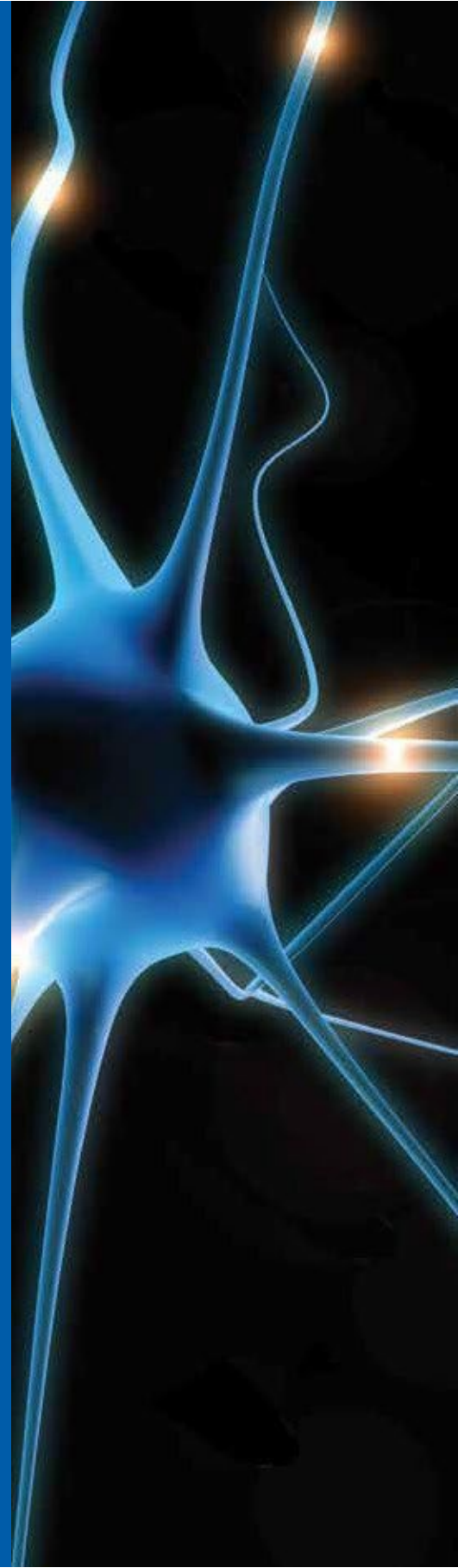


SIXTEENTH ANNUAL

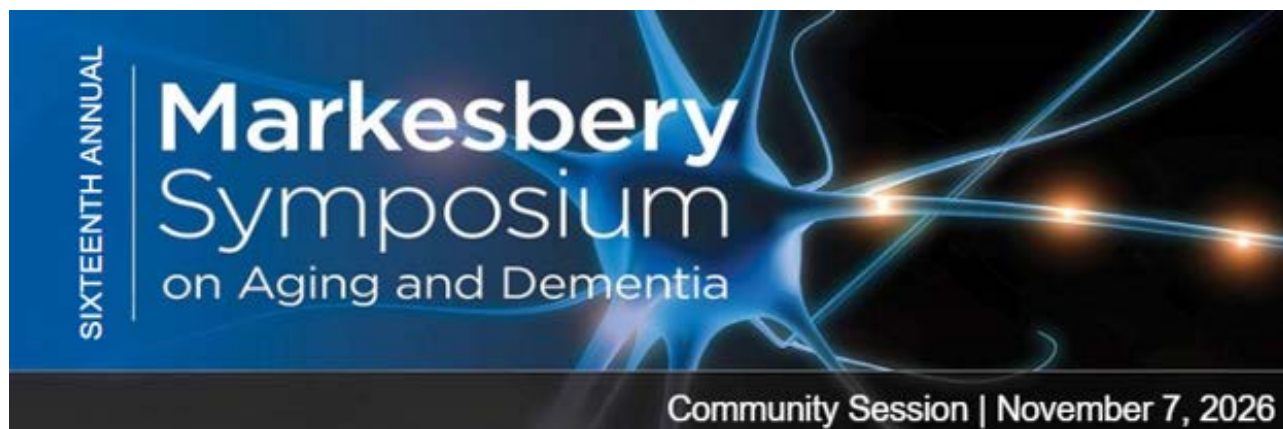
Markesbery Symposium

on Aging and Dementia

Community Session
November 7, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Sanders-Brown
Center on Aging



On behalf of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging, our philanthropy council, and the symposium planning committee, I am pleased to welcome you to the 16th annual “Markesbery Symposium on Aging and Dementia.”

The symposium is named in honor and memory of the late William R. Markesbery, M.D., founding director of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging and Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Markesbery’s legacy of groundbreaking research at the Center on Aging has formed the bedrock for our quest to understand and treat Alzheimer’s disease and to improve the quality of life of the elderly. We have no doubt that Dr. Bill Markesbery’s work will live on for generations to come as we continue the work he started here four decades ago.

In the community session today you will have the opportunity to hear clinicians and researchers from the University of Kentucky and other institutions share current findings, trends, and latest updates on strategies to maintain optimal brain health as we age.

We are honored that so many of you have chosen to join us in seeking to expand our knowledge and friendships. I hope the symposium will be both scientifically rewarding and enjoyable.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Van Eldik, Ph.D.

Director

Sanders-Brown Center on Aging & Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center

Symposium Planning Committee:

Linda Van Eldik, Ph.D.	Josh M. Morganti, Ph.D.	Beverly Baesler	April Stauffer
Anika Hartz, Ph.D.	Elizabeth Rhodus, Ph.D.	Laura Clewett	Heather Nichols
Daniel Lee, Ph.D.	Frederick Schmitt, Ph.D.	Derrick Hord	Charlotte Wood

2026 Markesbery Symposium Community Session

Saturday, November 7, 2026

- 8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
Linda Van Eldik, Ph.D., Director, Sanders-Brown Center on Aging & Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC), University of Kentucky
- 9:05 a.m. ***Philanthropy Campaign for Sanders-Brown***
Beth Wells, U.K. Office of Philanthropy
- 9:15 a.m. ***Precision AD: Where We Are and Where We Could Be***
Rhoda Au, Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology, Neurology, Medicine and Epidemiology at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and School of Public Health
- 10:00 a.m. ***The Amyloid Cascade Hypothesis: Real-World Data and Why the Data May***

Pete Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Basic Science Research, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Director, Neuropathology Core, University of Kentucky ADRC
- 10:30 a.m. **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 a.m. ***Research Update***
Greg Jicha, M.D., Ph.D., Professor, Neurology; Director of Clinical Core, University of Kentucky ADRC
- 11:20 a.m. ***Panel Discussion moderated by Anika Hartz, Ph.D. and Dan Lee, Ph.D.***
Rhoda Au, Ph.D.
Greg Jicha, M.D., Ph.D.
Pete Nelson, M.D., Ph.D.
Sarah Hatch, M.S.W., C.S.W.
- 11:55 a.m. **Closing Remarks** – Linda Van Eldik, Ph.D.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR FIGHT AGAINST DEMENTIA

Sanders-Brown is recognized around the world as a leader in the fight against Alzheimer's and other age-related dementias.

**You can help continue that legacy for you,
your loved ones, and for generations to come.**



DONATE NOW

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or use link below

[https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/sbcoa/
philanthropy-council](https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/sbcoa/philanthropy-council)

Questions? Contact Allen Chapa, M.Ed., Executive Director of Philanthropy
allen.chapa@uky.edu | (859) 254-5417

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



"Precision AD: Where We Are and Where We Could Be"

Rhoda Au, Ph.D., Professor of Anatomy & Neurobiology, Neurology, Medicine and Epidemiology at Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine and School of Public Health

Leveraging technological advances in software, hardware and deep machine learning/artificial intelligence analytic strategies, her current research objectives are to develop and validate globally feasible screening and monitoring tools for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias and to redefine and generate multi-sensor digital biomarkers. Her strategic vision is to shift the focus on brain related disorders to a broader emphasis on precision brain health.

With apologies: Sanders-Brown is unable to share speaker PowerPoint presentations.



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"The Amyloid Cascade Hypothesis: Real-World Data and Why the Data May Matter to You"

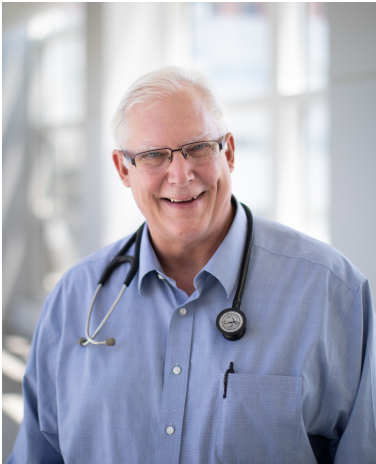
Pete Nelson, M.D., Ph.D., Professor and Vice Chair for Basic Science Research, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Director, Neuropathology Core, University of Kentucky ADRC

Pete Nelson is a clinically active experimental neuropathologist and leader of the University of Kentucky Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Neuropathology Core. Pete was trained at University of Chicago (M.D. and Ph.D. degrees) and University of Pennsylvania (residency, neuropathology fellowship, and post-doctoral research fellowship). In subsequent work at the University of Kentucky – been here since early 2006! – Pete has performed the brain autopsies at the Center and his research has provided insights into the associative impact of pathology in the aged brain.

Pete contributed to key papers on limbic-predominant age-related TDP-43 encephalopathy (LATE), primary age-related tauopathy (PART), Lewy body diseases, age-related tau astroglialopathy (ARTAG), and brain arteriolosclerosis- as well as consensus papers on the neuropathologic diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease. Grappling with the complexity of these dementia-driving conditions is probably a necessary prerequisite to generating successful treatment strategies. Pete has 4 kids that all went to Lafayette High School and has loved every minute of being at the world's best place to do Alzheimer's research.



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“21st Century Breakthroughs in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Alzheimer's and Related Disorders”

**Dr. Greg Jicha, M.D., Ph.D.
University of Kentucky**

Dr. Jicha is a Professor and Vice Chair for Academic Affairs in the Department of Neurology and an Associate Director of Sanders-Brown Center on Aging.

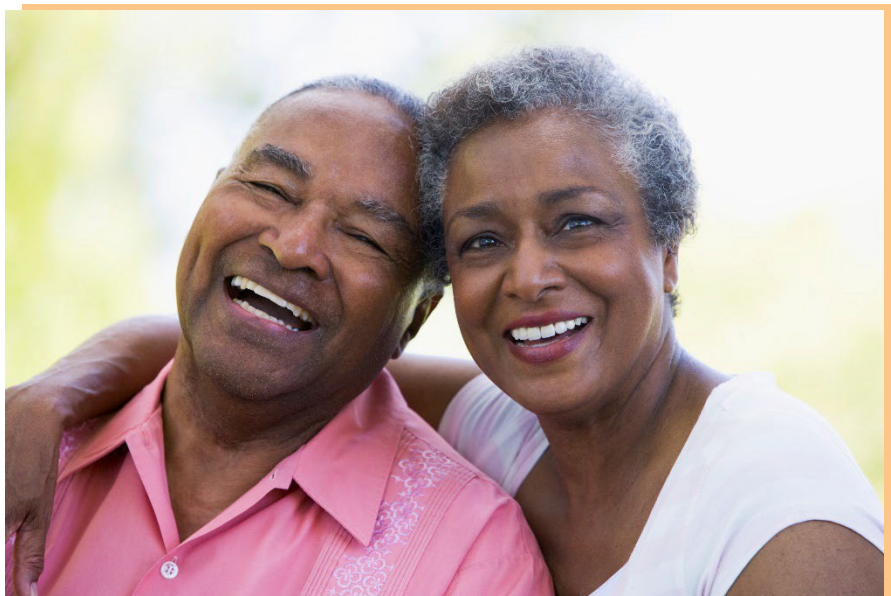
Dr. Jicha holds the Robert T. & Nyles Y. McCowan Endowed Chair in Alzheimer's Research and leads the Clinical Core of the UK NIA-funded Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. He also serves as the Medical Director of KY Telecare and directs the Telemedicine Cognitive Clinic at UK, designed to reach out to rural populations across Kentucky for both clinical and research-related activities in the area of AD and related disorders.

He is the principal investigator at UK for the National Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study Group, the Alzheimer's Clinical Trial Consortium, and serves on the Clinical Task Force and Steering Committee for the National Institute on Aging Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Program. His current research interests are preclinical disease states of dementia, mild cognitive impairment, vascular contributions to dementia, and clinical trials of disease modifying therapies for degenerative dementias.



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Sanders-Brown Center on Aging



The Sanders-Brown Center on Aging (SBCoA) was established in 1979, and received funding as one of the original ten National Institutes of Health Alzheimer's Disease Centers in 1985. Internationally acclaimed, the SBCoA is recognized for its contributions to the fight against brain diseases that are associated with aging.

Our vision: The University of Kentucky Sanders-Brown Center on Aging will be recognized locally and nationally as a premier, vitally productive and innovative aging center that effectively translates research findings into interventions and information that will benefit older adults.

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE FACTS

Normal Age-Related Memory Changes

- Missing a monthly payment
- Forgetting which day it is and remembering later
- Sometimes forgetting which word to use
- Losing things from time

Warning Signs of Dementia

- Poor judgment and decision making
- Inability to manage a budget
- Losing track of the date or the season
- Misplacing things and being unable to retrace steps



More than 100 faculty and staff pursuing the following areas of research:

- Basic and clinical research in Alzheimer's disease
- Neurodegenerative disorders
- Risk factors for dementia
- Healthy brain aging

A global pioneer in Alzheimer's disease research, the Center has over forty years of published work and 800 study volunteers (some with the disease and some without). These individuals are studied over time and will donate their brains upon death. Our cutting-edge research focuses on identifying problems as early as possible, before memory loss develops, so that Alzheimer's disease can be prevented or delayed.

The ultimate goal of the Center on Aging is to catalyze innovative and outstanding brain research, while ensuring a more rapid rate of progress toward new therapies, so that our volunteers, patients and caregivers become the beneficiaries of our advances in knowledge.

Unless science finds a way to slow the progression of this devastating disease, the United States will see 12.7 million Americans by 2050. In addition to the direct impact on the person with Alzheimer's, the disease also affects the lives of family members and friends.



The Center is directed by Linda J. Van Eldik, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Director, Alzheimer's Disease Research Center and Co-Director, Kentucky Neuroscience Institute

Photo Credit Aaron Conway



Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia, accounting for an estimated 60 to 80 percent of cases.

Most individuals also have the brain changes of one or more other causes of dementia. This is called mixed pathologies, and if recognized during life is called mixed dementia.

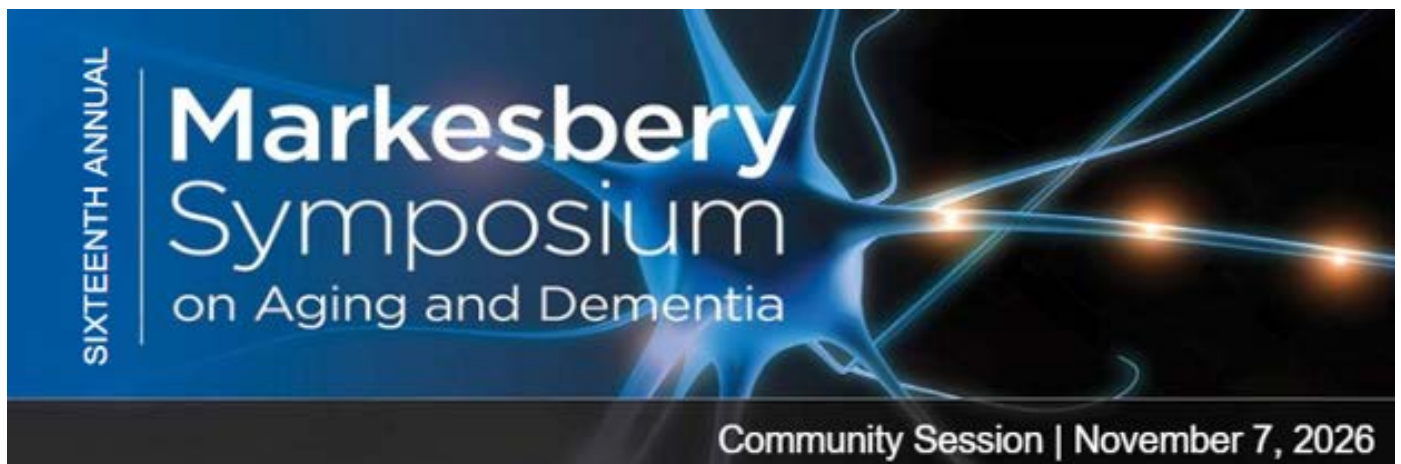
More than 50% of people diagnosed with Alzheimer's dementia who were studied at Alzheimer's Disease Research Centers had mixed dementia.

Mixed dementia is most common in people age 85 or older.

As of 2026, approximately 85,000 persons in Kentucky are living with Alzheimer's disease.

From the 2026 Alzheimer's Association Facts & Figures publication.

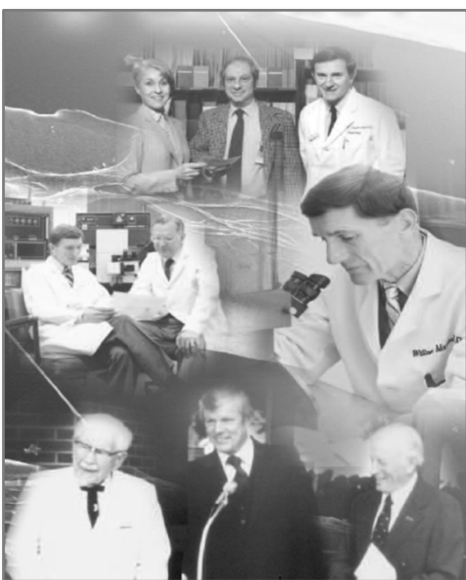
Please help us today in our fight against Alzheimer's disease.
For more information on research, clinical trials and ways to get involved,
contact us at 859-323-5550 or visit our website <https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/sbcoa>



WILLIAM R. MARKESBERY, M.D. (1932-2010)



The Markesbery Symposium on Aging and Dementia is named in honor of William R. Markesbery, M.D., a gifted scientist and internationally recognized neurologist and neuropathologist. Dr. Markesbery's creativity and commitment to aging research provided the impetus for the University of Kentucky to establish the Sanders- Brown Center on Aging in 1979 and name him as the first director. He held that position until his death in January 2010.

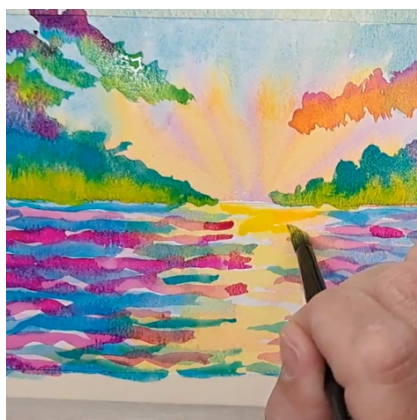


In 1985, Bill Markesbery became the director of the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, one of the original 10 National Institute on Aging (NIA) funded centers in the United States, with a primary focus on neuropathology. After more than 40 years, the Alzheimer's Disease Center continues to be funded by NIA, a remarkable achievement that demonstrates the strength and caliber of this program. During his academic career, Dr. Markesbery published more than 400 scientific papers and was one of the world's leading experts on Alzheimer's disease and oxidative stress. He will always be remembered as a compassionate and caring physician, a brilliant researcher, and an inspirational leader.



BRAIN HEALTH ACTIVITIES

Free videos from UK Sanders-Brown Center on Aging to enhance brain health by inspiring engagement in a wide range of activities.



This educational series is designed to support brain health by fostering engagement in a wide range of meaningful activities. It is never too early or too late to start caring about your brain's health. We offer two different program options for those experiencing the early stages of cognitive decline.

Brain Boost and Brain Health 101.



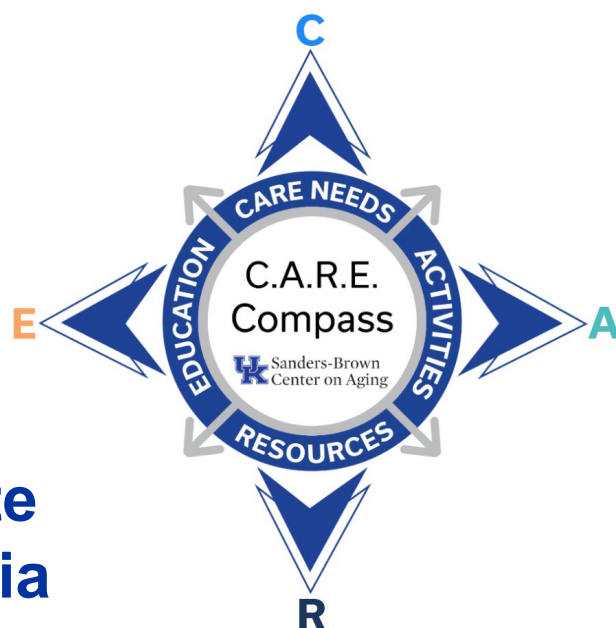
Learn More about
Brain Health resources

<https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/sbcoa/brain-health-activities>

 Sanders-Brown
Center on Aging

Reach us at: (859) 323-5550

C.A.R.E. COMPASS



Helping Caregivers Navigate the Later Stages of Dementia

The C.A.R.E. Compass program supports the caregivers of people with advanced dementia. Every dementia care journey is unique. This online video program gives practical information, support, and resources to help you care for your loved one.

The C.A.R.E. Compass program focuses on four areas:

Care Needs



Activities



Resources



Education



Scan the QR Code to
learn more about the
[C.A.R.E. Compass](https://medicine.uky.edu/centers/sbcoa/care-compass)
program.

URL: medicine.uky.edu/centers/sbcoa/care-compass

 Sanders-Brown
Center on Aging

Be BRIGHT

ARE YOU 50+ AND WANTING TO TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR BRAIN HEALTH? WHY NOT DO IT FROM HOME?

What is Be BRIGHT?

- A study open to anyone 50+ within 5 hours of Lexington, KY with telephone or internet access
- Annual memory screening over a 30-minute phone interview, with optional health and lifestyle surveys

What do I get?

- a **FREE brain health report** after your call
- Education and research opportunities tailored to your interests



For More Information:

Visit us at <https://bit.ly/BeBRIGHT>

Call us at (859) 218 3841

*Joining is easy peasy lemon squeezy!
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Are You Caring for Someone with Dementia?

Get involved in a one-week research study!

If you care for a loved one with dementia, consider joining this study to better understand the physiological effects of caregiving.

Compensation of \$200



You May Be Eligible If:

- You care for someone with dementia who is between 60-99 years old.
- You and your loved one reside in Kentucky.
- The person with dementia lives at home.
- You and the person you care for speak English.
- You are comfortable using electronic devices.

QUESTIONS?

Elizabeth Rhodus, PhD

EngagedAging@uky.edu | (859) 257-5562

Learn More!

Scan the QRCode

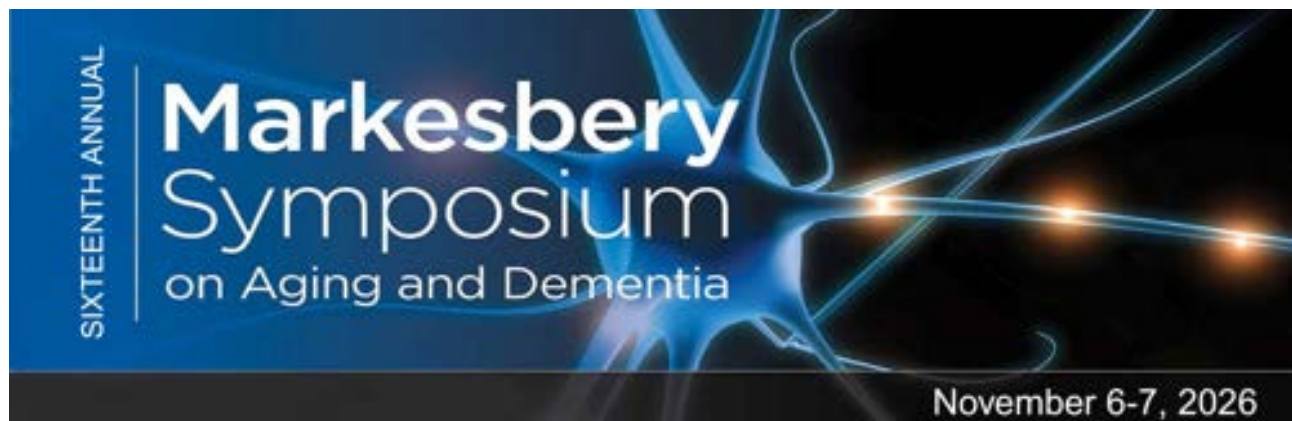


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