Wednesday Morning Dialogue

Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 8 am

*(via Zoom)*

Reproductive Aging and the Mind-Body Connection

Jennifer Garrison, PhD

Faculty Director of the Global Consortium for

Female Reproductive Longevity and Equality --

Buck Institute for Research on Aging

(insert photo)

While aging research is seeing unprecedented acceleration, the area of women’s reproductive longevity remains underappreciated or even ignored. Ovaries show signs of aging decades before other tissues. They are the “canary in the coal mine” for aging. Beyond reproduction, the end of fertility sets off a cascade of negative effects in women’s bodies. On a societal level, reproductive equality impacts women’s health, family planning, infertility, and career development.

Research at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging and the newly established Center and Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity and Equality aims to intervene in that process and balance the scales. The goal of these new endeavors is to foster research to prevent or delay reproductive aging.

Jennifer Garrison, PhD, will join us on Wednesday, September 9, to discuss her research at the Buck Institute and the newly established Center and Global Consortium for Reproductive Longevity and Equality.

Dr. Garrison is an Assistant Professor at the Buck Institute for Research on Aging, Faculty Director of the Global Consortium for Female Reproductive Longevity and Equality, and Associate Director of the Buck-USC Biology of Aging PhD Program. She holds secondary appointments in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) and the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California (USC).

The Garrison lab at the Buck Institute studies how coordinated communication between tissues sets up a delicate balance across all organs. They hypothesize that disruptions in communication between the brain and the rest of the body lead to systemic aging. In particular, her lab aims to understand the complex interactions between the ovary and brain during middle-age and to identify the neuronal factors that lead to the onset of reproductive decline in females.

Dr. Garrison received her BA in Molecular Cell Biology from UC Berkeley, completed her PhD at UCSF in Chemistry and Chemical Biology where she was a National Science Foundation Fellow and an ARCS Scholar, and was a Helen Hay Whitney Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Rockefeller University. She was named an Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Neuroscience Research Fellow and an Allen Institute for Brain Science Next Generation Leader and is the recipient of a Pathway to Independence Award and a Maximizing Investigators’ Research Award (MIRA) for Early Stage Investigators from the National Institutes of Health, a Glenn Medical Foundation Award for Research in Biological Mechanisms of Aging, and a Junior Faculty Award from the American Federation of Aging Research.

*See the attached white paper* (“The unspoken truth – reproductive longevity and equality affect us all”) for a preview of Dr. Garrison’s work, and then join us on Zoom on September 9 for this fascinating talk.