

A COMMUNITY-BASED SYSTEM DYNAMICS STUDY OF THE SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

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The Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), the only federal workforce-training program that targets older adults, engages people aged 55 years and older with incomes at or below 125% of the federal poverty level with multiple barriers to employment. This study examined SCSEP's role in participant financial, physical, and mental well-being. To do so, we held five sessions (four virtual, one telephone) over a combined nine hours in August and September 2020 using a form of participatory research called community-based system dynamics with 15 Massachusetts SCSEP participants and case managers. Through structured activities, respondents identified how program, policy, and organizational factors influence and are influenced by participant well-being (e.g., SCSEP participation results in less social isolation, decreased isolation subsequently increases desire to participate) as well as program and policy recommendations to strengthen the program (e.g., reconsider benchmarks of success). These findings highlight the benefits and potential of this long-running program.

Session 1090 (Symposium)

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO TRANSFORM, DEVELOP, AND EVALUATE CANCER CARE INTERVENTIONS

Chair: Sean Halpin

Cancer diagnoses in older adults are often abrupt and unexpected, requiring patients to make quick therapy choices. Further, reflecting on traumatic therapy is often difficult. In our symposium, we bring together researchers from varied disciplines to report on patients' cancer therapy choices. Carrion will discuss her mixed-methods approach to older Latino adults' cancer therapy preferences. Next, Blackberry will present how patient-derived photographs (photovoice) can improve supportive care for older Australians in facilitating empowerment, patient-centered care, and shared decision making. Halpin, who will apply conversation analysis to examine how multiple myeloma patients interacted with supplemental material during in-person nurse-led education. Last, Seaman will use his work with head and neck cancer survivors to illustrate the conceptual and methodological challenges of investigating those who discontinue care. Understanding how patients from diverse populations with various cancer diagnoses navigate their therapy may help inform future cancer-related health services' approaches.

A MIXED-METHODS APPROACH TO THE EXAMINATION OF CANCER TREATMENT PREFERENCES AMONG OLDER LATINO ADULTS

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Given the growing population of Latino immigrants 60 years and older and the current lack of relevant data, there is an urgent need to understand this population's cancer treatment preferences to ensure effective interventions and psychosocial care. A study comprising 200 surveys with areas focused on cancer knowledge, attitudes, prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment was developed and administered in Spanish. The survey included a qualitative component consisting of open-ended questions. The mixed-method study gathered quantitative data regarding treatment preferences as well as the voices of older Latino men and women with a history of cancer, including their cancer treatment trajectory. Additionally, the survey data highlighted the lack of knowledge regarding available cancer treatments. The findings suggest that, while older Latino/as have knowledge about the causes of cancer, they lack knowledge regarding cancer diagnoses, which could potentially cause them to avoid treatment.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH CANCER SURVIVORS WHO DISCONTINUE THEIR POST-TREATMENT CARE

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Due to improvements in screening, diagnosis, and treatment, more cancer patients are surviving and living longer. For them, survivorship care provides critical support: surveillance and screening for recurrence and new cancers; physical and psychological symptom management; social and financial management support; management of other chronic conditions; and preventive health and health promotion support. Yet, our pilot data indicates that a substantial number of survivors discontinue their survivorship care with the treating oncology team, a team that often provides critical multidisciplinary support and expertise. While it is important to understand the experiences, outcomes, and needs of these survivors, they can be challenging to engage in research. In this presentation, we will discuss survivors who discontinue, why they might do so, and methods for engaging them in research, drawing upon our work with head and neck cancer survivors.

USING CONVERSATION ANALYSIS TO EXAMINE WHEN EDUCATIONAL VIDEOS ARE INTRODUCED IN PATIENT EDUCATION

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As the seas of advanced therapies have swelled in the last few decades, multiple myeloma patients have been empowered, encouraged, and sometimes required, to engage in their care. We applied a conversation analysis approach to 12 nurse-led education visits (1011 minutes of audio) containing reference to educational videos. We indexed extracts based on whether the nurse or patient first mention the video. Patients oriented toward the video to demonstrate knowledge (n=15; 88%) and clarify information (n=2; 12%). Nurses oriented toward the video either through positive (n=14; 39%), negative (n=13= 36%), or