



Center for Community Health

ARCC Seed Grantee Co-Hosts Alzheimers Play to Increase African American Awareness and Trials Participation

To help raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease and the impact it has on the African American community, [Northwestern University's Cognitive Neurology and Alzheimer's Disease Center](#), [Rush University Medical Center's Alzheimer's Disease Center](#), and the [African American Network Against Alzheimer's \(AANAA\)](#) brought the award-winning play, *Forget Me Not*, to Chicago on July 14th and 15th to sold out crowds at the DuSable Museum of African American History. The play takes the audience into the life of an African American family facing Alzheimer's disease and shows how the disease impacts everyone, from immediate family to friends and the African American community-at-large.



A panel discussion with the play's director, Garrett Davis, Northwestern Professor [Sandra Weintraub](#), Rush Professor Neelum Aggarwal, the director of AANAA, Stephanie Monroe and research participants answered important questions about medical and social services available in the community, local research opportunities, including the [A4 Study](#) —a landmark trial that seeks to prevent the memory loss associated with Alzheimer's disease before symptoms ever appear.

The goal of this collaboration was to raise awareness in the African American community about Alzheimer's disease, including where to go for help and how to participate in trials. African Americans are disproportionately affected by Alzheimer's disease and vastly underrepresented in research. While African Americans make up less than 14% of the population, they bear over 30% of the costs of Alzheimer's disease. And given that African Americans are twice as likely to develop the disease as non-Hispanic white Americans, involvement of African Americans in Alzheimer's research trials is crucial to understanding the disease and finding treatments.



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[Darby Morhardt](#), faculty in CNADC, and ARCC Steering Committee Member, shared that "the partnership seed grant ([hyperlink](#)) we received from ARCC ([hyperlink](#)) has helped us build significant relationships within the community over the past 2-3 years, particularly with [The Endealeo Institute](#) and seven faith based organizations on Chicago's south side in REACH to Faith: Research and Education for African American Caregiver Health. The Endealeo and everyone in the REACH project provided exceptional support for this event, publicizing the play to their constituents, attending and providing helpful

feedback. They helped make an event like this not only successful, but possible. We are grateful for our REACH partners and ARCC's investment in this important work."

Learn more about ARCC [Seed Grants](#).

[Contact us](#) to talk about community engagement in clinical trials.