

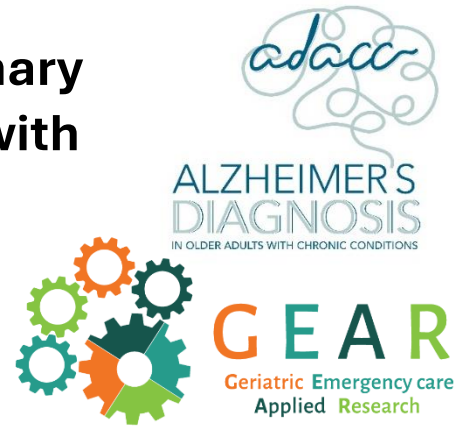
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# ADACC Network Third Annual Conference

## From the Emergency Department to Primary Care: Reimagining Dementia Detection with Blood-Based Biomarkers

In partnership with the Geriatric Emergency care Applied Research (GEAR) Network 2.0 – Advancing Dementia Care

This conference will bring together clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and ethicists to examine how dementia detection can be expanded beyond traditional memory clinics. The meeting will focus on detection of dementia and the potential role of blood-based biomarkers in emergency settings, addressing key questions about clinical utility, diagnostic accuracy, health equity, and the potential consequences of identifying cognitive impairment during acute care encounters.



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Indiana University Center for Aging Research at the Regenstrief Institute – Indiana University School of Medicine

1101 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street

Indianapolis, IN

April 9-10, 2026

### DAY 1: THURSDAY, April 9<sup>th</sup>

7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast

#### **Opening Session**

8:00 - 8:10 AM Welcome & Opening Remarks: Overview of Conference Objectives and Structure

**Michelle Mielke, PhD**

*Wake Forest School of Medicine*

**Ula Hwang, MD, MPH**

*NYU Langone Health*

8:10 – 8:20 AM Networking Activity

**Nicole Fowler, PhD**

*Indiana University School of Medicine*

8:20 – 8:50 AM Plenary: Landscape of Dementia Care in the ED

**Ula Hwang MD, MPH**

*NYU Langone Health*

8:50 – 9:20 AM Plenary: Biomarkers, Multiple Chronic Conditions, and Implementation

**Michelle Mielke, PhD**

*Wake Forest School of Medicine*

**9:20 – 9:30 AM Break**

### Topic 1: Detection and Diagnosis of Dementia in the ED

*Moderated by Nicole Fowler, PhD*

9:30 – 9:35 AM Topic and Speaker Introductions

9:35 – 10:05 AM Session 1: Current Practices in Detecting Cognitive Impairment in Outpatient & ED Settings

**Deanna Willis, MD, MBA**

*Indiana University School of Medicine*

**Saket Saxena, MD**

*Cleveland Clinic*

- 10:05 – 10:35 AM Session 2: Novel AI Clinical Decision Support Tools for Detection of Dementia in the ED  
**Mark Iscoe, MD, MHS**  
*Yale School of Medicine*  
**Inessa Cohen, MPH**  
*Yale University*
- 10:35 – 11:05 AM Session 3: Updates on Blood Biomarkers in the ED  
**Jeff Dage, PhD**  
*Indiana University School of Medicine*  
**Michael Puskarich, MD, MS**  
*Hennepin Healthcare / University of Minnesota*
- 11:05 – 11:35 AM Moderated Discussion
- 11:35 – 12:20 PM Lunch**

## Topic 2: Ethical and Clinical Decision-Making in the ED: Navigating Appropriateness, Screening, Referral, and Treatment

Moderated by **Jeff Williamson, MD, MHS**

- 12:20 – 12:25 PM Topic and Speaker Introductions
- 12:25 – 12:55 PM Session 1: Identifying Cognitive Impairment and Consequences of Missed Screening Opportunities in the ED  
**Christopher Carpenter, MD, MSc**  
*Mayo Clinic - Rochester*
- 12:55 – 1:20 PM Session 2: ED Care for Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions and Dementia  
**Jeff Williamson, MD, MHS**  
*Wake Forest School of Medicine*
- 1:20 – 1:45 PM Session 3: Identifying Dementia and Then What?: GUIDE and Other Opportunities to Connect ED Patients  
**Nicole Fowler, PhD**  
*Indiana University School of Medicine*
- 1:45 – 2:15 PM Moderated Discussion
- 2:15 – 2:25 PM Break**

## Topic 3: Care Management for Individuals with Cognitive Impairment and Dementia

Moderated by **Michelle Mielke, PhD**

- 2:25 – 2:30 PM Topic and Speaker Introductions
- 2:30 – 3:00 PM Session 1: Ensuring Access to Care: Best Practices in ED Care Management and Transitions  
**Manish Shah, MD, MPH**  
*University of Wisconsin – Madison*  
**Scott M. Dresden, MD, MS, FACEP**  
*Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine*
- 3:00 – 3:25 PM Session 2: Targeting Amyloid: Advances in Dementia Therapies and Impact on Emergency Care - ARIA  
**Neelum Aggarwal, MD**  
*Rush University Medical Center*
- 3:25 – 3:55 PM Session 3: Communication and Shared Decision making: Perspectives from the Patients and Care Partners  
**Aanand Naik, MD**  
*UTHealth Houston*  
**Anita Chary MD, PhD**  
*Baylor College of Medicine*
- 3:55 – 4:25 PM Moderated Discussion
- 4:25 – 4:35 PM Break**

## Ethics Case Study

- 4:35 – 5:25 PM Ethics Case Presentation and Discussion  
**Jalayne Arias JD, MA**  
*Georgia State University*  
**Maria Adjini, MPH**  
*Georgia State University*
- 5:25 – 5:30 PM Closing Remarks**

## DAY 2: FRIDAY, April 10<sup>th</sup>

- 7:30 – 8:00 AM Breakfast
- Opening Session**  
 8:00 – 8:45 AM Discuss Key Takeaways  
**Jeff Williamson, MD, MHS**  
*Wake Forest School of Medicine*
- 8:45 – 9:00 AM Break and Transition to Next Session**

### **ADACC Network Session – Room 209/210 on the second floor**

- 9:00 – 9:10 AM ADACC Pilot Awardee Announcement
- 9:10 – 9:30 AM Working Group Initiatives
- 9:30 – 10:30 AM Pilot Awardee Updates
- 10:30 – 11:00 AM Data Core Updates
- 11:00 – 11:30 AM Wrap up and Final Remarks

### **GEAR 2.0 Network Session – Room 407/417 on the fourth floor**

- 9:00 – 10:00 AM Feedback Discussion and Next Steps

## **CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

<b>Nicole Fowler, PhD</b> <i>MPI of the ADACC Network</i> <i>Indiana University School of Medicine</i>	<b>Ula Hwang MD, MPH</b> <i>MPI of the GEAR Network</i> <i>NYU Langone Health</i>
<b>Thomas Karikari, PhD</b> <i>MPI of the ADACC Network</i> <i>University of Pittsburgh</i>	<b>Michelle Mielke, PhD</b> <i>MPI of the ADACC Network</i> <i>Wake Forest School of Medicine</i>
<b>Jeff Williamson, MD, MHS</b> <i>MPI of the ADACC Network</i> <i>Wake Forest School of Medicine</i>	<b>Manish Shah, MD, MPH</b> <i>MPI of the GEAR Network</i> <i>University of Wisconsin – Madison</i>
<b>Marie Austin, MS</b> <i>The ADACC Network</i> <i>Wake Forest School of Medicine</i>	<b>Ellie Grogan</b> <i>The GEAR Network</i> <i>NYU Langone Health</i>
<b>Debra Tomasino</b> <i>The GEAR Network</i> <i>NYU Langone Health</i>	<b>Caroline Blackwell Young</b> <i>The ADACC Network</i> <i>Wake Forest School of Medicine</i>

*Funding for this conference was made possible, in part by 1U24AG082930-02 and R61AG069822 from the National Institute on Aging. Statements made in conference materials or publications, as well as those expressed by speakers and moderators, do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Department of Health and Human Services. Any mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations should not be interpreted as endorsement by the U.S. Government.*

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### **OPENING SESSION**

#### **Landscape of Dementia Care in the ED**



##### **Ula Hwang MD, MPH**

*Dr. Hwang is a Professor of Emergency Medicine and Population Health and Medical Director of Geriatric Emergency Medicine at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine, with an adjunct appointment at Yale School of Medicine. She is also a core investigator at the GRECC (Geriatrics Research, Education and Clinical Center) at the James J. Peters Bronx VAMC. She is the co-PI of the Geriatric ED Collaborative (GEDC), a national implementation program supported by the John A. Hartford Foundation and the West Health Institute to educate, implement, and evaluate geriatric emergency care and the PI of the National Institute*

*on Aging funded Geriatric Emergency care Applied Research (GEAR) Network, and MPI of GEAR 2.0 – Advancing Dementia Care.*

*Disclosures: National Institute on Aging, John A. Hartford Foundation, Fridolin Foundation, Dolby Family Foundation*

#### **Biomarkers, Multiple Chronic Conditions, and Implementation**



##### **Michelle Mielke, PhD**

*Dr. Mielke is Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Prevention in the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Professor of Epidemiology, and Professor of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine. She directs the Real-world Advocate DATA for Research (RADAR) and is the contact PI of the ADACC grant. A major focus of her research is understanding the utility of blood-based biomarkers for implementation at the population-level for diagnosing Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Dr. Mielke is PI of several NIH- and Foundation-funded clinical- and epidemiological-based grants, is a member of multiple NIH, FDA, and DoD panels, has*

*published over 520 manuscripts and has an h-index of 122. She received the John R. Raymond Mentor Award from the Women Scholars Initiative and is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Section on Neuroscience.*

*Disclosures: Consultant/Advisory Board: Althira, Biogen, Cognito Therapeutics, Eisai, LabCorp, Lilly, Merck, Neurogen Biomarking, Novo Nordisk, Roche, Siemens Healthineers*

## **Topic 1: Detection and Diagnosis of Dementia in the ED**

### **Session 1: Current Practices in Detecting Cognitive Impairment in Outpatient & ED Settings**



#### **Deanna Willis, MD, MBA**

*Dr. Willis is a Family Physician who has spent her career in implementation and improvement innovations within physician group leadership, including past roles as Chief Medical Officer of Quality Improvement for IU Medical Group Primary Care and Transformation Officer for IU Health Physicians. She has been Vice Chair of Research for the Department of Family Medicine since 2012. She was the PI of the IU/IU Health Davos Alzheimer's Collaboration Health System Preparedness Early Detection Flagship program.*

*Disclosures: Funding for the INCLUDE Passive Digital Marker pilot was provided by: IU Health Innovation Grant, USC Clinical Trials Recruitment Laboratory*



#### **Saket Saxena, MD**

*Dr. Saxena is an assistant professor of medicine and emergency medicine at the Cleveland Clinic, Lerner College of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University, and a staff member at the Center for Geriatric Medicine at the Cleveland Clinic. He leads the implementation of Cognitive Screening and Blood-Based Biomarkers in Primary Care, and He is a Co-Director of the Cleveland Clinic's Level 1 Geriatric Emergency Department.*

*Disclosures: Advisory Board on Eli Lilly (2025) and Roche (2025)*

### **Session 2: Novel AI Clinical Decision Support Tools for Detection of Dementia in the ED**



#### **Mark Iscoe, MD, MHS**

*Dr. Iscoe is an assistant professor of Emergency Medicine and of Biomedical Informatics and Data Science at Yale School of Medicine. His research focuses on electronic health record use in the emergency department, clinical decision support, and analysis of decisions in areas of diagnostic uncertainty and practice variation, including care for older adult patients.*

*Disclosures: None*



#### **Inessa (Inna) Cohen, MPH**

*Dr. Cohen is a PhD student in the Computational Biology and Biomedical Informatics program at Yale University, focusing on improving geriatric outcomes in emergency medicine through dementia detection and machine learning using electronic health record data. She contributes to the GEAR network to standardize geriatric ED data across institutions and holds an MPH in Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Public Health Modeling from the Yale School of Public Health.*

*Disclosures: None*

### **Session 3: Updates on Blood Biomarkers in the ED**



#### **Jeffery Dage, PhD**

*Dr. Dage is a Senior Research Professor of Neurology at Indiana University School of Medicine. He is on the Steering Committee of the ADACC network and leads the Biomarkers for Risk and Prognosis working group. In recent years, he has led the discovery and development of ultrasensitive immunoassays to measure phosphorylated tau in blood, aiding in the diagnosis, prognosis, and clinical trials of Alzheimer's disease. These blood-based biomarker assays have revolutionized Alzheimer's disease research and clinical development.*

*Disclosures: Jeffrey L. Dage (JLD) is an inventor on patents or patent applications assigned to Eli Lilly and Company relating to the assays, methods, reagents and / or compositions of matter for P-tau assays and A $\beta$  targeting therapeutics. JLD has/is served/serving as a consultant or on advisory boards for Eisai, Abbvie, Genotix Biotechnologies Inc, Gates Ventures, Syndeio*

Biosciences, Dolby Family Ventures, Karuna Therapeutics, Alzheimer's Disease Drug Discovery Foundation, AlzPath Inc., Cognito Therapeutics, Inc., Eli Lilly and Company, Prevail Therapeutics, Neurogen Biomarking, Spear Bio, Rush University, Washington University in St. Louis, University of Kentucky, Tymora Analytical Operations, MindImmune Therapeutics, Inc, Early is Good, and Quanterix. JLD has received research support from ADx Neurosciences, Fujirebio, Roche Diagnostics and Eli Lilly and Company in the past two years. JLD has received speaker fees from Eli Lilly and Company and LabCorp. JLD is a founder and advisor for Monument Biosciences and Dage Scientific LLC. JLD has stock or stock options in Eli Lilly and Company, Genotix Biotechnologies, MindImmune Therapeutics Inc., AlzPath Inc., Neurogen Biomarking, and Monument Biosciences.



**Michael Puskarich, MD, MS**

*Dr. Puskarich is a Professor of Emergency Medicine and Vice Chair of Research at the University of Minnesota, and a practicing emergency physician at Hennepin Healthcare. He is an accomplished clinical trialist and translational researcher, with an expertise in biomarker development and phase II clinical trials of repurposed drugs across a range of emergency care conditions, with a particular focus on sepsis. His work has been funded by NIGMS, NIA, AHA, DoD, and EMF among others, and he is frequently approached by industry for consultation on*

*diagnostic device development.*

*Disclosures: Grants: NINDS (U24NS100649), NIA (U01AG076929), DoD (W81XWH-16-D-0024; SubK Solventum: HT94252320059), Boards: HHRI Board of Directors, EMF Board of Trustees, Patents: US-12478603-B2, Consulting: Opticyte, Inflammatrix, Cytovale*

**Topic 2: Ethical and Clinical Decision-Making in the ED: Navigating Appropriateness, Screening, Referral, and Treatment**

**Session 1: Identifying Cognitive Impairment and Consequences of Missed Screening Opportunities in the ED**



**Christopher Carpenter, MD, MSc**

*Dr. Carpenter is residency trained in Emergency Medicine and Internal Medicine and is Professor of Emergency Medicine and Vice Chair of Implementation and Innovation at Mayo Clinic–Rochester. He is part of the GEAR Network 2.0 as the Emergency Medicine Dissemination & Implementation Core Lead. He co-lead development of the American College of Emergency Physicians/American Geriatrics Society Geriatric Emergency Department Guidelines and served as co-lead for the EQUATOR Network’s Standards for Reporting of Implementation Research*

*(StaRI) and the Standard Elements in Studies of Adverse Events and Medical Errors (SESAME) reporting guidelines.*

*Disclosures: Chair, ACEP Geriatric ED Accreditation Advisory Board, Co-lead, Geriatric ED Guidelines 2.0, Lead GEAR Implementation Science Core Member, ACEP Clinical Policy Committee Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Academic Emergency Medicine, Associate Editor, Journal of the American Geriatric Society, Clin-STAR Leadership Core, SAEM Foundation Board of Trustees*

**Session 2: ED Care for Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions and Dementia**



**Jeff Williamson, MD, MHS**

*Dr. Jeff Williamson is an Academic Faculty Physician and Section Chief at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. He is one of the MPIs for the ADACC Network and an internationally known geriatrician and clinical trialist whose research focuses on the relationships between chronic diseases—such as hypertension and diabetes—and the preservation of brain health and physical function in aging adults. As Director of the Wake Forest Center for Healthcare Innovation and co-leader of the Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, he has led large-scale NIH-funded studies*

*involving tens of thousands of older adults, advancing understanding of cognitive decline prevention and aging-related loss of independence.*

*Disclosures: The NIH and The Alzheimer’s Association*

## Session 3: Identifying Dementia and Then What?: GUIDE and Other Opportunities to Connect ED Patients



### Nicole Fowler, PhD

*Dr. Fowler is an applied health services researcher focused on improving care for people living with dementia and their families. She is one of the MPIs for the ADACC Network and holds the Klapper Family Chair in Aging and Caregiving Research at Indiana University. Her work centers on enhancing how health systems deliver services to older adults with complex medical and social needs, and she is a nationally recognized expert in pragmatic, embedded clinical trials in dementia and caregiving. She also serves as Vice Chair for Research in the Department of*

*Medicine and is an Associate Professor at the Indiana University School of Medicine.*

*Disclosures: None*

## Topic 3: Care Management for Individuals with Cognitive Impairment and Dementia

### Session 1: Ensuring Access to Care: Best Practices in ED Care Management and Transitions



### Manish Shah, MD, MPH

*Dr. Manish Shah is Professor and Chair of the BerbeeWalsh Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. He is also one of the MPI's of the GEAR Network 2.0. As a practicing emergency medicine physician and a researcher, he has dedicated his career to improving the care delivered to acutely ill or injured older adults. His work has helped establish the field of geriatric emergency medicine and advanced the role of ambulance-based paramedics to support community health efforts, now termed "community*

*paramedicine."*

*Disclosures: Current funding with Orion Initiative, NIA U19AG078105 (ED-LEAD), P30AG062715 (WI ADRC), and R33AG063822 (GEAR 2.0)*



### Scott M. Dresden, MD, MS, FACEP

*Dr. Dresden is an emergency physician and health services researcher dedicated to improving acute care for older adults. He serves as Director of the Geriatric Emergency Department Innovations (GEDI) program at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, a Level 1 geriatric emergency department accredited by the American College of Emergency Physicians. He is also a member of the GEAR 2.0 Network, serving as Research Core Lead. His research has been funded by the NIA and PCORI, and he is currently leading an AHRQ-funded R01 randomized controlled trial*

*evaluating the impact of the GEDI program on health services use and health-related quality of life for older adults in the ED.*

*Disclosures: None*

## Session 2: Targeting Amyloid: Advances in Dementia Therapies and Impact on Emergency Care - ARIA



### Neelum Aggarwal, MD

*Dr. Aggarwal is a cognitive neurologist at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago. She is on the Steering Committee of the ADACC Network and co-leads the Understudied Populations working group. Dr. Aggarwal is an expert in Alzheimer's disease and conducts clinical trials for the prevention of cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease through large trial consortia. Today she will be discussing the growing impact of anti-amyloid therapies in clinical practice and what emergency clinicians need to know when these patients present to the ED.*

*Disclosures: No Conflicts of Interest*

## Session 3: Communication and Shared Decision making: Perspectives from the Patients and Care Partners



### **Aanand Naik, MD**

*Dr. Naik is Professor and Nancy P. & Vincent F. Guinee, M.D. Distinguished Chair and Executive Director of the UTHealth Institute on Aging in Houston, Texas. He is a practicing Geriatrician in the Joan and Stanford Alexander Division of Geriatric and Palliative Medicine at McGovern Medical School. He is a co-developer of Patient Priorities Care, an evidence-based approach for older adults with multiple chronic conditions resulting in reduced treatment burden and unwanted care while increasing care aligned with patient's health priorities.*

Disclosures: No Commercial Conflicts of Interest to report



### **Anita Chary MD, PhD**

*Dr. Chary is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Department of Medicine, Health Services Research, at Baylor College of Medicine. In 2023, she was awarded the GEAR 2.0 Network Grant. Dr. Chary's research focuses on improving healthcare delivery for underserved and vulnerable populations. Her work spans global implementation of reproductive, child health, and non-communicable disease programs, as well as improving emergency care for older adults through geriatric screening and patient-centered decision-making. Dr. Chary is an active mentor and serves as an Associate Program Director for the BCM Medical Scientist Training Program as well as the Assistant Research Director for the BCM Department of Emergency Medicine.*

Disclosures: Alzheimer's Association, Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Foundation, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, Florida Medical Malpractice Joint Underwriting Association

## **Ethics Case Study**

### **Ethics Case Presentation and Discussion**



### **Jalayne Arias JD, MA**

*Professor Arias is an Associate Professor in Health Policy & Behavioral Sciences in the School of Public Health at Georgia State University. She is also the lead of the Ethical Considerations working group for the ADACC Network. Prof. Arias' research focuses on the policy, legal, and ethical questions that arise in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, aging, and neurosciences. Professor Arias is a multidisciplinary researcher and scholar leading studies at the intersection of science, health care, policy, and law.*

Disclosures: Current Funding: NIA/NIH, Alzheimer's disease Data Initiative, Alzheimer's Association



### **Maria Adjini, MPH**

*Maria is a PhD student in Epidemiology in the School of Public Health at Georgia State University. Her research focuses on aging, lifestyle risk factors for Alzheimer's disease and Related Dementia, and Alzheimer's disease and multimorbidity. She is currently leading a manuscript for the Ethical Considerations working group for the ADACC Network as part of her comprehensive project examining predictors of discussing subjective cognitive decline with a healthcare provider.*

Disclosures: None