

Please join us for the 2026

UM Aging Initiative Symposium:

Stress, Resiliency, and Health in Later Life

Thursday, March 26, 2026

8:00 am – 3:30 pm

UM Biomedical Science
Research Building (BSRB)

Kahn Auditorium

109 Zina Pitcher Place

Ann Arbor, MI 48109

Now accepting poster abstracts!

Studies of any topic relevant to health and aging are welcome.

Please submit abstracts of 250 words or less by Thursday, March 12th

Registration is required

Register/submit a poster abstract using the QR code or link below



<https://forms.gle/VzRVnoGsLuHDNgdL9>

UM Aging Initiative Research Centers

Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging (MiCDA)

Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center (Pepper Center)

Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR)

Michigan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (MADRC)

Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease (MCCFAD)

Center to Accelerate Population Research in Alzheimer's (CAPRA)

Roybal Center for Promoting Adherence to Behavior Change & Enhancing Cognitive Function (Roybal Center)

8:00am - 9:00am Breakfast, Registration, and Poster Setup

9:00am - 9:15am Welcome (Pepper Center)

9:15am - 10:00am Keynote Presentation and Q&A



Promoting Adherence to Behavior Change & Enhancing Cognitive Function in Middle-Aged and Older Adults

David Conroy, PhD

10:00am – 11:00am – Session 1 (Pepper Center/MiCDA)

10:00 am Grace Noppert, PhD, MPH, MA

Depression, Disconnection, and the Aging Immune System: Population-Level Evidence

10:20 am Helen Meier, PhD, MPH

Aging Under Stress: Biological Markers of Social Vulnerability

10:40 am Panel Discussion (MCCFAD/Roybal Center)

Florence Johnson, PHD; Libby Benson, PhD

11:00am - 12:00pm - Poster Session in BSRB Atrium

12:00am - 1:00pm - Networking & Lunch in ABC Seminar Rooms

1:00pm – 2:00pm – Session 2 (MCUAAAR/CAPRA)

1:00 pm Briana Mezuk, PhD

Sense-making in the Acute Aftermath of Older Adult Suicide Deaths: An Application of Large Language Models

1:20 pm Monica Walters, PhD, MA

Multidomain Workplace Stressors and Cognition in Older Adults

1:40 pm Panel Discussion (Pepper Center/MiCDA)

Aleda Leis, PhD; Noah Webster, PhD

2:00pm – 3:00pm – Session 3 (MADRC/Roybal Center)

2:00 pm Amanda Maher, PhD, MS

Age-related Cognitive Decline is not inevitable: Early findings from the SuperAging Research Initiative

2:20 pm David Almeida, PhD

Daily Stress as the Speedometer of Life: How Big Little Things Affect Your Health

2:40 pm Panel Discussion (MCUAAAR/CAPRA)

Kimson Johnson, PhD; Ana Montoya, MD

3:00pm - 3:30pm - Poster Awards & Closing

Please contact Ryan McCleery with questions at rmccleer@med.umich.edu



2026 UMAging Symposium Poster Session

Upper Atrium	
1	Sensory Difficulty and Assistive Device Use Among Older U.S. Immigrants: Differences by Region of Origin - Shane Burns
2	The association between nursing home-level low outlier staffing days and staff turnover: a longitudinal analysis - Hannah Ratliff
3	Vision Impairment and Participation in Valued Social Activities Among Older Adults - Shu Xu
4	Employment Trajectories and Late-Life Cognitive Function: Do Race and Ethnicity Matter? - Wen-Hua (Zoey) Lai
5	Caregivers' Attitudes About Public/Private Responsibility for Helping with Personal Care - Jinghan (Effy) Tang
6	The Influence of Contextual and Demographic Factors on Cognitive Aging Trajectories of U.S. Middle-Aged and Older Adults - Ashly Westrick
7	Use of the Roadmap Positive Activity App in Daily Life Among Dementia Caregivers: Evidence of Feasibility and Acceptability - Kira Birditt
8	Associations between longitudinal metabolic trajectories and brain health outcomes - Jihyun Park
9	Is residential proximity to industrial pollution associated with later life differences in DNA methylation age acceleration in the U.S. Health and Retirement Study? - Nita Kanney
10	Longitudinal Association Between Vision Impairment and Frailty: Evidence from the National Healthy Aging Trends Study - Navasuja Kumar
11	Plasma Proteomics Linking Primary and Secondary diseases: Insights into Molecular Mediation from UK Biobank Data - Hanyu Qian
12	Cognitive Impairment is Associated with Poor Diabetic Foot Ulcer Outcomes - Christopher Girgis
13	Unmet Social Needs Predict Pain Outcomes among Older Adults in an Under-resourced Urban Community - Victoria Davis
14	Age-Related Changes in Vestibular and Auditory Function in the Fischer 344-Brown Norway F1 Hybrid Rat - Courtney Stewart
15	Leveraging Machine Learning to Predict Novel Geroprotective Drugs - Safa Beydoun
16	Daily Extradysadic Social Interactions in Couples Living With Dementia: Implications for Cortisol and Alpha-Amylase Synchrony - Courtney Polenick

2026 UMAging Symposium Poster Session

Upper Atrium - Continued

17	Longitudinal Relationships of Depressive Symptoms and Cognition in Older Adults Grouped by Depression Age of Onset - Noah Green
18	Examining relationships among discrimination, cognition, and racial identity among older adults with exceptional memory - Tori Balog
19	Age-Related Changes in Hippocampal Subfield Volumes Are Modified by Hypertension Over Four Years of Follow-Up - Roya Homayouni
20	Understanding the Speed of Aging Among Adults with Cerebral Palsy - Trey Smith
21	Retinal Microvascular Abnormalities and Systemic Inflammation as Predictors of Mortality in U.S. Adults: Evidence from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (2005–2008) Mortality Follow-Up - Noah Carey
22	Comparing driving behaviors and physiological features of older adult drivers with and without elevated amyloid burden - Anu Kumar
23	Endogenous retrovirus-like proteins regulate UBQLN2, a quality control protein implicated in frontotemporal dementia/amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (FTD/ALS) - Henry Paulson
24	Transfer Trauma: Does Moving Between Nursing Homes Increase Hospitalization and Mortality? - Ana Montoya
25	Association between childhood adversity and memory function and decline among older adults in the US - Kelvin Zhang
26	Beyond the Resident Room: Whole-Genome Sequencing Reveals Pathogen Transmission Through Shared Environments in Veterans Affairs Community Living Centers - Tasmine Clement

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ABC Seminar Rooms	
27	Microbial heme synthesis modulates host oxidative stress tolerance, mitochondrial dynamics, and hypoxia-like signaling - Ajay Bhat
28	Impact of co-colonizer status on antimicrobial resistance rates among gram-negative bacterial pathogens in post-acute care patients - Marco Cassone
29	Social Activity as a Moderator of the Cognition-Mortality Association in the US, Mexico, and India - Sangha Jeon
30	Associations Between Physical Disability, Total PM2.5, and Fuel Source-Specific PM2.5 Among Aging Cohorts in England, India, and the United States - Nia Clements
31	Adaptation of a visuospatial construction and visual memory test for an educationally diverse older adult population in Nepal - Guanyi Yang
32	Exploring the Links between Depressive Symptoms, Functional Limitations, and Social Disconnectedness as Predictors of Fall Risk among Older Adults: Evidence from the Health and Retirement Study - Chuwen Zhong
33	The PRIMROSE study: Phenotyping Urinary Incontinence Differences in Young and Older Patients - Payton Schmidt
34	Mice from the novel Q111-BXD Huntington disease panel exhibit early, strain-specific motor deficits in Open Field that worsen with age - Katja Ampe
35	Associations between per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and female sexual function trajectories during the menopause transition: The Study of Women's Health Across the Nation - Rachael Brooks
36	MDRO Colonization Among Nursing Homes Patients: A Risk Classification Tool for Early Identification - Ganga Vijayasiri
37	A Multi-Modal Intervention with Patient Engagement to Reduce Multidrug-Resistant Organisms (MDROs) in Post-Acute Care - Kristen Panson
38	Selection Bias in Analyses of Physical and Cognitive Function: the Study of Women's Health Across the Nation - Lauren MacConnachie
39	From Priority to Practice: Domain-Specific Associations Between Perceived Priority and Provision of Dementia Care in the National Dementia Workforce Study (NDWS) - Rona Hu
40	Using Deep Learning and MRI Brain Region Mapping to Identify Alzheimer's Disease Participants Efficiently - Subhamoy Pal

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ABC Seminar Rooms - Continued	
41	Blood cell composition is strongly associated with DNA methylation age acceleration in a cross-sectional sample of NHANES adults - Ruth Frahm
42	Acute treatment with Ascorbyl Palmitate has a damaging effect on cognition in middle-aged female mice - Alexa Toth
43	Neighborhood Amenity Density and Cognitive Function Among Older Adults Primarily in Southeast Michigan: A Cross-Sectional Study - Jenna Anderson
44	Optimizing Generative Artificial Intelligence Prompts to Engage Urges for Physical Activity in Middle-Aged and Older Adults - Yingjia Liu
45	Lifetime Expectancies of Family Caregiving to Older U.S. Adults in 2023: Different Relationship Types and Gender Differences - Yee To Ng (Crystal)
46	The Role of Sex and Age in Self-Reported Upper Extremity Limitations Among U.S. Older Adults - Qintong Bao
47	State-Level Medicare Advantage Policy Implementation: Barriers, Facilitators, and Strategies to Address Unmet Needs - Morgan Perry
48	Project: Aging with a Bleeding Disorder: Understanding the varied experiences of living with changed time horizons - Misha Ansari
49	RELN Expression Linking Alzheimer's Disease, Type 2 Diabetes, and Sleep - Katherine Kittell
50	Social vulnerability and incidence of all-cause dementia and Alzheimer's disease in the United States - Laura Aboleda Merino
51	Quantification of depressive-like behavior across strains in the novel HD-BXD mouse panel - Andrea Myers
52	Comparing Self- and Informant-Reported Subjective Cognitive Decline in Older Adults Living Alone vs. Living with a Partner - Isabelle Allan
53	Does Medicare Plan Type Modify Annual Wellness Visit Uptake based on Race/Ethnicity and ADRD status? - Mohammad Toseef
54	A longitudinal epigenetic analysis of hypertension in a nationally-representative sample of adults over 50 in the United States - Scarlet Cockell
55	Utilizing the novel HD-BXD mouse uncover genetic mechanisms of cognitive resilience in Huntington's Disease - Stephanie Boas

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