

REGISTRATION OPENS AUG. 1ST



Schedule • Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022

- 8:00 am Registration (2nd Floor) / Health & Resource Fair / Posters
- 9:00 am **Welcome by IOA Director Carol Ryff, PhD**
- 9:05 am **Molecular Me: Exploring the Social Implications of the Genomics Revolution Jason Fletcher, PhD**
- 9:40 am **Tai Chi Stretch Break Rachel Sandretto, Advanced Certified Tai Chi Fundamentals® Instructor**
- 9:50 am **Identifying Equitable Biomarkers of Cardiovascular Disease Using Mass Spectrometry Lipidomics Judith Simcox, PhD**
- 10:25 am Health & Resource Fair / Posters
- 11:10 am **Research Impacting Change: The UW Neighborhood Atlas and Brain Health Disparities Amy Kind, MD, PhD**
- 11:45 am Box lunch & **New Investigator Award Presentation**
- 12:10- **Aging Authentically: Insights from Existentialism**
- 1:10 pm **Keynote Speaker: Kevin Aho, PhD**

Who Should Attend?

Anyone interested in positive aging, including the general public and professionals working with older adults.

Health and Resource Fair

Local organizations will offer resources to improve quality of life as we age.

Poster Session and Awards

UW-Madison faculty, students & advanced trainees will present research posters & compete for a new investigator award in aging research.

Recordings

By participating in the event, you grant IOA permission to use photos & videos of you taken by event staff, if any, in future promotional materials.

Location and Transportation



The Gordon Dining and Event Center

770 W. Dayton St.
Madison, WI

The 1st floor of Gordon is a public dining hall.
The 2nd floor event center has been reserved for the Colloquium.

For directions and parking information see:

aging.wisc.edu

We Recommend Purchasing Campus Parking in Advance:

- Several self-pay public parking lots, both campus & city run, are available within 1-3 blocks of the event.
- To guarantee parking, you can purchase a campus parking permit in advance (**by Fri., August 26th**). An application will be sent with registration confirmation & will be on our website.
- The event is also easily accessible via city buses. See: www.cityofmadison.com/metro/how-to-ride/plan-your-trip

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Keynote

Aging Authentically: Insights from Existentialism

Kevin Aho, PhD *Professor and Chair, Dept. of Communication & Philosophy, Florida Gulf Coast University*

In our ageist society, we tend to recoil from the hard realities of aging as if it represents a kind of wasting malady or affliction. Drawing on the insights of existentialism, I challenge this view and suggest that life is not diminished but enhanced when we are honest and accepting of ourselves as beings who are aging and dying. The point is to show that the evening of life is more than a time of physical decline and loss; it is an opportunity for existential growth, renewal, and transformation. *Dr. Aho has published widely in the areas of existentialism, phenomenology, and the philosophy of health and illness. He is the author of numerous books, including his latest on the topic of aging and authenticity, "One Beat More: Existentialism and the Gift of Mortality" (Polity, 2022).*

Molecular Me: Exploring the Social Implications of the Genomics Revolution

Jason Fletcher, PhD *Director, Center for Demography of Health and Aging;
Professor, Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs and Dept. of Sociology, UW-Madison*

This presentation will describe some of the recent major advances in genomics and their implications for health, aging, policy, and society. One focus will be on how statistical methods applied to "big data" in human genetics, often within private companies, offer new avenues for discrimination as well as targeted interventions and how new policies may be needed to address these rapid changes. *Dr. Fletcher is a Romnes Professor of Public Affairs with appointments in Sociology, Agricultural and Applied Economics, and Population Health Sciences. He is also the Director of the Center for Demography of Health and Aging. Prior to coming to the UW in 2013, he held appointments at Yale University and Columbia. A health economist by training, he has worked to integrate genetics and social science over the past decade, culminating in his award winning book "The Genome Factor: What the Social Genomics Revolution Reveals About Ourselves, Our History and Our Future," (Princeton University Press, 2017).*

**Identifying Equitable Biomarkers of Cardiovascular Disease Using Mass Spectrometry Lipidomics**

Judith Simcox, PhD *Associate Director, WDRG Integrative Omics Core; Assistant Professor, Dept. of Biochemistry;
Co-mentor, UW-Madison AISES Chapter*

Elevated lipids in our blood, such as triglycerides and free fatty acids, are used as predictive markers to diagnose cardiovascular disease, although currently used markers have failed to predict cardiovascular disease in African American populations. Using mass spectrometry to observe 1000+ lipids, it was found that arachidonic acid containing lipids were elevated with poor vascular function in both African Americans and Caucasians. Arachidonic acid containing lipids are known to regulate insulin sensitivity, inflammation, and vascular function. We aim to leverage these discoveries for novel therapeutics and disease diagnostics. *Dr. Simcox received a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Utah in 2014 and is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry at UW-Madison. Her research focuses on understanding how lipids in the plasma contribute to type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This research has garnered several awards including the Rising Star in Lipid Research from AS-BMB and JLR, Emerging Investigator Award for the University of Illinois Chicago Diabetes and Obesity Research Day, and receipt of the Building Interdisciplinary Careers in Women's Health K12 Awards.*

Research Impacting Change: The UW Neighborhood Atlas and Brain Health Disparities

Amy Kind, MD, PhD *Associate Dean for Social Health Sciences & Programs; Executive Director, Wisconsin Partnership Program; Director, UW Center for Health Disparities Research; Professor, Dept. of Medicine, Division of Geriatrics, SMPH, UW-Madison*

Health disparities, including brain health disparities, abound within and outside the United States (US). These are challenges that require immediate action and new approaches towards solution. The University of Wisconsin Center for Health Disparities Research's (UW CHDR) innovative data democratization tool, the Neighborhood Atlas (www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu), has formed a cornerstone of wide-spread policy efforts and real world interventions to mitigate health disparities across the US. In this talk, the linkage of Neighborhood Atlas metrics with brain health, as well as the Atlas' role in on-going state and national policy initiatives, will be briefly reviewed. *Dr. Kind is an international leader in the fields of social determinants of health and mechanistic health disparities research. She led the team that developed the Neighborhood Atlas, a free first-of-its-kind tool that quantifies socioeconomic disadvantage for every neighborhood in the US. The Atlas has been accessed nearly half a million times and has found widespread application including in the US Congress, state policy, NIH, CDC, health systems, and industry. Most recently it has been used to inform COVID resource allocation across a number of US states as a means of mitigating health disparities.*

