

Impacting Emergency Department Care:

WHAT IS VALUED AMONGST THOSE ON A JOURNEY WITH DEMENTIA

The Alzheimer's Association is proud to support research to improve quality of life for those on a journey with dementia. The Alzheimer's Association awarded Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskyi, PhD, RN, a \$249,621 Advancing Research on Care and Outcome Measurement (ARCOM) Award focused on "Person-Centered Outcome Measures for Alzheimer's Disease Patient Emergency Care Experiences." Gilmore-Bykovskyi is an Associate Professor and Associate Vice Chair of Research in the BerbeeWalsh Department of Emergency Medicine, UW School of Medicine and Public Health, and an Investigator in the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

Understanding Unique Needs

"People affected by dementia are often heavy utilizers of emergency department (ED) care," Gilmore-Bykovskyi says. "The ED can be a challenging environment for people experiencing dementia, accompanied by bright lighting, noise, interruptions, and a lack of familiarity. People with dementia are also at high risk for worse outcomes. We have a gap where we don't have a good understanding of the needs of those with dementia in this setting. The end result of this study will be a better understanding of what matters and what is most important to someone living with dementia during their encounter in the emergency department, as well as tools to evaluate those priorities."

How to Better Equip the Field

"It is important that we evaluate aspects of care that are meaningful and address the priorities of people living with dementia," Gilmore-Bykovskyi says. "By partnering with people with dementia and caregivers, we can capture their input to guide improvements in care. The ultimate goal is to equip the field to better identify and measure these improvements."

The Alzheimer's Association salutes Gilmore-Bykovskyi for her dedication to improving quality of care for those on a journey with dementia.



Andrea Gilmore-Bykovskyi, PhD, RN

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health