



Mission Statement and Memorandum of Understanding for the *Aging & Brain Health Alliance* Community Stakeholders Board

The *Aging & Brain Health Alliance* is composed of community-based organizations in Greater Newark, New Jersey, allied together to promote: (1) quality aging for community members, (2) Alzheimer’s disease awareness and dementia-risk reduction through brain-healthy habits and lifestyle choices, (3) a better understanding of why African Americans experience high rates of Alzheimer’s disease, and what can be done to reduce this health inequity, and (4) community-engaged research—with national impact—on aging, brain health, and Alzheimer’s disease prevention.

All member organizations of the *Alliance* are represented on our **Community Stakeholders Board**, through which they have a voice in determining the direction, priorities, and activities of the *Alliance*, ensuring that our programming meets community needs, interests, and concerns. We chose the term “Stakeholders” to emphasize that all the organizations represented are actively engaged in contributing to the *Alliance’s* missions and activities, each with a vested stake in our collective success and impact. Every partner organization has a seat at the table. These include churches and other faith-based organizations, senior centers, public and subsidized housing management and tenant organizations, local governmental agencies, health and aging-related non-profit organizations, and Rutgers University.

As Director of the *Aging and Brain Health Alliance*, I am personally committed to ensuring that we uphold the following seven principles: (1) safeguard the health and well-being of participants in both our research and community activities as our top priority; (2) seek and incorporate community input into our planning for future research and community programming, as well ongoing studies and programs; (3) offer complete transparency to our partner organizations, including sharing copies of all submitted and funded grant proposals, approved research protocols, published papers, and preliminary results; (4) use our financial resources to hire local-community members (especially older residents), purchase from local businesses, provide financial support to community organizations to sustain their own budgets and missions, and support community-wide programming that promotes the health of local seniors; (5) leverage our research activities to offer science training and career advancement to community youth; (6) compensate participants in our research studies fairly and adequately; and (7) share our fundraising experience and grantsmanship skills with our partner organizations to help them raise money for their own missions and goals.

From each of our constituent *Alliance* partners, we ask that you: (1) participate in our periodic stakeholder meetings; (2) communicate the availability of our programs and research studies to the members of your organization, (3) host our brain-health awareness programming at your site and advertise these events to your members, (4) provide feedback and guidance on how our programming and research studies can better address your members’ needs, (5) stay informed about aging, brain health, and Alzheimer’s disease (through continuing education programming that we will provide), and (6) serve on sub-committees which oversee specific research studies and community events.

Mark A Gluck, *Professor of Neuroscience and Public Health*, Rutgers University-Newark
Director, *Aging & Brain Health Alliance*

Please email completed form to gluck@rutgers.edu or send by mail to *Aging & Brain Health Alliance*, 197 University Ave., Newark, NJ 07102

Partner Organization: _____	Address: _____
	Street: _____
Represented by: _____	City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Title _____	Email: _____
SIGNATURE: _____	Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____