

Thank you...



Wisconsin Alzheimer's
Disease Research Center
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

*for participating in our research. Our science depends on volunteers.
We couldn't do it without you!*

Please enjoy this research program update from Dr. Carey Gleason.

Program News and Updates

- Thank you to **Venus Washington** for her great work on the Wisconsin Partnership Program COVID-19 grant. The current project is drawing to a close, but we have applied for funding to continue this work. The team of Community Advocates provided up-to-date information about the pandemic and vaccines to the Black, American Indian, and Latinx communities through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and newsletters. They endeavored to address misinformation and offer support during a challenging year.
- The **Wisconsin ADRC Oneida Outreach Team** assembled and mailed care packages to study participants across the state. These care boxes were created as a token of appreciation for our participants and their families. They included healthy foods, protective equipment, and tools to stimulate brain health that were sourced from Black and Oneida-owned small businesses.
- **Black Leaders for Brain Health**, a collaboration of the Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership and the Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, introduced a Research Collaboration Request that allows researchers to seek consultation from Black community leaders when developing and design new studies.
- **Dr. Shenikqua Bouges** received a 2020-2021 UW–Madison Outstanding Woman of Color Award. Dr. Bouges specializes in memory assessments and geriatric medicine. In in research program, she studies the impact of metabolic syndrome risk factors on cognition, trust in medical researchers, and an individual's willingness to participate in research studies.
- **Dr. Fabu Phillis Carter** earned her PhD in African Women's Studies from the University of Nairobi, writing her dissertation on the life of jazz great Mary Lou Williams.



Fabu Phillis Carter, PhD



Venus Washington



Shenikqua Bouges, MD

Please contact Dr. Carter at fp Carter@medicine.wisc.edu for more information about these programs.

Why are we doing this?

Our research, health equity initiatives, and programs to improve brain health have purpose — to help people live long, healthy lives! Each year during our appreciation event, Dr. Carey Gleason highlights at least one person who has succeeded in living a long and healthy life. We want to inspire you this year with the story below.

Hester Ford

Lived to 115 years old (possibly 116)

Records are uncertain as to Ms. Hester's exact age when she passed in April 2021. She was either 115 or 116 years young. But her family is certain of her legacy. When her great-granddaughter Tanisha Patterson-Powe was asked by an interviewer what lessons Ms. Hester left for her, she responded, "Be resilient."

Ms. Hester grew up on a farm, and she married Mr. John Ford at age 14. She and her husband owned their own farm and lived through a number of challenges — including two pandemics.

One horrific experience prompted the family to leave their farm and home in Lancaster, South Carolina. The family experienced a brutal hate crime when a family member was murdered. For the sake of their family, the couple moved to Charlotte. They eventually bought their own home. Her great granddaughter reflected on what a significant accomplishment homeownership was for a Black family in the 1960s.

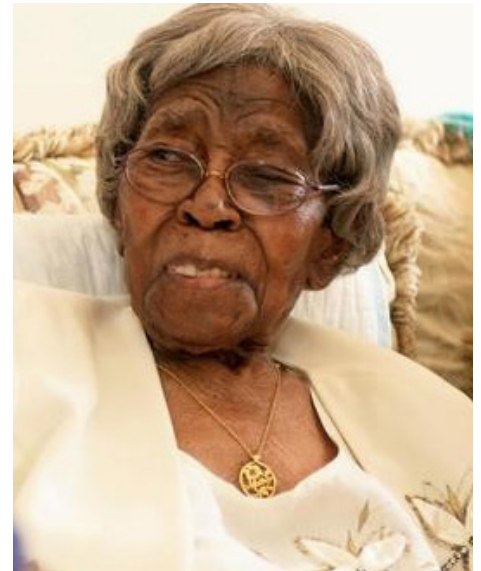
When asked about her grandmother's secret to longevity, Ms. Patterson-Powe reflected on Ms. Hester's faith, describing her as "disciplined in her faith." She prayed every day and at certain times of the day would stop what she is was doing and pray.

On her 111st birthday, she received a congratulatory card from President and Mrs. Obama. The president wrote that Ms. Ford's "story is an integral part of the American narrative." She was thrilled to see the first Black president elected. She never took the right to vote for granted, and she voted in 2020. Her granddaughter reflected that "You would have thought she was going to church." She was beautifully dressed with a hat and white tennis shoes; she wore her "I voted" sticker with pride.

She lived quietly but well in her later years. Her routine included a half a banana for breakfast and getting out of the house for a bit of fresh air. With a background of gospel music, she would sit in her recliner, looking through family photo albums or working puzzles.

In April 2021 she passed away in her home in Charlotte, North Carolina. She is survived by 12 children, 68 grandchildren, 125 great-grandchildren, 120 great-great-grandchildren.

May she rest in peace.



Excerpts from an April 24, 2021, interview between Ms. Tanisha Patterson-Powe and NPR host Scott Simon and US News