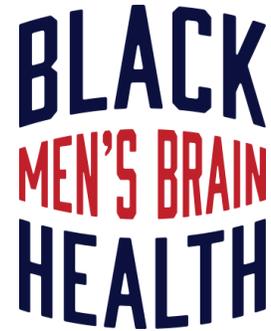


Black Men's Brain Health

TEAM



Lead Scientific Investigators

[Robert W. Turner II](#), Ph.D. | Co-PI
The George Washington University
Dir. NFLAA Mental Health & Well-being Initiative

Dr. Robert W. Turner II is no stranger to a lifestyle that impacts brain health and aging. He attended James Madison University on an athletic scholarship, and then went on to play professional football in the United States Football League, the Canadian Football League, and the National Football League.

Following his football career, he became a brain health and aging investigator. Dr. Turner is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership at The George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Science. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology at City University of New York's Graduate Center. He is also a Research Scientist at Duke University's Center for Biobehavioral Health Disparities Research.

Dr. Turner is a prolific writer and widely published in the brain health and aging field. Dr. Turner also made time to reflect on the life journeys of football players. His book *Not for Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete* draws on his personal experience as an athlete as well as interactions with over 140 current and former NFL athletes to reveal what it means to be a high school and college athlete pursuing the dream of playing in the NFL and explores why so many players struggle with life after football.

[Monica Rivera-Mindt, Ph.D.](#), A.B.P.P | Co-PI
Professor of Psychology
Fordham University/ISMMS

Dr. Monica Rivera-Mindt is the President of the Hispanic Neuropsychological Society (HNS), a Professor of Psychology at Fordham University with a joint appointment in

Neurology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and a board-certified neuropsychologist. Her NIH- & Alzheimer's Association-funded transdisciplinary research focuses on the intersection between cultural neuroscience, neuropsychology, and health disparities utilizing a novel community-based approach.

Her work is dedicated to three lines of inquiry:

1. the identification of resilience and modifiable factors to promote brain health and improve neurocognitive functioning in vulnerable and underserved populations (e.g., culturally/linguistically diverse older adults, persons with opioid use disorder or HIV);
2. how sociocultural factors impact the expression of neurologic disease, cognition, and health behaviors; and
3. the underlying mechanisms driving the effects of brain health disparities and cognitive decline in persons of culturally/linguistically diverse backgrounds.

She has authored more than 80 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters. Dr. Rivera-Mindt is an appointed member of the National Institute of Aging – Neuroscience of Aging Study Section, inaugural Editor for the Culture & Gender in Neuropsychology Department of The Clinical Neuropsychologist journal, and a member of the International Neuropsychological Society's Continuing Education Committee. She is also a deeply committed mentor who has chaired 20+ dissertations and nine training awards from NIH or NSF.

Dr. Rivera-Mindt is the recipient of several awards for her research, teaching, and contributions to the field, including the 2019 Hispanic Health Leadership Award from the National Hispanic Medical Association; Lifetime Achievement Award from SMART University (a community-based organization for HIV+ women); the Early Career Award from American Psychological Association's (APA) Society for Clinical Neuropsychology (Division 40); the Early Career Service Award from the National Academy of Neuropsychology (NAN); the Distinguished Alumna Award for Psychology from Pepperdine University; the Early Career Award & Pilot Research Award from the Northeast Consortium for Minority Faculty Development; the National Center on Minority Health & Health Disparities Scholar Award from NIH; and the Professor of the Year Award from Fordham University. She is also a Fellow of APA and NAN.

In her spare time, she enjoys surfing and traveling all over Latin America with her husband and two children.

[Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D.](#) | Co-PI
Alzheimer's Association

As chief science officer, Maria C. Carrillo, Ph.D., sets the strategic vision for the Alzheimer's Association global research program. Under her leadership, the Association is the world's largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's research and an internationally recognized pioneer in convening the dementia science community to accelerate the field. As a noted public speaker, Dr. Carrillo plays an instrumental role in the Association's efforts to lobby both the public and private sectors for increased funding for the disease.

Dr. Carrillo oversees the implementation of the Association's growing portfolio of research initiatives, including the Alzheimer's Association International Conference® (AAIC®), the world's largest and most influential dementia science meeting. She also oversees the Research Roundtable, which enables international scientific, industry, and government leaders to work together to overcome shared obstacles in Alzheimer's science and drug development. In addition, Carrillo manages the World Wide Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (WW-ADNI), a multi-country research effort aimed at accelerating the early detection of Alzheimer's.

Under Dr. Carrillo's direction, the Association's leadership in Alzheimer's research continues to thrive through its International Research Grant Program, which currently invests over \$208 million in 590 active best-of-field projects in 31 countries. In addition, the Association has expanded its role in advancing dementia science by becoming directly involved in research. Dr. Carrillo is a co-primary investigator for the Association-funded and led U.S. POINTER study, a lifestyle intervention trial to prevent cognitive decline and dementia.

Dr. Carrillo has published extensively on early diagnosis and biomarker standardization efforts, as well as on the global challenges to progress for research in Alzheimer's and dementia. She is a co-author of the "Appropriate Use Criteria for Amyloid Imaging," published by the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging and the Alzheimer's Association.

As an internationally respected Alzheimer's expert, Dr. Carrillo has spoken to numerous international media outlets, including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Time magazine, and "NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt." Dr. Carrillo sits on the governing board of the Global Brain Health Institute and is on the advisory committee for the World Health Organization Dementia Setting Priorities & Portfolio Analysis. She also is a member of the American Heart Association's research committee.

In honor of her extensive contributions to the advance of Alzheimer's disease clinical trials, Dr. Carrillo received the 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award in Alzheimer's Disease Therapeutic Research from the Clinical Trials on Alzheimer's Disease. In addition, she is the recipient of the 2018 Alumnae Award from Northwestern University, which recognizes an outstanding alumna who has brought honor to the university through significant contribution and national recognition in her field.

Dr. Carrillo earned her Ph.D. from Northwestern University's Institute for Neuroscience and completed a postdoctoral fellowship focused on Alzheimer's brain imaging and risk factors at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

Co-Investigators

[Carl V. Hill, Ph.D., MPH](#) | Co-I
chief diversity, equity and inclusion officer
Alzheimer's Association

Carl V. Hill, Ph.D., MPH, is the chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer for the Alzheimer's Association, overseeing strategic initiatives to strengthen the Association's outreach to all populations and providing communities with resources and support to address the Alzheimer's crisis.

In this role, Dr. Hill is responsible for developing cross-functional partnerships with organizations to advance diversity, equity and inclusion. As a result of his leadership, the Association has broadened its reach to previously diverse communities with partners such as the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation.

Within the Association, Dr. Hill collaborates with human resources to attract talent and develop resources that champion staff diversity and a culture of inclusion. He authored an editorial in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Neurology highlighting the need for more diverse perspectives to address disparities and pursue equity in dementia science.

Dr. Hill previously served as the Association's vice president, Scientific Engagement. Before joining the Association, he served as director, Office of Special Populations at the National Institutes on Aging (NIA). Throughout Dr. Hill's six years in this role, he led

the development of the NIA Health Disparities Research Framework, which stimulates studies focused on health disparities related to aging. He also directed the NIA Butler-Williams Scholars Program, which provides yearly training for early career investigators interested in aging research.

Hill earned his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan School of Public Health, where he trained with the Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture and Health (CRECH) and the Program for Research on Black Americans (PRBA). He is an alumnus of the National Medical Fellowships Inc./W.K. Kellogg Foundation Health Policy Fellowship Program. Dr. Hill holds a master's degree in public health from Morehouse School of Medicine, and he received its Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2019. As a member of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Public Health Prevention Service, a training and leadership program, he helped to establish the Center for Bioethics in Research and Healthcare at Tuskegee University.

[Tam E. Perry, Ph.D.](#) | Co-I
associate professor, School of Social Work
Wayne State University

Tam Perry is an associate professor in the School of Social Work at Wayne State University. She recently received her Ph.D. in Social Work and Anthropology from the University of Michigan.

Her ethnographic research addresses housing transitions of older adults from a network perspective. As health, mobility and kin and peer networks alter, she explores how older adults contemplate their homes and its contents. She studies housing transitions because, while aging in place is often preferred and cost-effective, inevitably some older adults will undertake the emotional and physical labor, as well as the negotiation of medical, financial and long-term care infrastructures, involved in relocation. Her research has been supported by the National Institute on Aging, the John A. Hartford Foundation, the University of Michigan and Wayne State University.

She plans to begin a new research project in Detroit on relocation in older adulthood funded by the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research as well as conduct a longitudinal study of older adults who participated in her dissertation project funded by a University Research Grant from Wayne State University.

Degrees and Certifications

Ph.D. (Joint Doctoral Program in Social Work and Anthropology), University of Michigan

M.A. in Anthropology, University of Michigan

M.S.S.W., University of Texas

B.A., Vanderbilt University

Teaching Interests

Theories of aging

History of social welfare policy for older Americans

Macro social work

Qualitative methods/Mixed methods

Social work in diverse populations/International social work

Areas of Expertise

SUBSTANTIVE AREA EXPERTISE

Transitions, built environment and aging

Gerontological social work

Long-term care issues

METHODS EXPERTISE

Qualitative

Research Projects

Post-Move Follow Up Project

Partnership with St. Aloysius Parish : United Community Housing Coalition

Surviving in Detroit: Men Experiencing Homelessness Due to Death of a Parent

The Humanities Center at Wayne State University : Neighborhood Service Organization

[Desiree A. Byrd, Ph.D.](#) | Co-I
Associate Professor
Queens College, CUNY

Desiree A. Byrd, Ph.D., is an Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pathology at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. Trained as a clinician-scholar at the UCSD/SDSU Joint Doctoral Program in clinical psychology, she completed her predoctoral internship at Brown University and a postdoctoral fellowship in Cognition and Aging at Columbia University.

Since completing her training, she has maintained an active research program as a neuropsychologist. Her primary research interests are in the neuropathogenesis of HIV-associated cognitive dysfunction and the sources and consequences of culture-related differences in neuropsychological test performance among American ethnic groups. Her research on the functional correlates of neuropsychological impairment in diverse populations has been funded by the Alzheimer's Association and the National Institute on Aging.

Dr. Byrd has served on several committees for American Psychological Association Division 40 (Clinical Neuropsychology), National Academy of Neuropsychology and the Harlem Community Academic Partnership. She has served on several program committees for the International Neuropsychological Society and is on the editorial board of *Assessment*. She has published her research in numerous neuropsychological, psychiatric and medical journals and looks forward to the limitless rewards of scientific discovery.

Our research focuses on the roles of health disparities and cultural identity in normal cognitive aging and in the expression of cognitive dysfunction stemming from central nervous system disease. All of our research is aimed at better understanding sources of variance in cognitive test performance and how these can contribute to establishing more equitable services for marginalized populations. We conduct these studies in the contexts of HIV infection, substance use, and under-represented communities. We are also investigating perceptions of cognitive dysfunction and intergenerational transfer of cognitive style among adults who recently immigrated to New York City from other countries and their young adult children.

Degrees/Diplomas: Ph.D., University of California San Diego/San Diego State University. Board Certified in Clinical Neuropsychology.
Training Area: Clinical Psychology @ Queens College
Research Interests: Cross-cultural neuropsychology and NeuroHIV

Keynote Speaker

[April D. Thames, Ph.D.](#)

Associate Professor In-Residence, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences
Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Dr. April Thames is an Associate Professor In-Residence, Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior. She is also an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Southern California.

She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Alliant International University/CSPP and completed her postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at UCLA.

As Principal Investigator of several grant-supported projects, Dr. Thames has developed a translational neuroscience research program that focuses on the impact of chronic disease, substance abuse, socioeconomic disadvantage, and lifetime stress/adversity and resiliency on neurological, cognitive, and mental health outcomes. Her work has also examined factors that obscure the validity of neuropsychological test performance among ethnic/racial minority groups.

She previously directed UCLA's Neuropsychology of Medical Illness practicum, an externship program for doctoral students in clinical psychology, and oversaw the clinical and research training in neuromedical illness. She was also a primary internship advisor and clinical supervisor at UCLA's Medical Psychology Assessment Center (MPAC) and a primary mentor for postdoctoral fellows as part of UCLA's Neuropsychology of HIV/AIDS fellowship.

She is actively involved in national professional organizations as Member at Large for the American Psychological Association's Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, and former role as past Chair of SCN's Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee (EMA).

Featured Speakers

[Toni Antonucci, Ph.D.](#)

Professor and Senior Research Scientist
University of Michigan

“My research focuses on social relations and health across the lifespan, including multigenerational studies of the family and comparative studies of social relations across the life span in the United States, Europe and Japan. We are currently collecting a second wave of data on the Social Relations and Health across the Life Span study.”

Toni C. Antonucci is the Elizabeth M. Douvan Collegiate Professor of Psychology and Program Director and Research Professor in the Life Course Development Program at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Antonucci's research focuses on social relations and health across the lifespan, including the family, life span and life course development, multigenerational relations, adult development and aging, and comparative studies of social relations and health in the United States, Europe, the Middle East and Japan. She is particularly interested in how social relations optimize or jeopardize an individual's ability to face life's challenges. She received a Research Career Development Award and is currently funded or has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, the National Institute on Aging and several private foundations, most recently, the Fetzer Institute and the MacArthur Foundation.

Dr. Antonucci will be the president-elect of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development in 2017 and of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics in 2018. She was President of the Gerontological Society of America and the Society for the Study of Human Development and served as editor of the *Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Science* and Associate Editor of *Developmental Psychology*. She is currently series editor of the *Annual Review of Geriatrics and Gerontology* for Springer Publishing Company and is a member of the MacArthur Network on the Aging Society. She is a member of the Executive Board of the International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development, Secretary General-Elect of the International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics and received the Gerontological Society of America's 2011 Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award. She has numerous scientific publications, in 2010 she edited (with James S. Jackson) *Life Course Perspectives on Late Life Health Inequalities* and in 2011 edited (with Karen Fingerma, Cynthia Berg and Jacqui Smith) the *Handbook of LifeSpan Development*.

Awards:

- Past-President of Adult Development and Aging, Division 20 of American Psychological Association (APA)
- Past-President of the Gerontological Society of America
- 2001 Master Mentor Award from APA Division 20
- President-Elect Society for the Study of Human Development Council Member, International Association of Gerontology

[Roland J. Thorpe, Jr., Ph.D.](#)

Co-Director DRPH Concentration In Health, Equity, And Social Justice, Professor, Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Diversity
Johns Hopkins University

Roland J. Thorpe, Jr., Ph.D., MS, is a gerontologist and social epidemiologist with nationally-recognized expertise in minority aging, men's health, and place-based disparities.

Dr. Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. joined the Office of the Provost in 2017 as a Provost's Fellow. His Fellowship project involved a collaboration with the Offices of Faculty Affairs and Research to design skills training modules for undergraduate research and develop a mentoring program to train graduate students, postdoctoral students, and faculty in the art and science of mentoring undergraduate students. In 2018, Dr. Thorpe was tapped to lead the Provost's Postdoctoral Diversity Fellowship Program. He has emerged as a key thought leader equipped to address concerns and challenges associated with the diversification of the academic workforce. As the inaugural Associate Vice Provost of Faculty Diversity, he will dedicate more time to advancing key initiatives around faculty diversity.

In his new role, Dr. Thorpe will work closely with Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Andrew Douglas and Vice Provost for Diversity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Katrina Caldwell to advance the Faculty Diversity Initiative (FDI). This includes providing infrastructure support for the Target of Opportunity Program and the Cluster Faculty Initiative, working with all diversity and inclusion deans and deans of faculty on campus to enhance support for faculty development and mentoring, and leading an expanded Provost Postdoctoral Diversity Fellowship Program.

Dr. Thorpe is a Professor in the Department of Health, Behavior, and Society in the Bloomberg School of Public Health, and also serves as Deputy Director of the Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions, Co-Director of the Johns Hopkins Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research, and Co-Director of the Health Equity and Social Justice Concentration of the DrPH Program. He holds joint appointments in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology, the Department of Neurology in the School of Medicine, and the Department of Sociology in the Krieger School of Arts and Sciences.

As a social epidemiologist and gerontologist, Dr. Thorpe's research focuses on how race, socioeconomic status, and segregation influence health and well-being for African Americans, particularly African American men. He is the recipient of numerous awards that recognize his commitment and valuable contributions to student and faculty mentoring, including the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health Advising, Mentoring, and Teaching Recognition Award, the inaugural 2018 NHLBI OHD PRIDE Roland J. Thorpe, Jr. Mentoring Award, the 2020 JHBSPH Dean's Award of Distinction in Faculty Mentoring, and the 2020 Minority Issues in Gerontology Outstanding Mentorship Award. Dr. Thorpe earned a bachelor's in theoretical mathematics from Florida A&M University, a master's in statistics, and a Ph.D. in clinical epidemiology with a graduate minor in gerontology from Purdue University.

[Deborah Stroman, Ph.D., C.L.U.](#) | Project Coordinator

Adjunct Associate Professor

Department of Health Behavior

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health

As an advisor and instructor in the EQUITY concentration, Dr. Deborah Stroman specializes in leadership as applied to the domain of racial equity in the United States. Prior to joining Gillings, she was a Clinical Associate Professor at Kenan-Flagler Business School providing instruction and service to students related to organizational behavior and the examination of the vast sport business industry.

Dr. Stroman has more than three decades of extensive experience working with senior administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni on leadership and equity issues. As an entrepreneur, she provides race and racism strategic consulting and education to numerous organizations including the National Institutes of Health, R1 academic institutions, Fortune 100, and nonprofits. She is a national trainer with the Racial Equity Institute LLC. In addition, Dr. Stroman is the founder of the Center of Sport Business

and Analytics, which is purposed to connect with and advocate for people and organizations creating equity, impact, and value in the sport industry.

She is a president emeritus of the UNC Black Faculty and Staff Caucus and has been recognized for teaching, service, and entrepreneurship collaborations. Along with Dr. Geni Eng, Dr. Stroman co-designed and instructs in the department's popular "Leading for Racial Equity" graduate student course, which propelled similar instruction and education across the entire campus and beyond. Dr. Stroman is Coach, HAVEN, Mental Health (First Aid), and Safe Zone trained and certified.

[Linda Burton, Ph.D.](#)

Dean, School of Social Welfare
University of California, Berkeley

Linda M. Burton is dean of Berkeley Social Welfare and holds the Eugene and Rose Kleiner Chair for the Study of Processes, Practices and Policies in Aging. Prior to her arrival at Berkeley in 2019, Burton was the James B. Duke Professor of Sociology and director of the Center for Child and Family Policy at Duke University.

In her role as dean of Social Sciences at Duke University's Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, she was responsible for handling all matters relative to 239 faculty members in 14 departments and programs, including African/African American Studies, Economics, History, Political Science, and Women's Studies.

She simultaneously co-directed the undergraduate program on International Comparative Studies, was co-chair of the university's Task Force on Bias and Hate Issues, and served on the university's union bargaining team in negotiations with the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) on behalf of Duke's adjunct professors. Prior to joining Duke, she was a faculty member at Penn State for over 20 years and served as director of its Center for Human Development and Family Research in Diverse Contexts from 1998 to 2006. She holds a PhD in sociology from the University of Southern California.

Dean Burton is a preeminent scholar on child welfare and poverty whose program of research is conceptually grounded in life course, developmental, and ecological perspectives and focuses on three themes concerning the lives of America's poorest urban, small town, and rural families: (1) intergenerational family structures, processes, and role transitions; (2) the meaning of context and place in the daily lives of families;

and, (3) childhood adultification and the accelerated life course. Her methodological approach to exploring these issues is comparative, longitudinal, and multi-method.

The comparative dimension of Burton's research comprises in-depth within-group analysis of low-income African American, White, and, Hispanic/Latino families, as well as systematic examinations of similarities and differences across groups. She employs longitudinal designs in her studies to identify distinct and often nuanced contextual and ethnic/racial features of development that shape the family structures, processes (e.g., intergenerational care-giving) and life course transitions (e.g., grandparenthood, marriage) families experience over time.

She is principally an ethnographer, but integrates survey and geographic and spatial analysis in her work. Burton was one of six principal investigators involved in a multi-site, multi-method collaborative study of the impact of welfare reform on families and children (Welfare, Children, and Families: A Three-City Study), directed the ethnographic component of the Three-City Study, and was also principal investigator of an ethnographic study of rural poverty and child development (The Family Life Project).

[Maria Aranda, Ph.D.](#)

Executive Director

USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging

María P. Aranda is an associate professor at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work and the executive director of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging. She holds a joint appointment with the USC Leonard Davis School of Gerontology and is a psychotherapist with over 30 years of experience providing mental health services to middle-aged and older adults and their families.

Dr. Aranda developed the first Spanish-language support group for families affected by Alzheimer's disease. She is well-known among community leaders for establishing model support programs such as the El Portal Latino Alzheimer's Project, Programa Esperanza, and Siempre Viva for individuals and families in East Los Angeles affected by depression and Alzheimer disease.

Her research specializations address the unique needs of middle age and older adults with co-occurring medical and psychiatric illnesses, and the caregiving families who provide them with love and care. She focuses on psychosocial intervention

development, and evaluation of bilingual, evidence-based interventions on behalf of adults with chronic medical conditions and disabilities.

She has received funding for her research from NIA, NCI, PCORI, the Southern California-CTSI, The John A. Hartford Foundation/GSA, the National Institute of Rehabilitation and Research, the Alzheimer's Association/HRSA, the L.A. County Department of Mental Health, and the California Community Foundation.

Dr. Aranda has served on four consensus committees of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the geriatric workforce in mental health and substance use service sectors, family caregiving to older adults with functional limitations, financial capacity determination among social security beneficiaries, and functional assessment for adults with disabilities. She is also an expert on the Caregiving Advisory Panel for AARP and a fellow of The Gerontological Society of America, the oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging.

To reference the work of Maria Aranda online, we ask that you directly quote their work where possible and attribute it to "Maria Aranda, a faculty at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work" (LINK: <https://dworakpeck.usc.edu>)

[Ms. Edie Yau](#)

Director, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
Alzheimer's Association

Edie Yau is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion for the Alzheimer's Association. She provides leadership and strategic direction to diversity and inclusion to advance the organization's vision to create a world without Alzheimer's.

In her tenure she has led innovative programs such as the Asian Dementia Care Network and the SF LGBT Dementia Care Project to raise concern and awareness in diverse communities. She served on the California Task Force on Family Caregiving and currently serves on the California AARP Executive Council. Ms. Yau has been in the field of aging for nearly 25 years and has an MA in Gerontology.

Fellowship Director

[Percy Griffin, Ph.D., MSc](#) | Co-I
Director, Scientific Engagement
Alzheimer's Association

Percy Griffin, Ph.D., is director, Scientific Engagement for the Alzheimer's Association, where he leads efforts to accelerate the organization's scientific agenda through the creation and delivery of ongoing research education. He engages with more than 75 Association chapters across the country, informing staff and the public of scientific initiatives and the organization's crucial role in advancing research to improve the lives of all those facing Alzheimer's and other dementias.

Prior to joining the Association, Dr. Griffin held a number of roles that honed his expertise in research and scientific communication. Most recently, he was a strategic analyst for Purohit Navigation, where he conducted and analyzed research for pharmaceutical clients. He also served as a consultant for the Biotechnology and Life Sciences Advising Group and as a scientific editor and illustrator for InPrint, a publication editing service at Washington University in St. Louis.

As a researcher, Dr. Griffin has led independent translational projects in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's disease focused on protein degradation and neuroimmunology, in addition to research on the role of proteostasis in Parkinson's disease pathogenesis and organic chemistry synthesis. He is a co-author of several papers, including "Circadian clock protein Rev-erba regulates neuroinflammation," published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS).

Dr. Griffin holds a doctorate in molecular cell biology from Washington University in St. Louis, a master's degree in pharmacology from the University of Minnesota Medical School and a bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Macalester College. During his graduate studies, Dr. Griffin participated in the optional Entrepreneurship for Biomedicine Research Training Program and earned a credential in Science Communication. He is a recipient of the Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation and the Neuroscience Scholars Program Fellowship from the Society for Neuroscience.