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The public health implications of Alzheimer's disease or related dementias (ADRDs) are significant and have placed considerable pressure on the U.S. healthcare system. Training and mobilizing a critical mass of volunteers to address unmet dementia care needs may be a potent, scalable, and cost efficient approach to address gaps in dementia care and to support family caregivers. Further, by engaging older volunteers to do this work and remain in productive and impactful post-retirement roles, additive population health benefits may be possible. This session will focus on ways we might harness the power of senior volunteers to meet the public health challenges associated with ADRD. Presentations will draw from three innovative community-based projects that utilize senior volunteers to support and enhance health in aging and dementia care. Dr. Carlson will provide an update on the evaluation and scaling Experience Corps, an intergenerational program that engages senior volunteers to work in elementary schools. Dr. Gaugler will discuss the Porchlight Project, a new multicomponent training approach for senior volunteers in Minnesota to enhance dementia care capabilities and support to underserved older persons. Dr. Samus will introduce the MEMORI Corps program, a novel activity-based companion care program for home-residing persons with ADRD delivered by trained senior volunteers. Given the current and impending shortages in the geriatric work force and family caregivers, respectively, innovative and readily available long term service and support options are needed to offset potential care gaps. The current session proposes the novel incorporation of volunteers as one solution to do so.

MAKING ENGAGEMENT MEANINGFUL THROUGH ORGANIZED ROUTINE INTERACTION (MEMORI) CORPS TRIAL: AN INTRODUCTION

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This presentation will review the design, methods, and early lessons learned from the Making Engagement Meaningful through Organized Routine Interaction (MEMORI) Corps trial recently funded by NIA. This trial is evaluating the feasibility and efficacy of the MEMORI Corps program, a novel 12-week activity-based companion care model designed to mobilize and equip senior volunteers to deliver individualized, evidence-based activity programming to persons with dementia PWD living at home and offer family CGs needed respite. The intervention synthesizes and adapts prior evidence-based work from the Tailored Activities Program® (an activity-based intervention persons with dementia), Experience Corps® (an intergenerational civic engagement program that engages senior volunteers to work in elementary schools), and MIND at Home® (a home-based dementia care coordination program) to simultaneously address unmet respite care needs of family CGs, provide PWD structured meaningful activities and social engagement, and provide

meaningful engagement and peer support opportunities for senior volunteers.

THE PORCHLIGHT PROJECT: PARTNERING WITH VOLUNTEERS TO ENHANCE COMMUNITY-BASED DEMENTIA CARE AND OUTREACH

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Families often remain unaware of long-term services and supports (LTSS) that could help to mitigate the negative effects of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRDs). Approaches that: a) identify community-residing older persons with potential memory impairment; b) assist their families in navigating the healthcare system; and c) facilitate the identification of appropriate community-based LTSS could result in more effective management of ADRD. The Porchlight Project is a multicomponent training approach for lay volunteers in Minnesota (i.e., Senior Companions) that enhances their capability to deliver dementia care and support to underserved older persons in need. Mixed methods analysis of qualitative and quantitative data among 20 Senior Companions and up to 25 persons with ADRD and their family caregivers suggest the potential success of the Porchlight Project, as well as areas to refine and enhance prior to large-scale evaluation throughout Minnesota.

THE IMPACT OF MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT IN AGING ADULTS: THE BALTIMORE EXPERIENCE CORPS TRIAL

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Experience Corps was designed to embed cognitive, social, and physical activity into volunteer service by training older adults to serve in neighborhood elementary schools as mentors of children in Kindergarten-3 for 15 hours a week over two academic years. We incorporated cognitive activities through the intentional design of a variety of roles in reading, math, library support, and positive communication. Socially, volunteers engage with other volunteers, teachers, and children, and functional walking 3-4 days/week to and from as well as within the schools. The Baltimore Experience Corps Trial (BECT) is the largest randomized controlled trial (N = 702) examining the impact of volunteer engagement on cognitive functions in cognitively intact older adults, over sampling African Americans (91%) who have twice the risk of Alzheimer's disease as whites. Findings will be summarized and demonstrate the dose-dependent cognitive, psychosocial, lifestyle activity, and brain benefits of volunteering for up to two years.