

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's 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's diagnostic methods. The volunteer participants in Knight ADRC studies, including those who are aging normally, as well as those with dementia, and their families, have been major contributors to the program.

According to John C. Morris, MD, the Co-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's African American Advisory Board (AAAB), established in 2000, counsels the 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's 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.

Current African American Advisory Board

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

Ronald Gregory, EdD
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Emily Pitts

Arlene Moore Ross
Jesse Swanigan
Bernice Thompson
Sidney White

The Charles F. and Joanne Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center's 19th Annual Norman R. Seay Lecture

October 22, 2024

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Eric P. Newman Education Center
Washington University School of Medicine

Welcome

John C. Morris, MD, Moderator

Harvey and Dorismae Hacker Friedman
Distinguished Professor of Neurology,
Co-Director of the Charles F. and Joanne Knight
Alzheimer Disease Research Center,
Washington University School of Medicine

Opening Remarks

Sherree A. Wilson, PhD

Associate Vice Chancellor and Associate Dean,
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Washington University School of Medicine

Featuring

Robert Turner II, PhD

Associate Professor, George Washington University, Washington D.C.

Presentation

“Applying a Community Focused Approach to Conduct Brain Health and Aging Research with Black Men and Former NFL Athletes”

*Reception immediately following sponsored by
St. Louis (MO) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated*

The Norman R. Seay Lecture Series Planning Committee

**Arlene Moore Ross, Douglass Petty, PhD, Richard L. King, Andrea Denny, JD, MSSW,
John C. Morris, MD, Joyce Balls-Berry, PhD, MPE, Dotti McDowell, and, Myrtis Spencer**

Robert Turner II, PhD



Dr. Robert W. Turner II PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Neurology, at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Washington D.C. He earned his Ph.D. in medical sociology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY). He is a Faculty Fellow at the Global Sport Institute at Arizona State University and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Program Head for the Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy: Detection, Diagnosis, Course, and Risk Factors (DIAGNOSE CTE) study at Boston University. After attending James Madison University on an athletic scholarship, Dr. Turner played football professionally in the United States Football League (USFL), the Canadian Football League (CFL), and briefly in the National Football League (NFL) with the San Francisco 49ers. He is also the author of *“Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete”* (Oxford Press) and a consultant for the LeBron James-produced HBO documentary film “Student Athlete.”

Dr. Turner's significant contributions extend to his role as the Principal Investigator (PI) for the \$6.3M NINDS-funded R01 grant, The Contribution of Repetitive Head Impacts and Social Determinants of Health to Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias in Older Adult Black Men. His research is crucial in understanding the impact of head injuries and social factors on health disparities in older adult Black men. Additionally, he is the Co-PI for an NIA R13 grant award to host a 3-year Super Bowl conference entitled *Black Male Brain Reserve, Resilience & Alzheimer’s Disease*, and oversees the *Men’s Brain Health Initiative* (MBHI), which launched the *Men’s Brain Health Directory* in the summer of 2023.

Past Norman R. Seay Lecturers

2006 Jennifer Manly, PhD	2015 Richard D. King, MD, PhD
2007 Peggye Dilworth-Anderson, PhD	2016 Donna Masterman, MD, MS
2008 James S. Jackson, PhD	2017 Monique Williams, MD, MSCI
2009 Orien Reid, MSW	2018 Joyce Balls -Berry, PhD, MPE and Carl Hill, PhD, MPH
2010 Lisa Barnes, PhD	2019 Crystal Glover, PhD
2011 Patrick Griffith, MD	2020 Raina Croff, PhD
2012 Taylor Harden, PhD	2021 Jeffrey McClean, II, MD, FAAN
2013 Consuelo Wilkins, MD, MSCI	2022 Raegan Durant, MD, MPH
2014 Goldie S. Bird, PhD	2023 Angela M. Hill, Pharm D, CRPH

Norman R. Seay



Norman R. Seay, a native of St. Louis, graduated in 1953 from Vashon High School where he 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 Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. After serving in the U.S. Army, he returned home and became a teacher at Pestalozzi Elementary School and 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 received 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 served as 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 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 Inaugural Chair and the 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 deserved recognition and honor. Mr. Seay was one of 50 individuals profiled in the Missouri History Museum’s 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 the Missouri History Museum’s #1 in Civil Rights: The African American Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, March 11, 2017 - April 15, 2018. Mr. Seay passed away September 17, 2019.



- Please share your feedback with us by completing the program evaluation which can be accessed online using: QR code shown on the left https://washu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8AJOcDqNvul6xOC
- If you prefer to complete your evaluation on paper, there are copies available in the back of the auditorium.
- Thank you for joining us!