## 75<sup>th</sup> AAN ANNUAL MEETING ABSTRACT

Media Contacts: Renee Tessman, <u>rtessman@aan.com</u>, (612) 928-6137 Natalie Conrad, <u>nconrad@aan.com</u>, (612) 928-6164

Annual Meeting

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Abstract Title: Fine Particulate Matter and Parkinson Disease Risk in Medicare Beneficiaries

**Press Release Title:** Study Finds Air Pollution Exposure Linked to Parkinson's Risk, Identifies U.S. Hot Spot: *Mississippi-Ohio River Valley Has Higher Rates of Disease* 

Authors: Brittany Krzyzanowski<sup>1</sup>, Susan Nielson<sup>2</sup>, Brad Racette<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Barrow Neurological Institute, <sup>2</sup>Neurology, Washington University School of Medicine

**Objective:** To identify the national geographic patterns of Parkinson disease (PD) and test for nationwide and region-specific associations with particulate matter (PM)<sub>2.5</sub>.

**Background:** Numerous studies suggest that environmental exposures play a critical role in PD pathogenesis. Large population-based discovery studies have the potential to identify novel PD risk factors. Medicare is the only population-based national healthcare system in the U.S. making it ideal for nationwide geographic studies of PD risk factors.

**Design/Methods:** We conducted a population-based geographic study of 22,546,965 Medicare beneficiaries and identified 83,674 with incident PD in 2009. Beneficiaries were geocoded to county and zip+4 of residence in the contiguous U.S. We used a multimethod approach that included R-package integrated nested Laplace approximation (R-INLA) to create age, sex, race, smoking, and healthcare utilization adjusted relative risk (RR) for county-level regression and geographical analyses with  $PM_{2.5}$  as the exposure of interest. To supplement these findings, we performed an individual-level case-control analysis using logistic regression to verify county-level  $PM_{2.5}$  results.

**Results:** We identified a PD hot spot in the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley and found a nationwide association between incident PD and average annual  $PM_{2.5}$ , whereby the RR for PD increased by 25% (95% CI 23%, 26%) when comparing the lowest to the highest quartile of  $PM_{2.5}$ . The strongest association between  $PM_{2.5}$  and PD was found in the Rocky Mountain Region.  $PM_{2.5}$  was also associated with PD in the Mississippi-Ohio River Valley where the association was weaker, due to an apparent ceiling effect at ~12 to  $19\mu g/m^3$  of  $PM_{2.5}$ . Individual-level results confirmed that PD increased by 25% (95% CI 20%, 29%) when comparing the lowest to the highest decile of  $PM_{2.5}$ .

**Conclusions:** Using state-of-the-art geospatial analytical techniques, we identified a nationwide association between PD and  $PM_{2.5}$ , which varied in strength by region. A deeper investigation into the specific subfractions of  $PM_{2.5}$  may provide insight into regional variability in the PM2.5-PD association.

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