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Area of Expertise

The focus of my research over the past few years has been on Alzheimer's disease and the identification of blood-based biomarkers that can be used in the early diagnosis of the disease. I have focused on investigating risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia in the Mexican-American elderly. I have also investigated the occurrence and identification of factors leading to neuropsychiatric symptoms of Alzheimer's such as depression, anxiety, and inappropriate behavior. Alzheimer's is a major public health concern, and developing accessible means to predict the disease and potentially allow for intervention to prevent or slow the disease is of upmost importance. Additionally, being able to identify those with the disease who are most likely to develop neuropsychiatric symptoms (the primary cause of caregiver stress and nursing home placement) can lead to early intervention and provide the groundwork for understanding the pathophysiology of neuropsychiatric symptoms of dementia. Developing treatment approaches for the pre-clinical stage of Alzheimer's disease to reduce the risk of developing neurodegenerative diseases is crucial to our aging population.

Qualifications

BA in History, University of Iowa

PhD in Clinical Psychology, University of Nevada, Reno

Recent Publications

Plasma p-tau217, p-tau181, and Aβ42 predict amyloid PET positivity in cognitively unimpaired adults
A4 and LEARN Study; The Health and Aging Brain Study (HABS-HD) Study Team, Dec 2026, In: Alzheimer's Research and Therapy. 18, 1, 136.

Depression and hippocampal subfield volume in older adults
HABS-HD Study Team, 14 Jul 2026, In: Translational Psychiatry. 16, 1

Blood biomarkers predict conversion from cognitively stable to mild cognitive impairment or Alzheimer's disease in Down syndrome at 16-month follow-up in ABC-DS
for the Alzheimer's Biomarkers Consortium-Down Syndrome (ABC-DS) Investigators*, Jul 2026, In: Alzheimer's and Dementia. 22, 7, e71659.

Evaluation of physical functioning as a marker of brain imaging outcomes in a multiethnic community-based cohort
Knell, G., Meeker, K. L., Zhou, Z., Petersen, M. E., Hall, J. R. & O'Bryant, S. E., Jul 2026, In: Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. 112, 1, p. 198-209 12 p.

Consensus meta-analysis of genome-wide association studies for Alzheimer's disease and related dementias
EADB, EADI, Bonn, ADGC, CHARGE, FinnGen, GERAD, GR@ACE/DEGESCO & PGC-ALZ, Jun 2026, In: Nature Genetics. 58, 6, p. 1214-1225 12 p.

Exploring feature importance in machine learning for neuroimaging traits in Alzheimer's disease across a multiethnic cohort
for the Health and Aging Brain Study (HABS-HD) Study Team #, Apr 2026, In: Journal of Alzheimer's Disease. 110, 4, p. 1723-1740 18 p.

The association between APOE ε4 carrierships and the detection of amyloid positivity using an Alzheimer's disease proteomic blood test in asymptomatic Down syndrome
Abdullah, L. B., Zhang, F., Petersen, M., Hall, J., Handen, B. L., Mapstone, M., Christian, B., Head, E., Harley, S., Andrews, H., Lee, J. H., Tudorascu, D., Hom, C., Zaman, S., Brickman, A. M., Rosas, D., Cohen, A., Harp, J. P., Schmitt, F. & Ptomey, L. & 7 others, Burns, J. M., Lott, I. T., Lai, F., Laymon, C., Cruchaga, C., O'Bryant, S. & Ances, B. M., Apr 2026, In: Alzheimer's and Dementia. 22, 4, e71338.

Low premorbid IQ effects biomarker–cognition relationships: A pilot study
Abdullah, L. B., Zhou, Z., Housini, M., Hall, J. & O'Bryant, S., 1 Jan 2026, In: Journal of Alzheimer's Disease Reports. 10

Predicting low premorbid cognitive ability with social determinants: A machine learning approach
HABS-HD Study Team, Jan 2026, In: Journal of Aging Research and Lifestyle. 15, 100062.

Age-Based Sex and Race and Ethnicity Percentiles for Physical Functioning Among a Diverse Population From the HABS-HD Cohort
Knell, G., Hall, J., Petersen, M. E. & O'Bryant, S. E., 2026, (Accepted/In press) In: Journal of Geriatric Physical Therapy.