



What were the goals of the University of Arizona HBRN?

The University of Arizona Healthy Brain Research Network (UAZ-HBRN) and more than 20 community partners addressed brain health in underserved populations in Arizona. These efforts relied on primary provider and community health worker expertise in dementia care and research innovations in cognitive screening. The UAZ-HBRN goals included:

- 1) Establishing a research agenda on cognitive health and healthy aging.
- 2) Advancing collaborative and applied research in cognitive health.
- 3) Supporting fellowship training of its scholars.

What did the UAZ-HBRN Accomplish?

The UAZ-HBRN accomplishments included contributions to the *Healthy Brain Initiative: State and Local Public Health Partnerships to Address Dementia, 2018-2023 Road Map*, including:

- Development and testing of an innovative sensor-based UEF Dual Task test for ultimate use in primary screening.
- fMRI testing of Dual Task function in young and healthy old versus elders with mild cognitive impairment to better understand brain changes with cognitive decline.

- Development of a low-cost, easily performed primary care dementia screening model at Banner Health.
- Community health worker dementia education and outreach curriculum and training.
- Educational materials on dementia for health care providers and paraprofessionals.

UAZ-HBRN work resulted in five publications with contributions from five HBRN Scholars, and 10 scientific presentations, which involved 10 scholars.

What is the HBRN Scholars Program?

The national HBRN Scholars program pilots, develops, and shares models for scholarly cognitive health engagement locally and across the national network. HBRN Scholars collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), community partners, and other HBRN universities on research projects.

The UAZ-HBRN developed a robust academic and experiential scholar program training students in aging and cognition content, research methods, and career development and mentoring. Fifteen students participated, and all developed and presented academic products.



Many of the UAZ-HBRN scholars have advanced to graduate study or postdoctoral programs. Four are pursuing careers in cognitive science.



Nima Toosizadeh, PhD, (postdoctoral Scholar) is now an Assistant Professor of Bioengineering and Medicine at the University of Arizona, with funded grants in the area of cognitive screening using objective sensors and fMRI.

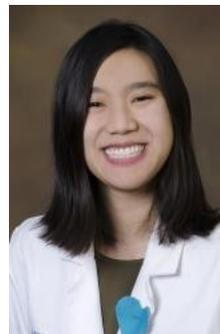


Hannah Stocker, MPH (MPH Scholar) is earning her PhD from Heidelberg University in epidemiology with an emphasis on neuroscience and genetic correlates of cognitive decline.



Rachel Peterson, PhD (PhD Scholar) was hired by the University of California-Davis as a postdoctoral cognitive science epidemiologist.

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Coco Tirambulo (undergraduate Scholar) is completing her MPH and has been hired by the Director of the University of Arizona Brain Imaging and Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation Laboratory as a research assistant. She is applying to medical school for fall 2020.

What is the legacy of the UAZ-HBRN?

- Scholar training and expertise in influential positions in the fields of cognitive health research, policy and clinical care.
- Deeper understanding of cognitive screening (UEF dual task) with potential for broad implementation as a routine screening tool, similar to a blood pressure measurement.
- Bilingual community health worker dementia training proof-of-concept and materials for dementia education, prevention, and screening.
- Primary care models of dementia screening and support outreach for integrated health systems. Continued collaboration with ADHS Healthy Aging/ Healthy Brain Program.

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