

NSHAP Fellows 2026 - 2028



Bernadette Fausto
Rutgers University

Bernadette A. Fausto, PhD is Cognitive Gerontologist and Clinical Trialist with specialist training in neuroscience and genomics. Her research focuses on: (1) developing/testing non-pharmacological interventions with the goal of extending cognitive health and everyday function (e.g., driving) in older adult populations; (2) elucidating moderators (e.g., genetic) and underlying mechanisms of intervention effects (e.g., neural function); (3) and identifying novel markers for earlier detection and novel targets of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Fausto's research combines diverse methodologies spanning cognitive assessments, ambulatory monitoring for sleep and physical activity, genomics, body composition, neuroimaging, biofluid markers of neurodegeneration and inflammation, and advanced statistical techniques. Her work aims to bridge scientific research with real-world applications, ultimately enhancing well-being, quality of life, and health outcomes in a rapidly aging society.



Juyoung Park
Emory University

Dr. Juyoung Park, PhD is a postdoctoral fellow at the Future Innovations for Technology and Aging Lab in the School of Nursing at Emory University. She earned her Master's degree in Gerontology and her PhD in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Her research centers on how social determinants, social relationships, and cumulative adversity shape mental health in later life, particularly among marginalized older adults. During her doctoral training, she examined the mental health consequences of financial mistreatment in nationally representative data from the National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project, focusing on stress processes and psychosocial vulnerabilities. In her current postdoctoral training, she is developing expertise in technology-enabled and integrative approaches to studying social connectedness and well-being in aging populations. Her long-term goal is to advance research that reduces mental health disparities and promotes healthy aging across diverse communities.



Lauren Newmyer
Bowling Green State University

Lauren Newmyer, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Bowling Green State University. She is a demographer and sociologist whose research examines social connectedness across the life course and how these relationships shape health outcomes, with a particular focus on reproductive and sexual health. Her current research focuses on intimate and romantic relationships across the life course, and how these relationships are changing and their implications for health and wellbeing



Mara Rosenberg
University of California
San Francisco

Mara Rosenberg, MD, MCR is a geriatrician and current T32 Clinical Research Fellow at the University of California, San Francisco. She completed her medical school training at Oregon Health & Science University, internal medicine residency at Legacy Health in Portland, and her geriatrics fellowship at UCSF. Dr. Rosenberg's prior research has leveraged large, national, survey-based databases including NSHAP to explore the needs and stressors of family caregivers and to characterize the relationship of sensory impairments with elder mistreatment risk. She is particularly interested in improving elder mistreatment identification and prevention efforts across the healthcare system, with a focus on elder neglect and family caregiving interventions.



Niousha Moini
University of California
San Francisco

Niousha Moini, MD, MPH is a Geriatrician and a current NIH T32 Research Fellow in Aging at UCSF's Division of Geriatrics. His primary research interests are drawn from his commitment to working in urban communities, where diversity, complexity, and inequities intersect to serve marginalized populations and address systemic barriers to deliver compassionate, patient-centered care. His research examines how psychological resilience, social context, and inequity influence symptom burden, function, and quality of life among older adults with serious illness. Clinically, he serves as an attending geriatrician within UCSF's Hematology, Oncology, Blood & Marrow Transplant, and Cellular Therapy Program, integrating geriatric and palliative care for patients with complex multimorbidity. His passions include medical education, advocacy via asylum evaluations for refugees with Physicians for Human Rights, writing poetry, and being a faculty leader for The Healer's Art course. He will be continuing his clinical education with a palliative medicine fellowship at UCSF in July 2026.



Wencheng Zhang
University of Louisiana
at Lafayette

Wencheng Zhang, PhD is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette whose research centers on aging, health, and intergenerational family dynamics. Her work focuses on three main directions: (1) examining how marital and intergenerational relationships, including spousal education and adult children's resources, shape older adults' health and well-being; (2) investigating how early-life family experiences and life course resources influence later-life cognitive function and health trajectories; and (3) exploring how social change, migration, and shifting norms of filial piety transform patterns of intergenerational support in China. Her work has been published in *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B, Social Science & Medicine*, and *Research on Aging*.



Willa Brenowitz
Kaiser Permanente Center
for Health Research

Willa Brenowitz, PhD, MPH is an epidemiologist and investigator at Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland, OR. She completed her MPH and PhD at the University of Washington and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco. Much of her current research focuses on evaluating the relationships between sensory impairments (e.g., hearing and vision loss) and dementia in older adults. Dr. Brenowitz is broadly interested in how psychosocial factors, genetics, and health conditions intersect across the life course to impact brain aging. A secondary aim of her work is to leverage quasi-experimental designs and Mendelian randomization studies to better tease apart factors that cause dementia from those that are markers of preclinical AD.



Won Choi
Population Research Center at
University of Austin Texas

Won Choi, PhD is a sociologist whose research focuses on social relationships, health, aging, and the life course, with particular attention to marriage and family dynamics. She received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Chicago and is currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. Using longitudinal data, she examines the bidirectional relationship between social relationships and health and health behaviors over time, and how these dynamics vary across U.S. states and countries. Her research has been published in *The Journals of Gerontology: Series B, Social Science & Medicine*, and *Research on Aging*.



Yulin Yang
University of California
San Francisco

Yulin Yang, PhD is a social gerontologist and a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of California, San Francisco. Her research interests include social connectedness, cognitive aging, and experiences of pain and disability. Her research agenda primarily identifies the multilevel determinants of health and aging by emphasizing how upstream factors shape interpersonal level factors and, together, their joint impact on health and access to care for the aging population. She uses advanced epidemiologic and causal inference methods, including marginal structural models and longitudinal modeling, on population-based data. Dr. Yang aims to clarify the mechanisms linking social conditions, aging, and health and to translate evidence into actionable insights to improve population health and health equity.