

Greetings this new year!

There is a sense of energy and excitement in the world. Covid seems less terrifying than it was, and we are learning to navigate in this new world. The ACT study has been busy as well. We are in a state of leadership transition. Dr. Larson wrote in the last newsletter that he has stepped down from this study he designed and launched in 1994. Dr. Mangione-Smith and Dr. Nelson have been serving with Dr. LaCroix and me since Dr. Larson stepped down. We are thrilled that the search for a new leader has identified a colleague who will join us! Dr. Linda McEvoy has already started to transition into her new role and will be starting full time this spring. She's terrific and brings with her a wealth of leadership experience. We will introduce Dr. McEvoy in this newsletter in the coming months.

Safety is always our very top priority. KP Washington did a terrific job in closing down research clinical activities in the very early days of the Covid pandemic. Conditions have evolved and we are pleased to now be able to carefully see participants for routine ACT study visits. In person visits both in the clinic and in participant homes have been ongoing throughout the past year and have gone very smoothly. We have also begun Eye-ACT visits. This fascinating work is led by Dr. Cecilia Lee. We are collecting detailed data on eye health and also using data collected with routine eye care and using that data to understand eye and brain health.

We are modernizing our data collection. Since the study launched in 1994, things that were barely imaginable are commonplace now. Dr. Aaron Seitz has been leading a team that will help ACT transition from paper-and-pencil to computer tablets. We will pilot test tablet data collection with ACT participants in the coming months. You may have your data collected via a tablet at your next ACT study visit! There is a lot of interest in neuroimaging under Dr. Christine MacDonald's leadership, we have been examining clinical MRIs obtained in the past with the generous permission of ACT participants. Technological advances have made old clinical scans even more valuable and useful.

Covid had a large impact on neuropathology. At times, regulations changed rapidly, and it was difficult to navigate. Under the steady leadership of Dr. Dirk Keene, our team never missed an opportunity to honor the wishes of an ACT participant to participate in our autopsy program. Our partnership with the Allen Brain Institute continues to flourish, and the combination of cutting-edge technologies applied to brain tissues in that project has proven to be of tremendous interest to scientific colleagues around the world. Over the past 6 months, there have been nearly 100,000 downloads of data from that study.

It is a time of enthusiasm and hard work as we continue to learn about the aging brain, brain health, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. All of this is possible because of you! We are so grateful to our participants and their generosity. All of us at ACT wish you a happy and healthy 2023. May this new year be wonderful for you, and we look forward to seeing you at your next study visit!

Paul K. Crane, MD, MPH

Andrea LaCroix, PhD

Jennifer C. Nelson, PhD

Rita Mangione-Smith, MD, MPH

**Send comments/ suggestions to:**

Roxanne Muiruri(1730 Minor Avenue, Suite 1600,Seattle, WA 98101 or call 206-287-2881)