

OAGE Poster Abstracts

(alphabetized by poster title)

Friday, April 17 @ 4:00 – 5:00 pm

Location: The Blackwell Inn & Pfahl Conference Center – Pavillion

Alexa Plotkin, BS

Alexa Plotkin is a recent graduate of The Ohio State University, where she earned a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Currently a research assistant in the LIFT Lab, she works under a mentor specializing in geriatric care, contributing to many projects, some touching on aging populations. She is applying to medical school and hopes to continue integrating her engineering background with clinical research to improve care.

A Scoping Review of Sociodemographic Differences in Geriatric Orthopedic Surgery Research

Given the association between age and musculoskeletal conditions treated with orthopedic surgery, as well as the presence of health differences in orthopedic care among vulnerable populations, this review aimed to (1) qualitatively assess the extent to which geriatric orthopedic research includes sociodemographic differences, and (2) outline conceptual and methodological gaps in existing research. The researchers conducted a scoping review of original research published between January 2017 and December 2023 and indexed in Medline (Ovid), Embase, Scopus, and CINAHL databases. They included studies evaluating sociodemographic differences in total knee/hip arthroplasty, hip fracture, and vertebral compression fracture. Of the initial 1780 citations, 203 met inclusion/exclusion criteria. The number of studies addressing sociodemographic differences remained small and stable, peaking at 36 in 2020. Most studies were retrospective (84.7%, n= 172), fewer were prospective (13.8%, n=28), two were interventional, and one was qualitative. The most commonly included sociodemographic characteristics were race (60.1%, n=122), age (36.5%, n=74), and ethnicity (25.6%, n=52). Study outcomes focused on utilization/cost/output (46.3% n=94), complications/adverse events (45.3%, n=92), and surgical outcomes (29.0%, n=59). Geriatrics-focused outcomes (function, cognition, mental health, quality of life, and social support) were rarely evaluated. This scoping review highlights significant gaps in the inclusion of sociodemographic differences in geriatric orthopedic surgery research. Future studies should move beyond retrospective demographic data to include patient-centered outcomes, qualitative studies that can capture the patient and caregiver experience, and interventional studies that aim to improve health outcomes for all older adults.

Poster Objectives:

- Discuss to what extent geriatric orthopedic research includes sociodemographic differences
- Outline conceptual and methodological gaps in geriatric orthopedic research

Izabella McBride

Izabella McBride is a Health Sciences major with a minor in biology about to graduate this fall from The Ohio State University. After graduation, she plans to apply and attend medical school. She has been involved with research for the past couple years and has done many poster presentations regarding cancer and cannabis use.

Age Differences in Symptoms and Cannabis Use Among Cancer Patients

Cancer patients of different ages experience a wide range of symptoms that can significantly affect their everyday life. Understanding these differences among age groups is important in evaluating symptom management. Cannabis use has become relevant in the use of cancer patient's symptom management, and it's important to explore how cannabis use can influence symptoms across age groups. A cross-sectional study of 1,427 cancer patients measured pain, depression, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea and vomiting, quality of life, and cognitive function. Adjusted generalized linear models were used to calculate adjusted mean symptoms by age group and cannabis use. The prevalence of cannabis use differed by age group with 24.8% current use among 783 younger patients and 18.6% use among 644 older patients. Generally, younger patients reported worse symptoms compared to older adults and among cannabis users compared to non-users. The adjusted mean symptom burden for pain and quality of life were significantly higher among young cannabis users versus non-

	<p>users, however no differences were observed among older patients. No age-cannabis differences were found in other symptoms. Study results stress the importance of measuring symptom burden and strategies of symptom management among cancer patients. Future studies should consider the role of age in symptom management. The findings suggest that symptoms are worse among younger patients who use cannabis and is a way for them to alleviate symptoms. This indicates that age-specific factors influence symptom management, but additional research is needed to understand these age-related patterns among symptoms in cancer patients.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain how age differences can affect symptom burden among cancer patients • Explore the use of cannabis and symptom management across age groups • Elaborate on what future research could look for in these age-related differences
<p>HeeSoon Lee, PhD</p> <p>Dr. HeeSoon Lee is a Professor of Social Work at Bowling Green State University. Her research focuses on areas such as stress and coping strategies, resilience, quality of life, emotional eating and eating behaviors, social connectedness and technology, and health-related issues among older adults from diverse cultural backgrounds.</p>	<p>Aging and Connection in the Digital Age: The Role of Virtual Networks in Older Women's Friendships</p> <p>Social isolation and loneliness among older adults are significant public health concerns. Friendships in later life provide emotional support, social engagement, and a sense of belonging, particularly for those with limited family support. Traditionally maintained through in-person visits, phone calls, or letters, these relationships are increasingly sustained via digital technology, especially for older adults facing mobility or geographic challenges. This study examined the benefits and challenges of virtual friendships among eight older women aged 75 to 100 from Korean Americans and White Americans. Through semi-structured interviews, the study explored how older adults use digital tools to maintain friendships, the obstacles they face, and the emotional outcomes of virtual interactions. Eight themes include technology use, comparison with in-person relationships, motivations, adoption challenges, emotional impact, cultural influences, and digital literacy. Findings show virtual networks influence social connections and offer ways to combine online and in-person interactions to enhance older adults' well-being.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the benefits and challenges of maintaining virtual friendships among older adults, particularly in relation to emotional support, social engagement, and well-being • Analyze how cultural factors, digital literacy, and mobility limitations influence older adults' use of technology to sustain social connections • Evaluate strategies to effectively integrate online and in-person interactions that promote social connectedness & reduce loneliness among older adults
<p>Elise Krueger, BA</p> <p>Elise Krueger is a current Master's of Gerontological Studies student at Miami University with a background in psychology and direct care experience on hospice and dementia care units. Her academic and professional interests center on the social-psychological dimensions of aging, cultural attitudes toward death, and how</p>	<p>Aging and Dying: Biomedicalization and the Life Course Reconsidered</p> <p>Medicine has profoundly reframed aging from a natural life stage to a condition to be managed, optimized, and resisted. The biomedicalization of aging, with expanding interventions and medical authority, has reshaped expectations about longevity and our encounters with mortality. As medical technologies are able to extend life, aging bodies become subject to what scholars describe as the "rescue fantasy" (i.e., an overestimation of medicine's ability to avert death; Brody, 1992). Within this orientation, the dying process is interpreted as a medical failure rather than the inevitable arc of life. Drawing on contemporary sources, this poster argues that the goal of "reframing aging" requires us to reframe death and dying. It explores how biomedicalization disrupts the life-course understanding of aging and dying as separate but sequential cornerstones in the human experience. It also considers how medical training</p>

<p>mortality salience is intertwined with ageism.</p>	<p>can be strengthened through gerontological competencies, death education, and hands-on experience with palliative care, to better prepare clinicians for recognizing the value and skills of effective end-of-life care. Doing so challenges the “rescue fantasy” and encourages a cultural shift toward embracing, rather than avoiding, the vulnerability, connection, and meaning experienced in life’s final moments. This shift fosters a model of care in which aging is supported, dying is understood as a natural event in the life course, and both are approached not with fear, but with clarity, dignity, and humanity.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how the biomedicalization of aging shapes end-of-life practices and identify revisions that can improve the quality and ethics of care • Explain how the "rescue fantasy" influences medical decision-making and cultural expectations of longevity, decline, and death • Identify the interconnectedness of aging and dying within the life course perspective and explain how reframing these processes can improve our interactions with medicine and mortality
<p>Wisdom Obioha, BSc</p> <p>Wisdom Obioha is a first-year graduate student in the Master of Gerontological Studies at Miami University, Ohio. His research interests include the intersection of aging and disability with a focus on healthy aging among underserved populations, especially those with long-term/early acquired disabilities. He is passionate about advanced statistical methods and tools in social research.</p>	<p>Aging with Disability: Successful Aging from the Perspectives of Older Adults with Early-Acquired Disabilities</p> <p>The concept of successful aging in gerontology has evolved and developed over the years. However, most definitions propose objective standards for aging well, which exclude individuals with certain demographic characteristics from aging successfully. This poster explores the development of the concept of successful aging over the years through a critical disability perspective. The poster focuses on the applicability of the MacArthur Model of Successful Aging (MMSS; Rowe & Kahn, 1987) to older adults aging with early-acquired disabilities and identifies its limitations. The poster proceeds to explore how the MMSS has changed over time (i.e., Rowe & Kahn, 1997, 2015) and whether these changes addressed prevailing issues relating to aging well among older adults aging with disabilities. The poster then discusses prior research that addresses the limitations of these objective models of successful aging through the perspectives of older adults with a disability (e.g., Minkler & Fadem, 2002; Molton & Yorkston, 2016; Villar et al., 2025), and presents common domains of successful aging for older adults aging with disabilities. It concludes with recommendations for gerontological research and practice regarding the conceptualization of successful aging, especially to ensure that the concept is inclusive of individuals with diverse lived experiences and broader social factors that may impact the ability to age well. The presenter recommends expansion of the conceptualizations to include dyadic perspectives of older adults with disabilities and those who provide them with assistance.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trace the development of the concept of successfully aging using a critical disability perspective • Present common domains of successful aging for older adults aging with disabilities that should be considered in the definition of successful aging
<p>Marshall Meyer</p> <p>Marshall Meyer is an undergraduate biology and global health student at Miami University. He has a growing interest in gerontology and public health.</p>	<p>Associations Between Literacy Proficiency of Ohio Counties and Quality of Care Provided in Nursing Homes</p> <p>Different populations in Ohio have varying levels of literacy. This study investigates any possible associations between low-literacy areas and the quality of care that is received in nursing homes. From the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies model of adult literacy and numeracy, a selection of Ohio counties ranging from best-ranked to worst-ranked on literacy for adults age 65 were cross referenced with the CMS quality data and analyzed for various quality indicators. It is hypothesized that there will be an association</p>

	<p>between counties that have higher percentages of people with low literacy levels and negative quality indicators of nursing homes. The Ohio county with the highest percentage of low literacy for adults age 65 is Holmes County. For the 5 nursing homes in Holmes County, the average overall 5-star rating is 3.6 and the staff rating is 2.4. In comparison, Delaware County has the lowest percentage of low literacy in Ohio. The 8 nursing homes in Delaware County have an average overall 5-star rating of 3.9 and the average staff rating of 2.6. The study's findings are intended to be used for future development of stronger programs focusing on the well-being of nursing home residents. The knowledge of the impacts of functional illiteracy/low-literacy on aging populations living in nursing homes can be useful for staff to better serve their residents and provide adequate care. Information regarding effects of low literacy could be distributed to professionals.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the association between literacy and quality of care in nursing homes • Identify how nursing homes can better serve low-literacy residents
<p>Emma Corbett, BS</p> <p>Emma Corbett recently graduated from The Ohio State University (OSU) with a BS in Psychology and a minor in Neuroscience, earning research distinction for her research project that examined cellular mechanisms that may enhance neurogenesis and memory in transgenic mice. She is a psychometrist at the Neuropsychology clinic at OSU, where she administers neuropsychological evaluations to adults.</p>	<p>Associations Between Participation in Mentally Engaging Activities and Cognitive Function Among Older Adults</p> <p>There are various modifiable risk factors that reduce the risk of dementia, including physical, cognitive, and social activities (Livingston et al., 2024). Prior work has suggested engagement in a greater number of hobbies is associated with a lower risk of dementia (Hughes et al., 2010). However, findings on the associations between mentally stimulating activities and specific cognitive domains remain inconsistent due to differences across studies in how cognitive activities are defined and the use of limited cognitive measures. The purpose of this study is to clarify the relationship between self-reported mentally stimulating activities and specific cognitive domains. Clinical data from 213 adults aged 50 and above (M age=66.05, SD age=9.49) who underwent neuropsychological testing were used to examine the relationship between mentally engaging activities and cognitive performance on measures of immediate and delayed verbal memory, verbal fluency, and processing speed/shifting. Composite scores for each cognitive domain were created by converting raw test scores to z-scores and averaging them. Patients also reported their regular hobbies on the clinic's history form, and these were coded according to their level of mental engagement. After accounting for relevant demographic characteristics and depression, participation in mentally engaging activities predicted better performance on immediate (B=.22, t=2.70, p=.008, r=.21) and delayed verbal memory (B=.27, t=3.26, p=.001, r=.25), verbal fluency (B=.25, t=4.45, p<.001, r=.30), and processing speed/shifting (B=-.15, t=-2.31, p=.022, r=-.18). These findings underscore the potential value of encouraging mentally engaging activities as a modifiable behavioral strategy to promote cognitive health in later life.</p> <p><u>Poster Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify which specific cognitive domains (immediate and delayed verbal memory, verbal fluency, and processing speed/switching) are associated with participation in mentally engaging activities after accounting for depression and relevant demographic characteristics (e.g., age, education, occupational status)

<p>Elizabeth Sheridan, MPH, MACPR</p> <p>Elizabeth Sheridan is Associate Director of Clinical Research in Orthopedics at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, with 14 years of experience in older adult research. She is a PhD candidate in Social Work, with her dissertation examining how social determinants of health influence hip fracture outcomes through an intersectional feminist lens.</p>	<p>Beyond Demographics: How Intersecting Social Determinants Shape Hip Fracture Outcomes Across Race and Sex</p> <p>Hip fractures affect approximately 300,000 older adults annually in the United States, with mortality rates reaching 8-36% within the first year. While existing research has documented disparities based on individual demographic characteristics, few studies examine how multiple systems of inequality interact to create unique risk patterns for diverse older adult populations. This poster reports findings from a retrospective cohort study of 525 adults aged 60 and older who underwent hip fracture surgery at an academic medical center between 2018 and 2024. Using an integrated theoretical framework combining the WHO Social Determinants of Health model with Feminist Intersectional Theory, the study examined which social determinants predict hip fracture outcomes and how these relationships vary by sex and race. Key findings reveal that comorbidity burden significantly predicted complications, readmissions, and mortality at both 30 and 90 days post-surgery. Each additional hour of surgical delay increased mortality odds, emphasizing the importance of rapid intervention. Notably, racial disparities emerged over time: no race effects at 30 days, but by 90 days, Non-White participants demonstrated 100% higher complication odds and 83% higher readmission odds versus White participants. This temporal pattern suggests disparities emerge after hospital discharge during community-based rehabilitation rather than acute hospitalization. Additionally, protective effects of female sex and government insurance operated only among White participants, not Non-White populations, revealing that risk prediction tools may systematically misestimate outcomes for minority patients. These findings have implications for clinical risk assessment, discharge planning, and health equity interventions in geriatric orthopedic care.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze how temporal patterns of racial disparities in hip fracture outcomes distinguish hospital-based from community-based mechanisms of health inequity • Evaluate the limitations of current risk prediction instruments that assume demographic factors operate uniformly across populations and identify approaches for race-stratified risk assessment • Compare the differential effects of insurance coverage and social determinants across intersectional positions to explain why standard protective factors do not operate equivalently for all older adults following hip fracture surgery
<p>Mercy Kalu, BSW, MGS</p> <p>Mercy Kalu is a purpose-driven social worker and graduate student in Gerontology at Miami University. She holds over eight years of experience working across non-profit organizations, academic settings, and community-based initiatives in Nigeria, where she has led programs that strengthen family cohesion, support vulnerable populations, and promote the health and dignity of older adults, women, and children.</p>	<p>Childcare by Grandparents in an Informal Kinship Arrangement in Nigeria: An Age-Long Indigenous Alternative Childcare Practice</p> <p>Grandparents play a critical caregiving role in many African societies where childrearing is embedded within extended family and cultural systems. In Nigeria, informal kinship care remains a longstanding indigenous alternative to state-regulated foster care, driven by communal beliefs that childcare is a shared family responsibility. This study explores the lived experiences of grandparents providing full-time care for their grandchildren within informal kinship arrangements in Lagos State, Nigeria. Using a qualitative design grounded in Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis, in-depth interviews were conducted with five grandparents aged 50 and older residing in Festac Town. Participants were purposively selected based on their caregiving roles, with reasons for child placement including parental death, migration, marital disruption, and employment demands. The findings reveal a dual caregiving experience. Participants expressed fulfillment, emotional satisfaction, companionship, and a sense of purpose in nurturing their grandchildren and transmitting family values, culture, and identity. However, grandparents also reported challenges including sleep deprivation, inadequate rest, financial strain, increased domestic</p>

	<p>responsibilities, and limited support from biological parents or community safety nets. Notably, most participants had no contact with social workers, reflecting the absence of structured welfare involvement in informal kinship care. The study underscores the need for policy recognition of informal kinship care, welfare monitoring, financial support programs, and community-based social work services to improve outcomes for grandparents and children.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the cultural, social, and historical foundations of informal kinship care by grandparents in Nigeria and how it functions as an indigenous support system for child development and family continuity • Identify the positive and negative caregiving experiences reported by grandparents, including emotional fulfillment, cultural transmission, financial burden, and caregiver stress • Discuss potential social work and policy interventions that can strengthen support for grandparent caregivers, including welfare assistance, kinship assessment, community engagement, and integrated service delivery
<p>Adele Ryono; David Canepa, BA & Irene Liana, BA, MEd</p> <p>Adele Ryono is an 11th-grade student based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She serves on the San Mateo County Commission on Aging and Youth Commission, where she developed school- and library-based initiatives to reduce social isolation through intergenerational engagement.</p> <p>David Canepa serves as President of the San Mateo County (SMC) Board of Supervisors in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he is committed to improving public health and community well-being. He led SMC to become the first in the nation to declare loneliness a public health emergency and has advanced mental wellness and mobility programs for older adults.</p> <p>Irene Liana is Executive Chair of the SMC Commission on Aging, where she leads advocacy efforts and initiatives that enhance quality of life for older adults. She is a founder of Villages of SMC, a nonprofit with more than 700 members and volunteers helping older adults age in place.</p>	<p>Developing Local Evidence-Based Programs to Foster Intergenerational Connection Between Adolescents and Older Adults: A Case Study</p> <p>In the United States, communities are increasingly age-segregated. Age segregation is associated with ageism, poor health outcomes, and social isolation. Among all age groups, adolescents and older adults are often the most separated, despite evidence that these populations may benefit the most from intergenerational connection. Because the state of intergenerational relationships varies widely between communities, local solutions are critical to address this divide. This poster will present a county-wide case study that assessed connections between adolescents and older adults and developed a local program to address the identified needs. The San Mateo County Commission on Aging, located in the San Francisco Bay Area, created a 12-question survey to evaluate how adolescents interact with older adults. The survey was distributed in 11 private and public high schools selected to represent the county’s geographic and socioeconomic composition, and 283 responses were received. Results indicated that while 95% of respondents had an older adult in their life, 77% perceived a significant generational divide. Individuals reported a desire to increase empathy and understanding across generations. Based on these findings, the Commission developed Talk Across Time, an intergenerational conversation program in which high school students engage in hour-long conversations with older adults they know. Conversations are guided by questions designed to foster open reflection about both generations’ experiences and perspectives. This poster presentation outlines a framework for evaluating intergenerational relationships at the community level and translating local data into targeted programs that reduce age segregation and strengthen intergenerational connection.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify effective methods for conducting community-based evaluations of intergenerational relationships between youth and older adults • Discuss how local data can inform targeted strategies to strengthen intergenerational connection and address community-specific needs • Examine findings from a county case study that surveyed high school students about their connections with older adults

<p>Wanda Schlumpf, MSc</p> <p>Wanda Schlumpf is a Biological Sciences PhD student studying and conducting laboratory research in cancer and aging/neurodegeneration at Vanderbilt University. Wanda has spoken at four aging-related conferences and recently received the Tufts 2025 Rob Hollister Award for Graduate Citizenship for her work in the Greater Boston community regarding The Legacy Project, Inc.</p>	<p>Empowering Generations for Impact: Outcomes from The Legacy Project, Inc.'s Intergenerational Changemakers Fellowship</p> <p>Traditional aging narratives emphasize decline and dependency, silencing older adults' contributions while isolating younger generations from intergenerational wisdom. The Legacy Project, Inc.'s Intergenerational Changemakers Fellowship positions older adults (65+) and young adults (18-24) as equal partners in storytelling and civic action; not as mentors and mentees, but as co-leaders with complementary strengths. This poster will present outcomes from the inaugural 6-month fellowship (November 2025-April 2026), which brought together paired older and younger adult participants across six U.S. cities to complete two core deliverables: 1) collaborative storytelling culminating in a professionally published book, and 2) community micro-initiatives addressing issues of mutual concern. To complete the project and emphasize that both generations bring valuable expertise, each pair received a \$1,000 stipend with support from The Eisner Foundation. The poster will present pre/post-fellowship survey data measuring changes in sense of purpose, civic engagement, community connection, and attitudes toward intergenerational relationships across both age cohorts. The poster will also showcase the collaboratively authored book and analyze any recurring themes, as well as highlight the community micro-initiatives from each participating city. This work demonstrates that when provided with equitable resources and a guided partnership structure, intergenerational collaboration can challenge ageist assumptions, activate civic leadership, and produce tangible community impacts.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how structured intergenerational partnership can impact civic engagement and intergenerational/ageist attitudes • Describe the publication and the community change strategies co-created by the older and younger adult pairs • Identify how to add an actionable framework for implementing The Legacy Project's intergenerational programming in any community
<p>Linda Kerdolff, MBA</p> <p>Linda Kerdolff has been a state certified long-term care ombudsman since 2018. She served as volunteer coordinator, then program director of the southwest Ohio long-term care ombudsman program. Since 2024 she has worked in the state long-term care ombudsman office as the constituent engagement manager. Linda has a Master of Business Administration from the University of Cincinnati.</p>	<p>Empowering Residents: The Role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman in Nursing and Assisted Living Homes</p> <p>In Ohio, there are nearly 200,000 residents who receive long-term care services and supports in their home, or by a long-term care provider like a nursing home, assisted living, or adult group home. The long-term care ombudsman is a federally mandated program that educates residents on their rights, empowers residents to speak up for excellence in their care, and advocates on behalf of residents who want help. In 2024, the statewide ombudsman program helped investigate and resolve nearly 10,000 complaints from residents. Residents who move into long-term care often experience a sense of loss of control over decisions that affect their daily living. "We didn't check our will, our dignity, and our rights at the door when we checked into these nursing homes, and people keep forgetting that," says Maurice, a nursing home resident. The ombudsman supports residents like Maurice to retain their decision-making rights, and to speak up for quality of care and quality of life issues in long-term care settings. There are 36 residents' rights spelled out in the Ohio Revised Code to help protect long-term care residents including the right to be free from abuse and neglect, the right to privacy, and the right to file a grievance without fear of retaliation. Statewide, there are over 100 ombudsmen who, on a daily basis, enter nursing and assisted living homes to speak with residents, find out their experience, educate them on these rights, and empower them with tools they can use to safeguard their health, safety, welfare, and rights.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the role of the ombudsman and how the ombudsman helps

	<p>residents living in long-term care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the rights that are spelled out in federal & state laws • Discuss tools residents can use, like a care plan meeting, to help manage their care and quality of life while living in long-term care
<p>Krishnaa Nadig Nair, MSM; Heather Menne, PhD & Kate Singer, PhD</p> <p>Krishnaa Nadig Nair is a PhD student whose research focuses on aging within vulnerable populations, examining these issues from both programmatic and policy perspectives. She is interested in how systems of support shape everyday experiences of aging and how community-based approaches can better meet the needs of those at risk.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p>	<p>Enhancing Care Through Integration: Community Health Workers in Area Agency on Aging Programs</p> <p>Community Health Workers (CHWs) are an essential part of the aging network, connecting older adults to health and social services that support their wellbeing. CHWs help older adults navigate everyday barriers such as medication access, nutrition, housing, and transportation, ensuring that care extends beyond the clinical setting. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) coordinate, fund, and deliver supportive services and supports that enable older adults to live at home and in the community. CHWs are one way that some AAAs accomplish their objectives. Data from the 2025 USAging AAA survey show only 13.6% (n = 53) of responding AAAs employ CHWs. Most report employing trained or certified CHWs (44 out of 53 AAAs), reflecting potential for a strong base of skilled support. Among those employing CHWs, the most common areas of involvement include programs and grants (42.6%), care management and coordination (21.3%), and outreach, education, and training (19.1%). Although few AAAs utilize CHWs, this underscores an opportunity to strengthen capacity and improve service coordination within communities. As AAAs continue to evolve to meet the needs of aging populations, more integration of CHWs could enhance outreach, continuity of care, and support for vulnerable older adults. Understanding who currently fulfills these roles can inform workforce strategies and guide research on building a stronger, more connected aging network.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the current presence and training of CHWs within AAAs • Identify opportunities to expand CHW roles within AAAs to strengthen coordination and outcomes for older adults
<p>Srestha Chattopadhyay, BS & Vidhi Bakshi, BS</p> <p>Srestha Chattopadhyay is a biomedical engineering student dedicated to applying engineering principles to</p>	<p>Enhancing Social Connectedness and Cognitive Well-Being in Older Adults Through AI-Guided Conversational Companionship</p> <p>Loneliness has become a defining challenge of aging in the modern era. As social networks shrink and opportunities for meaningful connection decline, many older adults face an increasing risk of isolation. Nearly one in four Americans over 65 experiences chronic loneliness, a condition linked to higher</p>

<p>improve patient care and health outcomes. Her work bridges biology, technology, and clinical needs, with a particular focus on supporting vulnerable and aging populations. Srestha works closely with Vidhi to develop Veera Systems, uniting biomedical insight with advanced computational tools to create accessible, patient-centered innovations.</p> <p>Vidhi Bakshi is a computer science engineering student with a strong focus on technology and artificial intelligence. Her work centers on developing computational solutions that enhance user experience and accessibility. Vidhi and Srestha are working together to build Veera Systems, combining technical innovation and human-centered design to create accessible, meaningful solutions.</p>	<p>rates of depression, cognitive decline, and diminished overall well-being. Recognizing these risks, studies such as the NIH-funded I-CONNECT trial have shown that structured, online conversation sessions can effectively engage isolated older adults and help slow cognitive decline. Veera Systems builds upon this evidence by developing a secure, AI-powered conversational assistant designed to promote daily social engagement among older adults. Through simple, reflective prompts such as, "What are you looking forward to this week?", Veera encourages users to think about recent interactions, plan upcoming activities, and maintain a sense of connection. These guided conversations also promote memory recall and cognitive engagement, supporting overall mental well-being. The platform incorporates end-to-end encryption, a user-friendly design, and adaptive prompts tailored to individual needs and lifestyles. To evaluate its impact, a series of controlled pilot studies, conducted in collaboration with The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and the Geriatrics Department, will assess changes before and after interaction with Veera in self-reported loneliness and community engagement. By integrating behavioral psychology, gerontology, and artificial intelligence, Veera Systems aims to strengthen social bonds, support cognitive vitality, and empower older adults to remain active, connected participants in their communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how technology-driven approaches to reducing loneliness will evolve alongside future generations of older adults who are increasingly comfortable with digital tools • Explain why addressing abstract issues such as loneliness and social disconnection is critical to improving health and social outcomes in aging populations • Demonstrate how AI-guided conversational systems like Veera Systems can be applied thoughtfully to enhance social engagement while maintaining ethical and emotional boundaries
<p>Lisa Juckett, PhD, OTR/L, CHT</p> <p>Dr. Lisa Juckett is dedicated to transforming cutting-edge research into actionable solutions that improve real-world practice, with a special focus on organizations serving older adults. Grounded in the principles of implementation science, Dr. Juckett's work explores the key factors and innovative strategies that drive the adoption of evidence-based practices.</p>	<p>Enhancing Quality of Life Through Memory Cafés: Social Connection and Engagement for Individuals with Dementia and Their Caregivers</p> <p>Memory Cafés are informal, community-based gatherings that support individuals living with memory loss and their caregivers. With over 600 registered across the U.S., these programs provide safe, welcoming spaces for socializing, creative activities, and shared experiences. Research shows that Memory Cafés enhance social connectedness, improve quality of life, and reduce dementia stigma, contributing to their continued national growth. The LifeCare Alliance Memory Café Social Connection Project was one of Ohio's newest programs, supported by a \$10,000 Meals on Wheels America Socialization Grant. From June 2024 to May 2025, LifeCare Alliance staff hosted Memory Café events at a congregate dining center and collaborated with stakeholders across the Midwest to explore program models. They developed and implemented activities involving five caregivers and seven individuals with dementia or memory loss, collecting data on psychosocial outcomes such as mood and social connectedness. Activities were facilitated by LifeCare Alliance staff and graduate students from The Ohio State University's Occupational Therapy Division. Pre- and post-surveys showed participants enjoyed the activities, with caregivers reporting a significant improvement in mood ($p = 0.034$), indicating positive effects on psychosocial well-being. Many caregivers also expressed strong interest in attending future sessions. These findings demonstrate the meaningful impact of Memory Cafés on the lives of people with dementia and their caregivers. This poster will share best practices, lessons learned, and recommendations for expanding the evidence base on Memory Café effectiveness.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the purpose and structure of Memory Cafés as supportive,

	<p>community-based gatherings for individuals living with dementia and their caregivers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the benefits of participation in Memory Cafés, including improved mood and social engagement as reported by both individuals with dementia and their caregivers • Identify considerations for implementing memory cafes across diverse community contexts and measuring Memory Café effectiveness
<p>Elizabeth Hall, BS & Anisha Shrestha, BPH</p> <p>Elizabeth Hall is a graduate student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, concentrating in Community Health Education with an interest in aging & dementia. She serves as the National Director of Healthcare Mission Engagement at the Alzheimer's Association, where she leads national strategy for brain health improvement, dementia-capable care pathways, and clinical practice guideline implementation.</p> <p>Anisha Shrestha is a Master of Public Health student specializing in Epidemiology. Her academic work focuses on quantitative methods and applied population health research. She also has growing interests in public health aspects of ageing, health equity, and global health, which guide my broader research goals.</p>	<p>Evaluating Group Engagement of People with Dementia Residing in Long Term Care Facilities Using a Novel Multisensory Device</p> <p>Interventions offering multisensory stimulation have the potential to address apathy, a common symptom of dementia, in long term care settings. Because apathy often manifests as reduced initiation, interest, and emotional responsiveness, measuring changes in residents' engagement helps assess the benefits of psychosocial interventions and identify meaningful group activities for people living with dementia. Group engagement during a multisensory stimulation intervention will be evaluated at two long term care facilities in Ohio. The Tovertafel (Magic Table) is a novel device that projects interactive games onto a table using infrared light, encouraging purposeful play among individuals with memory impairments. This study is a secondary analysis of data from a convenience sample of residents with moderate-to-severe dementia. Using a repeated-measures design, study participants were videotaped for analysis purposes during lunch and Tovertafel play. Emotional and behavioral responses to these activities will be coded using the Engagement of a Person with Dementia Scale (EPWDS), a validated observational tool. Paired sample t-tests will be conducted to assess differences in engagement between the two activities. Thirty residents, who were mostly White females and had a mean BIMS score of 4.5, participated in this study. On average, participants attended 2.8 Tovertafel game sessions per week with 2 to 6 individuals for about 30 minutes each. Findings related to engagement will be presented that may be useful to researchers and care professionals who are contemplating the integration of multisensory, therapeutic games as part of person-centered dementia care in long term care settings.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how multisensory technology can be used to encourage engagement among residents living with moderate-to-severe dementia in long-term care settings • Compare residents' engagement during regular daily activities and during Tovertafel play sessions • Identify how observational tools like the EPWDS can help evaluate emotional and behavioral responses to dementia-friendly activities
<p>Ashley Hettman, BS</p> <p>Ashley Hettman studies how the environment influences psychological processes in later life. Currently, she is interested in the role of greenspaces (broadly defined) in supporting caregiving, how access to transportation influences the benefits of volunteering, and the use of nature to maintain well-being among dementia patients in care facilities.</p>	<p>Fueling Connection: How Transportation Influences Social Engagement in Older Adulthood</p> <p>Volunteer work in older adulthood is associated with better physical health and overall well-being. Less is known how access to transportation as a structural aspect of the environment may hinder or promote volunteer work. The present study investigates how access to transportation shapes the relationship between volunteering and beneficial outcomes. Using data from Wave 8 of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA) – a representative sample of adults fifty years and older in the United Kingdom – the researchers examined the impact of volunteering frequency on measures of physical health and well-being, as well as the impact of different indicators of transportation use. They found that volunteering was positively associated with well-being. In addition, public transportation use in older adults' showed direct effects on well-being and physical health over and above other demographic variables, such as age and</p>

	<p>sex. The findings highlight the importance of environmental structures, such as transportation, on developmental outcomes. Future research should explore longitudinal trends of volunteering and transportation use in old age.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare the differential effect of formal and informal volunteering on older adult's well-being and physical health outcomes • Describe the effect of public transportation use on formal and informal volunteering among older adults • Summarize the direct and indirect effects of public transportation use on older adult's subjective well-being and physical health outcomes via volunteering
<p>Wisdom Obioha, BSc</p> <p>Wisdom Obioha is a first-year graduate student in the Master of Gerontological Studies at Miami University, Ohio. His research interests include the intersection of aging and disability with a focus on healthy aging among underserved populations, especially those with long-term/early acquired disabilities. He is passionate about advanced statistical methods and tools in social research.</p>	<p>Gender Differences in Physical Activity Among U.S. Older Adults with Dementia</p> <p>Previous studies indicate that physical activity (PA) may benefit older adults living with dementia. However, research on physical activity in those with dementia and how it may differ by gender is limited. Using data from wave 15 of the Health and Retirement Study, the researcher estimated gender differences in PA among older adults (65+) with dementia in the United States (US; N = 583, mean age = 78.50 years, SD = 0.45). Physical activity was assessed with questions on how often respondents took part in vigorous, moderate, and light physical activities on a 5-point scale ranging from 1 (everyday) to 5 (never). He collapsed categories such that frequent vigorous activity included those who engaged in PA once per week or more. The same was done for moderate and light physical activity. He then summed across vigorous, moderate, and light PA to create a total activity score. Individuals with scores at the median or higher were defined as physically active. Results indicated that 41.45% of older adults with dementia were physically active. Forty-seven percent (47.12%) of males were physically active compared with 37.30% of females. There was a statistically significant gender difference in physical activity, $X^2(df) = 4.52(1, 80), p < .05$. Further research is required to determine why females may engage less in physical activity than males, including possible confounding factors.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimate to what extent older adults (65+) with dementia in the United States engage in physical activity • Estimate gender differences in physical activity among those with dementia
<p>Michelle Brodke, PhD</p> <p>Dr. Michelle Brodke joined the Bowling Green State University faculty in 2008 as an Assistant Professor in the department of applied sciences at Firelands College. In addition to publishing in academic journals, she has presented her work at several regional and international conferences.</p>	<p>Generational Preferences at Work: Misunderstood Boomers</p> <p>The modern workforce is generationally diverse with four generations working side-by-side: Boomers (born 1946-1964), Generation X (born 1965-1980), Millennials (born 1981-1994), and the newest entrants, Generation Z (born 1995-2012). Although multi-generational workforce presents opportunities and significant challenges, scholars suggest that negative stereotypes often exist across generational boundaries, leading to friction and misunderstanding in the workplace. The present research among 56 working adults specifically highlights workplace preferences across the generations. A key finding is that the Boomer generation is widely misunderstood. That is, there is a statistically significant difference between what Boomers report that they want from an employer and what other generations perceive that they want in the following areas: 1) Public Engagement – employer encourages tours, job shadowing, and/or informational interviews; 2) Focus on Employees' Strengths – employee skills are used to the best advantage; 3) Internal Engagement – the employer encourages mentoring and information sharing across units; 4) Appropriate Pay – pay consistent with market rates; 5) Flexible Work Schedule – flex hours and/or remote work; 6) Promotion Opportunities – the employer has lateral (across departments or</p>

	<p>units) and/or upward moves. Specifically, Boomers wanted these elements of work more than their colleagues anticipated. Failing to address stereotypes across the generations degrades situation awareness and limits the tools that employers may use to effectively hire, manage, and retain workers, especially Boomers. Finally, misunderstandings across the generations reduces organizations' ability to create a cohesive, high-performing, and inclusive work environment.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify aspects of work that appeal across generations • Identify areas where differences exist between what generations want and what the other generations think they want
<p>Lauren Feyh, MNM, LNHA, CDP, CMDCP; Jamie Davis & Jacob Kraus</p> <p>Lauren Feyh is an Instructor of Practice in the Division of Health Sciences at The Ohio State University College of Medicine (OSUCOM) and Co-Founder/Co-Director of GrowIN: Intergenerational Community Programming. Lauren was named an inaugural Eisner Prize Fellow in 2023 for advancing intergenerational work.</p> <p>Jamie Davis is a fourth-year Health Sciences major with a minor in Biology at The Ohio State University. Jamie has been involved with GrowIN for approximately two years, beginning as an intern and currently serving as an exercise leader for the Get Up and MOVE program.</p> <p>Jacob Kraus is a senior at The Ohio State University majoring in Health Sciences. As an exercise leader for the Get Up and MOVE program, he is able to share his passion for health through physical activity. Through this program, he hopes to help the aging population experience these benefits in a safe and judgement-free environment.</p>	<p>Get Up and MOVE: An Interactive Experience in Building Intergenerational Wellness Through Connection and Activity</p> <p>Get Up and MOVE is an innovative intergenerational (IG) wellness program designed to foster meaningful connections between older adults and university students through modified exercise and informal health discussions. Developed through a collaborative partnership among At Home By High (AHBH), The Ohio State University School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences (OSU HRS), and GrowIN, a Columbus-based nonprofit focused on IG education and wellness- the program integrates circuit-style physical activity with reflective dialogue to promote community, well-being, and mutual learning. Initially launched as a pilot, Get Up and MOVE has evolved into a service-learning model embedded within a gerontology course curriculum. The program not only enhances student understanding of aging and diversity but also empowers older adults through active engagement and shared experiences. This poster will outline the program's development, structure, and outcomes, and will provide practical strategies for implementing low-barrier, participant-driven IG wellness programs that build community, support healthy aging, and cultivate cross-generational empathy and collaboration.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the structure and purpose of the Get Up and MOVE program • Summarize how circuit-style physical activity and reflective dialogue foster community and mutual learning through intergenerational approaches in and outside of the classroom

<p>Richard Meeker, MA, MSW, LISW-S & Katey Price, PhD</p> <p>Richard Meeker is the Community Living Supervisor overseeing the Adult Protective Services Program with Ohio District 5 Area Agency on Aging. As Mental Health Therapist, he conducts psychosocial assessments and provides behavioral health interventions as appropriate.</p> <p>Dr. Katey Price is an Associate Professor of Communication Studies at Albion College in Michigan. Her research focuses on the social and communicative behaviors of older adults as well as caregiving and dementia.</p>	<p>How Can We Support Older Adults in Ohio when Federal Policy is Intentionally Marginalizing Them?</p> <p>Sweeping overhauls, downsizing, cuts, and shutdowns at the Federal level have and continue to negatively impact vulnerable communities throughout the United States, including older adults in Ohio. Some of the more visible issues resulting from these cuts, so far, include nutritional assistance for older adults (e.g., SNAP, Meals on Wheels), access to health care for older adults (e.g., massive reductions in funding Medicare; reduced funding for long-term services and supports), and volunteer opportunities (e.g., AmeriCorps Seniors). This poster has two goals: the first is to cover the effects that the Federal cuts in funding for programs that supplement and support older adults has on Ohioans (including developments up until the conference in March 2026), and the second is to examine the ways that gerontology professionals can work and advocate locally to offset the negative effects of the current administrations' marginalization of older adults, ultimately helping to empower older Ohioans and enhance their independence and dignity.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the effects that the Federal cuts in funding for programs that supplement and support older adults has on Ohioans • Examine the ways that gerontology professionals can work and advocate locally to offset the negative effects of the current administrations' marginalization of older adults, ultimately helping to empower older Ohioans and enhance their independence and dignity
<p>Sara Waller</p> <p>Sara Waller is a third-year Social Work student at Bowling Green State University. She wrote this paper to uncover disparities among the older adult population while using what she has learned in her classes to provide possible interventions to advocate for this vulnerable population.</p>	<p>Identifying Social Isolation as a “Silent Killer” in Older Adults: A Review of Determinants, Impacts, and Intervention Approaches</p> <p>Social isolation in older adults is an increasing public health issue with significant physical, mental, and social consequences. This study presents a literature review examining the risk factors, outcomes, and prevention and intervention strategies related to social isolation among older adults. The research addresses three key questions: (1) What factors place older adults at higher risk of social isolation? (2) What are the health consequences of social isolation and loneliness? And (3) What strategies can be implemented to prevent social isolation? Individual factors such as living alone, reduced mobility, and cognitive decline contribute to isolation, while systemic factors – including long-term care facility location, nationwide staffing shortages, and deficient social programs – exacerbate the issue. Structural barriers, including socioeconomic status and racial disparities, further increase vulnerability. Social isolation is linked to both physical and mental implications. Higher rates of depression, anxiety, cognitive decline, premature mortality, and increased healthcare costs are active results of chronic isolation. Effective prevention and intervention strategies at micro, mezzo, and macro levels are critical. Social workers can provide personalized support and family engagement at the micro level, facilitate support groups and community programs at the mezzo level, and advocate for policy reforms, funding, and inclusion initiatives at the macro level. Incorporating early intervention, digital literacy, and sustained advocacy is essential to help older adults maintain meaningful social connections and improve overall quality of life.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify individual, systemic, and structural factors that increase the risk of social isolation • Evaluate the physical, mental, and social health outcomes associated with social isolation and loneliness in older adults • Recommend practical interventions to prevent social isolation and enhance quality of life for older adults

<p>Lauryn Feacher, BS & Renee' Zuccherro, PhD</p> <p>Lauryn Feacher is a second-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at Xavier University. She received her BS in Psychology from Florida State University in 2022. Her research interests include barriers to and motivations for improving physical health. Clinically, her populations of interest include children, families, and older adults.</p> <p>Dr. Renee' Zuccherro is a Professor of Psychology at Xavier University. She earned her PhD in Counseling Psychology, with a specialization in gerontology, at Ball State University. Dr. Zuccherro teaches undergraduate psychology and graduate geropsychology courses. Her research focuses on gerontological education, including service-learning and interprofessional education.</p>	<p>Instagram Sexuality: The Impact of a Brief Social Media Exposure on Student Perceptions of Older Women's Sexuality</p> <p>Older women's sexuality remains largely invisible within mainstream and social media, shaping persistent ageist, sexist, and heteronormative assumptions. This poster builds upon a literature review presented at 2025 OAGE Conference, offering results of a mixed-methods study examining college students' perceptions of older women's sexual expression after a brief exposure to social media imagery. Quantitative results indicated no significant changes in students' perceptions following a single social media exposure; however, qualitative findings told a more nuanced story. Students largely expressed supportive or neutral views, with fewer stereotypical responses than historically documented. Many participants engaged in meaningful self-reflection, with some initially experiencing discomfort that shifted toward curiosity or a reevaluation of their assumptions. These patterns suggest emerging cultural shifts toward more permissive attitudes among younger adults, while also highlighting the persistence of stigma and invisibility, particularly for older women who are sexual minorities. This poster will connect these findings to broader issues of representation, ageism, and the implications for future healthcare and social service professionals. It emphasizes the importance of realistic, diverse portrayals of aging sexuality and illustrates how even brief media-based interventions can spark reflection and challenge bias. Attendees will gain insight into how social media can both perpetuate and disrupt stereotypes, as well as how intentional exposure, education, and intergenerational engagement can foster more inclusive views of sexuality across the lifespan.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify common societal stereotypes and sources of stigma surrounding older women's sexuality, including how ageism, sexism, and heteronormativity intersect • Evaluate how social media representations influence young adults' perceptions of older women's sexual expression, drawing on mixed-methods findings from the study • Discuss strategies for integrating inclusive, accurate portrayals of aging sexuality into education, clinical practice, and intergenerational learning to reduce stigma and improve care
<p>Karleah Harris, PhD; Nikkita Jackson, DSW, LISW-S; Jonathan Trauth, LISW-S, EdD & Marc William Guelache Arouna</p> <p>Dr. Karleah Harris has a PhD in Educational Psychology and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Purdue University and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Her research interests include inquiry-based science learning, grandparenting, gardening, horticulture therapy, and adolescence development.</p>	<p>Intergenerational Food Insecurity and the Power of Food as Medicine</p> <p>What we eat has a direct impact on our health and overall well-being. However, many households continue to experience food insecurity and lack consistent access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Food insecurity is a complex issue that affects individuals locally and globally, and it can persist across multiple generations. In this study, the researchers used both qualitative and quantitative methods to examine the experiences of intergenerational families participating in a community gardening program. The findings suggest that participants benefited from the program, highlighting the need for additional initiatives that support intergenerational families and expand access to community gardens. Based on these findings, this proposal emphasizes the importance of community-based interventions that not only address nutritional challenges but also strengthen relationships between older adults, caregivers, and younger generations. Community gardens can serve as meaningful spaces where aging adults remain engaged, active, and connected while sharing knowledge with youth and working collectively toward common goals.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the relationship between intergenerational families and food insecurity, and identify strategies to help reduce food insecurity among elderly participants

<p>Dr. Nikkita Jackson brings over 16 years of experience practicing social work across diverse social service settings, including therapy, case management, managed care, and home healthcare. With nine years in academia, she integrates her extensive professional background into field education by fostering meaningful connections between classroom learning and real-world application.</p> <p>Dr. Jonathan Trauth is a Professor in the Department of Social Work at Central State University. He completed his Doctorate in Counseling at the University of Cincinnati in 2016. He also received a master's in Social Work at the University of Kentucky and a Masters in Theology Pastoral Counseling from Xavier University. He is licensed social worker in Ohio.</p> <p>Marc William Guelache Arouna is an undergraduate student at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, majoring in Nursing within the Department of Nursing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine the role of food as medicine and the benefits of community gardening within intergenerational families • Demonstrate the impact of food insecurity on intergenerational families
<p>Emerson McSparran, BA; Saloni Pandey, BPH; Ivan (Vanya) Garmatyuk, BA; Kate Singer, PhD, MA & Heather Menne, PhD, MGS</p> <p>Emerson McSparran is a second-year graduate student at Miami University in the Master of Gerontological Studies program with a background in psychology and neuroscience. As a graduate research assistant, Emerson focuses on home- and community-based services and the experiences of people living with dementia, especially those living alone.</p> <p>Saloni Pandey is a Master's student in Gerontological</p>	<p>Measuring Loneliness, Dementia, and Living Alone in Harmonized Longitudinal Aging Surveys</p> <p>The HRS International Family of Studies is a growing network of longitudinal aging data collected around the world through sister studies of the Health and Retirement Study. These international harmonized datasets provide a valuable opportunity to analyze factors affecting the well-being of older adults in different countries using comparable metrics. This scoping review aims to document how cognitive status, social isolation and loneliness, and living arrangement are measured and investigated in harmonized datasets. The two datasets chosen were the Korean Longitudinal Study of Aging (KLoSA) and the Longitudinal Aging Study in India (LASI). Searches based on the concepts of interest were conducted in MEDLINE, CINAHL Plus, Social Work Abstracts, and APA PsycInfo databases. Exclusion criteria included articles without English full texts available, those that did not analyze the datasets of interest, and those that did not address the research topics. For the KLoSA, 409 articles were identified across the four databases, 228 were screened following deduplication, and 170 were included for full-text review. For the LASI, 262 articles were identified, 179 were screened, and 132 were included for full-text review. These articles document cross-national similarities and differences in how cognitive status, social isolation and loneliness, and living arrangement have been studied in Korean and Indian harmonized longitudinal datasets. Future studies will address gaps in the available literature, such as describing the prevalence of people living alone with</p>

<p>Studies with research interests in health and aging, chronic disease, and physical and cognitive health in older adults. Her work focuses on understanding how different factors shape healthy aging and well-being.</p> <p>Ivan (Vanya) Garmatyuk is a Master's student in Gerontological Studies at Miami University. His interests include aging policy, dementia and cognitive decline, and global aging. His work aims to explore cultural differences and policy-driven approaches to support cognitive health in aging societies.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p>	<p>dementia or comparing levels of loneliness between people living with dementia and people without dementia in other nations.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the similarities and differences in measurement of cognitive status, social isolation and loneliness, and living arrangement in the KLoSA & LASI • Identify future research opportunities using these HRS harmonized datasets
<p>Ashley Simons, PhD, DPT & Tawiona Brown, DPT, NCS</p> <p>Dr. Ashley Simons is an Associate Professor at Bowling Green State University's Doctor of Physical Therapy Program. Her research interests include anatomy knowledge</p>	<p>Movin' On Up: Comparison of Older Adults to Young Adults in Stair Ascent at Varying Step Height</p> <p>The purpose of the study was to examine stair kinematic differences during stair ascent between a healthy older adult population (ages 55-75) and a healthy young adult population (ages 18-35) to determine what kinematic and phase duration differences are seen between the two populations. Data was collected using a 10-camera motion capture system. Subjects were asked to ascend a flight of four stairs at 6-inch, 7-inch, and 8-inch heights. Results showed as step height increased, the duration of stance, double support, and stair cycle</p>

<p>translation to clinical practice, musculoskeletal ultrasound, and biomechanics. In addition, she currently treats outpatient orthopedic and neurologic patients in Columbus, Ohio.</p> <p>Dr. Tawiona Brown is an Assistant Clinical Professor at Bowling Green State University's Doctoral of Physical Therapy Program. Her primary area of research is neurology and geriatrics. Her scholarly projects encompass caregiving, optimizing exercise prescription for the elderly and neurologically involved as well as falls prevention and screening.</p>	<p>increased for both populations while those for older adults were statistically significantly larger than young adults across all step heights. As step height increased, maximum hip flexion, knee flexion, and ankle dorsiflexion increased for both young and older adults during weight acceptance and pull-up; however, only older adults' maximum hip and knee flexion increased during forward continuance and ankle dorsiflexion during push-up. Regardless of step height during stair ascent, older adults had statistically significantly higher maximum hip flexion (during weight acceptance, foot clearance and foot placement), higher hip adduction (during forward continuance), lower hip abduction (during push-up), and lower ankle dorsiflexion (during pull-up). Statistical significance was measured at $p < .05$. These adaptations may reflect a conservative motor strategy that prioritizes stability over speed, reducing the risk of tripping or falling. Such adjustments may preserve safety or also signal early mobility decline. These results add standard kinematic norms in the older adult population to be used in goal setting and functional correlations in rehabilitation and fall prevention programs.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe phases of stair ascent • Compare and contrast kinematic and angle differences seen between older adults and young adults during stair ascent
<p>Krishna Sapkota, MHSc, MA</p> <p>Krishna Sapkota is a PhD candidate in Social Gerontology and a research assistant at the Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, Ohio. His work focuses on multimorbidity and the well-being of older adults. He has peer-reviewed and published in journals like BMC Geriatrics, with research spanning Nepal, Nigeria, and the United States.</p>	<p>Multimorbidity and Loneliness Among Older Americans: Longitudinal Analysis Using Health and Retirement Study</p> <p>Loneliness and multimorbidity are increasingly recognized as intertwined public health challenges among older adults. Although international research shows strong associations between these conditions, U.S.-specific longitudinal evidence remains limited. This study investigated the longitudinal association between multimorbidity and loneliness among older Americans. Data from the six waves of the Health and Retirement Study (HRS; 2008-2018) were utilized. This study included 9,198 adults aged ~65 years and 19,997 observations from all waves. Because loneliness was assessed in split-half samples across alternating waves, two consecutive waves were combined into a single time point, yielding three analytic periods (i.e., 2008/10, 2012/14, and 2016/18). Loneliness, a dependent variable, was measured using an 11-item UCLA scale (mean score range 1-3). Multimorbidity was measured as a count of eight chronic conditions, such as hypertension, diabetes, cancer, lung disease, heart disease, stroke, psychiatric problems, and arthritis. Mixed-effects models with random intercepts and slopes assessed longitudinal associations, adjusting for sociodemographic and behavioral covariates. Results are presented as an unstandardized coefficient (b), 95% confidence interval (CI), and p-value. Data management and analysis were performed in SAS 9.4. Mean loneliness scores increased from 1.47 to 1.52 from time 1 to time 3, while multimorbidity counts rose from 2.25 to 2.66. The findings reveal that each additional chronic condition was associated with a 0.03-unit increase in loneliness (95% CI: 0.02-0.03; $p < 0.001$). Multimorbidity is a significant and independent predictor of increased loneliness among older Americans. Strategies to prevent and control multimorbidity could improve social and emotional well-being among aging populations.</p> <p><u>Poster Objective:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe how multimorbidity influences trajectories of loneliness among Americans aged 65 years and older over time

<p>Jenna Wagner, BS</p> <p>Jenna Wagner has a Bachelor's degree in Nutrition and Dietetics and is currently pursuing a Master's in Health and Human Services with a focus on Healthcare Administration. Jenna's research centers on the underutilization of palliative and hospice care, particularly in older adult populations, specifically those nearing end-of-life care.</p>	<p>Palliative Care and Hospice Care: Expanding Access and Understanding</p> <p>The growing population of adults aged 65 and older in the U.S. is causing an increase in need for high quality end-of-life services. Palliative care and hospice care serve to support individuals with serious illnesses. Palliative care can begin at any stage to address symptoms and emotional distress, whereas hospice care focuses on comfort for patients nearing the end of life. Despite strong evidence showing reduced hospitalizations, lower healthcare costs, and improved quality of life, both services remain significantly underutilized. Misconceptions among healthcare providers and the public often result in delayed referrals, limiting patients' ability to benefit fully from supportive care. Earlier access, provider education, and policy enhancements can ensure that compassionate, patient-centered end-of-life care will increase as the aging population grows.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present key barriers to timely palliative and hospice care referrals and introduce strategies to improve access • Examine common misconceptions about palliative and hospice care and their impact on patient outcomes • Discuss ethical considerations in end-of-life decision-making, particularly related to autonomy, communication, and caregiver roles
<p>Kaitlin Hough</p> <p>Kaitlin Hough is a fourth year Bachelor of Nursing Science student at The Ohio State University. She is currently leading this scoping review project in partial fulfillment of my Nursing Honors Program requirements. This includes PICOT question development and literature search.</p>	<p>Peer Support Programs for Informal Dementia Family Caregivers: A Scoping Review</p> <p>Approximately 16 million family caregivers provide care for people living with dementia totaling over 18 billion hours of care. Caregiving can have adverse effects on one's physical, psychological, financial, and social wellbeing. The purpose of this scoping review is to determine if peer support programs for family caregivers of adults living with dementia can help to improve their overall health, wellbeing, and quality-of-life. Search engines used for this review included CINAHL, PsychINFO, and PubMed using the following key words: "peer support", "caregiver", "adults", and "dementia". Research articles published between 2015-2025 were included. Covidence software was used to organize and complete the search. A total of 147 full text articles resulted from the initial search. Two duplicates were removed. Following title and abstract screening, 128 articles were excluded for reasons such as being a review article or focusing on professional caregivers (as opposed to family caregivers). After full text screening, four additional articles were excluded. Reasons for these exclusions were: no peer support included, did not focus on a program or intervention (e.g. protocol only, review article, or was descriptive in nature). This resulted in 13 articles being included in the final review. These articles focused on the following themes: 1) The inclusion vs exclusion of person living with dementia, 2) Use of technology to support caregivers, 3) Identify the power of shared experience to reduce loneliness on the caregiving journey. This review brings to light the variety of peer support interventions for informal caregivers of person living with dementia. The findings are beneficial for future caregivers as they venture through the caregiving role. Further research should focus on including and making peer support more flexible and available to all caregivers of people living with chronic conditions.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss informal caregiving for adults with dementia • Explain the search strategy used for this scoping review • Describe the major themes based on the search results

<p>Rohita Ikkurthi & Destiny Bissell</p> <p>Rohita Ikkurthi is a junior undergrad at The Ohio State University and the founding President of the Ohio State chapter of Perfect Pair, a non-profit organization dedicated towards reducing loneliness by creating intergenerational connections between older adults and college volunteers.</p> <p>Destiny Bissel is an undergraduate majoring in neuroscience at The Ohio State University. Destiny has experience working with older adults from 6 months of working as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a nursing home in addition to working with older generations as a multi-skilled technician at a hospital for 6 months.</p>	<p>Perfect Pair: How an Intergenerational Program Reduces Loneliness in Older Adults and College Students</p> <p>Intergenerational programs have shown to be a promising intervention for improving overall well-being and addressing loneliness, a growing public health concern among older adults in the U.S. Using the framework of the socio-ecological model which theorizes that well-being is collectively shaped by individual, community, and societal levels, the researchers evaluate Perfect Pair, a nonprofit that fosters intergenerational connections between college students and older adults at 26 college chapters across 17 states. Student-senior pairs are made based on shared background, interests, and hobbies. Pairs then meet weekly and are able to participate in programming together, such as language learning, art, and photography. Program outcomes were assessed through a retrospective survey given to older adult and college student participants who had met with their pair for at least 12 hours. Over two years, they collected data from 39 older adults and 67 student respondents across 12 chapters, including The Ohio State University. Data from 2022 to 2024 showed that 83.3% of older adults reported reduced sense of loneliness, 73% reported improved mental well-being, and 91.9% agreed feeling increased happiness after meeting with their pair. Younger adults showed similar results with 96.7% reporting increased happiness, 95.1% reporting improved mental well-being and 91.8% reporting that they have a better understanding of long-term care. Drawing from this promising data, Perfect Pair represents a scalable program that can be used to address social isolation and loneliness for older adults and students alike.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the adverse effects of social isolation and loneliness on older adults • Examine the impact of Perfect Pair's approach of intergenerational engagement in addressing challenges faced by older and younger adults, particularly as it applies to the community level of the socio-ecological model • Assess the scalability and potential for Perfect Pair to be expanded to more locations across the U.S.
<p>Kaelyn Rodrigues, BS</p> <p>Kaelyn Rodrigues is a first-year in the graduate entry Master of Nursing program at The Ohio State University. She specializes in Women's Health and plans to work as a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner after graduating. Kaelyn worked as a Research Assistant in the FamCare Research Laboratory since 2023. She has led the qualitative analysis for this study as part of the larger Pair 2 Care© feasibility study.</p>	<p>Perspectives of Pair 2 Care© Mentees on Palliative Care for Black Older Adults Living with Dementia</p> <p>Black caregivers are at a high risk for negative impacts of family caregiving. Palliative care is an evidence-based, specialized form of care that involves symptom management for people living with serious or life-threatening illnesses and is underused in the Black community. Peer support is a simple, evidence-based tool that may help to provide support for this group. Pair 2 Care© is a co-designed, virtual, flexible, non-judgmental peer support intervention for Black family caregivers of people living with dementia. Trained former family caregivers serve as mentors to current caregiver mentees. The purpose of this study was to examine the perspectives of family caregiver mentees on palliative care as included in the Pair 2 Care© intervention feasibility study. Current family caregiver mentees (n=15) were paired 1:1 with former family caregiver mentors (n=11) for 6 months of peer support. A post-intervention interview was conducted with each current family caregiver mentee regarding their program experience. Thematic content analyses were conducted using descriptive coding. The following themes were identified from their responses: 1) General thoughts on palliative care, 2) Mentor-mentee interactions regarding palliative care, and 3) Caregiver need for palliative care resources and education. Study findings highlight the need for access to culturally relevant palliative care resources in the Black community. Future research should focus on the use of Pair 2 Care© to empower future generations for maximal impact towards improving palliative care outcomes for Black people living with dementia, thereby promoting health for all people.</p>

	<p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine perspectives of Black family caregivers' access to and use of palliative care for their care recipient living with dementia • Describe family caregivers' demonstrated need for culturally competent palliative care resources designed for family caregivers of Black older adults living with dementia
<p>Victor Ronnis-Tobin, PhD; Jeremy Johnson, MS; Lauryn Feacher, BS & Brennan Patterson, BS</p> <p>Dr. Victor Ronnis-Tobin is a clinical health psychologist specializing in population approaches to improvement of health outcomes, including behavioral health, chronic disease, and substance use, through community, industry and academic partnerships. His main research interests are in behavioral health prevention.</p> <p>Jeremy Johnson is a doctoral student in Xavier University's Clinical Psychology PsyD program. He holds an MS in Psychology from Arizona State University and is currently involved in developing workplace violence reduction programs in healthcare, addressing adolescent suicidality in K-12 education, and advancing wellness initiatives for older adults.</p> <p>Lauryn Feacher is a second-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology program at Xavier University. She received her BS in Psychology from Florida State University in 2022. Her research interests include barriers to and motivations for improving physical health. Clinically, her populations of interest include children, families, and older adults.</p> <p>Brennan Patterson is from Springfield, Ohio and graduated in 2025 with a BS in Psychology with a minor in Investigative Sciences and a credential in research.</p>	<p>Physical Activity and Functional Outcomes in Low-Income Independent Living Communities</p> <p>For older adults, physical activities' association with improved health and well-being is well documented (Pinheiro, et al, 2022; Netz, et al., 2005). Less is known about physical activity of low-income older adults living independently (Kalata, et al., 2025). Here, the researchers report baseline data from a longitudinal study of a wellness program of residents in low-income independent communities in Southwest Ohio. Baseline assessment included general health, quality of life, and physical function of participants. Participants (N = 119) were older (X=73.5, SD = 8.6), female (83.2%), and African American (60.5%) with income below \$25,000 (86%). As part of a new wellness program, participants were invited to attend a variety of activities including activities that included light to moderate exercise and other activities addressing intellectual and social needs. Overall, during the first six months of the program, 58% of participants attended activities associated with physical exercise (X=6.43, SD=8.95) and 81.5% attended non-exercise activities (X=10.48, SD=11.29). Participation in physical activities correlated positively with chair stand (r=0.30, p<0.001) and 2-minute step test (r=0.24, p< 0.001) and negatively correlated with the Up and Go (r = -0.21, p <.05) on the physical functioning and participation in non-exercise related activities. No such relationship was found between physical functioning and participation in non-exercise related activities. In sum, consistent with recent findings (Toth et al., 2024), participation in physical activity may have a positive impact on physical functioning of low-income older adults in independent living communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the associations between physical activity and key indicators of physical functioning (chair stand, 2-minute step test, and Up-and-Go) • Compare functional outcomes associated with exercise and non-exercise activity engagement • Identify barriers to engagement

<p>Brennan wants to be a forensic psychologist and do mandated evaluations for the court system post-graduation.</p>	
<p>Chih-ling (Ling) Liou, PhD</p> <p>Ling Liou is an Associate Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at Kent State University. Her research interests are aligned with two primary lines of inquiry: (1) aging attitudes among college students and (2) community services for older adults.</p>	<p>Predicting College Students' Interest in Aging-Related Careers: Suggestions for Pedagogical Interventions</p> <p>College students often rank working with older adults low in their future professional aspirations. This study examines factors contributing to interest in working with older adults and provides suggestions for intervention. Data were collected from 385 undergraduate students via an online survey, which included questions about the quality of relationships with a grandparent and other nonfamilial older adults, as well as previous experience and future interest in pursuing a career in an aging-related field. Path analyses using hierarchical multiple regression reveal that relationships with nonfamilial older adults significantly predict career interest ($\beta = .140, p = .019$), whereas relationships with grandparents do not ($\beta = .057, p = .328$). Relationships with nonfamilial older adults also significantly predict cognitive frameworks: ageism ($\beta = -.215, p < .001$) and positive expectations ($\beta = .144, p = .017$). As expected, ageism is associated with reduced interest in an aging-related internship or career ($\beta = -.231, p < .001$), while positive expectations regarding aging are related to enhancing such interest ($\beta = .133, p = .025$). The findings suggest that policy-makers and colleges can increase students' interest in pursuing aging-related careers by creating opportunities to interact and build relationships with older adults in the community.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify factors contributing to college students' attitudes toward older adults and their interest in pursuing a future career in age-related jobs/internships • Explain the relationships with nonfamilial elders leading to a greater impact on college students' attitudes and their willingness to work in an aging-related field in the future • Discuss successful interventions and best practices for colleges to increase students' interest in pursuing aging-related careers
<p>Lindsay Cotner; Cecilia Glancy, BS; Sophia Kanowsky & Logan Lloyd</p> <p>Lindsay Cotner is a Health Sciences undergraduate student at The Ohio State University with hands-on experience in aging-focused research and inter-generational programming. She serves as a student Research Assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program and as Program Manager of Scarlet and Silver Connections.</p> <p>Cecilia Glancy is a student research assistant for AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program.</p>	<p>Preparing, Implementing, and Evaluating AgeUP: A Student Research Assistant Perspective</p> <p>Long-term care facilities continue to face persistent staffing shortages following the COVID-19 pandemic. This is driven by high levels of burnout, limited advancement pathways, and a declining pipeline of young professionals entering the aging field. The AgeUP intergenerational Workforce Development Program is a pilot designed to address these challenges by training and incentivizing both direct care workers and ancillary staff to build core soft skills, strengthen attitudes on aging, and promote workforce retention. This poster presentation highlights key lessons learned by student research assistants throughout the preparation, implementation, and early data analysis stages of this pilot conducted at Ohio Living Westminster-Thurber. Prior to the program launch, student research assistants completed the AgeUP curriculum, which includes the embedded Elder Care Certificate. This integration allowed them to gain specialized knowledge and directly engage with content, better supporting participants. Their contributions to this pilot included refining program materials, assisting with Institutional Review Board (IRB) Submission, developing interview protocols, and coordinating logistics. Throughout the program, student research assistants also attended sessions, observed participant interactions, and helped foster intergenerational learning with staff at Westminster-Thurber. Together, these experiences offer valuable insight into the practical considerations and collaborative work required to support innovative workforce development efforts in long-term care.</p>

<p>Sophia Kanowsky is an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University and is a student research assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program. She is dermtch certified and works as a medical assistant in a dermatology office.</p> <p>Logan Lloyd is a student research assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program. He works as a home health caregiver and has been accepted into The Ohio State University's Doctor of Occupational Therapy program.</p>	<p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the preparation and implementation process of the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development pilot, including student research assistant contributions to curriculum refinement, IRB submission, and logistical coordination • Highlight the role of student research assistants in fostering intergenerational learning through direct engagement with participants, session observation, and completion of the Elder Care Certificate • Share early lessons learned and insights from the initial stages of data collection and analysis, emphasizing practical considerations for developing and sustaining innovative workforce development initiatives in long-term care
<p>Angela Curl, PhD, MSW, LSW, FGSA</p> <p>Dr. Angela Curl is an Associate Professor of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University and a Research Fellow at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Her research examines mobility, driving safety, and the psychosocial impacts of driving cessation among older adults. She developed and evaluated the CARS instrument, a brief screening tool for driving safety, and has presented nationally on driving risk tolerance and mobility transitions.</p>	<p>Reframing the Road Ahead: Expanding Awareness of Driver Rehabilitation for Older Drivers</p> <p>For older adults, driving promotes independence, community participation, and emotional well-being. However, many aging drivers experiencing medical or functional changes prematurely stop driving without realizing that specialized rehabilitation is available. Occupational therapists and driver rehabilitation professionals play pivotal roles in assessing and enhancing physical, visual, and cognitive skills needed for driving and in recommending adaptive strategies or equipment. This poster will describe the professions that provide driver rehabilitation interventions, including Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists and Driver Rehabilitation Professionals (Lane et al., 2019), and highlight the continuum of services and populations served (e.g., healthy older drivers, medically at-risk). In addition, the presentation will describe the Best Practice Guidelines of the Association for Driver Rehabilitation Specialists (ADED, 2022) for driver rehabilitation. Despite the proven benefits of these services, awareness remains limited among both the public and healthcare providers, and the number of qualified professionals – especially in Ohio – is insufficient to meet the growing needs of an aging population. Collaborations between occupational therapists and other professionals (e.g., physicians, nursing, pharmacists, optometrists, social workers), rehabilitation centers, and families can promote individually tailored safe mobility solutions to empower older adults to maintain independence, reduce isolation, and support safer communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key professions and credentials involved in driver rehabilitation • Explain how driver rehabilitation interventions support continued safe driving for older adults, as well as driving cessation when necessary • Discuss the need for greater awareness and professional training opportunities in Ohio to meet the mobility needs of an aging population
<p>Lindsay Cotner</p> <p>Lindsay Cotner is a Health Sciences undergraduate student at The Ohio State University with hands-on</p>	<p>Scarlet and Silver Connections: An Intergenerational Walking Program</p> <p>Older adults face challenges such as social isolation, infrequent mobility-friendly activities, and limited opportunities for interaction with younger generations. Scarlet and Silver Connection (SSC) is a student-led walking program designed to address these needs and bridge generational gaps by pairing older adults with</p>

<p>experience in aging-focused research and inter-generational programming. She serves as a student Research Assistant for the AgeUP Intergenerational Workforce Development Program and as Program Manager of Scarlet and Silver Connections.</p>	<p>younger adults in the Columbus area for weekly walks and conversation. Through a simple and accessible format, SSC fosters companionship, increases motivation to stay active, and creates a shared space where intergenerational relationships can develop naturally. Under program management, SSC has grown and transformed from its pilot phase into the structured, sustainable model it is becoming today. Ongoing observation of the program's development, along with participant feedback, has demonstrated the meaningful impact SSC has had on its members. Older adults describe feeling more connected, energized, and supported through their walks. Students report gaining perspective, confidence, and a stronger appreciation for the aging community. Many walking pairs develop genuine friendships that continue beyond the semester, reflecting the authenticity of these intergenerational bonds. This poster highlights both the experiences of program participants and the role of leadership in creating a structure where these relationships thrive. By illustrating the positive impact of SSC and the value of student involvement in community aging programs, this poster demonstrates how simple, wellness-centered activities can strengthen relationships and build age-integrated communities.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the core components of an intergenerational program • Identify effective recruitment, coordination, and retention strategies in community-based intergenerational programming
<p>Sinae (Stacey) Park, BA</p> <p>Stacey Park is interested in behavioral and psychological symptoms in aging and clinical populations. Her work explores how individual differences influence psychological and health-related outcomes over time, using longitudinal data to better understand pathways that can inform supportive care.</p>	<p>Sex Differences in Longitudinal Neuropsychiatric Symptom Trajectories Across Alzheimer's Disease Stages</p> <p>Neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) are prevalent across stages of Alzheimer's disease (AD) and are associated with accelerated cognitive decline and heightened caregiver burden. However, it remains unclear whether the progression of NPS differs by sex across diagnostic stages. This longitudinal study included 223 participants with AD dementia (ADD), 631 participants with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and 544 cognitively normal (CN) participants from the Alzheimer's Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI) database. The Neuropsychiatric Inventory Questionnaire (NPI-Q), an informant-based questionnaire, assessed participants' neuropsychiatric symptoms occurring within the past month at baseline, one-year, and two-year follow-up. Linear mixed effects models evaluated the interaction between baseline diagnostic stage, biological sex, and time (in years) on NPI-Q scores. Time reflected longitudinal NPI-Q changes across two years, with random intercepts and random slopes. Age at baseline NPI-Q assessment was included as a covariate. Linear mixed models revealed a significant three-way interaction between time, sex, and AD diagnostic stage ($\beta = 0.83$, 95% CI [0.15, 1.50], $p = .016$), indicating that females with AD exhibited greater increases in NPS symptoms over time compared to males with AD. No significant sex differences in NPS trajectories were observed in other diagnostic groups. Sex differences in the progression of NPS appear most pronounced in AD, with females exhibiting more symptoms over time. These findings underscore the relevance of sex as a clinical factor in monitoring and managing of behavioral symptoms in dementia. Further research is necessary to delineate the biological, environmental, and psychosocial factors contributing to these sex differences.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how neuropsychiatric symptoms (NPS) progress across Alzheimer's disease diagnostic stages • Explain how biological sex influences longitudinal changes in NPS • Identify the clinical implications of sex differences in NPS trajectories for monitoring and managing behavioral symptoms of dementia

<p>Prayas Gautam, MPH; Heather Menne, PhD, MGS & Kate Singer, MA, PhD</p> <p>Prayas Gautam is a PhD student in Social Gerontology at Miami University with research interests in aging and mental health. He works as a Graduate Assistant and Research Assistant at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Before beginning his doctoral studies, he spent more than seven years in Nepal leading public health and community mental health programs.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p>	<p>Social Engagement Programs of Area Agencies on Aging: Understanding Efforts to Reduce Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Older Adults</p> <p>Social isolation and loneliness significantly affect the health and overall well-being of older adults. As part of the local fabric of aging network providers, Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) provide support and services to older adults and their families. This descriptive study examines the types of social engagement programs offered by AAAs and the institutional partnerships that support these efforts, using data from the 2022 and 2025 national AAA surveys, each with participation from more than 400 agencies. Across both years, most social engagement program types remained stable. In 2025 (N=414), the most frequently offered activities included volunteer engagement opportunities (66.7%), arts and creative programs (62.8%), technology-based engagement (56.0%), and lifelong learning activities (45.9%). These offerings continue to make up the core structure of social participation efforts nationwide. Similarly, AAAs collaborate with a wide range of institutional partners to support and enhance service delivery for older adults. Senior or community centers remained the strongest and most consistent collaborators, increasing from 79.4% in 2022 to 86.6% in 2025. Other partners were engaged at comparatively lower levels in 2025, including nutrition providers (49.0%), caregiver groups (26.3%), faith-based organizations (13.6%), health care providers (11.6%), libraries (18.7%), parks and recreation agencies (12.9%), higher education institutions (8.8%), and transportation providers (10.4%). This pattern reflects a modest shift in the collaborative landscape. Overall, these findings highlight stable program offerings alongside evolving partnership structures, emphasizing the importance of ongoing attention to collaboration as AAAs continue to support the social well-being of older adults.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify major types of social engagement programs implemented by AAAs • Describe partnership patterns between AAAs and community organizations from 2022 to 2025
<p>Amy Restorick Roberts, PhD & Jennifer Heston-Mullins, PhD, LISW</p> <p>Dr. Amy Restorick Roberts is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Science and Social Work at Miami University. Dr. Roberts's research and teaching are dedicated to preparing future social workers and advancing knowledge that enhances the</p>	<p>Social Work Licensure and Resident Behavioral Health Outcomes</p> <p>A growing number of nursing home residents exhibit behavioral symptoms, including rejecting care and engaging in behaviors harmful to themselves or others. As members of the interdisciplinary care team, social services provide psychosocial care, which includes helping residents with behavioral symptoms. Although professional standards call for at least a bachelor's degree in social work, regulations allow for variation in the educational background and licensing requirements for nursing home social workers. In Ohio, eligibility to become a licensed social worker requires earning at least a baccalaureate degree in social work and passing an examination by the state board. Once licensed, social workers must complete 30 hours of continuing education every two years. This secondary data analysis examines the relationship between social work licensing and resident behavioral health outcomes in Ohio. Data were drawn from the</p>

<p>quality of life for older adults, with a particular focus on strengthening long-term care systems and supports.</p> <p>Dr. Jennifer Heston-Mullins is active in qualitative research and evaluation of long-term care policy and programs. Prior to her research career, Dr. Heston-Mullins worked within the aging network as a direct care worker and social worker in residential long-term care.</p>	<p>Minimum Data Set, the Medicare Beneficiary Summary File, the Certification and Survey Provider Enhanced Reporting surveys, and the 2017 Ohio Biennial Survey of Long-Term Care Facilities. Covariates in the models include socio-demographic and health characteristics of residents, and facility characteristics. Regression analyses found that social work licensure was significantly associated with both a reduction in residents exhibiting any behavioral symptoms and a reduction in rejecting care and had no effect on wandering. While this study lends some support for mandatory credentialing, additional research is needed to explore the effect of social work licensing on specific resident outcomes.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the relationship between social worker credentialing and resident outcomes • Analyze the implications of findings for long-term care policy • Identify data sources for facility- and resident-level data in long-term care
<p>Andrea Sensel, OTD, OTR/L; Avery Kasian, S/OT & Mackenzie Alspaugh, S/OT</p> <p>Dr. Andrea Sensel serves as Associate Chair and Doctoral Capstone Coordinator for the Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program at the University of Findlay, where she has taught since 2019. Dr. Sensel is passionate about aging populations and community wellness, with research interests in dementia care, fall prevention and aging in place.</p> <p>Avery Kasian is a second-year student in the University of Findlay's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. She obtained her Bachelor's in Allied Health Sciences at the University of Cincinnati. Her clinical studies include outpatient and early intervention with an interest in fall prevention and successful aging.</p> <p>Mackenzie Alspaugh is a second-year student in the University of Findlay's Doctor of Occupational Therapy Program. She received her Bachelor's in Psychology from the University of Findlay. Her clinical interests include home health, long-term care, and geriatric populations with</p>	<p>Supporting Successful Aging in Place: The Role of Technology</p> <p>Successful aging in place highlights the ability of older adults to maintain safety, independence, and quality of life while remaining in their homes. While international research supported promising technologies, such as smart home systems, wearable devices, and sensor-integrated home modifications to support this goal, the U.S. lacked in widespread use and understanding. Given that falls were the leading cause of injury among adults 65 and older, effective technological supports were urgently needed. This exploratory, qualitative study investigated the perceptions, attitudes, and confidence of community-dwelling older adults regarding the use of technology in their homes for successful aging in place. Through semi-structured interviews the study sought to bridge the gap between promising innovations and user-centered adoption. By focusing on older adults' experiences, this research contributed to discerning aging as a stage of empowerment, which is driven by engagement in meaningful occupations, innovative technology, and independence.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe older adults' confidence levels towards available technologies and its influence on successful aging in place • Identify strategies they can utilize to assist older adults successfully age in place

<p>a passion for rehabilitation and aging in place.</p>	
<p>Balikus Kadiri Gbadamosi, MA</p> <p>Balikus Kadiri Gbadamosi is a graduate student who studies the sociology of mental health and aging. Her research combines sociological theory with quantitative analysis to look at how financial behaviors during a person's life affect their health in older adulthood. Her research uses large datasets to look at how spending behavior and debt insecurity affect the mental health of older adults.</p>	<p>The Impact of Spending Behavior and Debt Insecurity on the Mental Health of Older Adults</p> <p>Older adults are increasingly entering later life with substantial financial strain and unsecured debt, raising concerns about its impact on psychological well-being. While research consistently shows links between financial hardship and mental health, less is known about how midlife financial behaviors contribute to debt vulnerability as individuals age. This poster presents a proposed study grounded in the life-course perspective and Pearlin's Stress Process Model to examine these pathways. The study investigates whether spending behavior in early to mid-adulthood predicts debt insecurity in older adulthood, whether it is associated with depressive symptoms and psychological distress, and whether it mediates the relationship between midlife spending and later-life mental health. The analysis will use longitudinal data from the Consumption and Activities Mail Survey (CAMS) and the Health and Retirement Study (HRS). Spending behavior will be operationalized using a discretionary spending-to-wealth ratio, while debt insecurity will be measured through both objective unsecured debt and subjective financial strain. Mental health outcomes will be assessed using validated CES-D and psychological distress items. Socioeconomic status (income, wealth, and education) will be examined as a moderating factor. Integrating these financial behaviors, debt insecurity, and aging processes, this study aims to clarify how midlife financial decisions accumulate into later-life health disparities. Findings will support efforts to strengthen financial well-being and mental health outcomes among older adults.</p> <p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify how midlife spending behaviors contribute to financial vulnerability and debt insecurity in older adulthood • Explain how debt insecurity functions as a chronic stressor affecting mental health among older adults • Examine the moderating role of socioeconomic status in shaping financial strain and psychological well-being across the life course
<p>Pamela Glaser, MSN, BSN, BA, BA; Heather Menne, PhD, MGS; Kate Singer, MA, PhD; Molly Noble, MGS & Prayag Gautam, MPH</p> <p>Pamela Glaser is a first year PhD student in Social Gerontology at Miami University. As a Graduate Research Assistant at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University, she is involved in a research project focusing on services that Area Agencies on Aging provide, transportation being one of these services.</p> <p>Dr. Heather Menne is an Associate Professor of Gerontology and Scripps Fellow at Miami University. She has federal and non-</p>	<p>The Role of Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) in Facilitating Transportation: Rideshare Partnerships as an Alternative to Traditional Transportation Services in Geographically Diverse Areas</p> <p>Access to transportation is critical for the health and well-being of older adults. The benefits are manifold: continued/increased mobility, lower risk for isolation/loneliness, increased access to healthcare/better health outcomes, continued autonomy/independence, and continued functional health. Barriers to and gaps in transportation for older adults remains a salient issue. Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) have established Rideshare partnerships as an alternative option to traditional transportation services. Rideshare companies (e.g., Uber/Lyft) are viable solutions for older adults who may not drive, may not be able to use public transportation and need point-to-point services, and who may live in rural areas or urban areas where the built environment is a barrier to public transportation. This descriptive study analyzed data from the National Surveys of AAAs from 2019 to 2025 on transportation services both provided by AAAs and contracted out by AAAs to a range of providers. The percentage of Rideshare partnerships across all AAAs increased from 5.3% in 2019, to 12.8% in 2022, to 15.4% in 2025. The data highlighted significant differences between rural and non-rural areas. In 2019, 18.2% of Rideshare partnerships were in rural areas, followed by 23.1% in 2022, and 21.3% in 2025. We need continued, greater, innovative solutions to the complex issue of older adult transportation in the United States. The findings provide crucial insights for policymaking and AAA program development.</p>

<p>profit experience in aging programs and services. Her research career focuses on long-term services and supports, with a specific emphasis on people living with dementia, family caregivers, and formal caregivers.</p> <p>Dr. Kate Singer is a Senior Research Associate at Scripps Gerontology Center at Miami University. She works on a variety of projects at Scripps, with many centered around evaluating care experiences. Outside of this work, her research interests include examining wellbeing outcomes for family caregivers and people living alone with dementia.</p> <p>Molly Noble is a Senior Research Associate at Miami University's Scripps Gerontology Center, where she works primarily to implement evidence-based programs for people living with dementia and their care partners. Outside of this work, her research interests include preference-based care, dementia, and implementation science.</p> <p>Prayas Gautam is a PhD student in Social Gerontology at Miami University with research interests in aging and mental health. He works as a Graduate Assistant and Research Assistant at the Scripps Gerontology Center. Before beginning his doctoral studies, he spent more than seven years in Nepal leading public health and community mental health programs.</p>	<p><u>Poster Objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key trends in transportation services from the National Surveys of AAAs • Highlight the importance of alternative modes of transportation such as Rideshare Partnerships with AAAs to fill gaps related to traditional transportation services
<p>Mathias Adjei, BSc</p> <p>Mathias Adjei is a Master of Gerontological Studies student at Miami University, where his work centers on person-environment interactions, aging in place,</p>	<p>Tracing the Development of the Person-Environment Fit Perspective: Applications for Home Care Innovations in Ghana</p> <p>Person-environment fit is one of the foundational perspectives in environmental gerontology, describing how well individual abilities align with the demands and supports found in the places where older adults live. Over time, this perspective has expanded to include social relationships, community environments, and the systems that shape daily routines. This poster traces the development of the</p>

and community support for older adults. His academic training includes environmental gerontology, long-term care systems, and aging in diverse cultural settings.

person-environment fit perspective from its early ecological foundations through later work on personal agency, community design, and integrated care models. Using Ghana as a case example, the poster applies this perspective to a context where formal long-term care options remain limited and family caregiving continues to play a central role. Recent studies highlight how home layouts, neighborhood conditions, and financial constraints shape the daily lives of older adults in Ghana. At the same time, new home-care services are emerging to fill gaps in support. These services aim to assist older adults in their own homes rather than require relocation, which closely matches the ideas found in the person-environment fit perspective. The poster will discuss how concepts such as residential normalcy, age-friendly community design, and "aging in the right place" can guide the development of home-based care programs in Ghana. By linking theoretical development with the lived realities of older adults, the poster highlights opportunities for gerontologists, policymakers, and community organizations to support aging in familiar environments. Attendees will gain insight into how a long-standing gerontological perspective can inform practical, culturally grounded approaches to home and community support for older adults.

Poster Objectives:

- Describe the major stages in the development of the person-environment fit perspective and explain how the concept has expanded across time
- Identify how environmental, social, and community factors influence aging in Ghana, particularly in settings with limited formal long-term care services
- Apply the person-environment fit perspective to examine how emerging home-care approaches can support older adults in familiar environments