



[The Study Team]

Contact Information

Beaver Dam Offspring Study-
Neurocognitive Aging Study
University of Wisconsin-Madison
School of Medicine and Public Health
610 Walnut Street, 10th floor
Madison, WI 53726

Phone: 608-265-9505

Email: boss@episense.wisc.edu

Web: <https://boss.pophealth.wisc.edu>

**If your contact information changes,
please let us know. Thank you!**



Study Investigators

Lead Investigator

Natascha Merten, PhD, MS
University of Wisconsin

Co-Investigators

Sanjay Asthana, MD
University of Wisconsin

Richard Chappell, PhD
University of Wisconsin

Judy Chen, MD, PhD
University of Wisconsin

Lindsay Clark, PhD
University of Wisconsin

Sumitrajit Dhar, PhD
Northwestern University

Sterling Johnson, PhD
University of Wisconsin

Amanda Mravec, AuD
University of Wisconsin

James Pankow, PhD
University of Minneapolis

Michael Tsai, PhD
University of Minnesota

Art Walaszek, MD
University of Wisconsin



Beaver Dam Offspring Study- Neurocognitive Aging Study (BOSS-NCAS)

*Better Health for Future
Generations*

Welcome back! Thank you for being part of our Study!

What is new?

Dr. Natascha Merten has secured new funding and taken on the lead on the research team of the previous Beaver Dam Offspring Study and will steer the study into a slightly new direction: With her strong background in psychology and neurocognition, she will emphasize the study of brain aging. In this study phase, the team aims to further understand how the senses (hearing, vision, smell) and the brain age together over time and whether the presence of certain markers in the blood can be used to understand who is at risk for developing age-related changes in brain function and the senses.

How will my continued participation help?

Because you participated in one of our previous BOSS studies, you are invited to continue taking part in our new research study. With each examination phase we learn more about healthy aging. Longitudinal studies rely on continued participation to help identify how lifestyle changes and health behaviors affect the aging process. The information that you and your parents in the Epidemiology of Hearing Loss Study (EHLS) provided, continuously informs our understanding of healthy aging and our findings might benefit future generations.

Why should I come in if I don't have any sensory problems?

One of the most important parts of any study is a comparison group. Without a subset of people in good health, we cannot learn what makes their aging process different than those who aren't as healthy. Not having a sensory impairment is just as important to our research. We want to identify factors contributing to good health, to help others in the future.

What did we learn?

Our research has led to many new findings and scientific publications. Here are a few:

- More recent generations have better cognitive function.
- More recent generations are less likely to develop hearing and vision impairments.
- Hearing and motor function predicted markers of brain health later in life.

What does my participation involve?

Our study staff will work with you to set up an appointment time that fits your schedule. The approximately 2 ½ hour exam will include:

- Testing your
 - hearing
 - vision
 - smell
 - memory and brain function
- Collecting blood samples to test for diabetes, perform a complete blood count (CBC) and other measures of health
- Updating your general health information



Dr. Natascha Merten is looking forward to seeing you at the 18-year follow-up

Where are the examinations held?

Examinations take place in Beaver Dam, WI. Some exams will also be held at satellite clinics including a study site in Madison to help accommodate those who do not often visit Beaver Dam. Free parking will be available.

Our Madison address is:
610 Walnut St, Madison, WI 53726

After you schedule an appointment, we will send you a confirmation letter along with a map and directions to the study offices.