functioning. Estimates were (N=1,950) adjusted for demographics, chronic disease, depression, and social connectedness. In all groups, loneliness was positively associated with greater global cognitive decline over the 5-year interval. However, analyses of different domains of cognitive functioning (e.g., executive functioning, memory) suggested that this association differs by cognitive domain and race. Future research on interventions to prevent cognitive decline should consider targeting loneliness, include diverse older adults, and examine global and specific domains of cognitive functioning.

Session 4610 (Symposium)

STRATEGIES TO DESIGN TECHNOLOGY PROMOTING SOCIAL PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Chair: Karin Wolf-Ostermann
Discussant: Jane Flanagan

Community-dwelling people with dementia and their caregivers face increasing challenges to active social participation as the condition progresses. Potential difficulties include disclosing the condition, navigating through available support and sustaining interpersonal relationships. Dementia-friendly support services and interventions targeting caregiving dyads can promote social participation. Interventions serve as a communication channel for the dyads to engage, interact and partake in their community. Technology as a facilitator is gaining momentum; increasing evidence suggests that technological solutions contribute to promoting social health for people with dementia and family caregivers. Patient and public involvement and rigorous evaluations of solutions are needed to ensure successful implementation of dementia-friendly technologies. This symposium, presented as a part of the Marie-Curie Innovative-Training-Network action, H2020-MSCA-ITN, grant agreement number 813196, comprises four pertinent presentations. The first presentation outlines the effectiveness of technological interventions to improve social participation of older adults with and without dementia, and barriers and facilitators these interventions present. The second presentation describes disclosure decisions faced by dyads and Patient and public involvement findings on how an existing empowerment intervention supporting disclosure decision-making can transfer to an online environment. The third presentation reports on findings from a study evaluating a tablet-based activation system designed to engage caregiving dyads in social sessions. The final presentation lifts the focus towards how existing online environments can be adapted through dementia-friendly privacy policy agreements, and thereby support social participation of this user group online. Our discussant, Jane Flanagan, synthesizes the presentations and leads a discussion of future directions for policy and practice.

TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN DYADIC INTERACTION SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY-DWELLING PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS

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People with dementia and their family caregivers struggling with the impacts of the condition on cognitive abilities, experience deterred social interactions and strained relationships. Technology can potentially sustain the relationship by engaging dyads in joint activities and supporting their interaction. This study aimed to evaluate the impact of a tablet-based activation system, I-CARE, specifically designed to engage people with dementia in meaningful activities. In this intervention, community-dwelling people with dementia and their family caregiver engaged in joint activities supported by the I-CARE system. Quantitative measures on quality of life, relationship quality and caregiver burden are collected, while semi-structured interviews explore the impact of Covid-19, as well as what motivates the participants to invite technology into their dyadic interactions. Our findings provide important insight in how technology can support social health and relationship sustenance of dyads living with dementia, and what implications Covid-19 has for their social participation in society.

INDIVIDUALS' DECISION TO DISCLOSE A DIAGNOSIS OF DEMENTIA AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ONLINE EMPOWERMENT INTERVENTION

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Learning to live with a diagnosis of dementia is a complex process. Many people affected by dementia choose not to disclose the diagnosis to others and avoid social activities due to fear of others' adverse reactions. This in turn can limit their social participation and negatively affect their psychosocial health. A systematic review explored factors influencing the decision to disclose or conceal a dementia diagnosis to one's social network, including individuals' attitudes and experiences regarding this decision. The sixteen studies included reveal the complexity of this decision. Findings highlight the role of stigma and individuals' wishes to remain 'normal', but also the need of explaining what has changed. Results were further discussed with people with dementia and informal caregivers as part of patient and public involvement. End users expressed their attitudes, needs, and wishes towards the design of an online empowerment intervention supporting disclosure decision-making in people affected by dementia.

TECHNOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS AND SOCIAL PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY-DWELLING OLDER ADULTS WITH OR WITHOUT DEMENTIA

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