

Antiretroviral therapy, higher education, and HIV disclosure have been linked to improved quality of life (QoL) among people living with HIV. However, research examining psychosocial risk factors of QoL among older adults living with HIV (OALH) is lacking. Therefore, the main aim of this study was to examine the psychosocial risk factors of QoL among OALH. Data were obtained from 156 adults aged 50 and older living with HIV in South Carolina. Multivariable regression models adjusting for sociodemographic characteristics were used to determine the association between psychosocial risk factors and QoL domains among OALH. Stigma was associated with the physical ($\beta=0.058$, $p=0.023$), social ($\beta=-0.149$, $p=0.006$), and spiritual ($\beta=0.124$, $p<0.001$) domains. Resilience was associated with the psychological ($\beta=0.206$, $p<0.001$), independence ($\beta=0.100$, $p=0.010$), social ($\beta=0.166$, $p=0.004$), and environmental ($\beta=0.312$, $p<0.001$) domains. Depression and experiencing trauma were also associated with varying QoL domains. Findings may inform interventions geared towards improving QoL among OALH.

EXPLORING LIFE INSTABILITY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE MENTAL HEALTH OF OLDER ADULTS WITH HIV

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The study is one of the first to examine both the prevalence of life instability among older adults with HIV (OAWH) in a community clinic and its relationship to their mental health. OAWH (N=623) from a community medical clinic completed an interviewer-administered assessment (English/Spanish) which included an additive Life Instability Index (LII) composed of indicators at the individual (e.g. education, housing instability, employment status) and community (e.g. poverty, transportation) levels. Participants were a mean age of 60 years (SD = 5.90) with the majority identifying as Black-non-Hispanic (65.9%), cisgender male (60.8%), and heterosexual (80.6%). Participants reported an average of 6.08 destabilizing factors (SD = 1.44). In multiple linear regression analyses LII was significantly related to increased substance use among participants ($b= 0.08$, $p < 0.01$), but not with anxiety or depression. An LII is an innovative approach to assess the relationship between OAWH's mental health and social determinants of health.

PERCEPTIONS OF SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF SUCCESSFUL AGING AMONG OLDER MEN LIVING WITH HIV

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The overall purpose of this qualitative study was to examine barriers and facilitators of successful aging among

older men living with HIV (OMLH). Participants were recruited through HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program at the University of California, San Diego. Our sample included 14 OMLH: average age - 62 years old (range: 53 to 72), 79% white, 43% living alone, 79% men who have sex with men, 57% having college education or higher. Semi-structured interviews lasted from 43 to 114 minutes and were fully transcribed. Several themes emerged related to perceived barriers to successful aging stemming from social institutions: i.e., age discrimination and ageism, sexual and HIV-related stigma, social isolation, lack of resources, and food insecurity. Perceived institutional solutions promoting successful aging included mixed-age/inter-generational support groups, computer literacy training, health education, information and resources related to healthy lifestyle on a limited budget, and increased transparency of resources available to older adults.

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO ADVANCE CARE PLANNING AMONG VETERANS AGING WITH HIV

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Advance care planning (ACP) and hospice services are underutilized by patients living with HIV (PWH). Little is known about how older PWH approach ACP; the purpose of this qualitative study was to understand barriers and facilitators to ACP within the context of the patient-clinician relationship. Data are from a larger multimethod study designed to understand social determinants of health (SDH) that shape the lives and healthcare experiences of veterans aging with HIV. The sample includes 25 veterans from the Veterans Aging Cohort Study (VACS) recruited from an urban VA medical center. Semi-structured interviews were performed and analyzed using thematic analysis. Less than half of participants reported engaging in ACP. Key barriers to ACP include: fragile social ties, distrust of the healthcare system, and fear of disclosure and discrimination. We offer several recommendations for clinicians to engage in these conversations successfully and highlight the importance of considering SDH when designing interventions.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AMONG THOSE WITH AND WITHOUT HIV INFECTION IN NYC, THE EPICENTER OF THE U.S. CRISIS

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The COVID-19 pandemic in NYC, the epicenter of the US crisis, revealed indisputable evidence that social determinants of health (SDoH, e.g., racism, crowded housing, employment risks) and disparities in comorbid health risk factors produce higher burdens of disease and death among racial and ethnic populations. We conducted a needs assessment of SDoH

among 1400 patients in several ambulatory care clinics to explore the impact among older adults, across different clinical populations. Among older adults with HIV (OAH), we found lower rates of food and housing insecurity compared to older adults without HIV. Despite higher levels of COVID knowledge and prevention adherence, we also found significantly higher levels of isolation, loneliness, depressive symptoms, and anxiety among OAHs compared to those without HIV. Access to Ryan White entitlements did buffer some impacts but preexisting high burdens of mental health issues were exacerbated, perhaps due to heightened perceptions of increased vulnerability to COVID-19.

Session 3650 (Symposium)

TECHNOLOGY IS THE NEW NORMAL FOR INDIVIDUALS AGING-IN-PLACE WITH DISABILITIES

Chair: Travis Kadylak Discussant: Susy Stark

Technology designers often exclude individuals aging with diverse needs, capabilities, and disabilities from engaging in the design process, which can hinder the usability and usefulness of emerging technologies. In this symposium, investigators report on research and development efforts aimed at understanding the needs of, and developing supportive technologies for, people aging with long-term disabilities. This symposium features projects from the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technologies to Support Aging-in-Place for People with Long-Term Disabilities (RERC TechSAge), which is an interdisciplinary collaboration between Georgia Tech and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. First, Bayles et al. will discuss findings from the Aging Concerns, Challenges, and Everyday Solution Strategies II study, focused on Deaf older adults' use of technologies as solution strategies for common everyday challenges. Next, Mitzner et al. will highlight the development of an evidence-based group exercise intervention (Telwellness Tai Chi for Arthritis) aimed at promoting both physical exercise and social interaction for older adults with long-term mobility disabilities. Kadylak et al. will describe how voice-activated digital assistants can support older adults aging with mobility disabilities by reporting on findings from a longitudinal demonstration project with older adults in assisted and independent living communities. Exploring the potential for smartbathroom technology to promote aging in place, Sanford et al. will discuss how smartbathroom sensor data can be analyzed and visualized to identify ways to communicate insight from sensor data to improve training of occupational therapy practitioners. Susy Stark from Washington University will serve as the discussant for the symposium.

TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS FOR EVERYDAY BARRIERS AMONG DEAF OLDER ADULTS

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American Sign Language (ASL) is the primary form of communication for approximately 250,000 people in the

U.S. (Mitchell et al., 2006). As these individuals age, they may experience challenges in their everyday activities. For example, ASL users rely on visual cues, but have age-related change in vision. Moreover, ASL users may need to utilize technology to communicate with non-ASL users, but the technology may not be suitable/usable for older adults. We explored these issues in the Aging Concerns, Challenges, and Everyday Solution Strategies (ACCESS) study, wherein we interviewed Deaf older adults (N=60) in ASL, who provided insights into unique, everyday challenges they encounter. We will focus on the technology solution strategies they incorporate to address and overcome challenges with daily activities. Understanding how participants think about, adapt, and utilize different technologies can inform future technology design to successfully support diverse, aging populations.

DELIVERING A TAI CHI INTERVENTION TO ADULTS AGING WITH MOBILITY DISABILITIES USING ZOOM

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Many individuals aging with mobility disabilities experience barriers to participating in physical activity, including transportation challenges and the need for specialized instruction. Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, these participation barriers have been amplified due to lockdowns and restrictions. Tele-technologies, including videoconferencing platforms like Zoom, can facilitate access to exercise classes from one's home. Virtual group exercise classes that incorporate social interaction have particular potential to support the physical and mental health of this population. This session will highlight lessons learned from launching the 'Tele Tai Chi' study, in which we are delivering an evidence-based Tai Chi program (Tai Chi for Arthritis) via Zoom to small group classes of older adults with long-term mobility disabilities. We will describe adaptations made in translating the in-person program to an interactive, online class, and provide an overview of a 'Telewellness' Tool that provides guidelines for using Zoom to deliver exercise classes to older adults.

EXPLORING USE OF DIGITAL HOME ASSISTANTS FOR OLDER ADULTS: A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

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Emerging digital home assistant technology has potential to support older adults in their homes. Voice-activated assistants can be used for entertainment, environmental control, physical activities, health management, and social engagement. However, many older adults have limited experience with these devices, which are not designed with them in mind. We conducted a demonstration project to explore how