

PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS AND CANCER SCREENING BEHAVIORS IN MIDDLE-AGED AND OLDER MEN IN THE U.S.

Shalini Sahoo,¹ Roberto J. Millar,¹ Takashi Yamashita,¹ and Phyllis Cummins,² 1. *University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland, United States*, 2. *Scripps Gerontology Center, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, United States*

Routine cancer screening is widely recognized as an effective strategy for reducing cancer mortality – the second leading cause of death in the U.S. Research shows cancer screening rates need to be improved, and men are less likely to uptake recommended screening than women. Cancer screening requires an array of tasks such as seeking up-to-date guidelines, making appointments, planning a hospital visit, and communicating with health care professionals in the complex health care systems. Importantly, modern health care systems are rapidly adopting technology such as web-based applications for information dissemination and communication with patients. This current study is designed to better understand the roles of problem-solving skills in the technology-rich environment (PSTRE) in two selected cancer screening behaviors among middle-aged and older men. We obtained nationally representative data with a sophisticated PSTRE assessment from the 2012/2014 Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC). Binary logistic regression models with survey weights were used to estimate the association between PSTRE scores (1 – 500 points) and two cancer screening behaviors of men who meet the recommended guideline of age between 45 to 74 years old (n = 1,168). Results showed that greater PSTRE scores were positively associated with prostate cancer screening (OR = 1.005, p < 0.05). Improvement in PSTRE may promote the specific cancer screening behaviors. Our findings also inform future interventions that seek to improve cancer screening among a vulnerable section of older populations.

CALL A TEENAGER . . . THAT'S WHAT I DO!: GRANDCHILDREN HELP OLDER ADULTS USE NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Jennifer D. Portz,¹ Christine Fruhauf,² Sheana Bull,¹ Rebecca S. Boxer,³ David Bekelman,¹ Alejandra Casillas,⁴ Kathy Gleason,⁵ and Elizabeth Bayliss,⁶ 1. *University of Colorado, Aurora, Colorado, United States*, 2. *Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado, United States*, 3. *Kaiser Permanente Institute for Health Research, Aurora, Colorado, United States*, 4. *UCLA, LA, California, United States*, 5. *Kaiser Permanente, Aurora, Colorado, United States*, 6. *Kaiser Permanente Colorado, Aurora, Colorado, United States*

As older adults increasingly show interest in technology for their well-being, families will play an important role in promoting the adoption and use of beneficial health technologies. The purpose of this study was to conduct a sub-analysis of data collected from a large-scale qualitative project regarding older adults' experiences using health information technology. Specifically, the sub-analysis explored older adults' experiences with technology support from family members to inform strategies for promoting older adult engagement with new health technologies. While the primary

analysis of the original study was theoretically driven, this paper reports results from the inductive, open-coding analysis. Twenty-four older patients (≥65 years) with multiple chronic conditions (Charlson Comorbidity Index > 2) participated in a focus group conducted at patients' primary clinic. While conducting the primary theoretically-driven analysis, coders also utilized an open-coding approach to ensure important ideas not reflected in the theoretical code-book were captured. Open-coding resulted in a primary theme, "family support", that was furthered categorized by who and how the tech-support was provided. Participants were not specifically asked about family support, yet family assistance and encouragement for technology emerged from every focus group. Participants repeatedly mentioned that they called their grandchildren and adult children for help with technology. Participants also reported that family members experienced difficulty when teaching technology use. Family members struggled to explain simple technology tasks and were frustrated by the slow teaching process. Family support, specifically via grandchildren, may have a key role in the successful adoption and use of emerging health technologies.

IT'S MY BUDDY: EXPLORING THE PERCEPTIONS OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA ABOUT THE SOCIAL ROBOT PARO IN A HOSPITAL SETTING

Lillian Hung,¹ and Habib Chaudhury,² 1. *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada*, 2. *Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada*

New technology such as social robots opens up new opportunities in hospital settings. PARO, a robotic pet seal, was designed to provide emotional and social support for older people with dementia. This project aims to explore the perceptions of persons with dementia about PARO's role in a hospital setting. Video-ethnographic methods were applied. We had conversational interviews with and video observations of 10 older people with dementia in the geriatric unit of a large Canadian hospital. Also, semi-structured interviews and two focus groups were conducted with 10 staff members in the local unit to gain contextual information. Thematic analysis yielded three substantive themes: (a) "it's like a buddy"—the robot helps people with dementia uphold a sense of self in the world; (b) "it's a conversation piece"—the baby seal facilitates social connection; and (c) "it's all about love"—PARO transforms and humanizes the clinical setting. Our findings help provide a better understanding of the direct perspectives of patients with dementia on the use of social robots. Instead of substituting human contact, the social robot complements emotional care and supports our fundamental human need for love.

TECHNOLOGY

TRANSLATING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN QUALITY OF LIFE AND MEMORY USING A NOVEL EEG TECHNOLOGY

Mitchell Roberts,¹ Orli Kehat,² Michaela Gross,¹ Nethanel Lasri,² Gil Issachar,² Erica Sappington VandeWeerd,¹ Ziv Peremen,² and Amir Geva,² 1. *University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, United States*, 2. *elminda, Hertsliya, Israel*