

CURRICULUM VITAE

SUSAN FLOWERS BENTON, PhD, CRC

233 Blanks Hall

Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies

Southern University and A & M College

Baton Rouge, LA 70813

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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D. Rehabilitation Psychology
University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI
- 2008 M. S. Rehabilitation Counseling
Southern University and A & M College – Baton
Rouge, LA
- 2002 Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology
Louisiana State University – Baton Rouge, LA

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 Courtesy Appointment - Research Specialist
School of Nursing
University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI
- 2019 Assistant Professor
Rehabilitation and Disability Studies
Southern University and A & M College – Baton
Rouge, LA
- 2017 T32 Primary Care Fellow
Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

- 2016 Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC)
Certification Number: 00187680

DISSERTATION TITLE

- 2017 *Living Well Together: A Qualitative Analysis of a
Modified Version of the Chronic Disease Self-*

*Management Program for Older African Americans
with Chronic Illness*

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- Grants Awarded
6/30/19 – 6/29/22
- R03 Small Research Grant Program for the Next Generation of Clinical Researchers in Alzheimer's Disease (AD) and Alzheimer's Disease Related Dementias (ADRD) Research
Funding Amount: \$200,000 (PI: Flowers Benton)
Title: *Building Relationships Between Researchers and the Community to Increase African American Participation in Alzheimer's Disease Research*
Source: NIH/NIA
Goal: To evaluate the impact of culturally-tailored, service-based recruitment model on the research attitudes and beliefs of middle age and older African American adults, and the effects of the program, specifically research sponsored community activities, on research participation and engagement.
- 10/1/2015-9/30/2020
- Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Targeted Communities: Educate, Empower and Employ (Project E3)
 Source: U.S. Department of Education
 Project Director: Kundu
 Principal Investigator: Dutta (until June 2018)
Funding Amount: \$12,500,000 (2015 – 2020)
Current Role: Principal Investigator (June 2019-present)
Title: Vocational Rehabilitation Technical Assistance Center for Targeted Communities: Educate, Empower and Employ (Project E3)
 Source: U.S. Department of Education
Goal: To provide technical assistance and training to upgrade and increase the competency, skills, and knowledge of vocational rehabilitation counselors/other professionals to assist economically and socially disadvantaged individuals with disabilities to achieve competitive integrated employment outcomes.
- Completed Funding
5/1/16 – 10/31/17
- R36 Aging Research Dissertation Awards to Increase Diversity
Funding Amount: \$66,365 (PI: Flowers Benton)
Title: *Living Well Together: A Chronic Disease Self-Management Program for Older African Americans with Chronic Illness*
Source: NIH/NIA
Goal: To develop and test intervention combining 2 evidence-based approaches targeting social support and chronic disease self-management: the New York University Caregiver Intervention and the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP), also known as Living Well, as well as identify factors influencing African American engagement in the Chronic Disease Self-Management program.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2017- present Postdoctoral Fellow
 Primary Care Fellowship
 University of Wisconsin
 Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
 Madison, WI
- 2014 - 2016 Research Assistant/Neuropsychological Testing
 University of Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
 (ARDC) UW Hospital, Madison, WI
- Responsible for administration of neuropsychological assessment battery, and the scoring and interpretation of results.
- 2013 - 2014 Research Assistant/Project Manager
 Living Well with Memory Partners
 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center,
 William S. *Middleton* Memorial *Veterans Hospital*
 Madison, WI
- Served as Project Manager for the Living Well with Memory Partners Research Program. Specific duties include coordinating grant activities, participant recruitment, providing group counseling services and communication training to participants, resource referrals.
- 2012 - 2013 Project Assistant
 Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Pilot Grant Funding Program
 Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center
 Madison, WI
- Served as Project Assistant for the ARDC Pilot Funding Program. Specific duties include coordinating meeting times, keeping meeting minutes, reviewing letters of intent, collaborating with other team members to identify and contact potential grant reviewers.
- 2008-2011 Project Coordinator
 Southern University Rehabilitation Capacity Building Project
 Department of Rehabilitation and Disability Studies
 Southern University and A & M College
 Baton Rouge, LA
- Served as Project Coordinator for Rehabilitation Capacity Building Project. Specific services provided directly to program participants include reviewing grant proposals, providing technical assistance and

feedback to participants throughout the grant writing process, and presenting information on grant writing, budgeting, and program evaluation. Administrative duties included managing day-to-day activities of the project, budgeting, recordkeeping, assisting with grant-writing and funding activities, completing annual reports for Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), program evaluation, collaborating with other capacity building programs to plan and facilitate grant writing workshops, making travel arrangements, processing travel scholarships and reimbursements, and administering and coordinating annual Tribal VR Program activities.

PRACTICUM AND INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Fall 2012 – Spring
2013 Doctoral Level Practicum
Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC)
William S. Middleton Memorial Veterans' Hospital
Madison, WI

Responsible for learning all aspects of the proper assessment and diagnosis of dementia including: client interview, administration of neuropsychological assessment battery, scoring and interpretation of results, presentation of findings during multidisciplinary team meetings, and report and recommendation writing.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2019 Instructor – Medical Aspects of Disability
Rehabilitation and Disability Studies
Southern University and A & M College, Baton Rouge, LA

Summer 2019 Instructor – Applications of Assistive Technology
Rehabilitation and Disability Studies
Southern University and A & M College, Baton Rouge, LA

Spring 2017 Co-Instructor - Foundations of Rehabilitation Counseling
Teaching Assistant – Internship: Rehab/Special Ed
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Fall 2016 Teaching Assistant/Instructor – Internship: Rehab/Special Ed
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin – Madison

Spring 2016 Teaching Assistant – Addictions Counseling
Teaching Assistant/Instructor – Internship: Rehab/Special Ed
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education

University of Wisconsin – Madison

- Fall 2015 Teaching Assistant – Rehab Counseling Psych – Application
Teaching Assistant/Instructor – Internship: Rehab/Special Ed
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin – Madison
- Summer 2015 Teaching Assistant – Group Processes
Teaching Assistant – Internship: Rehab/Special Ed
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2012 – 2013 Teaching Assistant – Rehab Counseling Psych – Application
Teaching Assistant – Medical Aspects of Disability
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin – Madison
- 2011 – 2012 Teaching Assistant/Instructor – Internship: Rehab/Special Ed (RPSE
630)
Rehabilitation Psychology and Rehabilitation Counselor Education
University of Wisconsin – Madison

PUBLICATIONS

Published Manuscripts:

- Johnson, A. L., Nystrom, N. C., Piper, M.E., Cook, J., Norton, D. L., Zuelsdorff, M., Wyman, M. F., Benton, S. F., Lambrou, N. H., O'Hara, J., Chin, N. A., Asthana, S., Carlsson, C., & Gleason, C. E. (in press). Cigarette Smoking Status, Cigarette Exposure, and Duration of Abstinence Predicting Incident Dementia and Death: A Multistate Model Approach. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*.
- Goldstein, E., **Benton, S. F.**, & Barrett, B. (2020). Health Risk Behaviors and Resilience Among Low-Income, Black Primary Care Patients: Qualitative Findings From a Trauma-Informed Primary Care Intervention Study. *Family & Community Health*.
- Clark, L.R., Zuelsdorff, M., Norton, D., Johnson, S.C., Wyman, M.F., Hancock, L.M., Carlsson, C., Asthana, S., **Flowers-Benton, S.**, Gleason, C.E. and Johnson, H.M., 2020. Association of Cardiovascular Risk Factors with Cerebral Perfusion in Whites and African Americans. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, (Preprint), pp.1-12.
- Zuelsdorff, M., Okonkwo, O.C., Norton, D., Barnes, L.L., Graham, K.L., Clark, L.R., Wyman, M.F., Benton, S.F., Gee, A., Lambrou, N. and Johnson, S.C., (2020). Stressful life events and racial disparities in cognition among middle-aged and older adults. *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*, 73(2), pp. 671-682.

Gilmore-Bykovskiy, A. L., Gleason, C., Jin, Y., **Flowers-Benton, S.**, Block, L. M., Dilworth-Anderson, P., Barnes, L., Shah, M. N., & Zuelsdorff, M. (2019). Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Populations in Alzheimer's Disease Research: A Systematic Review. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. (Accepted).

Gleason CE, Norton D, Zuelsdorff M, **Benton SF**, Wyman MF, Nystrom N, Lambrou N, Salazar H, Kosciak RL, Jonaitis E, Carter F, Harris B, Gee A, Chin N, Ketchum F, Johnson SC, Edwards DF, Carlsson CM, Kukull W, Asthana S. (in press) Enrollment factors' influence on incident cognitive impairment in Blacks and Whites: Data from the Alzheimer's Disease Centers. *Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association*

Umucu, E., Wyman, M., Lee, B., Zuelsdorff, M., **Benton, S. F.**, Nystrom, N., ... & Gleason, C. E. (2018). Apathy in Preclinical Alzheimer's Disease: Psychometric Validation of the Apathy Evaluation Scale. *American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease & Other Dementias*®, 1533317518794020.

Johnson, E. J., Chan, F., Kaseroff, A., Kriofske Mainella, A., **Flowers, S.**, Morrison, B., Sung, C., Catalano, D., & Iwanaga, K. (2017). Psychosocial mechanisms explaining the association between spirituality and happiness in individuals with spinal cord injuries. *Journal of Rehabilitation*, 83(4), 34-42.

Chan, F., Tansey, T. N., Chronister, J., McMahon, B. T., Iwanaga, K., Wu, J. R., ... & **Flowers, S.** (2017). Rehabilitation counseling practice in state vocational rehabilitation and the effect of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). *Journal of Applied Rehabilitation Counseling*, 48(3).

Chan, F., Keegan, J., Muller, V., Kaya, C., **Flowers, S.**, & Iwanaga, K. (2016). Evidence-based practice and research in rehabilitation counseling. In I. Marini & M. A. Stebnicki (Eds.), *The professional counselor's desk reference* (2nd ed., pp. 605-610). New York: Springer Publishing Company.

Gleason, C., Dowling, N. M., **Benton, S. F.**, Kaseroff, A., Gunn, W., & Edwards, D. F. (2016). Common Sense Model factors affecting African Americans' willingness to consult a healthcare provider regarding symptoms of mild cognitive impairment. *The American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 24(7), 537-546.

Dutta, A., Kang, H. J., Kaya, C., **Flowers, S.**, Sharp, S., Chan, F., Cardoso, E., & Kundu, M. (2015). Social Cognitive Career Theory predictors of STEM career interests and goal persistence in minority students with disabilities: A path analysis. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 43 Issue #, 159-167.

Fitzgerald, S., Umucu, E., Arora, S., Huck, G., **Benton, S. F.**, & Chan, F. (2015). Psychometric validation of the Clubhouse climate questionnaire as an autonomy support measure for people with severe mental illness. *Journal of Mental Health*, 24 Issue #, 38-42.

Manuscripts in Preparation:

Flowers Benton, S., Kaseroff, A., Jacobson, N., Mahr, M., Gunn, W., Emucu, E., Edwards, D. F., & Gleason, C. Using the Extended Parallel Processing Model to understand aging African Americans' decision to undergo screening for cognitive disorders

Flowers Benton, S., Development and feasibility of an adapted health self-management intervention for older African American adults with multiple chronic conditions and mild cognitive impairments

Flowers Benton, S. "It takes all of us, working together": The case for including social support in program design, experiences of older African American adults with multiple chronic illnesses in a culturally-tailored health self-management program

PRESENTATIONS**Plenary Sessions:**

Flowers Benton, S. (2015, September). *Cultural aspects of care*. Wisconsin Update in Geriatric Medicine, Delevan, WI.

Flowers Benton, S. (2015, November). *Living well together*. Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease November Update, Madison, WI.

Concurrent Sessions:

Johnson-Milligan, E., Yaghmaian, R., Sanchez, J., Mahr, M., Pete, J., & **Flowers Benton, S.** (2017, April). *Twenty-five years of multicultural counseling competencies: Where do we go from here?* NCRE Spring Conference, Anaheim, CA.

Flowers Benton, S. (2015, September). *African American women and healthy aging*. September, 2015. Black Women's Wellness Expo, Madison, WI.

Bendlin, B. & **Flowers Benton, S.** (2015, August). *Modifiable risk factors for dementia: Living well and maintaining health in older age*. Wisconsin Healthy Aging Summit, Steven's Point, WI.

Dutta, A., Kang, H. J., Kaya, C., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Sharp, S., Chan, F., Cardoso, E., & Kundu, M., (2014, April). *SCCT Model of STEM goal persistence for minorities with disabilities: A path analysis*. National Council on Rehabilitation Educators Conference, Manhattan Beach, CA.

Poster Presentations:

Flowers Benton, S., Kaseroff, A., Gunn, W., Carter, F. Hills, O., Phillips, B., Tansey, T., Rosenthal, D., Chan, F., & Gleason, C. (2018, July). *The Living Well Together program: A*

qualitative analysis of a health self-management program for aging African Americans with chronic illness. Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL

Carter, F., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Farrar Edwards, D., Blazel, H., Harris, B., Lucille, J., Smith, T., Green-Harris, G., Carlsson, C., Johnson, S., & Gleason, C., (2018, July). *Key elements supporting recruitment and retention of under-represented groups into research: Our experience in the African American community.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL

Gleason, C., Norton, D., Nystrom, N., Zuelsdorff, M., Wyman, M., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Carter, F., Harris, B., Kukull, W., Kosciak, R., Jonaitis, E., Skenandore, D., Walaszek, A., Farrar Edwards, D., Carlsson, C., Johnson, S., & Asthana, S. (2018, July). *Incident dementia in non-Hispanic African Americans and whites with Mild Cognitive Impairment: Can we make racial comparisons using Alzheimer's Disease Center data?* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL.

Zuelsdorff, M., Gleason, C., Kind, A., Kosciak, R., Wyman, M., **Flowers Benton S.**, Johnson, S., & Okonkwo, O. (2018, July). *Informal caregiving and cognitive health: Sociocultural differences among middle-aged and older adults at risk for Alzheimer's disease.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL.

Clark, L., Johnson, H., Berman, S., Norton, D., Carter, F., Harris, B., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Zuelsdorff, M., Nystrom, N., Wyman, M., Bendlin, B., Carlsson, C., Wieben, O., Turski, P., Rowley, H., Asthana, S., Johnson, S., & Gleason, C. (2018, July). *Association of cardiovascular risk factors with micro- and macrovascular cerebral function in whites and African Americans.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference. July 2018, Chicago, IL.

Skenandore, D., Walaszek, A., Norton, D., Nystrom, N., Zuelsdorff, M., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Wyman, M., Carlsson, C., Johnson, S., Asthana, S., & Gleason, C. (2018, July). *Demographic and referral differences between Whites and Native Americans enrolled in the Alzheimer's Disease Centers: Considerations when examining the racial differences in incident dementia.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL.

Nystrom, N., Cook, J., Norton, D., Zuelsdorff, M., Wyman, M., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Carlsson, C., Johnson, S., Asthana, S., & Gleason, C. (2018, July). *Tobacco exposure & cessation is associated with incident dementia and nursing home placement.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL.

Zuelsdorff, M., Okonkwo, O., Shouel, H., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Wyman, M., Nystrom, N., Johnson, S., & Gleason, C. (2018, July). *Psychosocial predictors of hippocampal volume and cognition among African American and White older adults at risk for Alzheimer's disease.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Chicago, IL.

Flowers Benton, S., Kaseroff, A., Mahr, M., Gunn, W., Chan, F., Edwards, D., & Gleason, C., (2017, July). *A mixed methods analysis of social cognitive factors influencing older African American's intention to participate in screening for mild cognitive impairment.* Alzheimer's Association International Conference, London, United Kingdom.

Mahr, M., **Flowers Benton S.**, Kaseroff, A., Gunn, W., Edwards, D., Daniel, C., Izard, P., & Gleason, C., (2014, September). *Enlisting social support for African American participation in memory screening*. UW Women's Health and Health Equity Research Symposium. Madison, WI.

Flowers Benton S., Kaseroff A, Mahr M, Gunn W, Daniel C, Edwards DF, Izzard P, Gleason C. (2014, September). *Increasing mild cognitive impairment screening participation among African Americans*. UW Women's Health and Health Equity Research Symposium, Madison, WI.

Flowers Benton S., Edwards, D., Gunn, W., Izard, R., Kaseroff, A., Ramos, R., Dickson, T., Hills, O., Daniel C., Harris, B., & Gleason, C. (2014, July). *The influence of the doctor-patient relationship on willingness of African Americans to discuss memory loss with health care professionals*. Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Gunn, W., Ramos, R., **Flowers Benton S.**, Edwards, D., & Gleason, C. (2014, July). *Investigating the impact of different types of social support on timely detection of mild cognitive impairment in a community sample of African Americans*. Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Gleason, C., Edwards, D., Gunn W., Ramos, R., **Flowers-Benton S.**, Chappell R., Green-Harris G., & Izard, P. (2014, May). Who attends memory screening events? *Characteristics of African Americans attending memory screening events*. 29th International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Johnson, E., **Flowers Benton, S.**, Sanchez, J., & Mueller, V. (2013, April). *Social support for African Americans and Hispanics/Latinos with chronic illness and disability*. NCRE Spring Conference, Manhattan Beach, CA.

AWARDS AND HONORS

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| July 2014 | Travel Fellowship, Alzheimer's Association International Conference, Copenhagen, Denmark |
| April 2008 | Southern University Student Rehabilitation Association Graduate Assistant Award |
| February 2007 | Chi Sigma Iota Honor Society Student President, Southern University Chapter |

MENTORING

2021 CRCP Research Mentees
 Becknel, Kellee
 Tinson, AKera

2018-2019 Chancellor's Scholar Mentor-Friend
Gunderson, Celeste

2018 Undergraduate Research Scholar Mentor
Sara Doughty
Emma McKeel

2015 - 2019
Rehabilitation Psychology Doctoral Student
Weneaka Jones (August 2019 - Clinical Assistant Professor, Counselor
Education and Counseling Psychology, Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI)

SERVICE – Departmental

2021 - present Undergraduate Program Leader
B.S. Rehabilitation Services

SERVICE

2021 President-Elect
Rehabilitation Counselor Education Association

2020 Secretary-elect
Rehabilitation Counselor Education Association

2018-2019 Journal Referee
Alzheimer Disease & Associated Disorders - An International Journal
Sage Open

February 2018 Committee Member and Invited Speaker
Infamous Mothers Talkback Conference
Madison, WI

February 2018 –
present Steering Committee Member
8th Annual Solomon Carter Fuller Memory Screening
Madison, WI

December 2017 -
present Member
Oneida Community Advisory Board
Oneida, WI

February 2017 Steering Committee Member
7th Annual Solomon Carter Fuller Memory Screening
Madison, WI

- September 2015 Panel Presenter, Black Women and Healthy Aging
7th Annual Black Women's Wellness Day
Madison, WI
- 2013-2019 Facilitator
Health Issues Support Group
First Unitarian Universalist Church
Madison, WI
- 2013-2019 Member
African American Alzheimer's Community Advisory Board
Alzheimer's and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
Madison, WI
- 2012-2019 Community Outreach/Neuropsychological Tester
Alzheimer and Dementia Alliance of Wisconsin
University of Wisconsin Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
Various dates and locations in Madison and Beloit, WI

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Selected Scholar, Interdisciplinary Aging Research to Address Health Disparities in Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias: A Scientific Training Program (<https://roybal.usc.edu/ADRD-DISPARITIES-CONFERENCE/>), USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging, October 2019, Los Angeles, CA

Selected Scholar, NIA Mock study section, Alzheimer's Disease-Related Dementias Summit 2019, (<https://meetings.ninds.nih.gov/Home/Index/21149>), National Institute on Aging/National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, March, 2019, Bethesda, MD.

University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical and Translational Research D & I Short Course: A Vision for Health Equity: Applying a Health Equity Lens to Dissemination and Implementation Science. (<https://ictr.wisc.edu/dni-short-course-2018/>), November, 2018, Madison, WI.

African American Participation in AD Research: Effective Strategies, (<https://knightadrc.wustl.edu/Education/AAPR.htm>), Knight Alzheimer's Disease Center, October 2018, St. Louis, MO.

Selected Scholar, Butler Williams Scholars Program (www.nia.nih.gov/research/osp/butler-williams-scholars-program), National Institute on Aging, July, 2018, Bethesda, MD.

Selected Scholar, Health Equity Leadership Institute (www.heli.com), The University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health & The University of Maryland School of Public Health, June, 2018, Madison, WI.

National Research Mentor Network (NRMN) Postdoc Mentorship Training (<https://nrmncan-sites.uchicago.edu/page/upcoming-events>), May 2018, Chicago, IL.

Big Ten Academic Alliance Professorial Advancement Initiative (<http://www.btaa.org/leadership/pai/pai-home>), December 2017, Madison, WI.

Selected Scholar, Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) 2015 Summer Workshop on African American Aging, June 2015, Detroit, MI.

Selected Scholar, RSA – NIDRR Grant Writing, Technical Assistance, and Mentoring Workshop, Grant Writing Technical Assistance, September 2013, Baton Rouge, LA.

MEMBERSHIPS

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| 2020 | Member, American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine |
| 2020 | Member, American Counseling Association |
| 2020 | Member, National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns |
| 2020 | Member, National Rehabilitation Association |
| 2020 | Member, Rehabilitation Counselor Education Association |
| 2020 | Member, National Counsel on Rehabilitation Education |