



Center for Research on U.S. Latino HIV/AIDS and Drug Abuse

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Brown Bag Lunch Lecture Series

Health Disparities and Alzheimer's Disease

Friday, October 28th

3:30 pm

AHC-5, Room 300

Academic Health Center 5
Third Floor Conference Room

Shanna L. Burke, PhD, MSW, LCSW



Assistant Professor,
Robert Stempel College
of Public Health and
Social Work

Presentation

An estimated 5.4 million individuals are diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in the US. Florida has a disproportionate share (about 12%) of these Alzheimer's disease patients, which is projected to increase by 44% by 2025. Florida also has one of the highest concentrations of Latino residents, with almost 400,000 people of Latino ethnicity residing in Miami-Dade County alone. Latino older adults are nearly 1.5 times more likely to develop Alzheimer's disease, possibly due to comorbid conditions and genetic factors. Risk and protective factors vary by ethnicity. Differences in assessment tool sensitivity and time to diagnosis result in many Latino older adults receiving a diagnosis at a later stage of the disease progression. Recently completed research exploring the relationship between cognitive and functional performance and measures of neurodegeneration among Latino and non-Latino individuals will be shared. The current state of Alzheimer's disease research, as it relates to assessment and diagnosis of Latino older adults will be examined, including directions for future research.

About the Lecturer

Shanna L. Burke, PhD, MSW, LCSW, is an assistant professor in the Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work. She has two areas of research: risk factors for neurodegeneration and intervention modalities for those with neurodevelopmental disabilities. Dr. Burke's current research investigates genetic and psychosocial risk and protective factors associated with the development of neurodegenerative diseases. Her research analyzes clinical, neuropathological, and genetic data collected by 31 sites across the US. Dr. Burke is currently completing a community-based investigation to promote oral health in nursing home populations and is Co-I of a national pilot investigation of recruitment strategies in NIH funded clinical studies involving human subjects.

Prior to coming to FIU in 2015, Dr. Burke worked in an administrative capacity as a program director and later as a behavioral clinician in a program providing shared living services to adults impacted by developmental and intellectual disabilities as well as changes in capabilities due to aging. Dr. Burke is a licensed clinical social worker in both Massachusetts and Florida. Most recently she has taught courses on research methodology, gerontology, and assessment and intervention at FIU.

