Lewy body dementia (LBD) is a brain disease involving two related clinical disorders: dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB) and Parkinson’s disease dementia (PDD). DLB is the second most common form of degenerative dementia in the elderly next to Alzheimer’s disease (AD). Dementia with Lewy bodies is often hard to diagnose because its early symptoms may resemble those of Alzheimer’s or a psychiatric illness. As a result, it is often misdiagnosed or missed altogether. It’s important to know which type of LBD a person has, both to tailor treatment to particular symptoms and to understand how the disease will likely progress.

The recently released feature movie Robin’s Wish reveals the true story about Robin Williams and his battle with undiagnosed LBD. From that movie, Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA) and the producers of Robin’s Wish created a 45-minute documentary adaptation, SPARK: Robin Williams and his Battle with Lewy Body Dementia. We will utilize the documentary as part of this course designed to educate health care providers and professionals on detection, evidence based practices around diagnosis, treatment and care management of LBD as well as understand when to refer and how best to support patients and caregivers with the daily difficulties associated with LBD.

Cost/How to Register
No fee to participate. However, preregistration is required.

April 10, 2021 Session: www.eeds.com/live/325225
Deadline to preregister: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

October 16, 2021 Session: www.eeds.com/live/526371
Deadline to preregister: Wednesday, October 13, 2021

For additional assistance with registration, please call (620) 235-4040.

The webinar link will be e-mailed to preregistered participants 24 hours prior to the course. If you do not receive the email, check your spam folder. If you are still unable to locate the email, call our office at 620-235-4040.

Target Audience
This course is targeted to primary care physicians, specialty physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, psychologists, social workers, adult care home administrators, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Other interested health care professionals are welcome to participate.

Sponsored by KU Alzheimer’s Research Center in collaboration with The KU Medical Center Area Health Education Centers and Office of Continuing Education/Continuing Professional Development
Guest Speakers

Melissa Armstrong, M.D., M.Sc., FAAN
Associate Professor Of Neurology, Director, Mangurian Clinical-Research Headquarters For Lewy Body Dementia

Melissa J. Armstrong, M.D., M.Sc. is the Director of the Mangurian Clinical-Research Headquarters for Lewy Body Dementia at the University of Florida. She joined the UF Department of Neurology in 2015.

Dr. Armstrong graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1995 with a major in chemistry and a minor in philosophy. She completed medical school at the Stritch School of Medicine (Loyola University Chicago), where she subsequently completed a preliminary residency year in internal medicine and her neurology residency. Following her residency, she worked as a general neurologist at Loyola University Medical Center before pursuing fellowship training in movement disorders. Dr. Armstrong was a clinical and research fellow at the highly respected Morton & Gloria Shulman Movement Disorders Centre in Toronto, Ontario (Canada) from 2008 through 2011 where she was an Edmond J. Safra Fellow in Movement Disorders. She also completed an MSc in clinical epidemiology and health care research at the University of Toronto Institute for Health Policy Management and Evaluation. Dr. Armstrong worked as an assistant professor in the Division of Movement Disorders at the University of Maryland from 2012 until moving to the University of Florida in 2015. During this time, she co-authored the book, “Parkinson’s Disease: Improving Patient Care” (Oxford American Neurology Library 2014). In addition to her work in the field of movement disorders, she serves as an evidence-based medicine methodology consultant for the American Academy of Neurology, working on their clinical practice guideline development program.

At the University of Florida, Dr. Armstrong directs the Mangurian Clinical-Research Headquarters for Lewy Body Dementia, one of 25 centers in the United States recognized as a Lewy Body Dementia Association Research Center of Excellence (2017 to current). She also serves on the Lewy Body Dementia Association Scientific Advisory Council. Dr. Armstrong’s Lewy body dementia research focuses on the lived experience of disease for individuals with Lewy body dementia and their families, ranging from patient and caregiver priorities for care to hospital outcomes to end-of-life experiences.

Todd C. Graham
Executive Director, Lewy Body Dementia Association

Todd joined the LBDA staff as Vice President, Institutional Advancement after having served on LBDA’s Board of Directors for six years as Vice President of the Board and Head of the Scientific Affairs Committee, and on the Marketing Communications and Development committees. Todd has over 30 years strategic and business development experience in multiple facets of healthcare education and communication, with a focus on patient and provider education.

KU Medical Center Speakers

Jeffrey Burns, M.D., M.S.
Co-director, KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center

Dr. Burns is the co-director of the KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center. Dr. Burns attended medical school at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, completed his residency in neurology at the University of Virginia, a post-doctoral fellowship at the Alzheimer Disease Research Center at Washington University in St. Louis, and a Masters of Science in Clinical Research at the University of Kansas.

A native Kansan, Dr. Burns returned to Kansas City in 2004 to start the Alzheimer’s disease clinical research program. The program was designated as one of the 31 national Alzheimer’s Disease Centers in 2011. Dr. Burns’ research program supports clinical trials testing new approaches to treating Alzheimer’s disease and a variety of research projects focused on how lifestyle issues such as diet and exercise can be used to prevent or delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease.

Ryan Townley, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Neurology, KU Medical Center

Dr. Townley is certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. Before joining the KU Medical Center faculty in August 2019, he completed a two-year cognitive behavioral fellowship at the Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, where he also finished his neurology residency and an internal medicine internship. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, where he earned the 2013 Dewey K. Ziegler Award for Excellence in Neurology presented by the KU Department of Neurology and was honored with the American Academy of Neurology’s Outstanding Neurology Medical Student Award. Prior to medical school, he earned a bachelor of science in neurobiology from the University of Kansas.

Michelle Niedens, LCSW
Director, KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center Cognitive Care Network

Michelle Niedens, LCSW is director of the KU Alzheimer’s Disease Center Cognitive Care Network, a community based program focused on early detection, provider partnerships and education. Ms. Niedens received both her Bachelor’s and Master’s in Social Work from the University of Kansas. She holds clinical social work license in both Missouri and Kansas. Her career has included tenure in geriatric psychiatric inpatient settings, serving as Director of Education, Programs and Policy at the Alzheimer’s Association, Heart of America Chapter and teaching social work practice at the University of Kansas School of Social Welfare. Special interest areas have been assessment and interventions for associated neuropsychiatric challenges and advancing programs and services for individuals living with a dementia in the early stage. Ms. Niedens has participated in regional and state-wide efforts directed at both these interest areas.

For More Information: Call KU Medical Center AHEC at (620) 235-4040.
Cancellation Policy
We ask that cancellations be received three (3) business days prior to the event to assist in avoiding participant related conference expenses.

KU Medical Center AHEC reserves the right to cancel the program in the event of insufficient registration. KU Medical Center AHEC will not be responsible for any losses incurred by registrants.

Program Accessibility
We accommodate persons with disabilities. Please call KU Medical Center AHEC at (620) 235-4040 no later than five (5) business days prior to the event to discuss your needs.

Objectives
At the conclusion of the program, participants will be able to:
• Explain the neuropathology underlying DLB and how the distribution of pathology correlates with symptom presentation.
• Define diagnostic criteria of LBD.
• Describe specific reasons why a timely diagnosis is valuable to person with LBD and their families.
• Outline the principles of LBD care and medical management.
• Identify LBD resources to recommend and refer families to including local LBD programs and the LBDA.
• Outline ‘best practices’ when a disclosing a diagnosis.

Planning Committee
KU Medical Center: Jeff Burns, M.D.; Michelle Niedens, LSCSW; Ryan Townley, M.D.; Mary Beth Warren, M.S., RN.
Lewy Body Dementia Association: Miriam Giles, Director of Professional and Community Education

Nondiscrimination Statement
The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression and genetic information in the University’s programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access, IOA@ku.edu, 1246 W. Campus Road, Room 153A, Lawrence, KS, 66045, (785)864-6414, 711 TTY.

For More Information: Call KU Medical Center AHEC at (620) 235-4040.

The sponsors of this event would like to gratefully acknowledge the following:
SPARK resources created by the Mayo Clinic Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA) Research Center of Excellence (RCOE) Team, and LBDA staff, with consultation from affiliated LBDA RCOE sites. LBDA is currently the sole sponsor of SPARK and is proud to offer it to academic medical institutions and organizations for the purposes of further raising understanding and awareness of LBD among healthcare professionals.
Support for the development of the SPARK film was provided by Acadia Pharmaceuticals Inc.