

# Annual WHI Investigator Meeting

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

1100 Fairview Ave N.

Seattle, WA 98109

May 4-5, 2023



Women's Health Initiative  
Division of Cardiovascular Science  
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute



*Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Women's Health Initiative,*

*Welcome to Seattle, WA for the 2023 Annual Women's Health Initiative Investigator Meeting. We encourage you to participate fully in the discussions and networking opportunities throughout the meeting and hope you will be inspired and energized by your experience.*

*Special thanks to the Planning Committee and Session Organizers for their contribution on the development of the program. And thanks to the Planning Committee for their review of IGNITE and poster proposals.*

**Planning Committee:**

***Cynthia Thomson, Ph.D., R.D.N.***

Professor, Health Promotion Sciences, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
University of Arizona, Tucson  
Lead, Cancer Prevention & Control Program  
University of Arizona Cancer Center

***Garnet Anderson, Ph.D.***

Principal Investigator, Women's Health Initiative CCC  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

***Deepika Laddu, Ph.D.***

Assistant Professor, Department of Physical Therapy  
University of Illinois at Chicago

***Lorena Garcia, Dr. P.H., M.P.H.***

Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Public Health Sciences  
Director of Undergraduate Education  
UC Davis School of Medicine

***Jennifer Bea, Ph.D.***

Associate Professor, Department of Health Promotion Sciences  
University of Arizona

***Mara Vitolins, Dr.P.H. M.P.H.***

Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Prevention  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina



**Session Organizers:**

**Plenary Session 1: Cancer related aging: Effects on cardiovascular, physical and cognitive function and next directions for LILAC**

***Judith Carroll, Ph.D.***

Associate Professor, UCLA Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology  
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, University of California, Los Angeles

**Plenary Session 2: The Buffalo Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease Study (AS 382) – a 26-year study on oral and systemic health**

***Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D***

Dean, School of Public Health and Health Professions  
Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, University at Buffalo

**Plenary Session 3: Biological Insights Provided by Omic Data**

***Burcu Darst, Ph.D.***

Assistant Professor, Public Health Sciences Division  
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Seattle, WA

**Plenary Session 4: Disseminating WHI Science and Key Messages**

***JoAnn Manson, M.D., Ph.D.***

Chief, Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's  
Hospital Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Massachusetts

**Plenary Session 5: Geroscience, Cognition & Cognitive Resilience, and Key Health & Wellness Concerns in Older Women**

***Kathleen Hayden, Ph.D.***

Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy  
Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC

**Plenary Session 6: Lifetime employment histories and their relationship with health in later life in the Women's Health Initiative**

***Yvonne Michael, Sc.D., S.M.***

Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics  
Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health, Philadelphia, PA

## Welcome Researchers!

### Did you know?

WHI welcomes opportunities to collaborate. If you would like to use WHI data or develop an ancillary study, this section will help you find a WHI investigator to guide you through the process and make the official connections needed to access the WHI data and participants. <https://www.whi.org/get-started>

**Propose a paper using WHI data** - Investigators associated with WHI, their colleagues, and scientists from outside institutions may propose to write scientific manuscripts using WHI data. If you are not a WHI Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator or Associate Member, solicit collaboration with a WHI investigator who can sponsor your proposal and provide expertise on design, content, and analysis of WHI data. See the “Contacting a Collaborator” section below to begin this process.

**Propose an ancillary study** - A WHI ancillary study is any study that requires collection of additional data from participants enrolled in any WHI component, including data obtained from existing specimens. A WHI investigator needs to be included as a co-investigator in every ancillary study proposal. The WHI Investigator list can help you identify a WHI investigator to sponsor your ancillary study application.

**Propose a consortium** - WHI is often asked to participate in consortium projects by contributing data and/or biospecimen. Such projects have the potential to maximize the scientific value of resources generated by WHI.

**Apply to become an Associate Member** – Investigators who have demonstrated a continuing commitment to using WHI scientific resources may apply for associate membership if they have led at least 3 scientific activities in the past 3 years. For these purposes, serving as first or senior author of a publication or being the PI of a funded ancillary study constitutes scientific leadership. Associate members may propose manuscripts or ancillary studies without a sponsor or self-nominate to be a co-author or committee member.

**Explore the WHI data** available through the NHLBI's data repository Biologic Specimen and Data Repository Information Coordinating Center (BioLINCC) - A WHI collaborator is not needed to access these datasets.

**Join a Scientific Interest Group (SIG)** - WHI has a number of active SIGs that bring together investigators in scientifically themed areas. The SIGs meet by conference call regularly to share information and stimulate ideas as they develop new manuscript and ancillary study proposals. You need not be a WHI investigator to participate in a SIG. To request membership in a SIG, simply contact the SIG Chair.

Scientific Interest Group	Chair	E-mail
Aging: Cognition & Functional Status	Kathleen Hayden	khayden@wakehealth.edu
Atrial Fibrillation	Marco Perez	mvperez@stanford.edu
Bone/Fracture & Body Composition	Carolyn Crandall	ccrandall@mednet.ucla.edu
Cancer	Michael Simon	simonm@karmanos.org
Cardiovascular Disease	Marcia Stefanick	stefanick@stanford.edu
COVID-19	Aladdin Shadyab	ahshadya@health.ucsd.edu
COVID-19	Zhao Chen	zchen@arizona.edu
Genetics, Proteomics & Biomarkers	Themistocles (Tim) Assimes	tassimes@stanford.edu
Genetics, Proteomics & Biomarkers	Cara Carty	ccarty@whi.org
Hypertension	Nora Franceschini	noraf@unc.edu
Hypertension	Bernhard Haring	bernhard.haring@medunigraz.at
Hypertension	Shimbo Daichi	ds2231@cumc.columbia.edu
Race, Ethnicity and Health Equity	Lorena Garcia	lgarcia@ucdavis.edu

Scientific Interest Group	Chair	E-mail
Nutrition/Energy Balance	Yasmin Mossavar-Rahmani	yasmin.mossavar-rahmani@einsteinmed.edu
Obesity & Diabetes	Lesley Tinker	ltinker@whi.org
Physical & Built Environments	Eric Whitsel	eric_whitsel@unc.edu
Physical Activity/Body Composition	Michael LaMonte	mlamonte@buffalo.edu
Psychosocial & Behavioral Health	Michelle Naughton	michelle.naughton@osumc.edu
VTE & Stroke	Laura Harrington	laura.b.harrington@kp.org
VTE & Stroke	Tracy Madsen	tracy.madsen@brownphysicians.org

If you are new to WHI, we encourage you to review **About WHI** for an overview of the study, and to visit **Researchers/Get Involved** for help getting started. <https://www.whi.org/get-started>

**Day 1, Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> – Pelton Auditorium (7:00-11:30 am); Behnke Suites (11:30 am-5:00 pm)**

Time	Presentation – Weintraub building - Pelton Auditorium	Speakers
7:00-8:00	Continental breakfast/badges/meeting packet	
8:00-8:15	Welcome/Overview	Cyndi Thomson, WHI Steering Committee Chair, University of Arizona
8:15-8:30	Tribute to WHI Investigators	
8:30-8:35	Introduction of the Inaugural Rebecca Jackson Lecturer	Sally Shumaker, Wake Forest University
8:35-9:15	Keynote Speaker: The Women's Health Initiative at 30+: Opportunity to Define Normative and Exceptional Aging	Dr. Eleanor Simonsick, NIA
9:15-9:30	Q&A	Sally Shumaker
9:30-9:45	BREAK	
9:45-10:50	Plenary 1: Cancer related aging: Effects on cardiovascular, physical and cognitive function and next directions for LILAC	Judith Carroll, UCLA - Moderator
9:50-10:00	Toward an Integrated Approach to Understanding the Interaction between Cancer and Cardiovascular Disease in the Women's Health Initiative	Alexi Vasbinder, University of Michigan
10:00-10:10	Long-term trajectories of physical function decline in cancer survivors and non-cancer controls	Elizabeth Cespedes-Feliciano, KPNC
10:10-10:20	Cancer related cognitive decline: Current knowledge and next steps for LILAC	Kathleen Van Dyk, UCLA
10:20-10:30	Discussant	Judith Carroll, UCLA
10:35-10:50	Q&A	Judith Carroll
10:50-10:55	WHI Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Award	Presented by Cyndi Thomson
10:50-11:25	IGNITE	Shawna Follis, Stanford and Pinkal Desai, Weill Cornell Medical College - Moderators
10:55-11:00	Development of Precision Nutrition Approaches to Improve Health	Lindsay Reynolds, Wake Forest University
11:00-11:05	Insulinemic dietary pattern and breast cancer risk and prognosis: role of IGF signaling and PI3K pathway	Fred Tabung, The Ohio State University
11:05-11:10	Prospective study on health outcomes in older women caregivers	Michael LaMonte, University at Buffalo
11:10-11:15	Quality of Life, Psychosocial Variables, and Health Behaviors of Sexual Minority Women in the WHI	John Hansen, The Ohio State University
11:15-11:25	Q&A	Shawna Follis and Pinkal Desai
11:25-11:30	WHI Group Photo – Mundie Courtyard	ALL
11:30-12:30	Networking Lunch - Boxed lunch – Arnold building, Behnke Suites	
12:35-1:35	Plenary 2 - The Buffalo Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease Study (AS 382) – a 26-year study on oral and systemic health	Jean Wactawski-Wende, University at Buffalo – Moderator
12:40-12:50	The Buffalo OsteoPerio Study Design Overview	Jean Wactawski-Wende, University at Buffalo
12:50-1:05	Periodontal Disease, Cardiometabolic Factors, Oral Microbiome	Michael LaMonte, University at Buffalo
1:05-1:20	Dietary Factors and Periodontal Disease	Amy Millen, University at Buffalo
1:20-1:35	Q&A	Jean Wactawski-Wende
1:40-2:30	Study Highlights and Opportunities	Cyndi Thomson – Moderator
1:40-1:50	CCC Update	Garnet Anderson, Fred Hutch
1:50-1:55	WHISH (WHI Strong and Healthy)	Marcia Stefanick, Stanford
1:55-2:00	COSMOS (COcoa Supplement and Multivitamin Outcomes Study)	JoAnn Manson, Harvard, Brigham and Women's
2:00-2:05	OPACH (Objective Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Health)	Andrea LaCroix, UC San Diego
2:05-2:10	WHISC (WHI Soft Tissue and Cancer)	Jennifer Bea, University of Arizona
2:10-2:15	APOE e4 Resilience Study	Susan Resnick, NIH
2:15-2:30	Q&A	Cyndi Thomson

Time	Presentation – Arnold building – Behnke Suites	Speakers
2:30-2:50	BREAK	
2:50-3:50	Plenary 3 – Biological Insights Provided by Omic Data	Burcu Darst, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center - Moderator
2:55-3:05	Multi-omic analysis of sickle cell trait in the Women’s Health Initiative	Alex Reiner, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
3:05-3:15	Methylation patterns associated with CRP and IL-6 inflammation traits in racially and ethnically diverse populations	Jessica Lundin, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
3:15-3:25	Plasma proteomics: Utility in the accurate assessment of insulin sensitivity and the identification of novel drug targets	Themistocles Assimes, Stanford
3:25-3:35	Epigenetics and human population diversity	Nora Franceschini, University of North Carolina
3:35-3:50	Q&A	Burcu Darst
3:50-5:00	Plenary 4 - Disseminating WHI Science and Key Messages	JoAnn Manson – Moderator
4:00-4:10	Dietary Modification Trial	Ross Prentice, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center
4:10-4:20	Hormone Therapy Trial	Jacques Rossouw, NHLBI
4:20-4:30	Calcium and Vitamin D	Andrea LaCroix
4:30-5:00	Q&A	JoAnn Manson
5:00-6:00	BREAK	
6:00	Group Dinner – WHI celebration	Dukes Dockside

***Day 2, Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> - Behnke Suites in the Arnold Building***

Time	Presentation - Arnold building, Behnke Suites	Speakers
7:00-8:00	Optional 2k South Lake Union walk	Led by CCC staff
8:00-8:30	Coffee/light refreshments	
8:30-8:40	Welcome/Overview of the day	Cyndi Thomson, University of Arizona
8:40-9:30	Plenary 5 – Geroscience, Cognition & Cognitive Resilience, and Key Health & Wellness Concerns in Older Women	Kate Hayden, Wake Forest - Moderator
8:45-8:55	The Geroscience paradigm: New questions & opportunities for longitudinal studies	Luigi Ferrucci, NIH (virtual)
8:55-9:05	Signals of critical inflexion points in aging: How to advance our understanding of the health and well-being of women of advanced age	William Applegate, Wake Forest (virtual)
9:05-9:15	Key results on cognition within WHI and other cohort studies: Next steps in cognitive research in WHI	Mark Espeland, Wake Forest
9:15-9:25	Discussant	Andrea LaCroix, UCSD
9:25-9:40	Q&A	Kate Hayden
9:45-11:00	Poster Session (with coffee and refreshments) – Arnold Atrium	Mara Vitolins, Wake Forest – Moderator
11:00-11:50	Plenary 6 – Lifetime employment histories and their relationship with health in later life in the Women’s Health Initiative	Yvonne Michael, Drexel University - Moderator
11:05-11:15	Occupational History Resource in the WHI	Yvonne Michael, Drexel University
11:15-11:25	Occupation and breast cancer	Sarah Ingram, Drexel University
11:25-11:35	Women’s Occupational Patterns and Later Life Physical Functioning	Aimee Palumbo, Temple University
11:35-11:45	Life-course trajectories of employment quality and health in the U.S.	Sarah Andrea, Oregon Health Sciences
11:50-12:05	Q&A	Yvonne Michael
12:05	Closing remarks and Wrap-up/Adjourn	Cyndi Thomson, SC Chair

**SAVE THE DATE: May 2-3, 2024**  
**WHI Investigator Meeting**  
**Location to be determined**



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**List of Registrants**

Name	Institution	Email
Garnet Anderson	WHI Coordinating Center	garnet@whi.org
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Jennifer Bea	University of Arizona	jbea@uacc.arizona.edu
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Luigi Ferrucci	National Institute on Aging	ferruccilu@mail.nih.gov
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Harriett Fuller	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center	hfuller@fredhutch.org
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**List of Registrants**

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### *Keynote speaker*

**May 4, 2023**

#### ***Eleanor Simonsick, Ph.D. – Keynote Speaker***

Co-Director Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging  
National Institute on Aging

Dr. Simonsick is an epidemiologist and staff scientist in the Longitudinal Studies Section of the Translational Gerontology Branch within the Intramural Research Program (IRP) of the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and an associate professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She also serves as affiliated faculty for the Johns Hopkins Center on Aging and Health (COAH). For over 35 years she has conducted aging-related research within the context of longitudinal observational studies and has substantial expertise in the design, conduct and administration of multi-disciplinary longitudinal studies of aging. Currently, she is Co-Director of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA) and Principal Investigator and Federal Project Officer of the Health, Aging and Body Composition (Health ABC) study.



Her primary areas of expertise include assessment of higher-order physical function including endurance walk performance and fatigability and changes with aging. She also has substantial interest and experience in evaluating the behavioral, psychological, biomechanical and physiologic factors and conditions that impact energetic cost and reserve capacity and how these in turn impact maintenance and decline in function and the overall aging process. She has extensive knowledge of proper design and conduct of longitudinal observational studies of aging and aged individuals and appropriate analysis techniques. She has established a broad network of domestic and international collaborators, with activities ranging from a close mentoring role to shared expertise towards development and completion of both specific manuscripts and substantial large-scale initiatives.

*simonsickel@grc.nia.nih.gov*

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***Welcome and overview of the day***



***Cynthia (Cyndi) Thomson, Ph.D., R.D.N. – Moderator***

Professor, Health Promotion Sciences, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health AC  
Population Sciences (interim) University of Arizona Cancer Center, University of Arizona  
Chair of WHI Steering Committee.

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer prevention, control and survivorship, lifestyle interventions and related epidemiology

*cthomson@arizona.edu*

***Introduction of the Inaugural Rebecca Jackson Lecturer***



***Sally Shumaker, Ph.D.***

Professor, Department of Social Sciences & Health Policy  
Division of Public Health Sciences

Wake Forest University of School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Women's health (cognition & dementia, CVD, aging), psychosocial factors in chronic diseases, adherence & maintenance of health behavior change, conflict resolution, mediation, negotiation, & leadership development

*sshumake@wakehealth.edu*

***Keynote Speaker: Dr. Eleanor Simonsick, Co-Director Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging***

**Plenary Session 1: Cancer Related Aging: Effect on Cardiovascular, Physical, and Cognitive Function and Next Directions for LILAC**



**Judith E. Carroll, Ph.D. - Moderator**

Associate Professor, UCLA Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Dr. Carroll is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Science at UCLA, a faculty member of the Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology and the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center. She leads the UCLA Aging Biology and Behavior Laboratory and holds the George F. Solomon Endowed Professorship in Psychobiology. Her research is focused on cancer related accelerated aging and biobehavioral factors that influence biological aging in the context of cancer and across the lifespan.

*jcarroll@mednet.ucla.edu*



**Alexi Vashbinder, Ph.D., RN**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Cardiology, University of Michigan

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Development of risk prediction models related to adverse effects of cancer treatments including symptom burden and cardiovascular complications; understanding biological mechanisms and clinical utility of biomarkers in the assessment cancer-treatment induced cardiotoxicities; exercise interventions to improve cardio-respiratory fitness prior to and after cancer treatment.

*avasbind@umich.edu*



**Elizabeth Cespedes-Feliciano, ScD, SM**

Research Scientist, Kaiser Permanente Northern California Division of Research

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer survivorship; modifiable risk factors for obesity and metabolic diseases

*elizabeth.m.cespedes@kp.org*



**Kathleen Van Dyk, Ph.D.**

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychiatry, David Geffen School of Medicine, Semel Institute for Neuroscience & Human Behavior, University of California, Los Angeles

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Identifying risk factors for cognitive decline in cancer survivorship, and determining the best tools and measurement approaches for capturing these symptoms. Focuses on the effects of anti-estrogen endocrine therapy for breast cancer and menopause on cognition in women.

*kvandyk@mednet.ucla.edu*

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***Judith E. Carroll, Ph.D.***

Associate Professor, UCLA Cousins Center for Psychoneuroimmunology,  
Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer related accelerated aging and bio behavioral factors that influence biological aging in the context of cancer and across the lifespan.

*jcarroll@mednet.ucla.edu*

### IGNITE



***Shawna Follis, Ph.D., M.S. – Moderator – Early Career Investigator Awardee***

Postdoctoral Scholar, Stanford Prevention Research Center, Stanford University

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Race and ethnicity health disparities, aging, and chronic disease prevention. Interested in the role that the structural environment and social determinants of health play in body composition and chronic disease outcomes.

*sfollis@stanford.edu*



***Pinkal Desai, M.D., M.P.H. – Moderator – Early Career Investigator Awardee***

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medical College Assistant Attending Physician, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Hematological malignancies particularly in the fields of myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS), acute myeloid leukemia (AML) and clonal hematopoiesis.

*pid9006@med.cornell.edu*



***Lindsay Reynolds, Ph.D.***

WHI SE RC Co-Investigator

Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Prevention  
Wake Forest School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Healthy aging and resilience in older age, focusing on the impact of diet and lifestyle on DNA-methylation based biomarkers of aging. Complex interactions between the environment and genome, and clinical and translational potential for epigenetic biomarkers.

*lireynol@wakehealth.edu*





***Fred K. Tabung, Ph.D., MSPH***

Assistant Professor, The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Role of diet in cancer prevention and treatment response, with a particular focus on dietary pattern-related metabolic dysregulation as the major intermediate in the carcinogenesis process.

*fred.tabung@osumc.edu*



***Mike LaMonte, Ph.D., M.P.H.***

Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health  
School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo – SUNY

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Physical activity and functional capacity in relation to cardiovascular resiliency and health aging.

*mlamonte@buffalo.edu*



***John Hansen, BA, BS***

MPH Candidate specializing in Epidemiology, The Ohio State University  
Graduate Research Associate, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer screening adherence among sexual and gender minority populations, the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on breast cancer survivors, and disparities in anal cancer detection.

*John.Hansen@osumc.edu*

***Plenary Session 2: The Buffalo Osteoporosis and Periodontal Disease Study (AS 382) – a 26-year study on oral and systemic health***



***Jean Wactawski-Wende, Ph.D. – Moderator***

Dean, School of Public Health and Health Professions  
SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, University at Buffalo

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Women's health, osteoporosis, cancer, hormone therapy, menopause, hormonal variation, periodontal disease, oral microbiome, aging.

*jww@buffalo.edu*



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**Mike LaMonte, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Professor (Epidemiology), Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo – SUNY

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Physical activity and functional capacity in relation to cardiovascular resiliency and health aging.

*mlamonte@buffalo.edu*



**Amy Millen, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Graduate Director, MS & Ph.D Programs, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health School of Public Health and Health Professions, University of Buffalo

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Role of nutrition in chronic diseases of aging with a focus on eye disease, periodontal disease, and some cancer; dietary assessment methods in epidemiologic studies; vitamin D; diet patterns; study of the association between the oral and gut microbiome with diet and with age-related disease outcomes

*aemillen@buffalo.edu*

### **Study Highlights and Opportunities**



**Cynthia (Cyndi) Thomson, Ph.D., R.D.N. – Moderator**

Professor, Health Promotion Sciences, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health AC Population Sciences (interim) University of Arizona Cancer Center, University of Arizona Chair of WHI Steering Committee

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer prevention, control and survivorship, lifestyle interventions and related epidemiology

*cthomson@u.arizona.edu*



**Garnet Anderson, Ph.D.**

Senior Vice President and Director, Public Health Sciences Division, Fred Hutch 40th Anniversary Endowed Chair

Principal Investigator, Women's Health Initiative CCC, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Design, analysis, and conduct of randomized trials, biostatistics, women's health, chronic disease prevention research, ovarian cancer, including biomarkers, screening, and risk.

*garnet@whi.org*



***Marcia L. Stefanick, Ph.D.***

Professor of Medicine Stanford Prevention Research Center, Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology Stanford University School of Medicine, Professor of Epidemiology and Population Science, *by courtesy*, Director Stanford Women's Health and Sex Differences in Medicine (WHSMD) Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Women's health, cardiovascular disease prevention, physical activity, body composition, obesity, aging in women and men, osteoporosis.

*stefanick@stanford.edu*



***JoAnn E. Manson, M.D., Dr.P.H., M.A.C.P.***

Chief, Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital; Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Randomized clinical prevention trials of nutritional and lifestyle factors related to heart disease, diabetes, and cancer; the role of endogenous and exogenous estrogens as determinants of chronic disease outcomes; biomarker predictors of CVD.

*jmanson@rics.bwh.harvard.edu*



***Andrea LaCroix, Ph.D., M.P.H., B.S.N.***

Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science, Director of the Women's Health and Reproductive Justice Research Program at UCSD, Faculty Director Health Sciences Office of Faculty Affairs UC San Diego

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Expert in healthy aging and women's health who has provided leadership to numerous large women's health and aging research programs including the Women's Health Initiative, the MSFLASH Research Network, and the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) cohort.

*alacroix@ucsd.edu*



***Jennifer W. Bea, Ph.D.***

Department of Health Promotion Sciences, University of Arizona

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Focuses on body composition and lifestyle interventions for the prevention and management of chronic diseases, including cancer. Committed to training and currently serves as the Research and Education Core Lead for the Partnership for Native American Cancer Prevention (NCI U54) and Contact PI for the Student Transformative Experiences to Progress Under-represented Professionals (STEP-UP; NCI R25).

*jbea@uacc.arizona.edu*

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***Susan M. Resnick, Ph.D.***

Senior Investigator, Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience, National Institute on Aging

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Studies brain-behavior associations in health and disease and leads the cognitive and brain imaging components of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA). Investigates effects of sex, genetic variation and hormonal modulation on age-associated cognitive and brain changes. Initiated the Women's Health Initiative Study of Cognitive Aging (WHISCA), an ancillary study to the Women's Health Initiative Memory Study (WHIMS) and the WHI randomized trials of the effects of hormone therapy.

*resnicks@nih.gov*

### ***Plenary Session 3: Biological Insights Provided by Omic Data***



***Burcu F. Darst, Ph.D. – Moderator***

Assistant Professor, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Identifying and understanding genetic and multi-omic risk factors of complex diseases in diverse populations, particularly how they relate to health disparities. Predominately studies prostate cancer, type 2 diabetes, and Alzheimer's disease, with the underlying goal of identifying risk factors that could prevent the onset and health disparities of these diseases.

*bdarst@fredhutch.org*



***Alex P. Reiner, M.D., M.Sc.***

Research Professor, University of Washington, Fred Hutch Cancer Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** A hematologist and genetic epidemiologist with an interest in genomic health disparities and the genetic determinants of hematologic and inflammation-related quantitative traits and their relationship to cardiovascular disease, aging, and women's health.

*apreiner@uw.edu*

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***Jessica Lundin, Ph.D., M.P.H.***

Staff Scientist, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center  
Division of Public Health Sciences, Biostatistics Program

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Improving the understanding of disease biology and risk prediction across racially and ethnically diverse populations using multi-omics data, including methylation and transcriptomic measures.

*jlundin2@fredhutch.org*



***Themistocles (Tim) Assimes, M.D., Ph.D.***

Associate Professor of Medicine (Cardiovascular Medicine) and, by courtesy, of Epidemiology and Population Health Stanford University School of Medicine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Identification of the genomic determinants of coronary heart disease (CHD) and risk factors of CHD; Performing advanced population based studies on the genomic causes of heart attacks and the common conditions that predispose people to heart attacks including high cholesterol, smoking, diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, and insulin resistance.

*tassimes@stanford.edu*



***Nora Franceschini, M.D., M.P.H.***

Professor of Epidemiology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Co-Chair of the WHI Ancillary Committee & WHI HyperBP sig Member of the WHI P&P Committee

**Research focus and/or specialties:** A nephrologist and a cardiovascular epidemiologist focusing on genetics of hypertension, cardiovascular and kidney diseases in diverse populations, and the environmental context in which genetic variants contribute to disease; Studies less represented groups such as African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos; Chronic kidney disease of unknown cause in Central America.

*noraf@unc.edu*



**Plenary Session 4: Disseminating WHI Science and Key Messages**



**JoAnn E. Manson, M.D., Dr.P.H., M.A.C.P. – Moderator**

Chief, Division of Preventive Medicine, Brigham and Women's Hospital;  
Professor of Medicine Harvard Medical School

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Randomized clinical prevention trials of nutritional and lifestyle factors related to heart disease, diabetes, and cancer; the role of endogenous and exogenous estrogens as determinants of chronic disease outcomes; biomarker predictors of CVD.

[jmanson@rics.bwh.harvard.edu](mailto:jmanson@rics.bwh.harvard.edu)

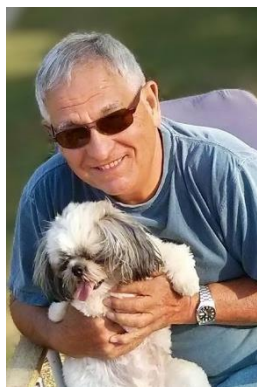


**Ross Prentice, Ph.D.**

Emeritus Member and former Director of the Public Health Sciences  
Division Fred Hutch Cancer Center  
Emeritus Professor of Biostatistics University of Washington

**Research focus and/or specialties:** He served as Principal Investigator of the Clinical Coordinating Center for the 161,808 participant Women's Health Initiative from 1992-2011, and continues to serve as an investigator/consultant.

[rprentice@whi.org](mailto:rprentice@whi.org)



**Jacques E. Rossouw, MBChB., FCP (SA), MD.**

Senior Scientific Advisor to Director, Prevention and Population Sciences Program,  
DVCS, NHLBI, Bethesda, MD

**Research focus and/or specialties:** CVD Epidemiology & Clinical Trials, Lipid Metabolism, Nutrition, Women's Health, Menopausal Hormone Therapy

[jrossouw@whi.org](mailto:jrossouw@whi.org)



**Andrea LaCroix, Ph.D., M.P.H., B.S.N.**

Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science, Director of the Women's Health and Reproductive Justice Research Program at UCSD, Faculty Director Health Sciences Office of Faculty Affairs UC San Diego

**Research focus and/or specialties:** An expert in healthy aging and women's health who has provided leadership to numerous large women's health and aging research programs including the Women's Health Initiative, the MSFLASH Research Network, and the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) cohort

[alacroix@ucsd.edu](mailto:alacroix@ucsd.edu)

**Plenary Session 5: Geroscience, Cognition & Cognitive Resilience, and Key Health & Wellness Concerns in Older Women**

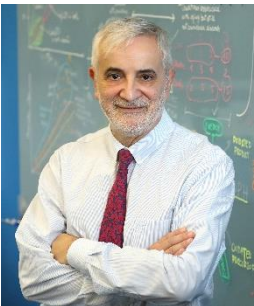


**Kathleen M. Hayden, Ph.D. – Moderator**

Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Health Policy, Wake Forest University School of Medicine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cognition, cognitive decline, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, modifiable risk factors

*khayden@wakehealth.edu*



**Luigi Ferrucci, MD, Ph.D. (Virtual Presentation)**

Scientific Director, National Institute on Aging, NIH, Baltimore, MD

**Research focus and/or specialties:** A geriatrician and an epidemiologist who conducts research on the biological and phenotypical pathways leading to progressive physical and cognitive decline in older persons. Dr. Ferrucci has been the Scientific Director of NIA since May 2011.

*ferruccilu@mail.nih.gov*



**William B. Applegate, MD, M.P.H. (Virtual Presentation)**

Professor of Internal Medicine, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, NC

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Focuses on clinical issues related to aging, including hypertension and cardiovascular disease and the impact of physical activity on function. Served two terms as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society (JAGS): 1993-2000 and 2016-2020.

*wapplega@wakehealth.edu*



**Mark A. Espeland Ph.D.**

Professor, Divisions of Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine and Public Health Sciences Wake Forest School of Medicine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Research currently probes interfaces among aging, diabetes, cognition, sex, and lifestyle.

*mespelan@wakehealth.edu*

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### ***Andrea LaCroix, Ph.D., M.P.H., B.S.N.***

Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science, Director of the Women's Health and Reproductive Justice Research Program at UCSD, Faculty Director Health Sciences Office of Faculty Affairs UC San Diego

**Research focus and/or specialties:** An expert in healthy aging and women's health who has provided leadership to numerous large women's health and aging research programs including the Women's Health Initiative, the MSFLASH Research Network, and the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) cohort

*alacroix@ucsd.edu*

## ***Poster Session***



### ***Mara Vitolins, Dr.P.H., M.P.H., R.D.N. – Moderator***

Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Prevention, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Women's health, lifestyle modification, nutrition, chronic disease prevention and control (cancer, CVD, diabetes, obesity), aging

*mvitolin@wakehealth.edu*

## ***Plenary 6: Lifetime employment histories and their relationship with health in later life in the Women's Health Initiative***



### ***Yvonne Michael Sc.D., S.M. – Moderator***

Professor, Epidemiology in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Drexel University's Dornsife School of Public Health

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Investigates multi-level risk factors, from the biological to the environmental, that influence healthy aging and health across the life span. One of the major contributions made to scholarship within the WHI is the development of a research-ready database describing the study participants' occupational history.

*ylm23@drexel.edu*



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***Sarah Ingram, B.S.***

MD Candidate, Drexel University College of Medicine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Focuses on women's oncology specifically breast and ovarian cancer. The WHI research in particular is centered on occupational stress and inactivity and how that influence's one risk of developing breast cancer.

*shi26@drexel.edu*



***Aimee J. Palumbo, Ph.D., MPH***

Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Interested in the area of social epidemiology.

Focuses on how experiences with the labor force, including both movement in and out of the workforce as well as the type of work people do, and interpersonal interactions at work, influence physical and mental health and quality of life.

*aimee.palumbo@temple.edu*



***Sarah B. Andrea, Ph.D., MPH***

Associate Professor, Epidemiology, OHSU-PSU School of Public Health

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Investigates strategies to mitigate health inequities throughout the life course that are rooted in racism, sexism, and classism. Aim to bridge the gap between population health research and social policy change. Primary focal point of my current research involves leveraging a number of data sources and analytic approaches to interrogate precarious employment as a modifiable driver of health inequities in the US.

*andrea@ohsu.edu*

### ***Closing Remarks and Wrap-Up/Adjourn***



***Cynthia (Cyndi) Thomson, Ph.D., R.D.N. – Moderator***

Professor, Health Promotion Sciences, Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health  
AC Population Sciences (interim) University of Arizona Cancer Center, University of Arizona Chair of WHI Steering Committee

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer prevention, control and survivorship, lifestyle interventions and related epidemiology

[cthompson@arizona.edu](mailto:cthompson@arizona.edu)

**Poster Presenters – Arnold Atrium**

①



**Sophia Archibeque, M.S.**

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Biostatistics, survival analysis, obesity, cancer research

**Poster Title:** Comparing Imputation Approaches and Model Types for Survival Analysis Using Obesity-Related Cancer Mortality Data from the Women's Health Initiative  
[sarchibeque@arizona.edu](mailto:sarchibeque@arizona.edu)

②



**Hind A. Beydoun, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Health Science Specialist, National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC.

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Reproductive, perinatal, and pediatric epidemiology; women's health; chronic disease epidemiology with emphasis on obesity-related, sleep, and neurological disorders; psychiatric and social epidemiology with emphasis on cognitive, affective and substance use disorders; injury epidemiology; outcomes research.

**Poster Title:** Biomarkers of glucose homeostasis as mediators of the relationship of body mass index and waist circumference with COVID-19 outcomes among postmenopausal women

[Hind.Baydoun@va.gov](mailto:Hind.Baydoun@va.gov)

③



**Hamza Islam Butt, M.Sc.**

Graduate Research Associate, University of Arizona

PhD Biostatistics Candidate, Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, University of Arizona

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Bioinformatics, Machine/deep learning, longitudinal omics

**Poster Title:** Predictors of Long COVID syndrome in post-menopausal women in the Women's Health Initiative

[hamzabutt39@arizona.edu](mailto:hamzabutt39@arizona.edu)

④



**Katherine L. Cook, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Department of Surgery

Wake Forest University School of Medicine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Obesity, menopause, gut microbiome, breast cancer risk and therapeutic outcomes.

**Poster Title:** Visceral Adiposity is Associated with Pro-Inflammatory Gut Microbiome in Postmenopausal Women

[klcook@wakehealth.edu](mailto:klcook@wakehealth.edu)

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⑤



**Andrea Glenn, Ph.D., R.D.**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Dietary patterns, cardio metabolic disease, metabolomics, plant-based nutrition, epidemiology

**Poster Title:** Dietary Glycemic Index and Glycemic Load and Risk of Cardiovascular Disease

*aglenn@hsph.harvard.edu*

⑥



**Boya Guo, M.P.H.**

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health University of Washington

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Genetic epidemiology of complex traits, cancer epidemiology, interactions of genetic, environmental and lifestyle risk factors

**Poster Title:** Association between a type 2 diabetes polygenic risk score and type 2 diabetes-related risk factors and complications

*bguo2@uw.edu*

⑦



**John Hansen, B.A., B.S.**

MPH Candidate specializing in Epidemiology, The Ohio State University

Graduate Research Associate, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cancer screening adherence among sexual and gender minority populations, the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on breast cancer survivors, and disparities in anal cancer detection.

**Poster Title:** Racial and ethnic differences in COVID-19 pandemic-related concerns among breast cancer survivors

*John.Hansen@osumc.edu*

⑧



**Chloe M. Hery, M.S.**

Ph.D. Candidate, Division of Epidemiology, College of Public Health, The Ohio State University

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Sleep, cancer survivorship, cardiovascular disease, aging, quality of life, epidemiology, longitudinal analysis

**Poster Title 1:** Sleep duration and insomnia symptoms from midlife to old age: 30 years of sleep patterns in the Women's Health Initiative

**Poster Title 2:** The Association of Cancer History, COVID Risk, Symptom Severity, and Psychological Impact Among Postmenopausal Women: Results from the Women's Health Initiative

*Chloe.Hery@osumc.edu*

## Annual WHI Investigator Meeting

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### **Amy Millen, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor, Graduate Director, MS & Ph.D Programs, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo

**Research focus and/or specialties:** The role of nutrition in chronic diseases of aging with a focus on eye disease, periodontal disease, and some cancer; dietary assessment methods in epidemiologic studies; vitamin D; diet patterns; study of the association between the oral and gut microbiome with diet and with age-related disease outcomes

**Poster Title:** Menopausal Hormone Therapy Use and Endogenous Estrogen Exposure in Fuchs' Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy (FECD)

*aemillen@buffalo.edu*

⑨



### **Patrick Montine, M.P.H.**

Graduate Student, UC Davis

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Infectious, emerging, and novel diseases such as COVID-19, and their impact on the health and well-being of older adults. Specifically, how underlying medical conditions may increase the risk of long COVID in older women.

**Poster Title:** Cardiovascular Disease Prevalence and Long COVID Syndrome in Post-Menopausal Women: Preliminary Results from the Women's Health Initiative

*plmontine@ucdavis.edu*

⑩



### **Steve Nguyen, Ph.D., MPH.**

Post-doctoral fellow, UC San Diego Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Examining accelerometer measures of physical activity and sedentary behavior in relation to aging-related outcomes including cardiovascular disease, dementia, and fracture, molecular mechanisms linking physical activity, aging, and dementia.

**Poster Title:** Associations of accelerometer-measured machine-learning classified sitting with total and cardiovascular disease mortality among older women: the OPACH Study

*stn013@health.ucsd.edu*

⑪



### **Andrew Odegaard, Ph.D., MPH, BA.**

Associate Professor, Epidemiology School of Medicine, University of California Irvine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Diet, nutrition, lifestyle, physical activity, fitness, obesity, body composition, metabolic disorders, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, cancer, Alzheimer's, cognition, translation.

**Poster Title:** Levels of visceral adipose tissue and regional subcutaneous adipose tissue depots and type 2 diabetes risk

*aodegaard@uci.edu*

⑫





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### **Corey Rovzar, Ph.D., D.P.T.**

Post-doctoral fellow, Prevention Research Center Stanford School of Medicine

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Identifying the influence of geography on the effectiveness of an intervention on physical activity outcomes and designing remotely delivered interventions to improve balance and reduce fall risk in older women

**Poster Title:** Effects of geographic location and neighborhood environment on physical activity outcomes in a diverse cohort of older women receiving a physical activity intervention

*crovzar@stanford.edu*

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### **Benjamin T. Schumacher, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Pittsburgh

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Measurement and analysis of physical activity in aging adults (e.g. accelerometry), with specific focus on intensity of activity and fatigability

**Poster Title:** Associations of Relative Intensity of Physical Activity with Incident Cardiovascular Outcomes and All-Cause Mortality

*bts70@pitt.edu*

15



### **Harlyn Skinner**

University of North Carolina

**Poster Title:** Stressful life events, social support, and epigenetic aging in the Women's Health Initiative

*Harlyn.Skinner@unc.edu*

16



### **Ahmed Soliman, Pharm.D.**

Epidemiology Ph.D. candidate, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, School of Public Health and Health Professions, University at Buffalo – SUNY

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cardiovascular and pharmaco-epidemiology.

**Poster Title:** Relationship between Changes in Exogenous Hormone Therapy and the Subgingival Microbiome: The Buffalo OsteoPerio Study.

*asoliman@buffalo.edu*

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### **Claire E. Thomas, Ph.D., M.P.H.**

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Genetic Cancer Epidemiology

Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center, Public Health Sciences Division

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Integrative tumor epidemiology combining genetic, molecular, and epidemiologic data to better understand colorectal cancer etiology and outcomes

**Poster Title:** Association between HLA-KIR allele interaction combinations and density of T-cell subsets in colorectal cancer

*cthomas2@fredhutch.org*

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### **Alexi Vasbinder, Ph.D., RN.**

Postdoctoral Fellow, Division of Cardiology, University of Michigan

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Cardio-oncology, cancer survivorship, biomarkers, risk prediction, epidemiological methods

**Poster Title:** Machine Learning to Identify Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Mortality after Breast Cancer

*avasbind@umich.edu*

### **Bo Yang, Sc.M.**

PhD Student, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, Brown University

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Nutritional epidemiology, cardiometabolic health, epigenetics

**Poster Title:** Serum Levels of Asprosin and Type 2 Diabetes in Postmenopausal Women: A Nested Case-Control Study in the Women's Health Initiative

*bo\_yang1@brown.edu*

### **Xinhui Yang, M.S.**

M.P.H Candidate, School of Public Health at Brown University

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Nutritional Epidemiology, Hypertension, Women's Health.

**Poster Title:** Intake of Dietary Proteins and Risk of Hypertension in Postmenopausal Women: Preliminary Findings from the Women's Health Initiative

*xinhui\_yang@brown.edu*

### **Yihua Yue, M.P.H.**

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health University at Buffalo

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Nutritional Epidemiology, Dietary Pattern, Psychiatric Epidemiology

**Poster Title:** Body Mass Index (BMI) and Fuchs' Endothelial Corneal Dystrophy (FECD): the Women's Health Initiative Observational Study

*yihuayue@buffalo.edu*

### **Xiaochen Zhang, Ph.D., MPH.**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center

**Research focus and/or specialties:** Integrating lifestyle modifications in cancer prevention and control to reduce cancer risk, improve health outcomes, and reduce health disparities

**Poster Title:** The Association of Long COVID-19 Symptoms on Physical Functioning and Activities of Daily Living Among Postmenopausal Women: Results from the Women's Health Initiative

*xzhang3@fredhutch.org*