MIND MATTERS
The Bi-annual Newsletter for the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center | Fall 2017/Winter 2018

ABOUT US
The Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center (MADC) is dedicated to the discovery of new ways to diagnose, treat, and prevent Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. We promote state-of-the-art clinical care, conduct memory and aging research, and provide education and wellness programs.

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MADC Website
alzheimers.med.umich.edu

UMHS Michigan Health Blog
healthblog.uofmhealth.org

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Interested in making a donation?
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MADC Receives a $500,000 Collaborative Grant with Michigan State University to Support Dementia Caregivers

As a Center we strive to serve the entire state.

Toward that goal we have begun developing outstanding relationships with our partner universities, Michigan State and Wayne State, and we are thrilled to announce that our collaborative efforts are beginning to pay off. We recently were awarded a $500,000 Healthy Aging grant from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. With this funding we will launch the THRIVE Network: Educating Dementia Caregivers on Wellness and Self-care. Dawn Contreras, PhD, Director of the Health and Nutrition Institute for the Michigan State University Extension, will serve as Principal Investigator for this statewide initiative that will engage staff at all three universities. The driving force behind the THRIVE network is our own Laura Rice-Oeschger, leader of the MADC Wellness Initiative. Joan Ilardo, PhD, our MADCC partner at MSU College of Human Medicine, will serve as the program evaluator and our MADC Outreach and Recruitment Manager, Renee Gadwa, MBA, will serve as project manager.

Support for the Thrive Network effort in Detroit will be provided by Donna MacDonald, MA, Program Director at the Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology.

THRIVE, which stands for Tailoring Healthy Resources for In-person and Virtual Education, is a hybrid model of in-person and virtual training that allows caregivers to access information and support from a

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"ADRD." Some of you may have seen that set of letters and wondered, what's that?

It stands for “Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias,” an increasingly used abbreviation, as scientists and doctors realize dementia can take many different forms with a surprising amount of overlap. Yes, we are an Alzheimer’s Disease Center. But we care about — and investigate — the various causes of age-related dementia because knowing more about all of them, and their overlap, will help us understand and treat each of them. Beyond Alzheimer’s, the ADRDs include Lewy body dementia (LBD), Frontotemporal dementia (FTD) and vascular dementia.

Front and center in my mind right now is one of those “RDs”: LBD. As you read this newsletter you will see a fair amount on LBD. Why? For one, it’s been a longstanding strength of our center. Thus, it is no surprise that our program is home to an exciting new biomarker study in LBD, highlighted on page 7. You will also read about the various LBD support groups we sponsor and about the fact that we were just chosen as a national LBD Research Center of Excellence! A key reason why we are becoming national leaders in LBD is the passion and vision of Tamara Real, an LBD advocate who created the Carl Rinne LBD Initiative in honor of her late husband Carl, who died of the disease. Sadly, Tamara passed away this week after battling her own neurodegenerative illness, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Tamara will be terribly missed by all of us in the Center, but her memory will live on in the remarkable initiative she created for those with LBD. There is no other initiative like it in the country, and we are proud to be its home.

As I look at the items contained in this newsletter, I am reminded once again of the diverse talents and interests, and the remarkable commitment and energy, of all those who participate in our center — staff, faculty and research participants. For every new initiative, pilot grant or study described here, there is another story that couldn’t fit on the page. I encourage you to stay engaged with us through our website or social media. There is so much more to learn!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season,

Henry Paulson, MD PhD
Lucile Groff Professor of Neurology
Director, Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center
Co-Director, UM Protein Folding Diseases Initiative
Innovation in Action, a program through the University of Michigan School of Public Health, harnesses the talents and passions of Michigan students to address our world’s biggest problems. Focusing on the broad topics of public health and education, the program equips students with an innovator’s toolkit, an experiential learning framework, and a safe space to “test the waters” of social entrepreneurship. The program results in a small grant competition for participants.

We are thrilled to announce that three members of the MADC team took third place in the competition this year, accepting a $5,000 prize to start their program. Melissa Daily, Erin Mobley, and Ashley Miller, vital members of the MADC’s Outreach and Recruitment Core, along with two of their colleagues in the School of Social Work, created The Evergreen Experience.

The Evergreen Experience, a hands-on, agriculture-based dementia program connecting older adults to meaningful and stimulating activities, has successfully wrapped up its first season of programming. The program is based on a care technique being used across Europe called Green Care farming. Green Care farming provides a supervised, structured program of farming and gardening-related activities and has become a popular and effective program for people with dementia in several countries. Through using aspects of horticultural therapy and sensory feelings (touch, smell, sight, taste, sound), Green Care farming emphasizes ability over disability and provides purposeful activities for those living with memory loss.

While Green Care farming for dementia has been successful in Europe and Asia, this unique approach had not yet been implemented in the US. Basing their program off the core concepts of Green Care farming for dementia, the Evergreen Experience translated the innovative practice into an eight-week adult day program for older adults with dementia.
On June 1st, the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Core Center (MADCC) hosted its first annual Research Symposium. The event was held in Ann Arbor at the North Campus Research Complex in collaboration with our statewide partners at Michigan State University and Wayne State University. This year’s theme, Beyond Amyloid, attracted roughly 100 researchers to learn more about current research in Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias.

Those who attended and presented varied in the field of expertise, years of experience, and university affiliation. In addition to poster presentation, the day included several oral presentations from junior investigators across the state and keynote speakers, Suzanne Craft, PhD and Director of the new Alzheimer’s Disease Center at Wake Forest University, and Karen Hsiao Ashe, MD, PhD, Edmund Wallace and Anne Marie Tulloch chairs in Neurology and Neuroscience at the University of Minnesota.

Following the Research Symposium, the MADCC hosted a half day Health and Aging Fair. The Health

Fair was open to all community members interested in learning more about community health organizations in their local area, current research in dementia, and resources for seniors. In addition to a vendor expo, we heard from MADC staff and faculty about research and wellness programs offered at the MADC. Visiting speaker, Dr. Suzanne Craft, returned to give a presentation addressing diet and enhancing brain health as we age. The Research Symposium and Health and Aging Fair location will change each year, and is set to take place at Wayne State University in Detroit on May 7, 2018.

Stay tuned for more information!
Peter Todd, MD, PhD

**Receives Dean’s Basic Science Research Award**

Peter Todd MD PhD, Bucky and Patti Harris Early Career Professor of Neurology and an affiliate of the MADC, was awarded the Dean’s Basic Science Research Award this fall. This award is one of the most prestigious bestowed by Michigan Medicine. Dr. Todd was honored for his remarkable discovery that a class of DNA repeats underlying certain degenerative brain diseases and promotes the production of toxic proteins. This new insight into disease mechanisms has suggested routes to therapy for dementias that currently are untreatable.

Hank Paulson, MD, PhD, MADC Director

**Elected to the Board of Directors of the American Neurological Association**

Hank Paulson, MD, PhD, MADC Director, was elected to the Board of Directors of the American Neurological Association (ANA) this fall. The ANA is the leading academic association for neurologists, and a professional society devoted to advancing the goals of academic neurology, to training and educating neurologists and other physicians in the neurologic sciences, and to expanding both our understanding of nervous system diseases and our ability to treat them.

Andrew Lieberman, MD, PhD

**Elected to Serve on the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center’s Neuropathology Core Steering Committee**

The MADC is one of 32 federally funded centers that works closely with the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center (NACC), which coordinates data collection and fosters research among the Alzheimer’s disease centers. We are proud to announce that our own Neuropathology Core Leader, Andrew Lieberman, MD, PhD, Abrams Collegiate Professor of Pathology and Director of Neuropathology, was recently elected to serve on the NACC Neuropathology Core Steering Committee. Dr. Lieberman is internationally known for his research on inherited degenerative brain disorders and is passionate about understanding how brain cells handle abnormal proteins so that we can design rational therapies for dementia and related brain disorders. Congratulations to Dr. Lieberman on this new leadership role!
October was Lewy body dementia awareness month and the Rinne Lewy Body Dementia Initiative was a busy part of it. Lewy body dementia (LBD) is the second-most common cause of neurodegenerative dementia behind Alzheimer’s disease and accounts for around 1 in 5 dementia cases. LBD currently impacts nearly 1.4 million Americans and their families.

Dr. Leverenz Visits Ann Arbor to Present on Lewy Body Dementia

On October 18th, we held the 2nd Annual Carl Rinne Lewy Body Dementia Initiative Lecture, featuring James Leverenz, MD, Director of the Cleveland Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health. Dr. Leverenz presented on the latest in Lewy body dementia research and clinical care as part of Neurology Grand Rounds. He also gave the same presentation in the afternoon at a community event open to the public, where members of three local Lewy body dementia support groups, caregivers, families, and health professionals gathered.

2nd Annual Karl’s Cabin Fundraiser for Rinne LBD Initiative

On October 22nd, the Rinne LBD Initiative held an Afternoon of Jazz, a fundraiser to support LBD education, awareness, and support services.

For more information about Lewy body dementia support groups or other Carl Rinne Lewy Body Dementia Initiative activities, contact Renee Gadwa at rgadwa@med.umich.edu or 734-764-5137.
The MADC is Committed to Memory & Aging Research, Clinical Care, Education and Wellness

Dr. Hank Paulson, MADC Director, spoke about LBD and the efforts of Tamara Real, who was attending the event, in starting the Rinne LBD Initiative. Attendees enjoyed live jazz, great food, and the company of very compassionate people.

Thank you to all of those who came out and supported the Rinne LBD Initiative and a special thanks to Tamara Real for everything she has done for the Initiative and for increasing awareness of Lewy body dementia.

The MADC is a Lewy Body Dementia Association Research Center of Excellence

The Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA) has established the LBDA Research Centers of Excellence Program, a group of 16 academic centers across the country deemed experts in Lewy body dementia research, education, and support. It is with great pleasure that we announce that the MADC has received the LBDA Research Center of Excellence grant! The over-arching objectives of the Research Center of Excellence program are to create a network of nationally-recognized research centers for clinical care and clinical trials in the Lewy body dementias. The MADC’s Rinne Lewy Body Dementia Initiative — dedicated to supporting care partners and people with an early LBD diagnosis, educating health care professionals about LBD, and building public awareness of LBD in Michigan — makes the center uniquely qualified to be a part of this much needed program.

STUDY HIGHLIGHT

Lewy Body Dementia Biomarkers

What is this study about?
There is still so much we do not know about Lewy body dementia (LBD). This study seeks to determine what features can help identify LBD and distinguish it from other forms of dementia. We will study LBD symptoms and use brain imaging and cerebrospinal fluid analysis to help detect changes occurring in the brain.

What is involved?
In this observational study, participants will have annual clinical visits over several years. Participants will undergo clinical assessments, provide blood and cerebrospinal fluid samples for analysis and have MRI and PET scans.

Who can participate?
An individual may take part in the study if he/she:

- Is at least 55 years old
- Is diagnosed with LBD, Parkinson’s disease dementia (PDD) or Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) with at least one symptom of LBD
- Has the ability to agree to enter the study
- Has a care partner who can attend all study visits

For more information, contact Christine Minderovic at cmindero@med.umich.edu or 734-998-8420.
MADC Receives a $500,000 Collaborative Grant with Michigan State University to Support Dementia Caregivers

statewide network of organizations and programs, and provides real-time feedback about their needs and experiences. Over two years, we will develop and implement this pilot project, which will enhance ongoing, evidence-based wellness programs in Michigan designed for caregivers of people with dementia. This effort includes developing and implementing curricula in a training network (both in-person and virtual) that addresses caregiver stress and promotes resilience, well-being and self-management throughout the caregiving journey.

With THRIVE, we hope to provide seamless caregiver wellbeing education and support through sites in three regions of the state, with the ultimate goal of expanding to a statewide network. Caregivers will benefit from their local connections as we create a virtual network for ongoing wellbeing support, through which they will learn self-care and stress management skills.

We are tremendously excited about this new initiative, which highlights the creative ways our multi-university collaboration can help those who are confronting dementia. We are grateful to the Michigan Health Endowment Fund for this opportunity to make a real difference in people’s lives. We look forward to sharing updates about the THRIVE Network and how you can participate.

In addition to our THRIVE partners, we would also like to acknowledge our key supporters:

- Jennifer Howard
  Alzheimer’s Association, Great Lakes Chapter

- Jennifer Lepard
  Alzheimer’s Association, Greater Michigan Chapter

- Jim Maguire
  Acting CEO, Area Agency on Aging Region 1-B

- Beth Spencer
  LMSW, UM-SSW and Dementia Care Books, LLC

- Jodi Burke
  National Kidney Foundation of Michigan

- Peter Lichtenberg, PhD
  Wayne State University Institute of Gerontology

Thank you to our generous donors for being Victors for the MADC!

We envision a day when fear is lost and memories remain

The MADC is grateful for the generous donations provided by those who are passionate about dementia research, education, and care. We couldn’t do what we do without this support. Thank you to our donors for your contribution, and for helping us to achieve our mission.

Interested in making a donation?
Contact Michelle Davis at 734-763-3555 or bardma@umich.edu

Interested in hearing more about brain donation at UM?
Contact the UM Brain Bank at 734-647-7648 or UMHSbrainbank@med.umich.edu
We need you! The MADC is currently recruiting adults with and without memory changes to participate in a variety of research studies. We have 12 different studies for which you may be eligible.

Memory Training Studies
- Promoting adaptive neuroplasticity in mild cognitive impairment (MERIT): Examining the benefits of two treatments for memory impairment — cognitive rehabilitation and electrical brain stimulation. Study is looking for adults with mild cognitive impairment over the age of 50. Contact Oliver Calhoun at occ@med.umich.edu or 734-764-7282.

Lifestyle Intervention Studies
- Adaptive Coping Engagement with Caregivers of Black Older Adults with Dementia (ACE Project): The ACE Project investigates caregiver mental health, physical health, and social supports with the aim of developing culturally tailored programming. This study is seeking African American/ Black caregivers of persons with dementia or cognitive impairments to complete a survey. Contact Dr. Sheria Robinson-Lane at grices@med.umich.edu or 734-764-9280.

Biomarker Studies
- Neuroimaging and Biomarker Studies: Revealstudy@umich.edu or 734-615-2422.

- Examination of the earliest symptoms and biomarkers of FTD MAPT carriers: Investigating the earliest clinical features of frontotemporal dementia in an effort to improve early detection of the disease. Study is looking for adults age 18 and older with a family member who has frontotemporal dementia. Contact Stephen Campbell at stepcamp@med.umich.edu or 734-763-2361.

- Lewy Body Dementia Biomarkers: Investigating new brain imaging approaches that investigators hope will identify protein accumulations in the brain of individual patients with PD-related dementia. This study is looking for adults age 55 and older with Parkinson’s disease dementia, Dementia with Lewy Body dementia, or Alzheimer’s disease with at least one symptom of LBD. Contact Christine Minderovic at cmindero@med.umich.edu or 734-998-8420.

- Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative 3 (ADNI 3): This observational study seeks to determine the relationships among clinical, cognitive, imaging, genetic, and biomarker characteristics across the entire spectrum of Alzheimer’s disease as it progresses from a preclinical stage through very mild symptoms to mild cognitive impairment (MCI) to dementia. Study is looking for adults age 55-90 with normal cognition, MCI, or mild AD. Contact Jaimie Ziolkowski at jziolek@med.umich.edu or 734-647-7760.

- Enhancing Safe Mobility among Older Drivers: Investigating how older drivers might change their driving behavior over time and what influences any changes that might occur. Study is looking for healthy adults age 65 or older. Contact Jennifer Zakrjasek at jzak@umich.edu or 734-615-4740.

- Decision Making for Cardiovascular Therapy in Adults with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI DeM): Investigating what adults with cognitive impairment and the friends or family involved in medical care think about health risks and preferences for medical treatment if they were to become seriously ill because of a heart attack or stroke. Study seeks adults age 65 or older with and without a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment and who are fluent in English. Contact Bailey Green at greenba@med.umich.edu or 734-647-3971.

- Mind ’n MOTION: Investigating the use of Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and multifactorial balance control training as a method for reducing fall risk. Study is looking for adults with mild cognitive impairment age 55 and older. Contact Laura Rice-Oeschger at lerice@med.umich.edu or 734-936-8332.

- Subjective Cognitive Impairment – A Sign of Incipient Alzheimer’s Disease? Longitudinal study investigating functional and structural brain changes in healthy older adults with and without cognitive complaints. Study is looking for adults age 60 or older with worrisome memory complaints or a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI). Contact the Wayne State University Connect Lab at connectlab@wayne.edu or 313-664-2670.

- Tele-Savvy: An Online Psychoeducational Program for Dementia Family Caregivers: The purpose of this study is to test the psychoeducational program “Tele-Savvy”, which is an internet-based group education program developed from an in person program called Savvy Caregiver. Study is looking for informal caregivers (family/friends) of persons living with Alzheimer’s disease or another dementia over the age of 18. Contact Natasha Spoden at spoden@ohsu.edu or 503-494-6370.

Risk Evaluation and Education of Alzheimer’s Disease – the Study of Communicating Amyloid Neuroimaging (REVEAL-SCAN): This study seeks to identify the best ways to communicate information about amyloid imaging brain scans and an individual’s risk of developing AD. The study is enrolling cognitively normal adults ages 65 to 80 who have/had at least one first-degree relative (i.e., parent or siblings) with AD. Contact Lan Le at revealstudy@umich.edu or 734-615-2422.

University of Michigan Memory and Aging Project (UM-MAP): Investigating changes in cognitive functioning over time to learn more about normal aging and neurodegenerative diseases. Study is looking for adults with or without cognitive changes over the age of 55. Contact Stephen Campbell at stepcamp@med.umich.edu or 734-763-2361.

The MADC is Committed to Memory & Aging Research, Clinical Care, Education and Wellness
As we seek to understand and cure Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias, the MADC considers it among our highest priorities to support innovative, high impact research. The MADC Pilot Project Program provides “kick-starter” funds to typically younger investigators so that they can begin testing their ideas about the causes and treatment of dementias.

MEET THIS YEAR’S PILOT PROJECT AWARD REES

Jessica Damoiseaux, PhD • Wayne State University
Dr. Damoiseaux is an Assistant Professor in the Institute of Gerontology and the Department of Psychology at Wayne State University. Her research seeks to understand the changes in brain function and cognition that accompany normal and abnormal aging. She is particularly interested in examining cognitive and brain network connectivity changes in healthy older adults. Her work uses many neuroimaging techniques such as functional MRI, structural MRI, and diffusion tensor imaging (DTI).

The goal of her MADC funded study is to determine the difference in hippocampal functional and structural connectivity among older adults along the spectrum from healthy aging to mild cognitive impairment (MCI).

Irving Vega, PhD • Michigan State University
Dr. Vega is an Associate Professor of Translational Science & Molecular Medicine at Michigan State University. His research identifies “proteome” changes associated with the accumulation of pathological tau proteins in Alzheimer’s disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. Dr. Vega also is a key member of our Research Education Component Core who is dedicated to developing training programs for undergraduate students in order to increase diversity in the field of neuroscience.

The goal of his MADC funded study is to understand how a specific protein, EFhd2 protein, contributes to tau pathology in the brain. This study is a collaborative effort between researchers at Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.

Magdalena Ivanova, PhD • University of Michigan
Dr. Ivanova is a Research Assistant Professor of Neurology and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Biophysics at the University of Michigan. She is interested in uncovering why proteins misfold and aggregate in the brain to cause dementia. Her translational research is guided by a combination of structural and cellular methods tied to specific clinical applications.

Her MADC funded study is in collaboration with Dr. Vega, described above, seeking to understand the EFhd2 protein contributes to tau pathology in the brain. The MADC is proud to sponsor this collaborative pilot grant across two universities, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan.
Jenna Wiens, PhD • University of Michigan

Dr. Wiens is an Assistant Professor in Computer Science Engineering at the University of Michigan. Her research explores the intersection of machine learning and healthcare. The overarching goal is to develop computational methods that are needed to help organize, process, and transform data into actionable knowledge.

Her MADC funded study will develop methods that leverage the University of Michigan Health System and VA Health Administration Electronic Health Record data to carry out novel retrospective analyses of patient trajectories prior to and following a diagnosis of mild cognitive impairment (MCI) or Alzheimer’s Disease (AD).

Sami Barmada, MD, PhD • University of Michigan

Dr. Barmada is an Associate Professor of Neurology at the University of Michigan. His research investigates the molecular mechanisms of Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD), including forms of FTD linked to a specific protein, TDP43s. He divides his time between scientific investigations in the laboratory and clinical care in the UM Cognitive Disorders Program.

His MADC and Erb Foundation funded study seeks to determine the importance of TDP43’s RNA binding to neurotoxicity, and to define the TDP43 targets that most closely associate with neurodegeneration in FTD.

Dr. Barmada’s research is funded by the Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, which supports an early career pilot project that tests new ideas about the causes and treatment of dementia disorders. For more information about the Erb Family Foundation, check out their website: www.erbff.org.

MADC Hosts International Training on Mindfulness-Based Dementia Care

Seven clinicians and dementia specialists from three countries and four states met in Ann Arbor this past September for a 4-day residential training retreat for dementia care professionals learning to teach the Mindfulness-Based Dementia Care (MBDC) curriculum.

The retreat built on six months of live webinar trainings with Laura Rice-Oeschger, leader of the MADC Wellness Initiative. Laura has worked in collaboration with her colleague, Ymkje Dioquinio, a therapist at the Ray Dolby Brain Health Center in San Francisco, in the development of this specialized and intensive training course. The retreat also included a gathering of family caregivers who have

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MADC Celebrates Another Wonderful Appreciation Luncheon!

On November 7th, over 200 MADC research participants, donors, and partners gathered in Ann Arbor for the annual MADC Appreciation Luncheon. This luncheon allows the MADC to show how grateful we are to everyone who helps make us a leader in Alzheimer’s disease research.

This year’s highlights included:

- Live entertainment, provided by the Ann Arbor Camerata
- An interview with Dr. Alan Dengiz and his wife, Lisa, about Dr. Dengiz’s recent Alzheimer’s disease diagnosis and how they are living a positive life despite the diagnosis
- An expert panel of five researchers from all three partner universities who educated the audience on current research studies and how people can get involved.

The MADC is fortunate to have such a supportive and involved community that understands the importance of research toward finding a cure for Alzheimer’s disease!

MADC partners with Alzheimer’s Association chapters for Research Nights

Each year, both Michigan chapters of the Alzheimer’s Association and the MADC coordinate Research Nights across the state of Michigan. These educational events connect the research world with the community by presenting the most up-to-date Alzheimer’s disease research and breakthroughs coming out of the annual Alzheimer’s Association International Conference. A community favorite, Dr. Bruno Giordani, MADC Associate Director, presented at six research nights in 2017, all across Michigan.

Keep an eye out for dates for the 2018 Alzheimer’s Association Research Nights, coming soon!
Since 1998, Silver Club Programs have been providing meaningful and engaging activities for families in our community living with dementia. Offered at Turner Senior Resource Center in Ann Arbor, the Silver Club Programs bring families and individuals affected by dementia together as a community to enjoy life, share memories, and have some fun. The program strives to improve the memory, motivation, mood and overall well-being of its members.

Turner Senior Resource Center has a strong history of connecting dementia care and the arts. For example, for three semesters the Silver Club Programs have partnered with the MADC, Michigan Medicine and several University of Michigan academic institutions to offer an interdisciplinary course for undergraduate and graduate students. The course, called Memory, Aging, and the Expressive Arts (MAEA), is led by Professor Anne Mondro through the College of Art and Design and takes place at Turner Senior Resource Center. The course was designed to enhance students’ understanding and awareness of the complexities of memory loss and the utility of expressive arts. During the course, students are introduced to memory loss by experts in the fields of neurology, psychology, public health, social work and the arts. Students learn about the scientific basis of memory and dementia; the impact of dementia on individuals, families, and society; and institutional practices to support individuals with memory impairment. Several MADC faculty and staff, including Dr. Nancy Barbas, Laura Rice-Oeschger, and Dr. Scott Roberts, instructed the class lectures. The class also pairs the students with a participant who has dementia. Together, the student and participant create various works of art throughout the semester based on their common interests and shared ideas.

In addition to the MAEA course offered this year, Turner’s Silver Club celebrated Beautiful Minds, a collection of original artwork created by the members of the Silver Club Programs and coordinated by Elaine Reed, Silver Club Memory Program Specialist. The artist reception was held on September 27 in Ann Arbor and featured an array of paintings and drawings from Silver Club Members, including artwork created through this year’s MAEA course.

For more information about the wonderful programs of the Silver Club, visit the Silver Club Memory Programs website: [www.med.umich.edu/geriatrics/community/silverclub](http://www.med.umich.edu/geriatrics/community/silverclub)
Welcome New MADC Staff

As a growing research center, we are adding more people to our wonderful team! We welcome these new additions to the MADC this year.

Lisa Gustafson, BS • Research Assistant

Lisa joined the MADC in May 2017. Her work at the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center includes administering neuropsychological assessments, recruiting research participants for various studies, educating participants, and assisting with data entry and analysis. Lisa earned her Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience and Spanish from the University of Michigan.

Ashley Miller, BS, MPH Candidate • Outreach and Recruitment Core Assistant

Ashley joined the MADC’s Outreach and Recruitment Core in May 2017. She aids the center with outreach activities including staffing information tables, helping plan MADC events, and organizing materials needed for activities and events. She also assists with disseminating center news through MADC newsletters and social media. She is currently in her second year of the Master’s program in Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Allison Moll, BS • Research Assistant

Allison joined the MADC as a research assistant in June 2017. Her role includes administering neuropsychology assessments, recruiting for studies, and educating participants. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience from the University of Michigan.

Rachael Snyder, BS • Research Assistant

Rachael joined the MADC as a research assistant in July 2017. Her role includes recruiting and scheduling research participants, as well as administering neuropsychological assessments. Rachael earned her Bachelor of Science in Biopsychology, Cognition, and Neuroscience and Spanish from the University of Michigan.
The MADC participated in the Alzheimer’s Association’s Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Walk to End Alzheimer’s on October 8, 2017.

The Walk to End Alzheimer’s, occurring at numerous sites across the country, is the world’s largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. This event brings together teams from various organizations in the community — those touched by the disease personally, social and religious groups, businesses, and more — to celebrate a year of fundraising and to walk for this important cause. The MADC team was the highest fundraiser out of over 100 teams at this year’s Walk, raising $8,479. In addition to sponsoring a team for the walk this year, MADC and UM Geriatrics Center staff members worked on the Planning Committee for the event. Erin Mobley, MADC Community Outreach Coordinator, Ashley Miller, MADC Outreach and Recruitment Core Assistant, and Marie Milliken, UM Geriatrics Center Clinical Social Worker, provided support for the committee’s Outreach and Advocacy sub-committees.

Thank you to everyone who helped support our efforts this year!

MADC Hosts International Training on Mindfulness-Based Dementia Care

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participated in an 8-week MBDC class, who served as a sounding board and expert panel for the trainees. Laura has been teaching MBDC classes to family caregivers at the MADC since 2014, adding to her many years of mindfulness training and over twenty years of dementia care experience. Building on their work in their respective community-based and University settings, Laura and Ymkje are shaping the MBDC training path to meet the needs of mindfulness teachers around the globe who are interested in improving caregiver well-being and the lives of adults living with a dementia. Caregivers who are interested in taking MBDC locally can visit the Wellness Initiative page on the MADC website at alzheimers.med.umich.edu/wellness-initiative to reserve a spot in the next class series.
FROM THE MICHIGAN ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE CENTER

This holiday season, the Michigan Alzheimer’s Disease Center would like to thank you for your participation in research and your work towards improving care and treatment for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias. We want you to know how much we appreciate you and your efforts. We feel so lucky to be a part of such a generous community and we want to thank each and every one of you for your support through donations of your time, effort, and money. We hope that you will continue to support us in the future, and we wish you and your family a very happy holiday season and the best for the new year!