Quarterly news and updates from the
Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
and the Healthy Brain Aging Study

2021 Special Fall Issue

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MIND MATTERS

A·D·R·C for healthy brain aging

As the state of the pandemic continues to remain uncertain, we at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) hope you and your loved ones continue to be safe and well. We appreciate your continued support and patience as we transitioned to conducting our study visits virtually and over the phone over this past year. We are excited to announce that we are able to bring back participants who are fully vaccinated to resume our in-person visits. Your health and safety continue to be our top priority. In alignment with the university's Institutional Review Board who oversees ethical and safe practices in research at Stanford, we have created safe procedures for our participants and research staff. We will be continuing to conduct our study visits virtually and over the phone for those who feel more comfortable doing so. We appreciate your willingness to continue to accommodate and support our ongoing effort of improving the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and care for those with Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, Lewy Body disease, mild cognitive impairment, and related cognitive disorders.

Save the date

October 16th, 2021

2021 Walk to End Alzheimer's—Silicon Valley, CA

Click here for more information and to register

November 3rd, 2021
1:00 PM to 4:30 PM
(Zoom Webinar)

4th Annual Participant Appreciation Day

Click below to register (No cost to attend):

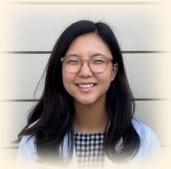
REGISTER NOW!

CENTER UPDATES

Stanford University has received a generous gift from the Good Planet Foundation to establish an endowed fund in the Department of Neurology & Neurological Sciences. Interest from the fund will be used to support the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) and work focused on research in the field of Alzheimer's disease and neurodegenerative diseases. The $10 million pledge will be paid over a period of 5 years. At that point, endowment income will add approximately 12% to the annual operating budget of the ADRC, whose principal funding comes from the National Institute on Aging. In acknowledgement of this gift, the ADRC has been named for Asad Jamal and Iqbal Farrukh (Asad Jamal and Iqbal Farrukh Alzheimer's Disease Research Center). Mr. Jamal is the founder and chairman of ePlanet Capital, a venture capital firm, and Ms. Farrukh is his mother.

Clinical Core Updates

On behalf of the entire ADRC, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our nurse coordinator, Christina Wyss-Coray, RN. She is transitioning out of her ADRC clinical coordinator role back to the Memory Disorders Clinic, where she will continue to provide care to Stanford patients and assist our neurology physicians. Christina has been with the center since we first opened in 2015, providing the utmost care and detail to our participants, faculty, and staff members, and facilitating smooth and efficient data collection protocols. We are sad to see her go. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors and look forward to working with her in her new role in the clinic. We are excited to announce that her ADRC activities will be shared by Isabelle Yi, RN, who has joined us as our new Nurse Coordinator, and Veronica Ramirez, BS, whose new role is that of Clinical Research Manager.



Isabelle Yi received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing at New York University. She started her nursing career as an inpatient registered nurse at Stanford Health Care in the Neurosurgical Intermediate ICU/step down unit. Isabelle has been involved with different quality improvement projects, and is also a member of Stanford's Neuroscience Ambulatory Shared Leadership Council and the Policy and Procedure Steering Committee.

Veronica Ramirez received her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of New Orleans. After receiving her degree, she worked as a psychometrist and Clinical Research Coordinator at a private neuropsychology practice in New Orleans. Much of her work has involved research in behavioral neurology and forensic neuropsychology.

We would also like to announce and extend a warm welcome to two new members of the Clinical Core: James Kelbert, BA and Nicole Caceres, BA.

James Kelbert received his Bachelor of Arts in both Neuroscience and Spanish from Pomona College in 2020. James' role with the ADRC focuses on the coordination of Stanford ADRC autopsies and the Stanford Brain Bank Program in conjunction with the ADRC Neuropathology Core.

Nicole Caceres graduated from Notre Dame de Namur University in 2018 with a Bachelor of Arts in psychology. Nicole will serve as a clinical research coordinator, conducting cognitive testing, and will work with Dr. Patricia Rodriguez Espinosa and Dr. Victor Henderson on the NIH-sponsored Neighborhoods Study.

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ADRC CORES

Neuropathology Core

In support of research on Alzheimer disease and related disorders, the Neuropathology Core analyzes tissues and other biological samples from volunteers in the Stanford Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC). Core faculty provide state of the art neuropathology diagnoses of ADRC participants according to consensus diagnostic criteria. They contribute anonymous autopsy data to the National Alzheimer Coordinating Center, and prepare a brain autopsy report for a participant's next of kin. The Neuropathology Core maintains an archive of research tissues from ADRC brain autopsies.

The neuropathology core is led by Dr. Inma Cobos, MD, PhD and co-led by Dr. Birgitt Schüle, MD, PhD. Other faculty and staff in the neuropathology core include: Dr. Donald Born, MD, PhD, Dr. Hannes Vogel, MD, Angela Madira, BS, and James Kelbert, BA.

Inma Cobos, MD, PhD
Core Leader

Birgitt Schüle, MD, PhD
Associate Core Leader

Donald Born, MD, PhD
Neuropathologist

Hannes Vogel, MD
Neuropathologist

Angela Madira, BS
Neuropathology Coordinator

James Kelbert, BA
Autopsy Coordinator

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ADRC FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Maria Inmaculada Cobos Sillero, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Pathology

Dr. Inma Cobos is a physician scientist recruited to Stanford in the Department of Pathology. She is a neuropathologist and neuroscientist with expertise in neurodegeneration.

Dr. Cobos received her medical and doctoral degrees from the University of Murcia in Spain and completed post-doctoral training in Developmental Neurobiology at the University of California, San Francisco. She then pursued a clinical residency and fellowship in Anatomic Pathology and Neuropathology at Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School. Before joining Stanford, she was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology and Neuropathology at the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine.

Her research program combines her background in diagnostic neuropathology, knowledge of developmental neuroscience, and state-of-the-art cellular and molecular technologies to advance the understanding of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. She is currently applying single-cell methods to the human brain to dissect the contributions of distinct cell types to Alzheimer's disease pathogenesis and investigate the mechanisms of tau-mediated neurodegeneration in the human brain. Her work is supported by the NIH National Institute of Aging (R01), the Alzheimer's Association, and BrightFocus. She recently received the Ben Barres Early Career Acceleration Award from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI).

Birgitt Schüle, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Pathology

Birgitt Schüle, MD, PhD is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology, Stanford University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on medical genetics and stem cell modeling to unlock disease mechanisms and pathways leading to neurodegeneration in Parkinson's disease and related disorders, and to develop new therapeutic strategies to advance precision medicine.

She received her medical training from the Georg-August University Göttingen and Medical University Lübeck, Germany (1993 - 2001) and completed doctoral degree in medicine (Dr. med.) in neurophysiology at the Georg-August University Göttingen (2001). During her neurology internship from 2001 to 2002 at Medical University of Lübeck with Prof. Christine Klein, Dr. Schüle studied genes for inherited forms of Parkinson's disease and dystonia. From 2003 to 2005, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship in human genetics with Prof. Uta Francke at Stanford University School of Medicine. From 2005-2019, Dr. Schüle led key clinical research programs and biospecimen repositories for neurogenetics, translational stem cell and brain donation at the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center.

Dr. Schüle is the associate core leader of the Neuropathology Core with the Stanford Alzheimer Research Center (ADRC) and core leader of the Analytics Core for the Pacific Udall Center. She supports the centers with genetic characterization, biobanking, and building a human induced pluripotent stem cell and post-mortem leptomeninges tissue bank shared with the data and tissue repositories at NIH.

Additional Opportunities to Participate in Research

Stanford ADRC Affiliated Studies

Study: Healthy Brain Aging Study **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Isabelle Yi isayi@stanford.edu or (650) 721-2409

Study: Pacific Udall Center **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Maria-Lucia Campos udallcenter@stanford.edu or (650) 721-5351

Study: Health IQ Study **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Tlesa Meadowcroft tmeadowcroft@stanford.edu or (650) 308-9269

Study: Alzheimer Gut Microbiome Project **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Veronica Ramirez vramirez1@stanford.edu or (650) 721-5354

Study: Sleep and Physical Activity Study **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Joseph Winer jwiner@stanford.edu

Study Longitudinal Early-Onset Alzheimer's Disease Study (LEADS) **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Tricia Cunningham tcunningham@stanford.edu or (650) 388-8675

Study: Asian Cohort Study **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Veronica Ramirez vramirez1@stanford.edu or (650) 721-5354

Other Stanford studies (not ADRC affiliated)

Sponsor: NIA (PEACE-AD) **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Amanda Ng amandang@stanford.edu or (650) 485-9560

For more information on the trial, please visit: https://clinicaltrials.gov with identifier **NCT03710642**

Sponsor: Genentech/Roche (Digital Biomarker) **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Viktoriya Bourakova viktoriya.bourakova@stanford.edu or (650) 709-9041

Sponsor: Eisai and NIH (AHEAD 3-45 Study) **Study status:** Open, enrollment ongoing

Contact: Amanda Ng amandang@stanford.edu or (650) 485-9560

Anthony Velasquez anthgv@stanford.edu or (650) 206-0963

For more information on the trial, please visit: https://clinicaltrials.gov with identifier **NCT04468659**

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