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## **Scientists and Community Leaders to Focus on Reducing Disparities in Brain Health Research at the Black Men's Brain Health Conference**

**Washington, DC. January 27, 2022** — The Men's Brain Health Initiative hosts its inaugural conference, [Black Men's Brain Health](#) (BMBH), during Super Bowl Week on February 9-10, 2022 at the University of Southern California (Galen Center). The event, sponsored by the [National Institute of Aging](#), [Alzheimer's Association](#), the [USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging](#), [Cal-Berkeley Social Welfare](#), and the [NFL Alumni Association](#), will feature topics such as brain health, disparities in healthcare for Black men, sociocultural contexts and factors, cognitive aging and resilience, recruitment strategies, and the benefits of participating in research.

The conference principal investigators (Grant#: 1R13AG071313-01) are [Maria Carrillo](#) (Alzheimer's Association), Dr. [Monica Rivera-Mindt](#) (Fordham University/Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai [ISMMS]), and Dr. [Robert W. Turner II](#) (George Washington University School of Medicine & Health Science). Prior to his career as a brain health and aging investigator for the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership, Turner attended James Madison University on an athletic scholarship and played football professionally in the United States Football League, the Canadian Football League, and the National Football League.

"I am honored to represent the NFL Alumni Association and collaborate with Black Men's Brain Health team members, academic colleagues, the Alzheimer's Association, and the National Institute on Aging to encourage Black men to take part in research studies," Turner said. "The collected data will help scientists develop better treatments and prevention strategies for brain health issues in this historically underrepresented community."

In an effort to uplift the voices of athletes, sessions are scheduled to feature the testimonies and stories of former athletes. Former NFL players including Bucky Brooks,

and Ken Harvey will share their experiences in a special sports conversation, “The Fifth Down: Athletes’ Reflections on the Pain and Pleasure of Pro Football.” The panel will discuss navigating cognitive aging, mental health, and transitioning from sport participation. Josh Andrews, a former offensive guard for the Atlanta Falcons, who lives with narcolepsy will raise awareness about sleep health and sleep disorders.

Due to health and safety protocols, the first-of-its-kind event will be broadcast online to registered participants. A limited in-person audience will be on site to engage with scientists and community leaders who focus on increasing the representation of Black men in brain science and aging research, leading to reductions of brain health disparities among Black men. These committed and equity-minded professionals seek to understand the unique biopsychosociocultural risk and resilience factors of Black men’s brain health, cognitive aging, and Alzheimer’s Disease and Alzheimer’s Disease-Related Dementias (AD/ADRDs) across the life course.

Registration for conference activities is free, and separate tickets may be purchased for parking. To learn more about the conference, please visit [BMBH’s website](#).

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## ABOUT BLACK MEN’S BRAIN HEALTH

Black Men’s Brain Health (BMBH) is a series of conferences that convenes scientists and community leaders to enhance Black men's representation in brain science research and minimize brain health disparities among Black men. One of the main goals of this first-ever conference series is to develop a culturally competent workforce dedicated to Black men's brain health, cognitive aging, and Alzheimer's Disease/Disease Alzheimer's and Related Dementia (AD/ADRD) research. BMBH is an event offered by the Men’s Brain Health Initiative.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

NIA, one of the 27 Institutes and Centers of [NIH](#), leads the federal government in conducting and supporting research on aging and the health and well-being of older people. The Institute seeks to understand the nature of aging and the aging process, and diseases and conditions associated with growing older, in order to extend the healthy, active years of life. In 1974, Congress granted authority to form NIA to provide leadership in aging research, training, health information dissemination, and other programs relevant to aging and older people.

## ABOUT THE ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia — by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. For more information, visit [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) or call the 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

## ABOUT THE USC EDWARD R. ROYBAL INSTITUTE ON AGING

The USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging builds upon the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work's longstanding tradition of conducting socially relevant research, innovating educational practices, influencing policy making, fostering community-university partnerships and sharing best practices with direct service providers. The USC Roybal Institute maintains a strong interdisciplinary focus, with collaborations among faculty and professionals in such fields as social work, gerontology, psychology, preventive medicine, family medicine, psychiatry, oncology, American studies and ethnicity, and public policy. Its mission is to advance research whose goal is to enhance optimal aging for persons in minority and low-income communities.

## ABOUT BERKELEY SOCIAL WELFARE

The University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare strives to transform the systems that perpetuate poverty and social disadvantage. Berkeley Social Welfare develops effective leaders and scholars committed to solving complex social problems; produces, disseminates and utilizes research to improve social-service delivery and policy through critical thinking and evidence-based knowledge; and prepares the next generation of culturally-competent social workers, researchers and teachers dedicated to serving the most vulnerable members of our society.

## ABOUT THE NFL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1967, the NFL Alumni Association was formed to serve its retired player members and their families. The primary purpose of the association is to engage former players through a fraternal structure supporting their ability to live better in retirement. Part of that mission is to build career opportunities, social engagements, and social responsibility. Social responsibility led to our primary mission of Caring for Kids, Caring for our Own, and Caring for our Community. Our 41 Chapters gather for quarterly

meetings to assess the wellbeing of the membership, talk football, and develop charitable initiatives to support and sustain our missions. Historically the Chapter leaders philanthropic and charitable efforts allow the association as a whole to donate an average of 1.5 million dollars to children's charities within the local chapter areas.