



Colorado Clinical and Translational
Sciences Institute (CCTSI)

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER** | **ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS**

Biography

Ronica N. Rooks is a Professor in the Department of Health and Behavioral Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' Director of Online Education at the University of Colorado Denver. She completed postdoctoral fellowships in health disparities at the University of Michigan and geriatric epidemiology at the National Institute on Aging. She has a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Maryland College Park. Her research focuses on social-ecological explanations for racial and ethnic disparities in chronic conditions. Her current research explores if working and volunteering, as productive activities, can mitigate Black vs. White racial disparities in dementia and cognitive changes over time among older adults in the longitudinal Health, Aging, and Body Composition Study. Additionally, she explores mental distress associated with employment or job cessation perceptions and experiences of older adults with mild cognitive impairment or early-stage dementia, if they vary by race/ethnicity, and how these issues impact their cognitive functioning over time. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and serves on the GSA's Program, Publications, and Products Committee, the Colorado Commission on Aging, and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Action Coalition (ADRDAC) with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.