

Renã Robinson

Associate Professor of Chemistry and Dorothy J. Wingfield Phillips Chancellor's Faculty Fellow at Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN, US

Expert in racial disparities in Alzheimer's disease and Alzheimer's triggers in peripheral organs. Advocate for inclusive research design.

Biography

An analytical chemist, Robinson looks at the role proteins play in Alzheimer's. She studies the role of lipid-related proteins in Alzheimer's and their contribution to racial disparities in the disease. She also studies the role that peripheral organs such as the heart, liver and kidneys play in Alzheimer's. One of the primary challenges in studying these disparities is the relative dearth of African American tissue samples and study participants. Robinson is passionate about promoting the benefits of research participation in culturally sensitive ways. Robinson became interested in pursuing Alzheimer's research in high school, inspired by interactions with the dementia patients her mother cared for.

Areas of Expertise

African American Health, Alzheimer's Outreach, Racial Health Inequalities, Alzheimer's, Health Disparities, Minority Student Mentoring

Education

University of Louisville

B.S. Chemistry

University of Indiana

Ph.D. Analytical Chemistry

University of Kentucky

UNCF/Merck Postdoctoral Fellow Chemistry

Accomplishments

Chemical and Engineering News Talented Twelve - 2016

Awarded to 12 of the world's brightest young minds in chemistry each year.

Dorothy J. Wingfield Phillips Chancellor's Faculty Fellowship - 2017

Inaugural recipient of Vanderbilt fellowship named in honor of Phillips, BA'67, the first African American woman to receive an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt. The fellowship supports midcareer faculty members who are leaders in diversity in STEM at the university.

Vanderbilt Chancellor's Global Voices Fellow - 2020

Highly selective fellowship for Vanderbilt faculty committed to public engagement on important topics related to their research.

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