Take charge of your health today. Be informed. Be involved.

Researchers try to determine why black community is hardest hit by Alzheimer's disease.

This month, the “Take Charge” page in the Courier (page 4) focuses on Alzheimer’s disease. Erricka Hager, health advocate, and Esther L. Bush, president and CEO, both of the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh, spoke about this topic.

EB: Good morning, everyone. Alzheimer’s disease is a health topic that we’ve never talked about before. I’m glad we’re taking the time today to discuss this disease, efforts to learn more about this disease and the resources available locally for your loved ones and their families. This month’s page is going to introduce our readers to some important information about Alzheimer’s. It’s even featured in the ADRC (Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center) newsletter. I’m happy to partner with you today. I, myself, will be joining you today. We have a couple of readers with a brief introduction about Alzheimer’s. This month’s “Community Resource Spotlight” page in the Courier for seven years is to connect readers with resources and information, and to disseminate current research. I also think people need to know that they are not alone when they or their families experience health problems. More than 5 million people are living with the disease in the United States. This numbers is expected to triple by 2050. Most of the Courier readers hear about Alzheimer’s disease on a personal basis. Personally, I’ve known one person who was affected by Alzheimer’s. I always wished I was able to provide more support to my loved ones in that time of need.

EB: I’m sure your loved ones appreciated all the month you provided during such a tough time. I, too, didn’t realize that Alzheimer’s affects the African American community. Also, it’s very sensitive and dispropor tionate. But medical advances and understanding of diseases through research continue to be so needed.

EB: I agree. Dr. Cohen discusses advancements in both understanding the genetic markers of the disease and how technology has changed the way the disease is diagnosed and treated. We know how and when diseases like Alzheimer’s are detected and how it is treated through research. Researchers have been learning more about local resources and support programs. ADRC and all the wonderful things that they do. We have families and affected by the disease. We’re going to refer to any personal contacts as well as any health education office clients. As you move forward, I’m also eager to continue working with ADRC in a multitude of ways in order to continue to educate the communities we serve.

EB: I second that. Thanks for having this chat with me, Erricka. We’ve provided some great information and local resources for families who are affected by Alzheimer’s. I look forward to chatting with you next month as we discuss Down syndrome.

Erricka Hager

Esther L. Bush

Caring for someone with Alzheimer’s or after a death is exceptionally demanding.

African American Alzheimer’s disease? With the goal is to enroll 1 million+ people. Over the coming months you will be reading and hearing a lot more on the New Precision Medicine Initiative. You can instantly enroll at https://pittplusme.org/studyarms/2d6e7c2a. When you click “I’m interested,” a member of the Pitt+Me team will contact you.

ERRICKA HAGER

EB: The center is affi liated with the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center which is a key resource for up-to-date information and referrals to support services within the region. ADRC has a commitment to increase public awareness about Alzheimer’s disease. The center proudly offers the University of Pittsburgh Alzheimer’s disease research series two times a year. In Walker Allen Community Lecture Series brings researchers and clinical experts to communities for public settings. This creates interactive and educational programs. It is also important to have a strong support system. ADRC is part of a prominent African American photographer who worked for the New Pittsburgh Courier in the 1950s and 1960s and later did work with. The center also provides speakers on Alzheimer’s disease to community groups around the city. The center accepts speaker requests from community programs and senior organizations on a year-round basis. ADRC also maintains a caregiver support group. And now we must address the Alzheimer’s Association. The group meets every Tuesday of the month. Dr. Cohen and her colleagues are looking to enroll every American photographer who are really interested. They are going to be reading, hearing a lot more about this disease, research, and people who are living with the disease.

Dr. Cohen and colleagues were involved in a study trying to understand more about Alzheimer’s disease. African Americans are twice as likely to be involved in a study trying to understand more about Alzheimer’s disease. African Americans are twice as likely to be involved in a study trying to understand more about Alzheimer’s disease. This study is important because it’s the first of its kind. We are going to learn a lot about this disease. We’re about to understand a lot more about how this disease progresses and how it affects the African American community so that we can help to ease some of the effects. These effects are serious and can be very challenging. Dr. Cohen wrote the report of Alzheimer’s that gets worse over time, eventually getting to know why so we can improve treatments and treatments. We know from research that the late stages of Alzheimer’s looks the same in all patients. But we want to know if there’s a difference in the early stages of the disease in African Americans and if the disease progresses differently. Dr. Cohen says, “For many reasons, African Americans are less likely to be involved in research. They are at greater risk of developing many neuroimaging (PET) scans to see.”

For proteins in the brain that are associated with Alzheimer’s disease, they also use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) to look for structural changes in the brain. The results have shown that many African Americans have the same Alzheimer’s disease symptoms, but they also tend to have more cognitive impairments. This is because research has shown that the brains of people who are African Americans are different. They study the disease that gets worse over time, eventually getting to know why so we can improve treatments and treatments. We know from research that the late stages of Alzheimer’s looks the same in all patients. But we want to know if there’s a difference in the early stages of the disease in African Americans and if the disease progresses differently. Dr. Cohen says, “For many reasons, African Americans are less likely to be involved in research. They are at greater risk of developing many neuroimaging (PET) scans to see.”

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