

2026 SEAY LECTURE COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Measures to Achieve Equity in Alzheimer's Disease Research



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2026



5:00 – 7:00 PM



Deaconess Foundation

1000 N. Vandeventer Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63113

*A community conversation about
Alzheimer disease, research
equity, trust and participation.*

TODAY'S PROGRAM

5:00–6:00 PM Pre-Reception & Light Bites

Enjoy refreshments, connect with fellow guests and meet members of the Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center team.

6:00 – 6:05 PM Welcome & Opening Remarks

6:05 – 6:10 PM Honoring the Legacy of Norman R. Seay

6:10 – 6:15 PM Meet Our Featured Guest & Conversation Participants

6:15 – 6:45 PM Community Conversation

Moderated by Carol Daniel

The conversation will explore:



Understanding Alzheimer Disease Research

What research is teaching us - and why it matters.



Achieving Equity in Research

Who is represented, who has historically been left out and why inclusion matters.



Trust, Partnership & Community Voice

How researchers and communities can build stronger, more authentic partnerships.



Participation & the Future of Research

What it means to participate and how communities can help shape what comes next.

6:45 – 6:55 PM Questions from the Community

6:55 – 7:00 PM Closing Reflections & Thank You



ABOUT THE NORMAN R. SEAY LECTURE

The Seay Lecture honors civil rights leader Norman R. Seay, inaugural chair and emeritus chair of the Knight ADRC African American Advisory Board, and his enduring legacy of leadership, advocacy and community engagement.

2026 SEAY LECTURE MEET THE CONVERSATION



FEATURED GUEST

Renã AS Robinson, PhD

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY | VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
DOROTHY J. WINGFIELD PHILLIPS CHAIR

Dr. Renã A. S. Robinson is Professor of Chemistry and inaugural Dorothy J. Wingfield Phillips Chair at Vanderbilt University. She leads an internationally recognized research program using proteomics and lipidomics to study aging, Alzheimer's disease and human health.

Her laboratory is particularly focused on advancing technologies that can help address health disparities and promote greater equity in Alzheimer's disease research. Dr. Robinson is Principal Investigator of the RASR Laboratory and is affiliated with the Vanderbilt Institute for Chemical Biology, Vanderbilt Brain Institute and Vanderbilt Memory & Alzheimer's Center.

She also is a past president of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers and currently serves as Co-Director of the Faculty ACCESS Program.

MODERATED BY



Carol Daniel

**AWARD-WINNING
JOURNALIST**

A respected St. Louis journalist and experienced moderator whose career spans four decades of journalism, storytelling and community engagement.

IN CONVERSATION WITH



John C. Morris, MD

**KNIGHT ALZHEIMER DISEASE
RESEARCH CENTER**

An internationally recognized Alzheimer disease clinician-researcher, Dr. Morris is Co-Director of the Knight Alzheimer Disease Research Center. His research has advanced understanding of healthy aging, Alzheimer disease biomarkers, prevention, diagnosis, and the development of treatments for Alzheimer disease.



Joyce E. Balls-Berry, PhD, MPE

**KNIGHT ALZHEIMER DISEASE
RESEARCH CENTER**

Dr. Balls-Berry is a nationally recognized expert in community and patient engagement in research and leads the Knight ADRC Health Disparities Engagement Core. Her work focuses on building equitable community partnerships and developing inclusive approaches to recruitment, engagement, and participation in Alzheimer disease research.



Dotti P. McDowell, MA

**KNIGHT ALZHEIMER DISEASE
RESEARCH CENTER**

Dotti McDowell advances community engagement and research participation through the Knight ADRC. Drawing on her background in urban planning and health equity, she builds trusted community partnerships and helps create culturally responsive pathways connecting individuals and families with brain health education and Alzheimer disease research.



**THE SEAY LECTURE CONTINUES
ACADEMIC LECTURE**



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

12:00 - 1:00 PM

Eric P. Newman Education Center
 320 S. Euclid Ave.
 St. Louis, MO 63110

Renã AS Robinson, PhD

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