

CHANGES IN SOCIAL ISOLATION, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION AMONG OLDER ADULTS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Linda Churchill, Hannah Siden, Annabella Aquirre, Elizabeth Procter-Gray, and Wenjun Li, *University of Massachusetts Lowell, Lowell, Massachusetts, United States*

Social distancing and business lockdowns may have severe negative impact on daily living, mental and physical health of community-living older adults. Our Healthy Aging and Neighborhood Study surveyed 370 older adults in Central Massachusetts in 2020 and 2021. Participants were queried about pre-post pandemic changes in social and physical activities, mental and physical health, and lifestyle factors including food purchasing, diet and physical exercise; and attitude towards and receiving of vaccination. The study is ongoing and data are being accumulated. Preliminary analysis suggested that social distancing and lockdowns have negative impacted social engagement, communications with close friends, relatives and family members, food purchasing, frequency of outdoor exercises, especially group activities. The impact appeared to differ by sex, advancing age, and living arrangement. In summary, social distancing and business lockdowns may have negative impacts on most older adults while the impacts were more severe in those older and socioeconomically disadvantaged.

COVID-19 LOCKDOWN MEASURES: IMPACT ON OLDER ADULTS WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS IN SINGAPORE

Tharshini Lokanathan,¹ Hui-Ching Chen,¹ and W. Quin Yow,² *1. Singapore University of Technology and Design, Singapore University of Technology and Design, Not Applicable, Singapore, 2. Singapore University of Technology & Design, Singapore, Not Applicable, Singapore*

Family caregivers typically rely on community-based services and social support networks to supplement their caregiving of older adults with dementia (OAwD). In April 2020, the Singapore government implemented a partial lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19. We assessed the policy's impact on the physical and mental health of caregivers and their OAwD. As part of a larger study, 30 caregivers were interviewed and rated the stress they experienced when caring for an OAwD during the partial lockdown. Qualitative analyses found significant behavioral changes in OAwD such as irritability, aggression and hallucinations, which led some caregivers to believe their dependents' condition had deteriorated, as well as heightened levels of caregiving stress. Overall, our preliminary results suggested that although social distancing measures may be effective in containing the spread of COVID-19, these measures could lead to negative outcomes on vulnerable populations such as OAwD and their caregivers.

AN INTERNATIONAL AGING RESEARCH COLLABORATION DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS: MITIGATING GLOBAL HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

Wayne Chong,¹ Rick Kwan,² Inthira Roopsawang,³ Ramraj Gautam,⁴ Vivian, W. Q. Lou,⁵ and Ladda Thiamwong,⁶ *1. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, Not Applicable, Singapore, 2. The Hong Kong*

Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong, 3. Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand, 4. UMass Lowell, Lowell, Massachusetts, United States, 5. The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Not Applicable, Hong Kong, 6. College of Nursing, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida, United States

There are several reasons for forming an aging international research collaboration; however, creating a successful and productive research team during the global crisis may require extensive planning and efforts. Our team consists of ten scholars from five countries, including Hong Kong, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States. To accomplish this initiative, we employ ten simple rules for establishing international research collaborations proposed by R. de Grijis (2015). We aim to examine impacts of the pandemic on physical activity, frailty, falls, depression and social networks in diverse older adults. We collect data by online survey and/or face-to-face survey using questionnaires including fear of the COVID, face mask use, Social Network, Rapid Assessment of Physical Activity, a simple frailty questionnaire, CDC fall risk checklist, short Fall-Efficacy Scale International and Patient Health Questionnaire-9. Topics of discussion included: research progression, lessons learned and barriers to international collaboration during the COVID-19 crisis.

Session 2035 (Symposium)

CLARK TIBBITTS AWARD AND HIRAM J. FRIEDSAM MENTORSHIP AWARD LECTURES

Chair: Kara Dassel

The Clark Tibbitts Award lecture will feature an address by Debra Dobbs, PhD, FGSA in memory of the 2021 award recipient, Kathryn Hyer, PhD, FGSA. AGHE's Clark Tibbitts Award was established in 1980 and named for an architect of the field of gerontological education. The award is given each year to an individual or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of gerontology and geriatrics education. The Hiram J. Friedsam Award lecture will feature an address by the 2021 award recipient, Pamela Elfenbein, MSW, PhD, FAGHE, HS-BCP. Hiram J. Friedsam was the professor, co-founder, and director of the Center for Studies in Aging and dean of the School of Community Service at the University of Northern Texas. Dr. Friedsam was an outstanding teacher, researcher, colleague, and mentor to students, faculty, and administrators, as well as a past president of AGHE. The purpose of this award is to recognize those who emulate Dr. Friedsam's excellence in mentorship.

KATHRYN HYER'S LASTING LEGACY IN GERONTOLOGY EDUCATION AND AGING POLICY RESEARCH

Debra Dobbs, *University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States*

Kathy Hyer, our dear friend, colleague, former Gerontological Society of America President and Professor and Director of the Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging, University of South Florida posthumously has been awarded the Clark Tibbitt's Award for her achievements