



The NIA Biomarker
Network

NIA Biomarker Network Annual Meeting

Welcome

May 6th, 2026

MPIs: Leadership of the Biomarker Network



Eileen Crimmins

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California



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University of Michigan



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Goals



Continue to Collaborate

Organize sessions at major meetings (annual + international cycles) to share advances and build collaborations

Host targeted workshops and webinars to drive knowledge exchange and methods development

Fund pilot projects and share resources online to advance new assays and tools

Encourage collaboration through Visiting Scholar program



Growth in Membership

Increase participation from students and junior researchers

Increase participation as new or existing studies begin collecting biological data

Our Aims are to Promote:



Optimal practices for collecting, handling, and processing of biological information in population studies



Data sharing and harmonization of biological data



Optimal approaches to measurement of cumulative biological risk or dimensions of biological risk at multiple levels into studies of health outcomes



Development and validation of novel measures of biological aging



Training and interdisciplinary exchanges of knowledge and experience

Announcements



Agenda

New - Updates from Network Labs Posters - During Lunch (12:00 – 1:00)

Omar Paccagnella

- Methodological Approaches to Biological Age Estimation using Blood Biomarkers: Evidence from SHARE

Katrina Kezios

- Pooling Cohorts Across the Life Course to Investigate Early-Life Determinants of Health Outcomes in Later-Life



Pilots Funded this Year

Jenel Armstrong, Yale University

Developing DNA Methylation-Based
Predictors of Intervention
Responsiveness

Andrew Hoofnagle, University of Washington

Validating Apolipoprotein A-I and
Apolipoprotein B measurement from
dried blood spots

Shannon Sullivan, University of Minnesota

Developing Epigenetic Signatures of
Metals Exposure for Use in Aging
Cohorts





Call for New Pilots



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We are looking to fund methodological projects that focus on:

- Collection (e.g. comparison or assessment of collection methods)
- Assay development
- Analytic work (e.g. novel statistical methods, new algorithms) - pilots are not intended to focus on substantive work



Call for New Pilots

- The competition is open to graduate students, post- doctoral fellows, and all faculty with appointments in the research professor, professor, scientist, or clinical tracks.
- Priority will be given to early- stage investigators.
- Priority will also be given to projects that:
 - Seed innovative research
 - Have the potential to produce publications that advance the Network's research themes
 - Likely to serve as a foundation for external funding (e.g., NIH R03, R21, R01)
 - Can be completed over a 12- month period (assay development projects may request a longer time period)

Timeline for New Pilots



June 1st, 2026

Pre-Proposal Due Date
Invitations to Submit Full
Proposal Sent: June 8th



July 1st, 2026

Full Proposal Due Date



August 1st, 2026

Notification of Award



**September 1st,
2026**

Award Period (end date
March 31st, 2027, with
extension possible)

Visiting Scholars Program

Purpose

- Foster collaboration across Network member studies
- Advance innovative biological and statistical research methods
- Support harmonization of data and methodologies across cohorts

Career Development Goals

- Support early-career investigators strengthen skills in: research design, data collection, and data dissemination
- Improve measurement of biological risk in aging populations

Opportunities

- Learn biospecimen collection and processing techniques
- Co-develop grant proposals and research manuscripts
- Collaborate with researchers across multiple cohort studies
- Gain hands-on experience with expert mentorship

Eligibility

- Graduate students
- Postdoctoral fellows
- Faculty (research scientist, professor, or clinical tracks)
- Study personnel affiliated with member cohort studies

2025 Visiting Scholars

Shayan Alvansazyazdi, Giannina Gaslini Institute

- Developing the BrainAge Clock, a multimodal approach for predicting brain-specific biological aging across early life.
- *Queen's University Belfast*

Daniel Borrus, Yale University

- Developing next-generation DNA methylation biomarkers using long-read sequencing technologies for application in large epidemiological cohorts.
- *University of Minnesota*

Brianah McCoy, Arizona State University

- Expanding technical expertise in immunoassays and mass spectrometry to support development of an ancillary Add Health study integrating hormone biomarkers and gene expression data to study biological aging during the menopausal transition.
- *University of Minnesota*

Lauren Schmitz, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- Developing and evaluating epigenetic surrogate markers using HRS and Massachusetts databank data, while exploring new surrogate scores related to environmental and social exposures.
- *University of Southern California*

Timeline for Visiting Scholars Program



July 1st, 2026

Full Proposal Due Date



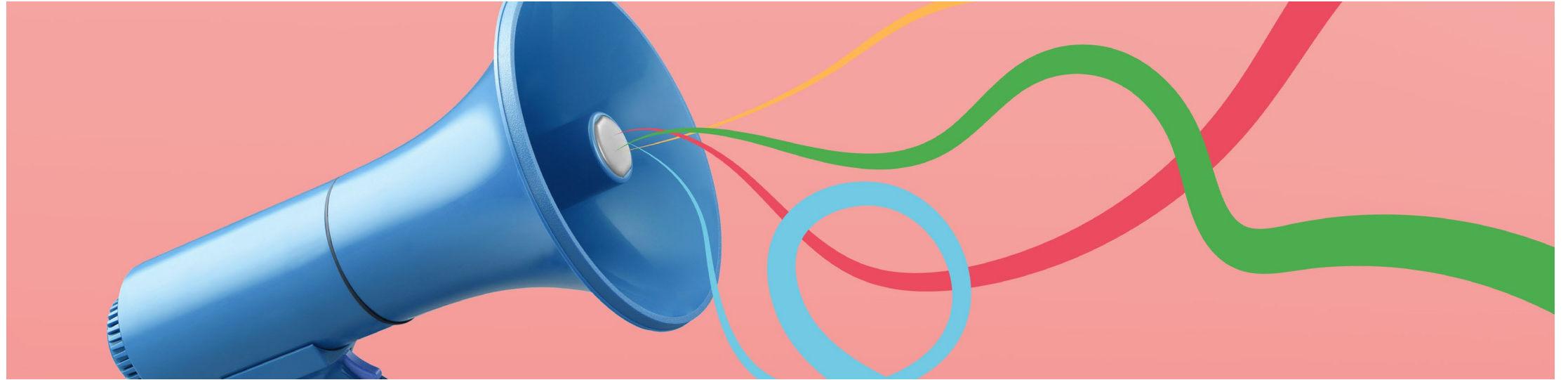
August 1st, 2026

Notification of Award



September 1st, 2026

Award Period (end date
March 31st, 2027, with
extension possible)



2025 Webinar

Biomarker Network Webinar on Hearing Measurement October 2025

Featured speakers included **Allison Aiello** (Add Health, Columbia University), **Janet Choi** (University of Southern California), and **Nicholas Reed** (Johns Hopkins University), who shared perspectives from epidemiology, clinical practice, and public health.

Reminder: This webinar was recorded and is available on our website for those who were unable to attend live.

Future Webinars



Creating Epigenetic Surrogates with Josh Goode: This webinar will cover approaches to developing epigenetic surrogate measures



Metabolomic Data Analysis with Gary Patti (Center for Mass Spectrometry & Metabolic Tracing Washington University in St. Louis)



Other topics of interest? Let us know!



See You Next Year!

International and Annual Biomarker Network Meetings in Seattle, WA

March 30th and 31st, 2027



Thank You

Questions: biomarkernetwork@umich.edu

