The Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences will host a lecture Nov. 12 discussing “Early Alzheimer’s Diagnosis: Making Decisions and Promising Research.” The event is a partnership of Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and Spectrum Health. (Submitted photo)

GVSU OFFICE OF VICE PROVOST OF HEALTH

Early Alzheimer’s diagnosis is the topic of GVSU lecture

Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, College of Human Medicine and Spectrum Health are teaming together to sponsor a series of community presentations, “Your Health Lecture Series.”

The public is invited to the Nov. 12 lecture, “Early Alzheimer’s Diagnosis: Making Decisions and Promising Research,” from 7-8 p.m. in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences, 301 Michigan St. NE, room 119.

The event is free to the public; RSVP online by visiting gsvu.edu/vphealth or calling 616-331-5883. Seating for the popular “Your Health” lectures is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Speakers will be Dr. Timothy Thoits, neurologist at Spectrum Health; Cindy Beel-Bates, professor of nursing at Grand Valley; and Lisa Ellens, director for Rethinking Dementia Accelerating Change (RDAC), a joint venture between Clark Retirement Community and Holland Home.

Thoits works with patients and their families at Spectrum Health’s Memory Disorders Clinic. Beel-Bates is an expert in the care for patients with dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. Ellens earned a master’s degree in social work with a concentration in aging from the University of Michigan. The goal of RDAC is to address the needs of people with dementia and their caretakers.

The event will be moderated by Jean Nagelkerk, vice provost for Health at Grand Valley.

Mark Brieve, director of community engagement and outreach at MSU, will welcome participants.

Dementia is a progressive condition caused by several factors, including Alzheimer’s disease, stroke, and Parkinson’s disease.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, Alzheimer’s disease is the most common form of dementia and accounts for 60 to 80 percent of dementia cases.