CLARiTI CONNECT

February 19, 2025

CLARiTI Connect is a newsletter distributed by the CLARiTI administrative teams at UW–Madison and the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center. CLARiTI Connect contains current information about study progress, operations updates, news and training opportunities. Thank you for connecting!

Unlocking the Future of Dementia Diagnosis: A Conversation with Drs. Henrik Zetterberg, Sterling Johnson and Hartmuth Kolb

Drs. Henrik Zetterberg, Sterling Johnson and Hartmuth Kolb. (Left to Right.)

Dementia research is at an inflection point. With new treatments and accurate biomarkers becoming available over the past few years, the field has made remarkable strides in understanding neurodegenerative diseases, and earlier, more precise diagnoses. Yet, critical challenges remain - particularly in detecting co-pathologies like TDP-43 and alpha-synuclein proteinopathies, which may hasten cognitive decline in someone with Alzheimer's disease pathology.

To explore these breakthroughs and the future of dementia diagnostics, we sat down with three leaders in the field: Dr. Hartmuth Kolb, a pioneer in PET imaging

tracers; Dr. Henrik Zetterberg, a global expert in neurochemistry; and Dr. Sterling Johnson, a driving force behind CLARiTI, a study aiming to advance biomarkers for ADRD. Their discussion shed light on how imaging and fluid biomarkers are shaping the next decade of neurodegenerative disease research.

Read the full interview

Study Start Up Updates

CLARiTI Study Handbook: V2 Released

The CLARiTI Study Handbook version 2 is now available. Sites should reference this current version of the handbook alongside the study protocol for guidance and compliance to properly conduct the study. The previous version 1 has been archived and removed from current files, **please discontinue using version 1.**

The Handbook includes:

- Study Organization/Roles and Responsibilities
- Study Contacts
- Study Communications
- Subawards from NACC
- Study Activation
- Regulatory
- Access Core Operations
- Study Procedures
- Study Case Report Forms
- Visual Reads & Return of Results
- Data submission
- ...and more

CLARiTI Study Handbook V2

CLARiTI Site Initiation Visits (SIV) Updates

CLARiTI sites that have completed SIVs in January and February 2025, to date.

Congratulations to the following Activated Sites:

- Wisconsin ADRC

Congratulations to the following sites that have completed their SIV with the Central Monitoring Service (CMS)

- Wisconsin ADRC
- Mayo
- Penn ADRC-Memory Center
- Boston University ADRC

- 1Florida ADRC
- University of Kansas ADRC
- Stanford ADRC
- Johns Hopkins ADRC
- Wake Forest ADRC
- UCSD ADRC
- Arizona ADRC (Banner)
- UC Irvine
- South Texas ADRC

Sites with Scheduled SIVs:

- February 28: Duke/UNC ADRC, Yale ADRC, Mt. Sinai ADRC
- March 10: University of Indiana ADRC, Washington University ADRC
- March 28: University of Kentucky ADRC, Northwestern University, University of Washington
- April 7: NYU ADRC

Available upcoming SIV dates:

- February 28
- March 10 & 28
- April 7 & 25
- May 12 & 30

*If your regulatory documents are in order we can take as many as 5 sites per time slot!

All sites must complete a SIV. Sites are eligible for their SIV once they have gained WCG approval and their regulatory documents are completed and filed. After you receive approval from Central Monitoring Service (CMS) and a Site Activation letter from CLARiTI, you may begin study activities.

The expectation is that sites will be ready to begin study activities shortly after the SIV, if the site study start-up is delayed, a refresher SIV may be necessary.

Plan Ahead

It is essential that all regulatory documents are filed in advance of the SIV. SIVs are scheduled for five hours to accommodate time for questions. The site PI is required

to be there for the first 2 hours. There is an additional PI debrief (30 min) scheduled after the SIV. Please be in contact with your CLARiTI Administrative Team (CAT) Project Coordinator to make sure your site has been given the greenlight to schedule your SIV. Once your site is approved, you may reach out to the CAT regulatory team to secure a date.

Review the SIV Agenda

Subaward Progress Update

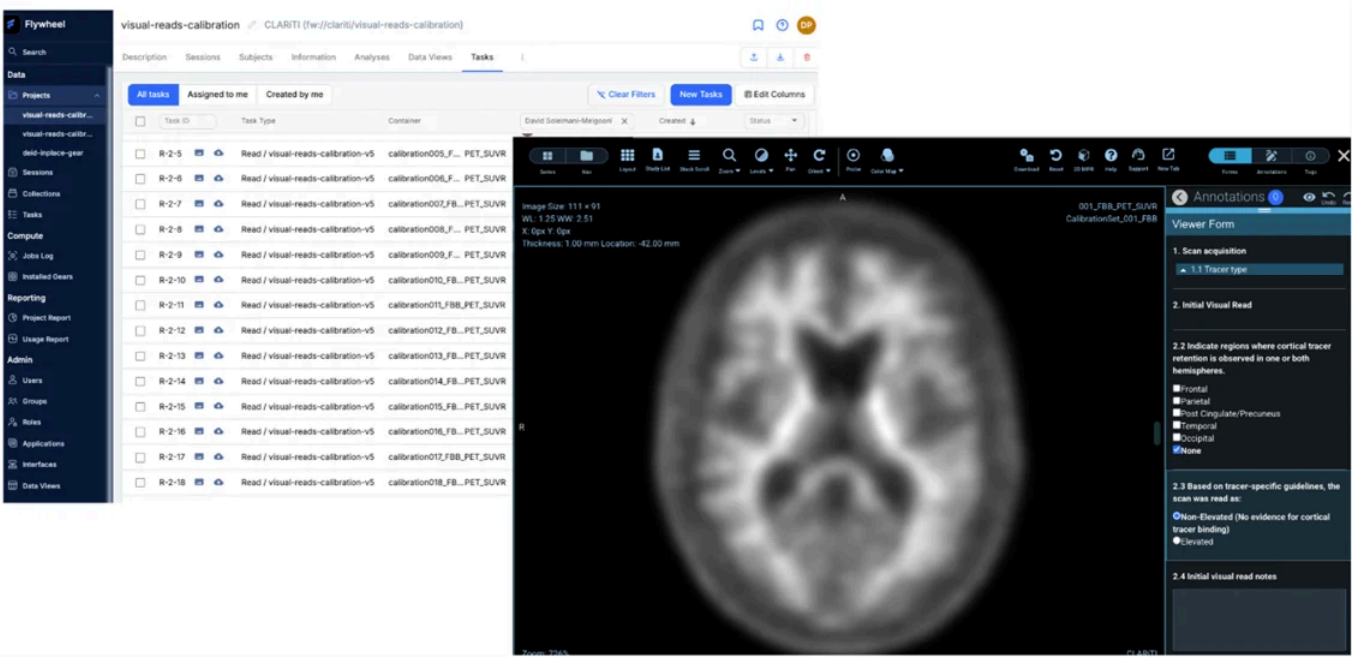
Site subawards continue to make progress, with 27 out of 33 sites submitted by NACC to the University of Washington's Office of Sponsored Programs (UWash OSP) to draft and issue subawards for participating sites.

Next Steps:
UWash OSP will be reaching out to your grants offices with any questions as we move forward with the subawards.

Timeline:
We anticipate the majority of subawards being issued late Q1 2025 (mid-March).

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us at naccgrants@uw.edu. Thank you for your continued support and efforts as we move forward!

Visual Reads Calibration Study underway in the NACC Data Platform, powered by Flywheel



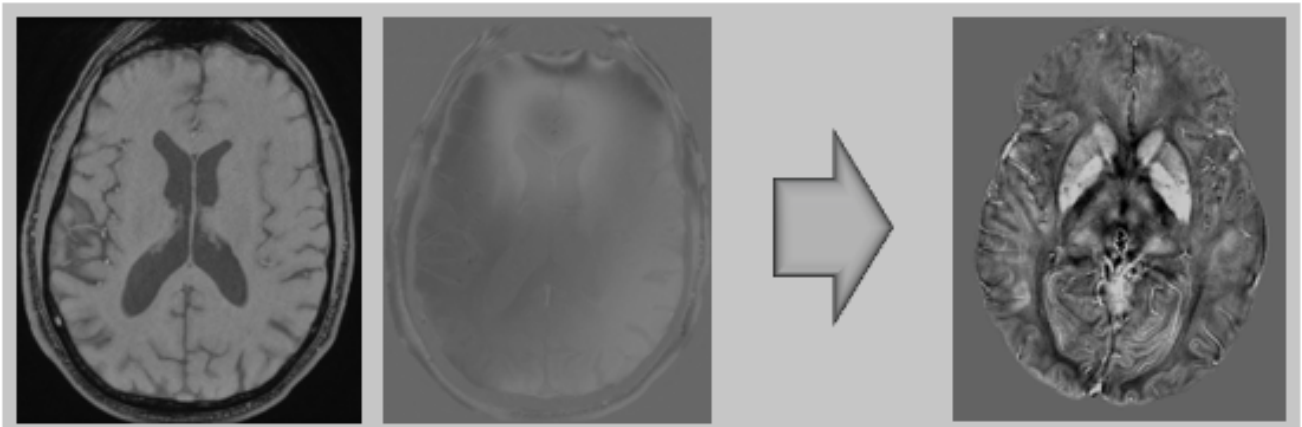
The CLARiTI Visual Reads Core, along with NACC, has launched the Calibration Study that tests inter- and intra-rater reliability of visual reads. For recent Amyloid tracers, there is no current widely accepted automated method for determining whether a brain is elevated for Amyloid. Determining elevated or non-elevated requires expert subjective judgement. Ten readers have been identified to review the forthcoming 4000 Amyloid PET scans for CLARiTI. In order to ensure high quality and standardization of reads, the first step is establishing concordance among raters with a set of known gold-standard PET scans ("calibration").

The CLARiTI Calibration study protocol was recently presented at the Human Amyloid Imaging Conference (link, pages 522-523). Briefly, each of the 10 CLARiTI readers will perform blinded, independent visual interpretation of 180 Amyloid PET scans (30 unique and 15 duplicate scans per tracer) previously read and selected by an expert. Inter- and intra-rater results will be compared for concordance.

The reads will take place on the NACC Data Platform, utilizing the Flywheel reader task workflow. Each reader will receive 180 tasks, 1 for each assigned read, and click to launch the viewer where they can perform the read within the window or download to perform the read in the viewer of their choice. They document their results in the Viewer Form, Submit, and move on to the next task.

We look forward to sharing results from the study as they become available!

Advanced MRI for Neurodegeneration



Magnitude and phase images processed using QSMXT flywheel analysis gear to produce QSM output.

The Advanced MRI component of CLARiTI seeks to validate state-of-the art MRI methods for ADRD neuroimaging. Initial strategies include quantifying morphometry using motion-corrected T1-weighted MRI, detecting patterns of neurodegeneration and cerebrovascular integrity as manifested in CBF using arterial spin labeled (ASL) MRI, and multi-echo gradient echo (GRE) MRI for detecting iron deposition based on quantitative susceptibility mapping (QSM) and microhemorrhages. Results will be compared with findings from the SCAN sequences used by CLARiTI, ADNI4, and other studies. Over time, the CLARiTI platform will be used to evaluate other emerging MRI methods.

The Advanced MRI Core is also developing a suite of analysis tools to allow automated image processing using the NACC Flywheel platform to derive both parametric maps and quantitative measures related to neurodegeneration. Automated signal processing pipelines will also encompass quality control for raw and derived images, as well as curated tabular data. The results will be accessible to ADRC investigators and ultimately external researchers through the NACC portal.

While these sequences are optional, we highly encourage each site to include them in their protocol. The multi-echo GRE acquisition leverages product sequences likely already available on most scanners while in most cases motion-corrected T1w and ASL acquisitions and include research sequences. Sites interested in participating in CLARiTI Advanced MRI should contact Terry Ward (tward@medicine.wisc.edu) for information and assistance.

Access Corner

Inclusion Core is now the Access Core!

We are pleased to announce that Inclusion Core has changed its name to Access Core. This rebranding more accurately reflects our Core's goal of providing community members with access to research opportunities and brain health resources. As the Access Core, we hope to support CLARiTI's mission to include everyone in our research for the benefit of all the communities we serve and with whom we collaborate.

Funding for Engagement in Our Communities

CLARiTI is committed to supporting and giving back to our community partners. Each participating CLARiTI ADRC receives $10k annually through their subaward to support engagement of under-researched populations (URPs; e.g., rural, low education, or ethnocultural) in our communities. There is flexibility in how you decide to use these funds. Some examples include building relationships with local Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), organizing engagement events, honoraria for advisory boards, providing participant appreciation initiatives such as swag or gifts, offsetting participant transportation and childcare costs for study activities, and covering local printing and advertising costs. If you have any questions about how to use your annual $10k, please contact the CLARiTI Access Core team at clariti-access@medicine.wisc.edu.

Launch of CLARiTI's Community Science Partnership Board

As part of the Access Core (AC)'s mission to assure a community-engaged research (CER) approach for CLARiTI, we have launched our very own Community Science Partnership Board (CSPB) to help guide our engagement (e.g., recruitment, retention, task completion) and implementation efforts. To that end, our CSPB included 12 community members from URP backgrounds noted above. We meet quarterly and thus far have met once in 2025. Some of the key topics that our CSPB

has provided us guidance on includes how we will work together in a spirit of co-learning, transparency, and true partnership; recruitment methods; and website/social media development.

Access Core Launches Its First "Big Tent" Meeting

In January 2025, AC convened CLARiTI Core leaders, ADRC Outreach Recruitment and Engagement (ORE) Core leaders, ADRC site staff, and Community Research Liaisons (CRLs)* for our first Access Core "Big Tent" Meeting. The Big Tent Meeting Series focuses on providing updates about AC efforts to support the engagement of URPs in CLARiTI. The first meeting highlighted key AC initiatives, including the ORE Core partnership, the CSPB, AC site onboarding calls, CRL training, and the development of a public-facing CLARiTI website. This quarterly meeting series will continue to promote ongoing communication and collaboration to advance our engagement goals.

*ADRC site staff and CRLs in attendance were from sites who have completed their site initiation visits (SIVs)

For additional information or any questions, please reach out! Our email is: clariti-access@medicine.wisc.edu.

Webinars & Events

CLARiTI Webinar: Expanding NACC's Infrastructure for CLARiTI

Tomorrow! February 20, 2025 at 3:00 pm ET | 2:00 pm CT | 12:00 pm PT

Join us for an hour-long webinar where CLARiTI study leaders and the NACC team will share the latest updates on study start-up and operationalization.

This session will cover:

- An overview of subawards timing and payments
- How sites will submit and access CLARiTI data

We'll conclude with an open Q&A session, providing you the opportunity to engage directly with the study team. Don't miss out - register today!

Register today!

We are excited to connect with you this spring in San Francisco at the CLARiTI Investigators' meeting on May 7, 2025.

All are encouraged to tune in online for this meeting, while in-person attendance is limited and by invitation only. Be sure to connect on the Hubilo meeting platform for this event. We will be hearing updates from all CLARiTI cores and leadership in this jam-packed offering. Please don't miss!

Register for the Spring Meeting!

SAVE THE DATE *(please note the date change)*

CLARiTI Webinar: Return of Results Options Guidance and Toolkit

April 16, 2025 at 1:00 pm ET | 12:00 pm CT | 10:00 am PT

CLARiTI Group on the ADRC Program Community Forum

The ADRC Program Community Forum, powered by Discourse, has launched to all ADRC members. This exciting new platform offers a dynamic communication channel for CLARiTI by providing a centralized hub for questions and collaboration among ADRC members through a moderated community forum.

CLARiTI groups include:

- CLARiTI Study Coordination
- CLARiTI Imaging
- CLARiTI Access Core
- CLARiTI Visual Reads & Return of Results
- CLARiTI Data Management
- CLARiTI Regulatory

All members are encouraged to participate and respond to each other to facilitate collective learning.

Click on the link below to log-in and connect with our teams online. You can also learn more about the ADRC Program Community Forum, get instructions on how to access and use the Forum, and find other helpful resources. If you have any questions, please contact Community Forum Online Help.

You are automatically added to the appropriate CLARiTI Groups in the Forum based on your assigned role in the NACC and/or CLARiTI Directories.

Connect today!

Submissions for CLARiTI Connect

Please share your CLARiTI related news, job postings, etc., with Phoebe Frenette, CLARiTI Communications Specialist.

Contact Us:

Email: clariti@medicine.wisc.edu

Web: https://naccdata.org/nacc-collaborations/clariti

NACC is funded by the National Institute on Aging (U24 AG072122) and located in the Department of Epidemiology at the University of Washington School of Public Health, Walter A. Kukull, Ph.D., Director.

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