**Dr. Mark A. Gluck,** Professor of Neuroscience and Public Health at the RU-Newark *Center for Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience*, has a five-year grant from the NIH’s National Institute on Aging (NIA) to study “**Risk Factors for Future Cognitive Decline and Alzheimer’s Disease in Older African Americans.**” African Americans are at elevated risk for age-related cognitive decline and memory loss with double the prevalence of Alzheimer’s disease (AD) compared to white Americans.

*(continued)*

Over the last four years Gluck has enrolled over 350 African Americans, ages 60 and above, to be participants in a university-community collaborative study called *Pathways to Healthy Aging in African Americans* that seeks to understand the biological, behavioral, and environmental causes of this health disparity. Gluck and his colleagues at the *Rutgers Aging and Brain Health Alliance* partner with local churches, senior centers, public and subsidized housing management, and city, county, and state health officials to find novel ways to reduce Alzheimer’s disease in African Americans while promoting cognitive vitality in seniors throughout the Greater Newark area.

Gluck is also funded by two grants from the NJ Department of Health’s *Office of Minority and Multicultural Health* to study how community-based cardio-dance fitness programs can improve brain health in older African Americans, especially those who are overweight and previously sedentary. Two additional grants to Gluck from the NIH’s NIA support studies of early childhood influences on aging in African Americans and the nature of Exceptional African American SuperAgers, those ages 80 and above who have retained their cognitive skills and sharp memory into their later years. The accompanying photo shows Gluck with five of these SuperAgers who were honored at a celebratory luncheon in Newark this past February. For more information on these studies, or to learn how to become a participant, see [www.brainhealth.rutgers.edu](http://www.brainhealth.rutgers.edu). Dr. Gluck can be reached at gluck@rutgers.edu