

Network Member Bio



Susan Resnick is an Investigator in the Cognition Section, Laboratory of Personality and Cognition, National Institute on Aging. She received her Ph.D. in Differential Psychology and Behavioral Genetics from the University of Minnesota in 1983 and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in Neuropsychology and Neuroimaging at the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. She was Research Assistant Professor of Psychology in Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania prior to joining the NIA in 1992. She has a longstanding interest sex differences and both organizational and activational effects of hormones on cognitive abilities and brain structure and function, beginning with her PhD work on psychological functioning in congenital adrenal hyperplasia. She studies brain-behavior associations in health and disease and is the principal investigator of the brain imaging study of the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA). This longitudinal neuroimaging study focuses on early structural and physiological brain changes that may be predictors of memory and cognitive change in older individuals. She has extensive expertise in structural and functional imaging, and her work utilizes these methods to define the neural basis of cognitive change. Through this study and others in the BLSA, she has also been examining the hormonal modulation of age-associated cognitive and brain changes. Based on results from her earlier observational studies, Dr. Resnick initiated an ancillary study of cognitive aging, which is being conducted as part of the WHI trials of hormone therapy. This study, WHISCA (Women's Health Initiative Study of Cognitive Aging), will provide critical information on the effects of hormone therapy on age-related changes in memory and other cognitive functions.