

how to sustain the intervention through technological, mentorship and communication support mechanisms. Barriers found include the nature of implementing in limited resource settings with multiple competing priorities and little research infrastructure.

IMPACTING HEALTH BEHAVIORS OF OLDER ADULTS THROUGH A VOLUNTEER-LED HEALTH LITERACY PROGRAM

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A community based, peer volunteer-driven educational program was developed to empower older adults to improve health behaviors through health literacy. A community needs assessment determined the curricula which included classes on chronic disease management and issues impacting older adult health. Volunteers were recruited and trained on the curricula by health educators using a train-the-trainer module. 173 volunteers convened 302 workshops, and trained 2,065 unique older adults who account for 5000 attendees. Using a pretest posttest design, an outcome evaluation found statistically significant increases in knowledge among older adult workshop attendees on 6 of the 7 health topics ($p < .01$). Eighty-three percent of attendees reported positive health behavior changes at 3-month follow-up. The most commonly cited changes were increased physical activity and improved nutrition. Program challenges included volunteer scheduling and retention. Building a sustainable community-based, peer volunteer-driven health education program for older adults will be discussed.

IDENTIFYING PALLIATIVE CARE NEEDS IN ASSISTED LIVING

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Many residents of Assisted Living (AL) confront serious illness and therefore might benefit from greater access to Palliative Care Services to improve quality of life. We surveyed resident records and AL nursing staff to identify patients in need of Palliative Care. Preliminary findings showed that nurses predicted 23% would not be alive and 49% would no longer live in AL. A majority of residents were over the age of 90, yet 30% did not have a reported code status. These findings suggest that a substantial portion of AL residents may have unmet needs with respect to palliative care. Future interventions are needed to support advance care planning conversations and make palliative care more accessible to this population.

SESSION 7190 (SYMPOSIUM)

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT IN RESEARCH DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION: MOVING FROM INFANCY TO ADOLESCENCE

Chair: Carol Geary
Co-Chair: Martina Roes
Discussant: Katherine Abbott

Patient (also referred to as User or Older Adult) engaged research is a unique approach to research design, implementation, and dissemination. The practice of engaged research, in its broader sense, involves service recipients, caregivers, clinicians, and other stakeholders in prioritization of research questions, approach, and practice translation to ensure strong stewardship of funds, valid and reliable methods, and practical application. Patient engaged research also aligns with tenets of person-centered care in the inclusive nature and the expectation that the practice will improve the processes and the outcomes of research. Likewise, GSA's focus on diversity of thought through interdisciplinary work strongly aligns with inclusion of patient and stakeholder voices in the performance of interdisciplinary research. Although patient and stakeholder engagement in research is a new approach for many, globally, funders increasingly require evidence of "meaningful" engagement in project proposals. In the United States, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) is well-known for funding engaged research and the National Institute on Aging (NIA) has demonstrated use of "collaborative" methods central to patient engagement within the IMPACT Collaboratory. Patient engagement literature, while growing, does not yet provide adequate guidance for replication of current or development of new approaches to patient engagement in research. Therefore, the purpose of this symposium is to frame patient engagement through a historic lens (Roes) and discuss the ethics of engagement (O'Sullivan). In addition, we will share program outcomes from three patient engagement programs: the Leading Age LTSS Center, Rural Patient & Stakeholder Engagement, and Sages in Every Setting. Patient/Person Engagement in Research Interest Group Sponsored Symposium.

OUTCOMES OF JUST-IN-TIME PATIENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AT 1 YEAR

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The University of Nebraska Medical Center's Rural Patient and Stakeholder Engagement in Research project used a novel approach to patient engagement in research: