Neurological Diseases: Assessment, Management, and Emerging Advances (Alzheimer's & Dementia)

A Six-Hour Interprofessional Symposium
Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET)

OBJECTIVES

9:30am – 10:30am	**Overview of advances in Neurological Assessment and Early Diagnosis** **Lawrence Honig, MD PhD, FAAN** **Descriptive Summary:** This presentation provides an overview of recent advances in neurological assessment and early diagnosis, emphasizing the importance of timely and accurate identification of neurological conditions. It highlights emerging diagnostic tools, clinical approaches and technologies that support earlier detection and improved patient outcomes. **Learning Objectives:** Upon completion, participants will be able to: 1. Review current approaches and tools used in neurological assessment and early diagnosis; 2. Identify early clinical signs and biomarkers associated with common neurological disorders; 3. Evaluate the role of emerging technologies and imaging techniques in improving diagnostic accuracy; and 4. Apply evidence-based strategies to support early detection and timely intervention in neurological care.
10:30am – 11:30am	**Management of Acute Neurological Conditions: Evidence-Based Approaches** **Olajide Williams MD, MS** **Descriptive Summary:** This presentation focuses on evidence-based approaches to the management of acute neurological conditions, emphasizing rapid assessment, timely intervention and coordinated multidisciplinary care. It highlights current best practices in conditions such as stroke, seizures and neurological emergencies, with a focus on improving outcomes through early recognition, targeted treatment and optimization of acute care pathways. **Learning Objectives:** Upon completion, participants will be able to 1. Describe common acute neurological conditions and their clinical presentation in emergency settings; 2. Apply evidence-based guidelines for the management of acute conditions such as stroke, seizures and neurocritical emergencies; 3. Evaluate the role of rapid diagnostics, imaging and timely interventions in improving patient outcomes; and 4. Identify strategies to optimize acute neurological care through multidisciplinary collaboration and care pathways.

11:30am – 12:30pm

Chronic Neurological Disorders: Long-Term Management & Innovations/Lifestyle pathways to Alzheimer's disease prevention **Yian Gu, PhD**

Descriptive Summary:

This presentation explores how lifestyle factors contribute to the prevention of Alzheimer's disease, including current evidence on modifiable risk factors—particularly diet and physical activity—and their impact on brain and cognitive health. It will provide an overview of Alzheimer's disease in the elderly population, describe risk factors that may contribute to the development of the disease or protective factors that can delay or prevent the disease, and describe the ways in which diet and physical activity impact brain health and Alzheimer's disease risk.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion, participants will be able to

1. Summarize current evidence and emerging insights related to Alzheimer's disease prevention;
2. Identify key modifiable risk factors that influence brain and cognitive health;
3. Describe the epidemiological evidence linking diet and physical activity to brain and cognitive health outcomes; and
4. Explain the biological and behavioral pathways through which diet and physical activity may impact Alzheimer's disease risk.

1:30pm – 2:30pm

Pharmacological Management in Neurology: Safety, Efficacy, and Optimization

Carmela Avena-Woods Pharm D, BCGP

Descriptive Summary:

This presentation provides an overview of pharmacological management of Alzheimer's disease, including how traditional therapies offer symptomatic relief, while new disease-modifying monoclonal antibodies provide modest slowing of progression, albeit with significant risks. It will address how effective management includes addressing behavioral symptoms and supporting caregivers, as well as the essential role that pharmacists play in Alzheimer's disease prevention, treatment optimization and patient education.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion, participants will be able to

1. Evaluate the safety and efficacy profiles of commonly used pharmacologic agents in Alzheimer's disease and dementia with attention to adverse effects, drug interactions and patient-specific risk factors;
2. Apply evidence-based principles to optimize pharmacotherapy in Alzheimer's disease and dementia, with an emphasis on individualized dosing, therapeutic drug monitoring and integration of clinical guidelines;
3. Identify key challenges in the pharmacological management of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, including medication adherence, polypharmacy and special population considerations (e.g., elderly, renal or hepatic impairment); and
4. Demonstrate the role of the pharmacist within interprofessional care teams managing Alzheimer's disease and dementia to enhance medication safety, improve therapeutic outcomes and support rational drug selection.

2:30pm – 3:30pm

Nutrition in Neurological Disorders: Supporting Brain Health and Recovery **Janet Kolmer Grommet, PhD, RDN**

Descriptive Summary:

This presentation explores the critical role of nutrition in supporting brain health and recovery in individuals with neurological disorders. It highlights key nutrients, dietary approaches and evidence-based interventions that can enhance cognitive function, aid recovery and complement medical management.

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion, participants will be able to

1. Describe the role of nutrition in brain health and its impact on neurological disorders;
2. Identify key nutrients and dietary patterns that support cognitive function and recovery;
3. Evaluate evidence-based nutritional interventions used in the management of neurological conditions; and
4. Apply practical strategies to integrate nutrition into comprehensive patient care plans.

Psychosocial Support and Care Navigation in Neurological Disorders **Dante Tipiani MSW**

Descriptive Summary:
This presentation highlights the psychosocial challenges faced by individuals with neurological disorders and their caregivers and emphasizes the vital role of social workers in providing support, education and care coordination. It addresses practical strategies to navigate services and resources to enhance patient well-being and ensure continuity of care.

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Learning Objectives:
Upon completion, participants will be able to

1. Identify common psychosocial challenges experienced by individuals with neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease, including cognitive decline, behavioral changes and caregiver burden;
2. Describe the role of a social worker in providing psychosocial support, including assessment, counseling and caregiver education; and
3. Apply care navigation strategies to connect clients and families with appropriate services (e.g., HHA, respite care, benefits) and improve continuity of care.

4:30pm **PROGRAM END**