

Geriatrics infusion and transformation of community-based settings to support “aging in place” is complex. It requires a customized approach that engages multiple stakeholders who are invested in systems redesign and process change. Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine’s NJ Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program, in partnership with an affordable housing facility operated by Fair Share Housing/Northgate II, and Rutgers University School of Nursing (RSoN), implemented a Resident Health Risk Assessment (RHRA) tool as part of an interprofessional community-based training experience for health professions students. The goal was to identify health risks that impact a resident’s ability to age in place and implement a person-centered intervention plan. Multi-level stakeholder engagement and ongoing rapid cycle quality improvement catalyzed changes in structure and process for all partners. Results included refinement of an interprofessional clinical rotation, introduction of competency attainment into the orientation process, and resource reallocation to support data collection.

THE RESOURCE EXCHANGE NETWORK: A MODEL FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE IN GERIATRIC CARE

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Transformational efforts to redesign the care system for older adults call for the development of novel partnership models incorporating academic institutions, primary care networks, and community-based organizations. The Rhode Island Geriatric Workforce Enhancement Program (RI-GWEP) has utilized the “resource exchange model” to develop innovative, interdisciplinary, and integrated projects combining educational resources, clinical expertise, programmatic experience, and impact evaluation. With particular emphasis on the challenges of developing interprofessional education spanning the traditional gaps between disciplines and departments, this presentation emphasizes the critical conditions, components, and capacities of such a collaborative network. These include: (1) mission dominance, (2) barter exchange, (3) partnership investment, and (4) interpersonal relationships. RI-GWEP’s experience provides insights into the conceptual foundation of geriatrics networks and specific, concrete examples of projects incorporating these principles. Implications for the development of networks in other settings include consideration of particular: (1) projects, (2) people, (3) places, (4) personalities, and (5) possibilities.

SESSION 4080 (PAPER)

TECHNOLOGY, THERAPY, AND TREATMENT OF VARIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS

EVALUATION OF ART ON THE BRAIN, A HEALTH APP FOR OLDER ADULTS, IN LONG-TERM CARE

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ArtOn the Brain is a mobile application that incorporates art history education, play and socialization for older adults. This pilot project examined its health and social impact among long term care residents. A convenience sample of 48 residents, 60+ years, with borderline intact to moderate cognitive impairment were recruited. Residents with mild or better cognitive status used the app individually on a tablet while the remaining participated in therapist-led group sessions. One-hour intervention occurred twice weekly. Primary outcomes, health and well-being, were measured with 5Q-5D-5L and Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being tools at baseline and after 6 weeks. Secondary outcomes were mood, cognition, function and overall satisfaction with activity options and personal relationships. Pre-post paired t-test analyses of data from EQ-5D-5L and Warwick tools did not show a significant difference. There were no notable declines with cognitive performance, functional ability and depression post-intervention. Four activity options and three personal relationship items had statistically significant improvements post-intervention. Activity options addressed engagement in enjoyable activities on weekends and evenings, and opportunity to, spend time with other like-minded residents and explore new skills, interests. Personal relationships items included engagement in activities helpful to others and having people to do things with. ArtOn the Brain is a novel application suitable for long term care residents. While 6 week intervention did not show improvement in overall health and well-being, there were significant improvements with residents’ reported engagement in activity options and improvement of personal relationships. Longitudinal evaluations are needed to examine changes in health status and well-being.

INSTAPALS: FACILITATING INTERGENERATIONAL CONTACT THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

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Using the traditional framework of Pen Pals, Instapals was a project that facilitated 1-to-1 intergenerational relationships through daily exchanges on Instagram for 30 days. Although communication channels have exploded in the past 10 years in large part to social platforms and digital technologies, the diversity of daily social interactions has decreased. More and more, society has become siloed by age, interest, and belief. Building off intergroup contact theory, Instapals was designed to encourage positive intergenerational contact between younger (undergraduate students) and older adults (individuals 65+) and challenge ageist beliefs. Intergenerational social exchanges occurred both on Instagram and during three in-person meetings. Among undergraduate students, attitudes and stereotypes toward older adults and aging were assessed at three timepoints (before meeting their older adult partner, during a mid-point evaluation, and at the end of the project). Quantitative analyses demonstrate a decrease in aging anxiety, a decrease in psychological concerns about the aging process, and a greater endorsement of positive perceptions toward one’s older adult partner. Qualitative analyses of written responses from students (collected before meeting