

**McPherson
Eye Research Institute**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

MERI Visiting Scholar Lecture

Date: Thursday, Sept. 26th, 2023

Time: 12:00pm-1:30pm

Location: 3571 WIMR II



“Are visual impairments and eye conditions risk factors for dementia?”

Willa Brenowitz, PhD, MPH
Investigator, Epidemiologist,
Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research

Abstract: Vision impairments and ocular conditions are associated with a higher risk of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias among older adults. If this relationship is causal, treating vision loss may help reduce dementia burden; however, the underlying biological pathways remain unclear. This talk will present evidence on the link between vision and dementia and discuss our efforts to evaluate underlying hypothetical pathways using epidemiologic data.

Bio: Willa Brenowitz, PhD, MPH, is an Investigator at Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland, OR. She is an epidemiologist investigating potential modifiable risk factors for Alzheimer's disease (AD) and related dementias. Much of her current research focuses on evaluating the relationships between sensory impairments (e.g., hearing and vision loss) and dementia in older adults. Dr. Brenowitz earned her MPH in health services and PhD in epidemiology from the University of Washington and she completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of California, San Francisco.

