



Interdisciplinary Summer
Research Institute

**2026 AA-ISRI Alumni
Population Health Track**
August 3-7, 2026

Xuwei Cao, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia University

Research Topic: Understanding Alzheimer's risk by studying small genetic differences

Bernadette D'Alonzo, PhD, MPH

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania

Research Topic: Understanding how traumatic brain injury affects healthcare use and care navigation among families of people living with dementia

Paola Filigrana, PhD

Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Research Topic: Understanding how exposure to unfavorable contextual and individual-level social factors contributes to the risk of ADRD and the potential biological mechanisms underlying the association.

Cellas Hayes, PhD

Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky

Research Topic: Relationship between social determinants of health and memory, thinking abilities, and brain health among women from different racial and ethnic groups including Black females.

Katherine Kitchens, PhD, MSW

Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern

Research Topic: Understanding whether long-term exposure to the agricultural pesticide terbufos is linked to cognitive decline and dementia in older adults

Jay Lusk, MD, MBA

Assistant Professor, UT Southwestern

Research Topic: Using artificial intelligence to find hidden markers of dementia and cognitive impairment in the electronic health record data we already collect

Essa Mohamed, PhD

Assistant Professor, Mayo Clinic

Research Topic: Understanding brain health and dementia risk in Somali American communities

Emily Morris, PhD

Postdoctoral Fellow, Rush University

Research Topic: Characterizing cognitive phenotypes of and identifying SDOH driving risk for multiple pathology dementia



**Interdisciplinary Summer
Research Institute**

[Andrea Ochoa Lopez, PhD](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow, UTHealth Houston

Research Topic: Developing a community neuropsychology model for equitable ADRD detection

[Addam Reynolds, PhD](#)

Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Southern California

Research Topic: Investigates whether state-level LGBTQ structural inequality is associated with elevated multidomain ADRD risk and increased likelihood of an ADRD diagnosis

[Nan Wang, PhD](#)

Staff Scientist, University of Wisconsin

Research Topic: Using early memory warning signs to help healthcare teams reassess and prioritize treatable brain-health risks

[Jordan Weiss, PhD](#)

Assistant Professor, NYU

Research Topic: Understanding where patients are lost between dementia recognition, diagnosis, and treatment across US health systems