NACC Project #2005-JI-11 (Secondary Analysis of NACC data)
“Ethnic Differences in Alzheimer’s Disease Survival and Pathology”

Junior Investigator
Kala M. Mehta, DSc, University of California San Francisco

ADC Director
Bruce L. Miller, MD

Project Work Dates
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Project Description
Addressing the needs of diverse older adults with dementia is a public health issue of increasing importance as over three million dementia patients will be of minority ethnicity by 2050. A growing literature substantiates that minority older adults have higher rates of dementia. However little is known about survival and neuropathological characteristics in these ethnically-diverse adults. As Alzheimer’s disease (AD) is the most common form of dementia, this proposal will examine if a difference in survival exists for AD patients of minority ethnicity as compared to White AD patients. If a difference is found, we will seek to understand the role that demographics and markers of severity have on this relationship. Secondly, we will evaluate if there are differences in neuropathology between minority and White AD patients. This research will be conducted in four race/ethnic groups, three minority groups [African American (AA), Latino (L), Asian (A)] as compared to White (W) patients. We will test our hypotheses in the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center datasets (NACC datasets, n ≥ 25,000, 17% minority), a data source uniquely suited for this purpose because of its large minority sample, the availability of survival and neuropathological data, and information on markers of AD severity. Identifying whether a survival difference exists and potentially examining the underlying causes of this racial disparity is important, because it will be the first step towards eliminating the disparity in the future.

Contact Information
For further information regarding this study, please contact:
Kala Mehta, DSc
University of California San Francisco
Memory and Aging Center
phone: (415) 221-4810, ext. 3984
website: http://www.memory.ucsf.edu/

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