UW Medicine
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

UW ADRC COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESEARCH CENTER

SUMMER 2026

WE'VE BEEN BUSY IN YOUR COMMUNITY!

19th annual Cinco de Mayo event at El Centro de la Raza

Our team was excited to attend the 19th annual Cinco de Mayo event at El Centro de la Raza on Saturday, May 2, 2026. This vibrant celebration brought together community members for a day filled with culture and connection. We were grateful for the opportunity to engage with attendees, share educational materials on Alzheimer's disease for individuals and caregivers, and raise awareness about the ADRC's work in advancing Alzheimer's research and opportunities to stay involved and participate in upcoming educational events, such as the upcoming coffee chats planned for this summer.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Perla Bravo, MPH

Perla Bravo is a Research Coordinator in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health at the UW School of Public Health, where she supports projects focused on older adult health and community-based healthy aging initiatives. She currently contributes to two cores within the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

In the Outreach, Recruitment, and Engagement (ORE) Core, she supports community outreach and engagement efforts alongside her team, with a strong focus on connecting with community members, caregivers, and families affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. She also supports the Clinical Core at the University of Washington, assisting with annual clinical visits at Harborview Medical Center with Spanish-speaking participants. This work has been especially meaningful, as it helps expand access and inclusion for underrepresented communities who may not otherwise have had the opportunity to participate in research. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, crocheting, reading, and exploring trails throughout the Pacific Northwest.

A NEW FOCUS ON PROGRESSIVE SUPRANUCLEAR PALSY

By: Genevieve Wanucha

CurePSP recently designated the UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center as a CurePSP Center of Care for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and Corticobasal Syndrome (CBD), which are rare adult-onset neurological diseases.

The MBWC CurePSP Center of Care will be led by the UW ADRC's Dr. Kimiko Domoto-Reilly, MD, a neurologist and associate professor in the UW Department of Neurology and Raima Amin, MD, a neurologist in the UW Department of Neurology. The flagship Center of Care program is a network of 38 specialized medical centers across the U.S. and Canada. These exist to enhance access to accurate diagnosis, state-of-the-art clinical care, and comprehensive support for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy (PSP) and related diseases.

"We are very excited to be a Cure PSP Center of Care," said Domoto-Reilly. "Working with Dr. Raima Amin allows us to bridge our offerings in cognitive and movement neurology, which is so important for the care of people and families affected by PSP and CBD.
PSP and CBD are known as atypical parkinsonisms. This means the conditions can resemble Parkinson's disease, with symptoms such as changes in balance, walking, and thinking.

As a CurePSP Center of Care, the UW MBWC and the affiliated UW ADRC will work to connect affected families to helpful resources and CurePSP's network of support and educational materials. You can learn more and find all available resources on their website: www.psp.org/ineedsupport.

JOINING THE ACTC A GAMECHANGER FOR THE CLINICAL TRIALS PROGRAM

By: Genevieve Wanucha

The Alzheimer's Clinical Trials Consortium (ACTC) is a nationally funded clinical trials infrastructure designed to accelerate the testing of new therapies for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

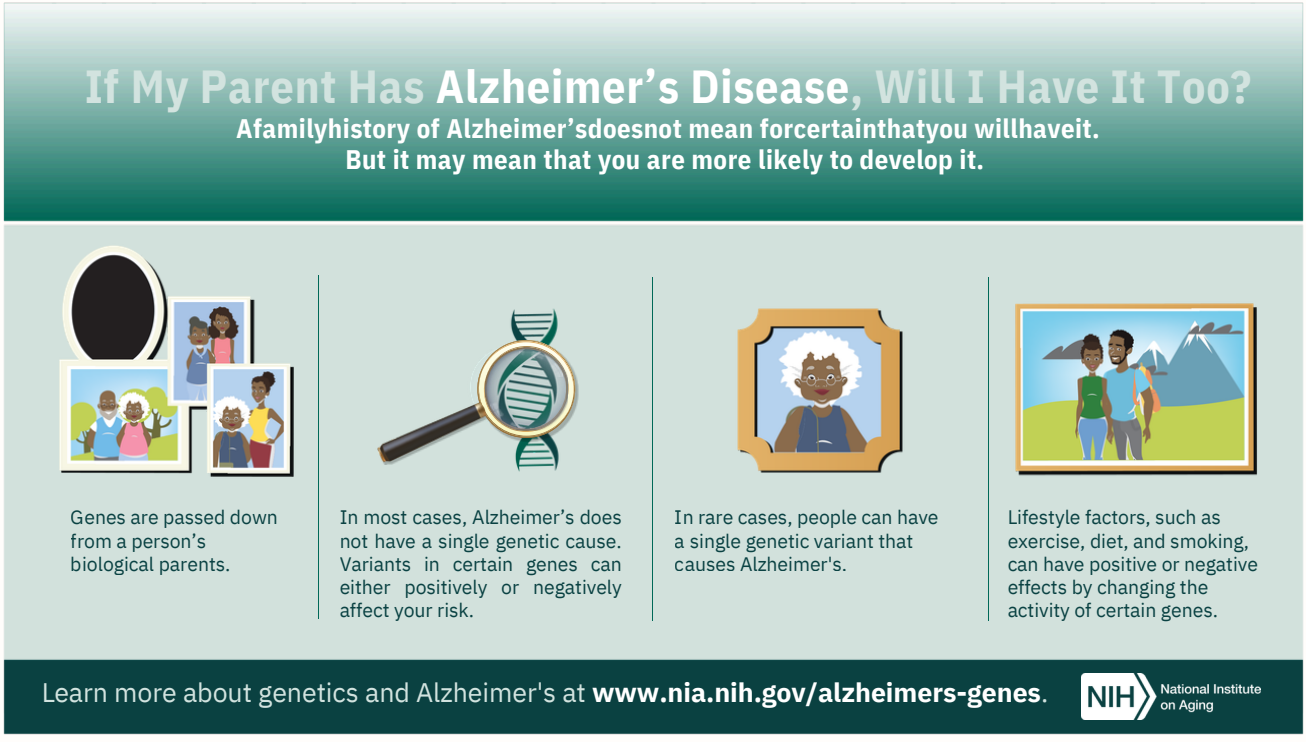
The MBWC was recently chosen as one of the ACTC's 32 member sites. This membership means more opportunities for the MBWC to participate as a site for cutting-edge clinical trials supported by industry-academic partnerships. The ACTC brings an influx of NIH funds and access to centralized resources and shared expertise of leaders in Alzheimer's disease and clinical trials. The ACTC will fund an outreach coordinator to help the UW team build partnerships with surrounding communities to increase engagement in clinical trials at the UW MBWC's Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

“The ACTC is a gamechanger for the MBWC's Clinical Trials program,” said Rosenbloom.

“We will now be able to take our clinical trials program to the next level, conducting the most promising and innovative trials, while tapping into the ACTC's network of world experts on Alzheimer's disease.” The UW ADRC Precision Neuropathology Core will also play a role in ACTC, performing post-mortem neuropathology evaluations on trial participants.

“We are honored to have this source of national visibility and recognition,” said Thomas Grabowski, MD, Director of the MBWC and ADRC. “The ACTC ups the game on the kinds of clinical trials that we’re doing here.” For example, the Anti-Tau Platform Trial (ATP) will be testing the effects of combined anti-amyloid and anti-tau therapies on cognitive decline and will launch soon.

Darla Chapman, DNP, ARNP, a nurse practitioner and MBWC Clinic principal investigator and clinician, will serve as Co-Investigator on the studies run in partnership with the ACTC. This will involve overseeing the day-to-day operations of the studies, performing study-specific assessments, and monitoring the safety and health status of study participants.
“I am most excited about the opportunity to connect individuals living with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias to groundbreaking clinical trials that have the potential to benefit not only their own lives, but also future generations," said Chapman.



NEW IDEAS IN UW ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH!

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 awardees of the UW ADRC Development Projects!

These projects, led by postdoctoral fellows and faculty members, use UW ADRC resources to advance the understanding, diagnosis, or treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Kevin Lin, PhD,
Assistant Professor, UW Biostatistics, UW School of Public Health

The UW ADRC Precision Neuropathology Core provides brain tissue resources for researchers to study 'cognitive resilience.' This term applies to individuals who maintained normal cognition throughout their lives despite the presence of Alzheimer's pathology in their brains. These are individuals who would be expected, by all measures, to develop the cognitive changes of dementia—and never do. Now, Kevin Lin, PhD, will use resources from multiple UW ADRC Cores to develop new computational tools to understand the cellular biology underlying resilience to cognitive decline and to learn more from the data already available at the UW ADRC.

Tasha Rhoads, PhD,
Assistant Professor, UW Department of Neurology, UW Medicine

The 'social exposome' describes the impact of lifelong social, cultural, and economic factors on health. Using this framework allows researchers to understand how social inequalities drive disease and health disparities. Now, Tasha Rhoads, PhD, will use UW ADRC resources to study how the social exposome relates to brain health, specifically among individuals who maintained normal cognition throughout life despite the presence of Alzheimer's pathology in their brains, a characteristic called cognitive resilience. Her goal is to identify how aspects of the social exposome, especially neighborhood experience, are associated with increased cognitive resilience.

Oswaldo Lorenzo-Betancor, MD, PhD,
Assistant Professor, UW Department of Neurology, UW Medicine/GRECC,
VA Puget Sound

When ADRC researchers look at brain tissue from cases of Alzheimer's disease, they see the hallmark amyloid and tau proteins, as expected. But they often also find co-occurring pathologies, such as Lewy body-related pathology, the defining feature of Lewy body dementia. Recent studies have shown that co-occurring Lewy bodies accelerate cognitive decline and worsen clinical symptoms, compared to cases of Alzheimer's disease without co-pathologies. Now, Lorenzo-Betancor, MD, PhD, will use UW ADRC resources to study how Lewy body pathology interacts with Alzheimer's pathology and affects neurodegeneration. This project will promote collaboration within the UW ADRC among experts in Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Lewy body dementia research, accelerating progress towards shared goals.

ADRC WORD SEARCH!

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T	U	H	V	A	F	Z	W	S	N	A	C	N	A
Z	F	V	K	S	A	S	Q	D	G	A	J	F	T
S	C	E	M	S	N	N	A	L	G	T	F	I	E
Y	A	M	G	R	J	O	S	D	X	K	D	R	R
S	P	H	M	V	K	W	U	D	Z	U	I	E	M
B	A	Q	Q	S	A	C	N	H	F	M	K	W	E
Z	E	N	R	D	B	O	S	P	C	V	B	O	L
O	I	A	D	P	H	N	H	C	E	Q	A	R	O
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C	P	S	F	H	L	F	N	E	L	V	O	S	I
A	X	H	O	T	W	S	E	Y	O	Q	X	Q	Q
O	Y	B	S	Z	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	V
S	S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	H	Q	N	V

SUNSHINE	VACATION	FAN	WATERMELON
SANDALS	HOT	SWIMSUIT	SNOWCONE
SUNSCEEN	CAP	BEACH	FIREWORKS

RESOURCES

Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/UWADRC

Alzheimer's Association
Phone: 1-800-272-3900
Email: info@alz.org
Website: alz.org
Call the Alzheimer's Association 24-Hour Helpline to speak for free to a Master's level social worker, any day or time.

Explore the monthly education programs offered by the Alzheimer's Association WA State Chapter: alz.org/alzwa/helping_you/education

Conexion Contigo by Lupita Zamora is an independent Spanish language radio program for the community where you will find information, opportunities and more. facebook.com/ConexionContigoRadio

Visit Alzheimers.gov for updated health information tailored to caregivers, people living with dementia, and professionals.
En español: Alzheimers.gov/es

Contact us

Questions about this newsletter:

Email: **adrc-community@uw.edu**

UW Memory and Brain Wellness Center

Web: **uwmemoryandbrain.org**

En español: **memoria.uw.edu**

UW Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Web: **uwadrc.org**

Phone: 206-744-0588 or
Toll-free at 855-744-0588

Email:
uwadrc@uw.edu

Q Do you have a question about brain health or Alzheimer's research?

A Send them to adrc-community@uw.edu It could be answered in a future newsletter!