



Rachel Anne Whitmer, Ph.D.

Research/Academic Interests

Rachel Whitmer is a tenured Professor of Public Health Sciences and Neurology, Chief of the Division of Epidemiology at the University of California Davis (UC Davis) School of Medicine and Associate Director of the UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center. Professor Whitmer was the first female 'Target of Excellence' hire at UC Davis School of Medicine, a special hiring mechanism to recruit high impact scientists who are internationally renowned experts in their fields and will bridge needed gaps in the research mission of the university. Dr. Whitmer was recruited to meld population science and epidemiology with the UC Davis Alzheimer's disease research center and help the center expand into community-based sciences with a focus on groups historically underrepresented in research.

Dr. Whitmer is Director of the Population Brain Health Lab which uses lifecourse epidemiological methods to reduce inequities in brain aging; through study of dementia incidence, cognitive aging, neuroimaging, and brain pathology in diverse communities, those with diabetes, and the oldest-old. She is Principal Investigator of three National Institutes of Health funded cohort studies of dementia, cardiovascular health, and cognitive aging as well as US POINTER, a lifestyle multi-domain behavioral intervention clinical trial to reduce risk of dementia. In total these programs represent over \$66 million in funding and follow over 4000 research participants. Her work has been cited over 16,000 times across 175 publications (H Index 52).

Title Chief, Division of Epidemiology
Director, Population Brain Health Lab
Associate Director, UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center
Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences and Department of Neurology
Specialty Alzheimer's Disease, Health Economics, Epidemiology, Neurology, Health Informatics, Gerontology, Population Health, Neuroscience, Clinical Research

Department [Public Health Sciences](#)

Division Epidemiology

Clinic [Alzheimer's Disease Center](#)

Center/Program Affiliation [Center for Neuroscience](#)

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Education	Ph.D., Epidemiology of Apoe4, HRT and Cognitive Aging in Latinas, UC Davis, Davis CA 2000 B.S. (Magna Cum Laude), Psychology & Neuroscience, University of Massachusetts, Amherst MA 1995
Fellowships	Cardiovascular Epidemiology, School of Public Health, UC Berkeley, Berkeley CA 2000-2002
Professional Memberships	Alzheimer's Association International Society to Advance Alzheimer's Research and Treatment American Academy of Neurology American Public Health Association Society for Epidemiologic Research
Honors and Awards	Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM®), Drexel University, 2020 Target of Excellence, UC Davis School of Medicine, 2018
Select Recent Publications	https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=whitmer+R%26amp%3Bsort=date

Meyer OL, Harrati A, Gavett BE, Farias ST, Whitmer RA, Widaman K, Hoang V, Tobias M, Mungas D. Effects of early-life environment and adulthood SES on cognitive change in a multiethnic cohort. J Int Neuropsychol Soc. 2023 Mar 7:1-9. doi:10.1017/S135561772200087X. Epub ahead of print. PMID:36880230.

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Peterson RL, Gilsanz P, Lor Y, George KM, Ko M, Wagner J, Soh Y, Meyer OL, Glymour MM, Whitmer RA. Rural residence across the life course and late-life cognitive decline in KHANDLE: A causal inference study. *Alzheimers Dement (Amst)*. 2023 Feb 3;15(1):e12399. doi:10.1002/dad2.12399. PMID:36762299.

Cintron DW, Calmasini C, Barnes LL, Mungas DM, Whitmer RA, Eng CW, Gilsanz P, George KM, Peterson RL, Glymour MM. Evaluating interpersonal discrimination and depressive symptoms as partial mediators of the effects of education on cognition: Evidence from the Study of Healthy Aging in African Americans (STAR). *Alzheimers Dement*. 2023 Feb 1. doi:10.1002/alz.12957. Epub ahead of print. PMID:36724372.

Wilkins CH, Windon CC, Dilworth-Anderson P, Romanoff J, Gatsonis C, Hanna L, Apgar C, Gareen IF, Hill CV, Hillner BE, March A, Siegel BA, Whitmer RA, Carrillo MC, Rabinovici GD. Racial and Ethnic Differences in Amyloid PET Positivity in Individuals With Mild Cognitive Impairment or Dementia: A Secondary Analysis of the Imaging Dementia-Evidence for Amyloid Scanning (IDEAS) Cohort Study. *JAMA Neurol*. 2022 Oct 3;79(11):1139–47. doi:10.1001/jamaneurol.2022.3157. Epub ahead of print. PMID:36190710.



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