



## Media Advisory

### **Utah State University Professors and Director of the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Research Center Discuss Research Potential, Currently Funded Studies, and Upcoming Blueplate Event**

**What:** Alzheimer's is the 4<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Utah. Because of this, Utah State University recently became home to a state-funded Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Research Center aimed at increasing research across the state to find ways to lower the number of deaths caused by Alzheimer's and dementia.

"70% of caregivers have no paid help at all. 40% of caregivers are doing high-intensity caregiving – this means they're not just doing visits, they're doing feeding, dressing, bathing, and lifting people out of bed," says Fauth. "It is crucial that we not only have research happening for cause and treatment options, but that we have research being conducted for prevention and caregiver intervention as well."

This center will allow researchers from across Utah to pivot their research towards dementia and dementia solutions. For example, current faculty affiliates come from different departments across Utah State University.

#### **Some Faculty Affiliates**

- Dr. Naveen Nagaraj, is a professor in communication disorders and deaf education and is currently conducting a study related to hearing loss and developing dementia.
- Dr. Mona Buhusi, an associate professor in neuroscience, is studying ways cells communicate in the brain and how this communication is altered in Alzheimer's disease and normal aging.



- Jacob Gossner, a PhD student in the human development and family studies program, is studying self-guided interventions for caregivers who are caring for someone with dementia.

## **Blueplate Research Event**

Utah State University's office of research is hosting their annual blueplate event featuring excellent health and wellness research that is being done at USU, and this year's speaker is Dr. Beth Fauth. Fauth plans to speak about the center, its goals, and ways that our Utah community can engaged with the work they're doing.

Public is invited to attend the Blueplate event on Sept. 28, 2023

How to Sign Up: <https://research.usu.edu/blue-plate/>

**When:** Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
11:30am – 1:00pm

**Where:** Gallivan Hall, Salt Lake City

**Interviews:** **Dr. Beth Fauth**, Professor of Human Development, Director of the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Research Center, USU

**Dr. Naveen Nagaraj**, Associate Professor of Audiology, ADRC Faculty Affiliate, USU

**Jacob Gossner**, PhD Student in Human Development and Family Studies, USU and Associate Marriage and Family Therapist

**Bios:** **Dr. Beth Fauth** is a professor in the human development and family studies program in the [Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services](#) at Utah State University. She received her doctorate in human development and family studies from The Pennsylvania State University. Fauth recently became the director for the new Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Research Center at USU. Dr. Fauth studies stress related to dementia caregiving, and assesses caregiver interventions,



most recently an online self-guided ACT intervention. She also examines ways to support quality of life for persons living with dementia.

**Dr. Naveen Nagaraj** is an associate professor in the communication disorders and deaf education program in the [Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services](#) at Utah State University. He received his doctorate in hearing science from Ohio University. Dr. Nagaraj studies the effect of hearing aid use on cognition in older adults with hearing loss.

**Jacob Gossner** is a PhD student in Human Development and Family Studies at Utah State University. His research focuses on online, self-guided interventions for family caregivers for people with dementia. Jacob is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and enjoys the interplay between research and clinical work. Together with his wife, Jacob is the father of four little boys.

**Additional  
Info:**

<https://research.usu.edu/blue-plate/>

<https://cehs.usu.edu/adrc/>

<https://cehs.usu.edu/adrc/research/registry>

**Media**

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