

# Community Stigma and Conducting Research in Arab American Communities

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## A LESSON IN TRADITION

DONNA JAWAD – COMMUNITY OUT REACH COORDINATOR - MICHIGAN CENTER FOR CONTEXTUAL  
FACTORS IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE (MCCFAD)

# Introduction

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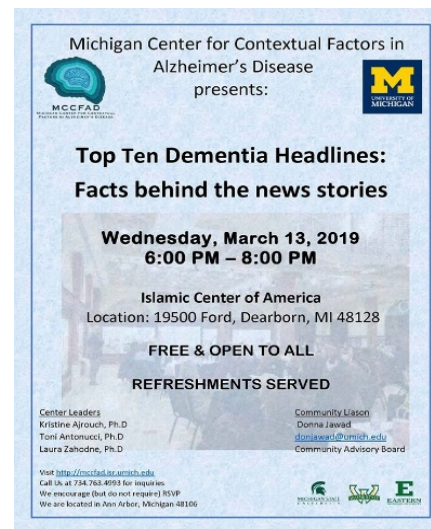
## Islamic Center of America

- Supporting health awareness programs in a private community.



# Examples:

- Autism Awareness
- Substance Abuse
- Cancer
- Mental Illness
  - Alzheimer's Disease
  - Senior Program





# Awareness Programs



Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease presents:

**How to reduce the risk of Alzheimer's Disease**

**Thursday, September 26, 2019  
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM**

**St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church**  
Location: 43888 Hayes, Clinton Twp, MI 48038

**FREE & OPEN TO ALL**

**REFRESHMENTS SERVED**

CONTACT LEADERS  
Dr. Sarah Alkhatib, Ph.D.  
Tara Alkhatib, Ph.D.  
Lara Zahrani, Ph.D.  
VAFR@uic.edu or uic.edu

CONTACT LEADERS  
Dr. Sarah Alkhatib  
Dr. Tara Alkhatib  
co-leads@uic.edu  
Community Advisory Board

CALLING 219.261.9999 for sign up  
We encourage you to register early  
Spots are limited in Dearborn, MI 48128

E UIC U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

United Network of Islam & MOVE Present  
12 MONTH MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP

**MIND•BODY•SPIRIT**  
3rd Friday of Each Month

Session 1: October 20, 2017  
Session 2: November 17, 2017  
Session 3: December 15, 2017  
Session 4: January 19, 2018  
Session 5: February 16, 2018  
Session 6: March 16, 2018  
Session 7: April 20, 2018  
Session 8: May 18, 2018  
Session 9: June 15, 2018  
Session 10: July 20, 2018  
Session 11: August 17, 2018  
Session 12: September 21, 2018

Kindly consider a suggested donation of \$12 (\$1 per session) to fund the workshop

**Islamic Center of America**  
19500 Ford Rd., Dearborn, MI 48128

**Move U.N.I.**



The Ladies of The Islamic Center of America

**PRESENT**

*The Power Within*

**EMPOWERING WOMEN  
AFFECTED BY BREAST CANCER**

With Raghda Mansour & Nadeen Alaouie, LLMSW

*Thursday, Oct. 26, 2017  
5PM – 7PM*

**FREE EVENT**

**\*\*LADIES ONLY\*\***

**ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA**  
19500 FORD RD., DEARBORN, MI 48128

**BRING A FRIEND  
AND  
JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN !**

50 and Older come and see whats new at the ICA

**EVERY TUESDAY 11 AM - 12:30 PM**  
**ISLAMIC CENTER OF AMERICA**  
**19500 FORD DEARBORN, MI**  
**DJAWAD@ICOFA.COM**  
**WWW.ICOFA.COM**  
**313-593-0000**

# Where does research fit in?

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It doesn't necessarily "fit" in because:

- ❑ Stigma/ people are ashamed to share their stories in a tight knit community
- ❑ Culturally private community

**YET... there is definitely a need for more understanding...**

- ❑ Examples: ACCESS, SAFE, and some researchers at University of Michigan – Dearborn
- ❑ MENA



# How to implement Policy and Research Projects

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- Burden or Blessings
  - Generational change
- Governments Role
  - USA
  - State

# Misconstrued relationship of Gov't and Policy Research

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1. Strained relationship between the government and citizens

2. Security/Distrust

People might think they are speaking to the government if they are engaging in policy research; generally, the community is “scared” of the government

3. Undocumented persons

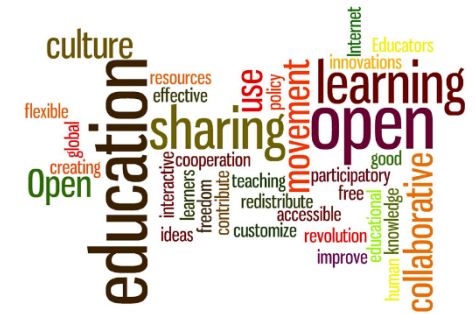
4. May know somebody undocumented



# Research and Community Partners

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- Language
  - know the language
- Historical context of the Community
  - know the history
- Health problems in the Community
  - Health insurance and access to health facility
- Working to together





# How to Build Trust

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- Community
- Policy
- Research
- Researchers



# Informational Campaigns

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- Questions?

- Who am I
- Why am I hear
- Build Repour
- Equity

# Advocacy Goals

## Examples:

### ☐ Resources, Training and Information

- Alzheimer's basic information translated into Arabic so people in the community can understand
- Health learning events
- Public documents in dual languages → Arabic
  - Medicaid 2020
- Community has access to the recourses that other community has access too

