daily routines have been significantly changed, making it challenging to capture the nature of caregiver-resident interactions. Furthermore, using masks created unforeseen barriers for capturing communication between staff caregivers and residents including difficulties in identifying residents' facial expressions, which are a vital component of assessing apathy. The presentation describes approaches to communication with founders, collaborators, and clinical sites and discusses strategies to recruit participants and conduct data collection.

PILOT TESTING OF THE PROMOTING POSITIVE CARE INTERACTIONS (PPCI) IN ASSISTED LIVING STUDY DURING A PANDEMIC

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The purpose of this study was to test the feasibility and preliminary efficacy of Promoting Positive Care Interactions (PPCI)—a four step intervention designed to establish positive care interactions between staff and residents with cognitive impairment or dementia in Assisted Living (AL). Initially designed as a traditional on-site intervention, PPCI was later transformed to be conducted remotely through webinar and virtual meetings due to challenges related to onsite engagement in AL during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the study adopted shorter timeline, a single group pretest-posttest design, and limited recruitment to staff only; 17 care staff were recruited, and data was collected via online surveys and interviews. PPCI was successfully implemented as intended with considerable stakeholder engagement. Findings demonstrated feasibility and promising staff adoption of PPCI. Continued research is needed to optimize the quality of care interactions in AL and evaluate whether online approach to staff training can change staff behavior.

CLINICAL RESEARCH IN THE HOSPITAL DURING THE PANDEMIC: WHAT'S WORKED AND NOT WORKED?

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Under normal conditions, the hospital setting presents multiple challenges to research with persons with dementia and their care partners. This presentation describes the additional barriers posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the strategies to meet those challenges, in a cluster randomized controlled trial that examines the efficacy of a nurse-family partnership to promote functional recovery of persons with dementia. In response to research restrictions, the research team altered their plan for recruitment, implementation of the intervention, data collection, and analytic approach. This presentation describes these alterations and discusses the plan to meet the aims of the project while meeting the requirements of the Institutional Review Board, accountability

to the funder, and university regulations. Modifications in staffing patterns, staff training, and procedures will also be discussed, as well as the study timeline. Finally, strategies to maintain a positive attitude and productivity within the team will be discussed.

SUPPORTING PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN DEMENTIA RESEARCH VIA TECHNOLOGY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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The COVID-19 pandemic brings challenges to patient partnerships in research. In-person research meetings with patient partners were prohibited. In this presentation, we outline specific issues we encountered in a patient-led dementia research project, which involved a literature review study and gathering community stakeholders to identify the top 10 local priorities in the development of a dementia-friendly community. We will describe how we found shared solutions to complete the project. In response to COVID, computers and training were provided for patient partners to maintain team connection, plan project activities, conduct team analysis, and host a community workshop in the lockdown time. The drastic shift to virtual research methods created barriers and opportunities for co-research with older people with dementia. Virtual meetings can generate inequities for those who do not have a computer and knowledge in videoconferencing. Practical strategies to overcome barriers to using virtual technologies will be explored.

Session 3185 (Symposium)

COPING WITH COVID-19: CHALLENGES AND RESILIENCE

Chair: Lauren Mitchell
Co-Chair: Lauren Mitchell
Discussant: Daniel Mroczek

COVID-19 has introduced unprecedented challenges for older adults. At the same time, older adults have adapted to meet the challenges of the pandemic. In this symposium, we explore a number of difficulties brought about by COVID-19, while also investigating the ways in which individual, social, and community resources and strengths have bolstered older adults' resilience through the pandemic. Paper 1 investigates family caregivers of older adults with dementia living in long-term residential care facilities, a group that has been especially heavily affected by the pandemic. Using longitudinal data spanning Fall 2017-Spring 2021, the authors estimate caregivers' trajectories of well-being pre-and-post pandemic. With an exceptionally large qualitative data sample, Paper 2 examines the influence of COVID-19 on older adults' neighborhood engagement. Thematic analysis has revealed diverse patterns of response to the pandemic, as well as community and personal characteristics that have facilitated older adults' coping and resilience. Papers 3 and 4 examine how older adults' personality traits may influence their responses and adjustment to the pandemic, each using assessments of personality taken before the pandemic. Specifically, Paper 3