Populations

The D&D PIA and the SCD PIA will be offering a 1-hour webinar on this topic. Save the date!

December 13, 2019 at 10am (EST).

Information to join the webinar will be provided in the next couple of weeks.

## Recent Publications on Diversity and Disparities

Avila, J. F., Vonk, J. M. J., Verney, S. P., Witkiewitz, K., Arce Rentería, M., Schupf, N., Mayeux, R., & Manly, J. J. **Sex/gender differences in cognitive trajectories vary as a function of race/ethnicity.** *Alzheimers Dement.* 2019 Sep 9. pii: S1552-5260(19)30110-4. doi: 10.1016/j.jalz.2019.04.006.

Franzen S, van den Berg E, Kalkisim Y, van de Wiel L, Harkes M, van Bruchem-Visser RL, de Jong FJ, Jiskoot LC, Papma JM. **Assessment of Visual Association Memory in Low-Educated, Non-Western Immigrants with the Modified Visual Association Test.** *Dement Geriatr Cogn Disord.* 2019;47(4-6):345-354. doi: 10.1159/000501151.

Franzen S, van den Berg E, Goudsmit M, Jurgens CK, van de Wiel L, Kalkisim Y, Uysal-Bozkir Ö, Ayhan Y, Nielsen TR, Papma JM. **A Systematic Review of Neuropsychological Tests for the Assessment of Dementia in Non-Western, Low-Educated or Illiterate Populations.** *J Int Neuropsychol Soc.* 2019 Sep 12:1-21. doi: 10.1017/S1355617719000894.

Gleason CE, Norton D, Zuelsdorff M, Benton SF, Wyman MF, Nystrom N, Lambrou N, Salazar H, Kosciak RL, Jonaitis E, Carter F, Harris B, Gee A, Chin N, Ketchum K, Johnson SC, Edwards DF, Carlsson CM, Asthana S. **Association between enrolment factors and incident cognitive impairment in Blacks and Whites: Data from the Alzheimer's Disease Center.** *Alzheimers Dement.* doi: 10.1016/j.jalz.2019.07.015. Epub 2019 Oct 07.

Vonk, J. M. J., Arce Rentería, M., Avila, J. F., Schupf, N., Noble, J. M., Mayeux, R., Brickman, A. M., & Manly, J. J. **Secular trends in cognitive trajectories of diverse older adults.** *Alzheimer's & Dementia,* 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jalz.2019.06.4944>

Vonk, J. M. J., Arce Rentería, M., Medina, V. M., Pericak-Vance, M. A., Byrd, G. S., Haines, J. L., Brickman, A. M., & Manly, J. J. **Education moderates the relation between ApoE e4 and memory retention in nondemented non-Hispanic Black older adults.** *J Alzheimers Dis.* 2019 Oct 3. doi: 10.3233/JAD-190415.

## Save the date! D&D PIA Activities at AAIC 2020 PIA Day 2020

The D&D PIA will have a session on PIA day in Amsterdam on July 25, 2020. We are planning for lectures, panel discussion and fire poster presentations.

### FRS Submissions for AAIC 2020

The PIA Program Committee invites you to participate in our scientific submissions for AAIC. If you are doing research with diverse populations and are focused on one of the topics listed below, please consider submitting your abstract for consideration to be part of the PIA Featured Research Sessions (FRS) for AAIC 2020. If you would like to suggest a different topic, please let us know. The deadline for abstract submission is December 15, 2019.

#### Research Topics:

Subjective cognitive decline

Use of technology for assessment and tracking of disease progression

Neuroimaging

Global Perspectives on Diversity and Disparities in Dementia

Reserve, resilience and protective factors in underserved populations

### PIA Member Profile



DeAnnah Byrd, PhD  
Post-Doctoral-to-Faculty Transition Scholar  
Institute of Gerontology, Wayne State University

Dr. Byrd's early career work examined health disparities over the life course and identified Black and White differences in trajectories of cognitive abilities using the Americans Changing Lives Survey. This formed the basis for her research on elucidating racial disparities in adult cognition and for her recent K01 submission examining roles for hypertension, stress, and coping in the cognitive health of African Americans.

Dr. Byrd has published in several journals, including Maternal and Child Health Journal, Journal of American College Health, Preventing Chronic Disease, SSM - Population Health, and Journal of Aging and Health. She received multiple awards, including **the 2019 Diversity & Disparities Professional Interest Area Early Career Award from the Alzheimer's Association**, the James Zimmerman New Investigator Award from the American Public Health Association (2018), and 3rd place in the poster competition at the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Core Center Annual Research Symposium (2018). Dr. Byrd is an active member of the Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, and the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research, which focuses on education, research, and faculty development.

### The Ambassador's Corner



Suvarna Alladi DM, is a neurologist in India, and is one of the D&D PIA Ambassadors. Dr. Alladi is Professor of Neurology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences.

**Dementia Care Skills Training Program in India: Creation of a network of trainers and carers across diverse communities.** Recognizing that training of manpower is one of the most important steps towards developing a dementia-ready society, Alzheimer's and Related Disorders Society of India (ARDSI), a national voluntary organization dedicated to dementia care has created a

program to train dementia caregivers across the country. The aim was to develop a network of skilled trainers, with the intent that the best of them become master trainers over time, and support training for care workers as well as family carers. This is in line with the Dementia Care Skills (DCS) Train-the-Trainers course Program, developed by Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI) to address the need to build sustainable capacity in the training of dementia care in developing countries.



The unique challenges faced in India with regard to the training programs are the diversity in sociodemographic profile of participants, the need to develop training modules in several Indian languages and variability in models of care between different communities. The ongoing program is rapidly extending to different states of India, creating a band of skilled trainers who will improve quality of care to persons with dementia across diverse communities. To learn more about dementia care programs in India, visit [www.ardsi.org](http://www.ardsi.org)



### In Memoriam

The Diversity and Disparities PIA remembers and celebrates the incredible contributions of Dr. Mary Guerriero Austrom, the Associate Dean of Diversity Fairs and the Wesley P. Martin Professor of Alzheimer's Disease Education in the Department of Psychiatry at Indiana University School of Medicine. Dr. Austrom passed away on October 23, 2019 surrounded by her loved ones. She will be remembered as a passionate leader and advocate for improving diversity and inclusion practices in Alzheimer's disease research studies, scientists, and staff, and for advancing dementia caregiving education. We are grateful for her

participation in the D&D PIA's inaugural 2018 Scientific Session. Her expertise, advocacy, and warmth will be missed across the international scientific and research community.

### LinkedIn and Twitter

Are you on LinkedIn? Join us at *ISTAART Diversity and Disparities Professional Interest Area (PIA)* and stay current with PIA events and news.

Are you on Twitter? Follow our executive committee members and @ISTAART and use the PIA hashtag #DiversityPIA to share relevant tweets with the PIA members.