

Dear Game Plan Participants,

We want to invite you to participate in our next "Game Plan" series meeting on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm (virtual format: ZOOM). As we previously mentioned, the idea is that you must have a “game plan” to win in sports, and the same applies to success in academics. Our series will allow you to hear the game plans from former (collegiate and professional) athletes to aid you in your preparation. Our guest speaker is Dr. Robert W. Turner II, PhD.



Dr. Robert W. Turner II, PhD

Biosketch

Robert W. Turner II, PhD is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Research and Leadership, with a secondary appointment in the Department of Neurology, at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. He is a biobehavioral health disparities researcher with ethnographic and mixed methods training.

Dr. Turner is the Principal Investigator (PI) for a National Institute on Aging (NIA) Health Disparities award which conducts multi-method research to assess caregiver burden. The research explores whether the stress of being the primary caregiver of a person with dementia (PWD) produces cognitive dysfunction in adult and older adult Black American men. His NIA funded K01 award examines the interrelationship between multiple measures of psychosocial and neurocognitive risk and protective factors associated with accelerated cognitive aging & mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), and Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias (AD/ADRD) among former collegiate and professional football players.

This line of research encompasses understanding how traumatic injury, as an occupational hazard, hinders daily living and career planning over the life course. These are many of the same concerns faced by military personnel returning from war. He is also the author of [“Not For Long: The Life and Career of the NFL Athlete” \(Oxford Press\)](#) and a contributor on the LeBron James HBO documentary “Student-Athlete.” His experience as a former professional NFL player (San Francisco 49ers) and a researcher provides an insightful perspective on the various factors contributing to Black male health disparities.

His book manuscript, *Not For Long: The life and career of the NFL athlete* (Oxford University Press, August 2018), is an ethnographic project that offers a descriptive analysis of the social world of NFL athletes based on the author’s personal experience as a former professional football player, interviews with current and former players, archived resources that discuss the socialization of young athletes, the relationship between the NFL and the NFL Players Association, and how athletes transition to life after football.