The Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center’s 15th Annual Norman R. Seay Lecture “Black Joy Matters in Aging Research”

October 13, 2020
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm+
Virtual Meeting
Washington University School of Medicine

Welcome
John C. Morris, MD
Harvey and Dorismae Hacker Friedman Distinguished Professor of Neurology, and Director of the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center, Washington University School of Medicine

Opening Remarks
Andrew Martin, PhD
Chancellor
Washington University in Saint Louis

Introduction of the 15th Seay Lecturer
John C. Morris, MD

Featuring
Raina Croff, PhD
Assistant Professor, NIA Layton Aging & Alzheimer Disease Research Center
Oregon Health & Science University

Presented by the Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center and the Norman R. Seay Lecture Series Planning Committee:

Douglass Petty, PhD
Andrea Denny, JD, MSSW
Jennifer Phillips
Richard King

John C. Morris, MD
Joyce Balls-Berry, PhD, MPE
Arlene Moore
Myrtis Spencer
Raina Croff, PhD

Raina Croff, PhD is Assistant Professor of Neurology at the NIA Layton Aging and Alzheimer's Disease Center at Oregon Health & Science University. Her work focuses on creating culturally celebratory approaches to physical activity, social engagement, and reminiscence therapy for healthier aging, particularly amidst the trauma of gentrification and its implications for older Black adults' cognitive health and social connectedness. She received her PhD in Anthropology from Yale University in 2009 and applies her training as an anthropologist of the African Diaspora to designing brain health interventions that celebrate Black culture, history, and community memory.

Dr. Croff leads the Sharing History through Active Reminiscence and Photo-imagery (SHARP) Study that blends neighborhood walking and social reminiscence to maintain cognitive health among older healthy and mildly cognitively impaired older African Americans. SHARP has been supported by the Alzheimer’s Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute on Aging, Alzheimer's Foundation of America, and the Roybal Center for Translational Research.

Past Norman R. Seay Lecturers

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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Jennifer Manly, PhD</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Peggye Dilworth-Anderson, PhD</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>James S. Jackson, PhD</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Orien Reid, MSW</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>Lisa Barnes, PhD</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>Patrick Griffith, MD</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Taylor Harden, PhD</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td>Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>Goldie S. Bird, PhD</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Richard D. King, MD, PhD</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>Donna Masterman, MD, MS</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>Monique Williams, MD, MSCI</td>
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<td>2018</td>
<td>Joyce Balls-Berry, PhD, MPE and</td>
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<td>Carl Hill, PhD, MPH</td>
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<td>2019</td>
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Norman R. Seay

Norman R. Seay, a native of St. Louis, a civil rights leader, educator, dedicated volunteer, advocate and supporter of Alzheimer disease passed away on September 17, 2019. At Vashon High School Mr. Seay was a founding member of the St. Louis chapter of the Committee on Racial Equality (CORE). This training laid the foundation for a lifetime of work in political activism. He attended Stowe Teachers College (now Harris-Stowe State University), where he received a B.A. in Elementary Education. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned home and became a teacher at Pestalozzi Elementary School and then later at Sumner High School. All the while, Mr. Seay remained active in CORE, helping to ensure that African Americans were allowed not only to receive services at local businesses, but also to hold jobs there.

Mr. Seay earned a graduate degree in Secondary Education from Lincoln University. He moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked for the Public Health Service (PHS) in the areas of integration and education. During his ten years in the PHS (1974-1984), Mr. Seay worked with the committee that started the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observance. He also helped start Blacks in Government, a non-profit organization serving as a national response to the need for African Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concern. He was the chairman for the first three years.

In 1984, Mr. Seay returned to St. Louis to care for his mother, who had been diagnosed with early signs of Alzheimer disease. He was employed briefly as the Executive Director for the St. Louis Housing Authority before accepting a position as the Coordinator of Minority Affairs at the University of Missouri – St. Louis. He was only in this position for one year before being promoted to Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity, where he remained for over 15 years.

Mr. Seay held a volunteer position at the Urban League. He served as President and Chairman of the Board of the Federation of Block Units. Mr. Seay served as the inaugural Chair and then Chair Emeritus of the African American Advisory Board sponsored by the Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center, Washington University School of Medicine. Mr. Seay’s lifetime of civil rights work has received much honor. Mr. Seay was one of 50 individuals profiled in the St. Louis History Museum 250/250 exhibit. The exhibit in honor of St. Louis’ 250th anniversary tells the stories of 50 people, 50 places, 50 images, 50 moments and 50 objects that exemplify St. Louis. Norman R. Seay received the 2015 Rosa L. Parks Award from Washington University in St. Louis and he was featured in #1 in Civil Rights: The African American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, March 11, 2017 - April 15, 2018. He will be missed.
Charles F. and Joanne Knight  
Alzheimer Disease Research Center

The Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center (Knight ADRC) at Washington University was established in 1985 with a grant from the National Institute on Aging to support studies and projects to improve the understanding of Alzheimer disease (AD). Subsequently, the Knight ADRC has set standards for the diagnosis and study of AD.

The Knight ADRC diagnostic approach is one of the major achievements of the program. The Clinical Dementia Rating® (CDR) was developed as a tool for staging AD and has become the standard tool worldwide by which clinicians rate dementia severity. The ability to distinguish the early stages of AD from healthy aging has been a direct result of Knight ADRC diagnostic methods. The volunteer participants in Knight ADRC studies, including those who are aging normally, those with dementia, and their families, have been major contributors to the program.

According to John C. Morris, MD, the Director of the Knight ADRC, AD remains both underdiagnosed and undertreated despite advances in the field. The Knight ADRC is currently working to identify methods to detect AD-related brain changes that begin years or even decades before any clinical symptoms appear.

African American Advisory Board

The Knight ADRC African American Advisory Board (AAAB), established in 2001, counsels Knight ADRC investigators and staff about cultural sensitivity and appropriate outreach strategies to encourage active, long-term participation of African Americans in memory and aging studies. A commitment to inclusiveness, diversity and justice (fairness) for research participants is integral to the Knight ADRC mission.

Board members actively promote the research mission and participation interests of the Knight ADRC in the African American community while serving as ambassadors and liaisons in building strong individual and local partnerships to enhance research participation. They advise Washington University investigators in the development of culturally appropriate and sensitive education and outreach materials, recruitment and retention strategies, and other products and programs.

AAAB Members

Douglass Petty, PhD, Chair  
Rev. C. Jessel Strong, Vice Chair  
Alexandre Carter, MD, PhD  
Karen Collins, EdD  
Beverley Foster  

Ronald Gregory, EdD  
Joyce Hamilton  
Barbara Herschbach  
Richard King  
Collins Lewis, MD  

Martin Mathews  
Sallie Simmons  
Jesse Swanigan  
Bernice Thompson  
Sidney White