

correctable, yet only 29.0% of women wore an appropriate eyeglass prescription. Black women and those with greater financial strain or less education were more likely to have presenting VI, but there were no differences in best-corrected VI. This presentation will include a discussion of the contributions of SWAN to the study of sensory aging, as well as methodological considerations for research from a mid-life aging cohort. Part of a symposium sponsored by Sensory Health Interest Group.

SESSION 7515 (SYMPOSIUM)

AAA RESEARCH METHODOLOGY I: OVERCOMING LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL BARRIERS IN AGING RESEARCH AMONG ASIANS

Chair: Wenjun Li

Discussant: Su-I Hou

Asians are the largest and the fastest growing segment of the world population. Asian immigrants are the second largest immigrant population in the U.S. However, their age-related social and health issues are understudied. Because studies on older Asians are often scattered geographically and small-sized and study instruments are usually inconsistent in context, language and culture, it is difficult to synthesize findings from different studies on Asians. Little data exist to support health promotion, policy evaluation and clinical practice in this population. To advance research into aging among Asians, a fundamental step is to create content-relevant, linguistically and culturally appropriate research instruments, and encourage use of these consistent and comparable instruments across studies. This symposium brings together four abstracts that report the development and adaptation of linguistically and culturally appropriate survey instruments for health and behavioral studies in older Asians. The topics range from development of new scales for generative concern and acts in older Singaporeans, assessment of appropriateness of health literacy measurements among East Asian older adults, validation of Health Aging Instrument in Southeastern Asian older adults. Based on the experiences in these studies, the group will discuss the need and strategies to develop an international network to promote resource sharing and research collaborations across geographic boundaries and disciplinary divisions. By bringing together the isolated but talented Asian health researchers, the new network may accelerate the growth of research on Aging Among Asians. This symposium is a collaborative effort of the Aging Among Asians Interest Group.

DEVELOPING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ON AGING AMONG ASIANS THROUGH INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

Wenjun Li, *University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts, United States*

Asians are the largest and the fastest growing segment of the world population. However, age-related social and health issues are understudied among them. Studies on older Asians are often small-sized and scattered geographically, and use instruments that are inconsistent in context, language and

culture. Findings from different studies on Asians are difficult to synthesize to support health promotion, clinical practice and policy evaluations. To advance research into aging among Asians, a fundamental step is to create content-relevant, linguistically and culturally appropriate research instruments, and encourage use of these consistent and comparable instruments across studies. In this interactive session, the author will lead the group to discuss the need, feasibility and strategies for developing an international network to promote resource sharing and research collaborations across country borders and disciplines. By bringing the isolated but passionate Asian aging researchers together, this network will accelerate the growth of research on Aging Among Asians.

DEVELOPMENT OF SCALES FOR GENERATIVE CONCERN AND GENERATIVE ACTS AMONG OLDER SINGAPOREANS

Rahul Malhotra,¹ Ad Maulod,¹ June May Ling Lee,¹ Grand Hak-Land Cheng,² Si Yinn Lu,³ Leng Leng Thang,⁴ and Angelique WM Chan,¹ *1. Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore, Singapore, 2. The Open University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China, 3. Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University, New York, New York, United States, 4. National University of Singapore, Singapore, Singapore*

Generativity (concern in establishing and guiding the next generation) at older ages is increasingly relevant with population ageing and realization of older people as a resource for younger generations. Generativity encompasses two aspects, concern (attitudes/motivations for generativity) and acts (activities to enact/achieve generativity). Existing scales for generative concern and acts pertain to Western populations, limiting their valid measurement in Asian populations. We conducted 12 focus group discussions with 103 older adults in Singapore, to inform a conceptual model of generativity. A striking finding was the family-centric focus of generativity. It led to the development of content-validated scales for generative concern (38-items; e.g. I am concerned that younger people are too pampered) and generative acts (56-items; e.g. In past 3 months, how many times did you teach younger people right from wrong), in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil. Future work will establish their structural, convergent/divergent and predictive validity, and reliability.

ASSESSING HEALTH LITERACY AMONG EAST ASIAN OLDER POPULATIONS

Taka Yamashita, *University of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland, United States*

Health literacy assessment tools that are designed and validated specifically for East Asian older adults are limited. This session reviews the existing health literacy assessment tools and discusses possible applications in East Asian older adults. As an alternative to the population-level health literacy assessment, the general literacy measures and assessment approach in the Program for International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) data are discussed. As a case demonstration, the PIAAC literacy measures in Japan and Korea are summarized and evaluated for the applicability in aging and health research with East Asian older adults.