

## SESSION 6005 (SYMPOSIUM)

### ADDRESSING OLDER ADULT SOCIAL ISOLATION IN VARIOUS SETTINGS WITH UNIQUE CONFLATING TRAJECTORIES OF CARE MODELS

Chair: Sharon Bowland

No matter the age, social isolation is common among older adults due to a number of factors. In looking at social isolation through the framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) model, the biopsychosocial factors intersect. Care models will be explored that involve the ICF model multi-disciplinary concepts of body functions, activities, participation and environmental factors. Developing more programs to counter isolation is critical for the health of older persons. (1) The experience of vulnerability may be overcome by banding together through assisting others or building a peer support network. (2) A holistic perspective is needed in promoting interventions that support functionality. Regular programming with body awareness and cognitive reflection is enjoyed by institutionalized older adults. (3) The role of social action and social justice in reducing social isolation is part of training social work students about the importance of culture and advocacy. (4) Collected ethnographic data found that the practice of remembrance reduces social isolation regardless of the program. Gardening and storytelling were found to be opportunities to reduce social isolation. (5) With unexpected longevity in individuals with hemophilia due to scientific advances, researchers also found shame, fear, and coping through social isolation to avoid social assumptions of health status. Care models are being explored to support this cohort. To conclude, Dr. Sharon Bowland will summarize our abstracts and discuss how they revolve around the ICF model of care that can be applied to the important social determinant of health area of social isolation.

### FACING FEAR THROUGH MAKING CONNECTIONS AS WE AGE

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Older residents often experience disruption in family relationships and social networks due to isolation once they move into public housing communities. While the need for social contact continues, the opportunity may diminish. Older African-American women living in one housing community attempted to cope with their personal safety fears through social isolation (Bowland, 2015). Women in the study (N = 25) were survivors of one or more forms of interpersonal trauma, including childhood abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence. In contrast, a few women in the same sample spontaneously formed social networks within the community. This qualitative investigation will examine how the women adapted to an isolating and unsafe environment by developing social connections. As a social determinant of health, developing healthy social networks inside a housing community can reduce fear and improve well-being and quality of life for low-income older residents who are aging-in-place.

### ENGAGING MIND, BODY, AND SPIRIT: LESS ISOLATION THROUGH MORE STIMULATION WITH YUMMY TIME

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Loneliness and social isolation in community-residing older adults is drawing increasing attention. Yet the needs of nursing home/assisted living residents is critical as well. Engaging professionally-trained musicians who are certified yoga instructors in providing a structured, yet flexible, program offered regularly in such settings is an innovation meriting examining what is observed as a profound experience for both older adults and care providers. Y.U.M.M.Y. Time (through music, meditation and yoga) is a paradigm created by Spring Groove (Gross) offering a unique intersection between the performance arts and the contemplative arts. We are studying the benefits of this approach combining sensory stimulation with inner engagement, with the goal to expand into community settings. As staff members note: "Although the ingredients are simple, the results are profound." "The program is very enriching, full of great music moments, yoga and meditation to relax our residents. It is very much enjoyed by everyone!"

### A SOCIAL JUSTICE FIELD EDUCATION MODEL FOR ADDRESSING ISOLATION AND OTHER SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Karen Bullock, Kim Stansbury, and David Fitzpatrick, *NC State University, Raleigh, North Carolina, United States*

Behavioral health and substance use disorders are significant problems among older adults who are experiencing homelessness. This presentation describes the components of a social work field education model for preparing practitioners to work effectively in community-based agencies using the Hartford Practicum Partnership in Aging Educational (HPPAE) model. A planned and systematic transition from one field setting to another with the goal of giving students a range of practice experiences with various service delivery systems to address social isolation and other social determinants of health. This exploration of demographic and social action factors that may impede or foster success among community-dwelling older adults offer insight and guidance for constructing a conceptual and theoretical model a social justice framework in geriatric social work practice and research.

### EXPERIENCES OF SOCIAL WITHDRAWAL: WHY AGING MATTERS AMONG INDIVIDUALS WITH HEMOPHILIA FACING UNEXPECTED LONGEVITY

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For the first time, individuals with hemophilia are living beyond their 30s and 40s. This cohort, many of whom had been dependent on donated blood and contracted HIV and hepatitis, face unique challenges as they age with hemophilia