

Supporting Dementia at Home – September 17, 2020 Speaker Biographies



Kalisha Bonds Johnson, PhD, RN, PMHNP-BC

Dr. Kalisha Bonds Johnson is a T32 National Institute of Nursing Research Postdoctoral Fellow at Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing in Atlanta, Georgia. She graduated from The University of Tennessee at Martin with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2007. She graduated with her Masters in Science in Nursing in 2012 from Vanderbilt University, specializing as a Family Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. Most recently, Dr. Bonds Johnson graduated with a PhD from Oregon Health & Science University in 2019. During her PhD program, she was funded through several mechanisms, including the SAMHSA at American Nurses Association Minority Fellowship Program and the Jonas Foundation as a Veterans Healthcare Scholar.

In her PhD studies, Dr. Bonds Johnson focused on how the caregiving experiences of African American persons with dementia and their African American family caregivers were associated with their quality of life. Specifically, Dr. Bonds Johnson focused on interpersonal factors such as decision-making involvement and their relationship quality. In her postdoctoral fellowship, she is advancing this line of inquiry to focus on decisions made about health care for African American persons living with dementia and how these influences affect the quality of life of African American persons living with dementia and their family caregivers. Dr. Bonds Johnson hopes to improve health outcomes for African American persons living with dementia and their families through clinical interventions and/or theoretical developments.



Dr. James Lah

Dr. James Lah graduated with honors from Duke University, and subsequently enrolled as a Medical Scientist Program Fellow at Ohio State University, where he earned his MD-PhD with a focus on Neurobiology and Cell Biology. After an internship in Medicine, Dr. Lah completed his Neurology Residency at Emory before joining the Emory Neurology faculty.

Dr. Lah leads numerous research efforts while working with a multidisciplinary team devoted to improving the evaluation and care of patients and families dealing with Alzheimer's and other dementing brain diseases. He currently serves as Associate Director and Clinical Core Leader of the NIH-Funded Emory Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, Director of the Cognitive Neurology Program, and Vice Chair of Neurology. Dr. Lah has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles and has been awarded numerous research grants from NIH and other agencies. In 2009, Emory University appointed Dr. Lah to the Alice and Roy Richards Endowed

Chair for Alzheimer’s Research. He has led the statewide Georgia Memory Net initiative since its inception in 2017, and in 2019, he was recognized by then-Secretary of State Robyn Crittenden as an Outstanding Georgia Citizen.



Kim McRae

Kim McRae is a consultant, speaker, educator, and advocate. She is also an Educator and Mentor for The Eden Alternative®. Kim works with organizations and companies as a thought leader, change agent, and subject matter expert on caregiving, culture change, person-directed living, and person-centered dementia care. She is also the founder of About Face Technologies, which is focused on simple and intuitive assistive technology products for those needing simplicity. Kim is the inventor of and holds five US and one UK patents.

As a FCTA (“Family Caregiver Turned Advocate”), Kim comes to person-directed living and person-centered dementia care through a 12-year history as a family caregiver. Kim got involved with the Pioneer Network and the national culture change movement in 2006 and co-founded the Culture Change Network of Georgia in 2008. She has been actively working to improve quality of life for elders and their care partners for more than eighteen years. Kim was a member of the Founding Board of Directors for the national Dementia Action Alliance (DAA), which held the first North American “Re-Imagine Life with Dementia” Conference. She is an Advisor to the Georgia Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias (GARD) State Plan Task Force and serves on multiple work groups. In addition, she is contributing to numerous boards, task forces, and committees focused on developing programs, providing education, and advocating for changes that will improve the lives of elders and those that care about them. She is currently a consultant on the \$1.6 million grant, Building Resources for Delivering Person-Centered Care in Georgia Nursing Homes, which is a partnership between the Culture Change Network of Georgia and the Gerontology Institute at Georgia State University.



Bonnie Roache

Bonnie Roache has worked in the Computer Information Systems industry for 30+ years. Her core competence is in Technology Project Management. She currently works as a Senior Project Manager for the State of Georgia where she is responsible for managing vendors and oversight processes to ensure the success of high-risk critical technology projects in the State of Georgia.

Bonnie was faced with her most challenging project in 2015 when her Mother, Mary Alice Jackson, was diagnosed with Lewy Body dementia. Bonnie has taken this journey alongside her Mother in navigating various care systems to ensure her Mother’s safety, well-being, and quality of life. She has been a committed advocate for her Mother in maneuvering various components of systems including insurance, healthcare, housing, memory care/long-term care, caregivers, medications, and legal rights of families and loved ones. Over the last five years, she has taken Dementia Training courses, researched articles, and attended dementia workshops and forums to educate herself on tools

and techniques to support her Mother. Through this journey, she has experienced sleeping in hospital chairs and working a full-time job from hospitals and nursing home rooms. She and her Mother once spent three nights in a psychiatric ward of a hospital.

Bonnie is not a caregiver by profession but a caregiver by love. It is her goal to share their journey with others to hopefully be a catalyst for better decisions in the best interest of the person living with dementia through awareness, education, training, and supportive policies, rules, and guidelines.