Abstract:

Burgeoning evidence suggests that exposure to air pollution may result in impaired cognitive function, cognitive decline, and increased risk of Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD). If air pollution does increase dementia risk, it would stand as one of the few risk factors for dementia that can be modified at the population level using regulatory and technological levers. Dr. Weuve will review the rationale for air pollution’s ill-effects on the aging brain. She will then provide a tour through an example of an epidemiologic study of this effect. The presentation will close with discussion on the overall state of the epidemiologic science, the limitations of this evidence (including the pitfalls of using Big Data to study dementia), and what evidence we need next.

Host: Linda Nie