



**Gladys E. Maestre, MD, PhD**

Co-Director of the South Texas Alzheimer's Disease Research Center,  
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I am a physician-scientist, and I have devoted most of my professional life to Alzheimer's research in low-resource settings. After obtaining my medical degree in Venezuela, I was trained in an international fellowship program in Psychiatric Neurosciences at the Department of Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital. My subsequent doctoral research in the Department of Pathology at Columbia University in the City of New York on the role of a common gene variant, ApoE- $\epsilon$ 4, as a risk factor for cardiovascular disease and dementia provided a solid foundation for my long-term interests in the epidemiology of old age. As PI of the Maracaibo Aging Study, I have developed a unique community-based cohort of Hispanic individuals who have undergone in-depth neuropsychological assessments (including computerized tested), neuroimaging, and cardiovascular traits, and we have followed them since 1997.

My research has explored cultural, educational, and genetic risks for Alzheimer's disease and cognitive decline, as well as cognitive function and health among minorities and ethnically diverse populations across the lifespan. I have gained expertise in recruitment, longitudinal follow-up, characterization of biological, genetic, neuroimaging, and environmental risk factors, and data analysis of large, ethnically diverse community-based cohorts. I also have supported several mhealth application development for people living with cognitive disabilities. I have successfully administered diverse projects and have been responsible for analyzing and communicating the results of longitudinal studies that I have led. Currently, I am the Director of the Rio Grande Valley Alzheimer's disease Resource Center for Minority Aging Research (P30AG059305) where we support early-career investigators to advance the study of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in Hispanics. I am also the Co-Director of the South Texas ADRC (1P30AG066546-01A1) where we focus on novel precision, personalized medicine approaches to educate, support, and improve prevention, treatment, and care for patients with AD and related dementias.