

Indira Turney

As a student at the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), Dr. Turney was encouraged by her advisor, Dr. Aletha Baumann, and others to go above and beyond the walls of UVI to identify research opportunities in the areas of learning and memory and neuroscience. In both the summer of her sophomore & junior years, Dr. Turney was awarded the McNair Scholars Fellowship which allowed her to travel abroad to a university in the United States and gain valuable research experience. She was also involved in numerous organizations, including UVI Honors Program, Golden Key Honour Society, Psychology Club, Student Government Association, and Alpha Kappa Sorority, Incorporated, among others.

After UVI, Dr. Turney completed a pre-doctoral program at the University of Pittsburgh where she gained more research experience, which solidified her interest in aging neuroscience. She then went on to pursue her Ph.D. in cognitive neuroscience at Pennsylvania State University. Generally, Dr. Turney's work in graduate school focused on understanding how age-related changes in cognitive processing lead to false memory errors. Upon admittance to Penn State, Dr. Turney was awarded the prestigious Bunton-Waller Fellowship, an award given to the brightest students coming from underrepresented groups. In her first year, she was also awarded an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. She has followed these awards with several other fellowships including admittance to Pitt/CMU's Multimodal Neuroimaging Training Program and the Cold Spring Harbor's Summer Institute. Dr. Turney was also awarded a dissertation award from the Social, Life and Engineering Sciences Imaging Center, the Graduate School's RGSO Dissertation Award, and the Alfred P. Sloan Graduate Scholarship. She was also awarded the Alumni Association Dissertation Award at Penn State, given to a single graduate student in their respective College. These awards have helped fund her dissertation costs, RA support, conference travel, professional development, and much more.

Dr. Turney is now a postdoctoral research scientist at the Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease and the Aging Brain at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City under the supervision of Drs. Jennifer Manly and Adam Brickman. Dr. Turney's current research uses molecular, structural, and functional neuroimaging to identify sociocultural sources and neural correlates in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias among racially and ethnically diverse older adults.