A national conference on **Risk and Resilience to Alzheimer’s Disease in African Americans** will take place at Rutgers University-Newark, in Newark, New Jersey, on June 23-24, 2022, sponsored by the Aging & Brain Health Alliance. Financial support has been committed from: NJ Department of Health’s Office of Minority and Multicultural Health; Rutgers University-Newark, Office of the Chancellor; and several corporate sponsors.

**Conference Aims:** Although African Americans are at elevated risk for age-related cognitive decline and memory loss—with double the prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) compared to white Americans—we do not sufficiently understand the causes of this health disparity, nor how to best focus future interventional efforts to remediate this health crisis. This day-and-a-half conference will present the latest data on biological, behavioral, social, and environmental influences on individual differences in aging, brain health, and AD in older African Americans, bridging correlational, longitudinal and interventional methodologies. Through this meeting, we seek to promote cross-disciplinary collaboration and communication among researchers, support trainees and early career investigators, and establish wider scientific, clinical, and public awareness of the need to reduce Alzheimer's risk in African Americans.

**Format:** The 8 scientific presentations will be 25 minutes long, including an initial 5 minutes to summarize community engagement, recruitment, and retention methods, followed by 20 minutes of scientific results, and then a 5-minute discussion. A final panel on future directions and funding priorities will have 2 speakers with 20-minute presentations followed by a general discussion. The Thursday afternoon poster session—combined with a reception and dinner—will provide 20 students and postdoctoral fellows an opportunity to showcase their research and plans for future studies. The poster session will conclude with a Gospel music concert performed by singers from several local church choirs. All food served will be brain-healthy, and inter-session breaks will offer optional wellness activities including cardio-dance fitness and yoga/mindfulness training.

**Attendees:** In addition to the speakers and trainees presenting posters, we expect attendees to include students, fellows, and faculty from Rutgers University’s three state-university campuses and two medical schools, our local VA Medical Center, as well as from the many universities and medical schools nearby in New York City and Philadelphia. Local physicians who serve older minority patients will be invited. Live streamed (and archived) video conferencing will allow remote and asynchronous participation, with automatic simultaneous subtitling insuring accessibility for the hearing-impaired. Members of the Aging & Brain Health Alliance’s Community Stakeholders Board will be invited, including leaders from local churches, senior centers, and public housing. For the Thursday afternoon poster session, concert, and banquet, we also expect over 100 of the longitudinal participants in our Rutgers study of Pathways to Healthy Aging in African Americans.

**Organization and Management:** The PI, Mark Gluck, has thirty years of experience organizing conference, including two US-Israeli-Palestinian neuroscience conferences held in Jerusalem in 2005 and 2008. He has been the PI on three prior R13 conference grants from NIA, NINDS, and NIMH, and was the PI on a multi-year cognitive science conference grant from the J.S. McDonnell Foundation. He is (and was) the PI on multiple NIA research grants for the study of aging and AD in African Americans. As director of the Rutgers Aging & Brain Health Alliance, he runs a NIA-funded longitudinal and interventional study, “Risk Factors for Future Cognitive Decline and Alzheimer’s Disease in Older African Americans” (NIA R01AG053961; 2018-2023). The Co-I, Bernadette Fausto, is an early career gerontologist with a focus on minority aging.

**Diversity, Inclusion and Safety:** Of the 9 confirmed speakers (of 10 planned), 3 are women, 6 are African American and one is Asian American. All 20 of the poster presenters will be early-career trainees for whom we expect a similar gender and minority representation. There will be many African American community leaders and research participants attending. The venue is ADA-compliant and childcare will be offered. Code-of-conduct guidelines will be distributed to support a safe environment while reporting, advocacy, and counseling services will be available from the campus Office of Violence Prevention and Victim Assistance.

**Conference Innovation and Need:** Although NIA has supported other conferences on minority aging, this meeting will be innovative in four ways: (1) It will focus on interdisciplinary approaches to risk and resilience to AD in African Americans; (2) We integrate African American community leaders and research participants in the programming; (3) A planned guest-edited volume of the Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease with contributions from the speakers will ensure wide dissemination and impact; (4) As Rutgers-Newark is an urban public university rated #1 in Ethnic Diversity by US News & World Report, a federally-qualified Minority-Serving Institution, and a NIH G-RISE minority graduate student training center, this meeting will enhance training and career development for undergraduate and graduate students from under-represented minority groups.