

conditions. AA are also two times more likely to develop late-onset AD than whites and less likely to be diagnosed. Yet, our understanding of this disparity in cognition remains limited. Cognitive impairment (CI) and dementia are both underdiagnosed and underreported in primary care patients. The lack of early detection of cognitive and functional decline in high risk populations results in failure to provide care and interventions to members of vulnerable groups. This talk will focus on research that seeks to identify a more sensitive cognitive marker for early identification of cognitive impairment for AA and advances this objective by linking the cognitive marker to AD cerebral spinal fluid biomarkers (A β 1-42, p-tau) and testing whether this association differs between AA and whites.

STRUCTURAL DISCRIMINATION AND MRI-ASSESSED BRAIN ENDPOINTS: HANDLS BRAINCHILD

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Emerging evidence demonstrates that exposure to race-related adversity, specifically, individual-level discrimination, in middle-age is adversely linked with white matter lesion volume, a prospective marker of future cerebrovascular disease as indicated on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI). It remains unclear whether exposure to indices of neighborhood-level structural discrimination (e.g., residential segregation, % of population employed & with high school diploma/equivalency), are linked to MRI-assessed brain pathology and how these linkages may be patterned by key sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., race, age, sex, class). Knowledge of this linkage may help us further understand well-documented racial disparities in multiple clinical brain health endpoints including stroke, dementia, cognitive decline, functional disability, and subclinical brain pathology in adulthood. Thusly, this talk will focus on work that examines whether neighborhood-level structural discrimination is associated with MRI-brain assessed indicators of subclinical brain pathology and the role of key sociodemographic factors, with emphasis on the role of race.

SESSION 550 (SYMPOSIUM)

OLDER ADULTS' SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND WELL-BEING IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Chair: Shannon T. Mejia, *University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois, United States*

Discussant: Sara J. Czaja, *Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, New York, United States*

As adults age into a digitally connected world, communication technologies such as the internet, email, social media, and video chats offer new opportunities to connect with others. The implications of older adults' use of technology

in the context of their social relationships—such as the implications for social integration, the relational circumstances of technology adoption, implications for daily experiences of well-being, and opportunities to form new relationships—are less understood. This symposium brings together diverse and complementary perspectives on the contribution of technology to older adults' social experiences. We begin with inquiry into implications of internet use for social integration. Hees and colleagues use data from the German Ageing Survey to examine how internet use is associated with change in loneliness over a three-year period in older adults who are either before or after retirement. Our symposium continues with papers on technology use within the context of older adults' existing close relationships. Chopik examines individual and dyadic predictors of technology adoption. Mejia and colleagues consider the implications for digital social interactions for older adult's well-being on that day. Our final paper discusses the potential for technology to aid in the development of new relationships. Rogers and colleagues describe findings from their OneClick.chat project, a web-based video chat application that connects older adults based on their shared interests. Our session concludes with a discussion led by Czaja, who will integrate the four papers and discuss the challenges and opportunities of using technology to support older adults' social relationships and well-being.

INTERNET USE AND LONELINESS: CURE OR CAUSE? LONGITUDINAL ANALYSIS OF OLDER ADULTS' INTERNET USE

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The internet provides an indispensable platform for social interaction, entertainment and everyday tasks. Especially older adults might benefit from staying engaged online to counteract loneliness. Yet, current research on how internet use affects loneliness still paints a contradictory picture. The current study investigates the longitudinal influence of social internet use forms as opposed to general internet use on loneliness across three years (2014-2017) separately in two age groups (pre-retirement: 40-64 years and post-retirement: 65-85 years), using data from the German Ageing Survey (DEAS). Structural equation modelling shows, that general web use predicts an increase in loneliness in both age-groups. However, contacting friends and family online seems to protect against loneliness over and above the effect of overall internet use, at least for the younger age-group. Therefore, the current study underlines the importance of investigating what exactly people do online instead of seeing the internet as a homogenous tool.

INDIVIDUAL AND DYADIC PREDICTORS OF TECHNOLOGY ADOPTION: IMPLICATIONS FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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Technology has the ability to enhance and enrich the lives of older adults by facilitating better relationships, health, and well-being. However, older adults vary in how often—and even whether—they use information and communication