People with late-stage Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) have been reported, largely by way of anecdote, to exhibit unexpected episodes of spontaneous, meaningful, and relevant communication or behavior. These episodes of lucidity (EL) are characterized by spontaneous mental clarity in people living with dementia (PLWD) who are assumed to have lost coherent cognitive capacity. Given the transient nature and limited understanding of underlying mechanisms responsible for this phenomenon, these episodes are frequently overlooked and have received little scientific attention. Few studies have documented EL among PLWD with precision; scientific understanding is limited to anecdotes and case studies, which have not operationalized EL. Thus, there is a critical need for an evidence-based understanding and systematic operationalization of EL. Precise and robust operationalizations of EL will allow future research to assess if EL has different effects on ADRD prognosis or alters how family members manage and adapt to ADRD progression in their care recipient. The National Institute on Aging (NIA) has funded six studies to advance the scientific understanding of EL in dementia. These studies use a variety of methodological approaches to capture EL experiences, and together, they will provide evidence-based operational definitions of EL, novel approaches for measurement of this phenomenon, and estimates of its prevalence. This symposium will provide an overview of the funded studies and three different methodological approaches that are being used to better operationalize and understand EL.

WHAT IS PARADOXICAL LUCIDITY?

Andrew Peterson,[1] and Jason Karlawish,[2] *1. George Mason University, George Mason University, Virginia, United States, 2. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States*

In this presentation, I provide a conceptual background from which the other symposium speakers can describe detailed methods for investigating paradoxical lucidity (PL) in dementia. First, I outline the clinical and ethical significance of studying PL. Second, I describes how PL is understudied and so difficult to measure. A working definition of PL has been formulated from case reports, but aspects of this definition remain vague. I argue that this vagueness challenges the measurement of PL and the generalizability of study results. I conclude by proposing ways to address these problems.

EARLY DESCRIPTIONS OF FAMILY CAREGIVERS' EXPERIENCES WITH UNEXPECTED LUCIDITY

Kyungmin Kim,[1] Joan Griffin,[2] Lauren Bangerter,[3] Virginia Biggar,[4] Dawn Finnie,[5] Theresa Frangiosa,[4] Joseph Gaugler,[6] and Maria Lapid,[7] *1. Seoul National University, Seoul, Seoul-t'ukpyolsi, Republic of Korea, 2. Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota, United States, 3. UnitedHealth Group, Minnetonka, Minnesota, United States, 4. UsAgainstAlzheimer's, Washington, District of Columbia, United States, 5. Mayo Clinic, Rocheste, Minnesota, United States, 6. University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States, 7. Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, United States*

To develop an operational definition of and typologies for episodes of lucidity (EL), we conducted a cross-sectional study of former/current family caregivers from UsAgainstAlzheimer's A_LIST (N = 538). More than 60% of caregivers (n = 294, 62%) reported witnessing EL with their care recipient over the course of their dementia. Most episodes happened in late stages of dementia (71%). Only 10% happened within 7 days before death. The majority of episodes (71%) lasted <30 minutes. About half the episodes were characterized by uncharacteristic speech and communication. Caregivers perceived these experiences positively (M = 4.10; range = 1–5), but also expressed desire to know why/when EL occurs and how to best respond to it. Data will be used to refine definitions and typologies, and then a prospective, demographically diverse survey will be administered to family caregivers to assess predictors of EL, linking EL to caregiver well-being and bereavement response.

CHARACTERIZING EPISODES OF LUCIDITY IN DEMENTIA: OBSERVATIONAL AND APPLIED COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS APPROACHES

Andrea Gilmore Bykovskyi,[1] Kim Mueller,[1] Nicole Werner,[2] Erica Smith,[1] Laura Block,[1] and Clark Benson,[1] *1. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, United States, 2. Industrial and Systems Engineering, Madison, Wisconsin, United States*

Though episodes of lucidity (EL) in Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD), reportedly more common near end of life, have significant implications for care, they are poorly understood due to underdeveloped methodological approaches for capturing and measuring these events. This prospective observational study addresses these gaps through audiovisual observation among persons with ADRD surrounding end of life to inform data-driven definitions for EL and distinguish EL from routine fluctuations in ADRD. Audiovisual observation is well-suited to addressing gaps in operationalization of EL, providing an objective data source to assess verbal and nonverbal communication, the primary means through which EL are evidenced. Our study is designed to establish optimal procedures for capturing audiovisual data of targeted populations and timeframes to maximize opportunities for detecting EL. Operationalization of EL will be informed by computational linguistic and behavioral-event coding of linguistic and non-linguistic communication features of EL and associated temporal qualities.

DEVELOPMENT OF A STAFF INFORMANT MEASURE OF LUCIDITY

Jeanne Teresi,[1] José Luchsinger,[2] Mildred Ramirez,[3] Stephanie Silver,[3] Davangere Devanand,[4] Julie Ellis,[5] Gabriel Boratgis,[3] and Paloma Gonzalez-Lopez,[3] *1. Research Division, HHAR, Riverdale, New York, United States, 2. Columbia University, New York, New York, United States, 3. Research Division, Hebrew Home at Riverdale by RiverSpring Health, Riverdale, New York, United States, 4. Columbia University Irving Medical Center, New York, New York, United States, 5. La Trobe University, Nursing and Midwifery, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia*

Lucidity Measure Development: An existing questionnaire measuring lucidity length, degree, content, coinciding circumstances, and time from lucid episode to death was expanded to include time of day, expressive and receptive

communication and speech the month prior to and during the lucid event. Pilot Study: 33 interviews with staff were conducted; 73% reported ever witnessing paradoxical lucidity. Among 29 events reported, 31% lasted several days, 20.7%, 1 day, and 24.1% less. In 78.6% the patient engaged in unexpected activity. 20% died within 3 days and 17% within 3 months after the event. Qualitative Analyses: To refine the measure, 10 family caregivers and 20 LTSS staff caregivers completed a web-based focus-group type exercise using QualtricsXM. A content-thematic analysis with an inductive approach was applied to make qualitative inferences by analyzing the meaning and semantic relationship of words, phrases, and concepts. Using the reduction method of selection, conceptual content categories will be developed.

Session 1185 (Symposium)

ANNUAL REVIEW OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS SYMPOSIUM: BLACK OLDER ADULTS IN THE ERA OF BLACK LIVES MATTER
Chair: Jessica Kelley
Co-Chair: Roland Thorpe, Jr.
Discussant: Linda Chatters

Our renewed urgency and engagement in a national dialogue on issues of systemic racism and racial justice provides a much-needed opportunity to expand the discourses, perspectives, and practices used in the study of aging. This symposium features contributions from the 2021 (Vol 41) Annual Review of Gerontology and Geriatrics focusing on the continued development and maturation of scholarship on the lives of older Black Americans. Building on the scholarship and research contributions of prior generations of eminent African American gerontologists, the volume asks: "What do we know about the lived experience of Black older adults and what is there still to be learned?" The contributing authors continue a tradition of research that examines the life histories and contemporary experiences of older Black adults within their relevant social and personal contexts. Symposium presenters from a range of social science fields (sociology, psychology, social work), explore aspects of physical health, stress, cognition, and social well-being in the context of intersecting social dimensions of marriage, family, gender, and neighborhood.

CANCER AND CAREGIVING AMONG OLDER BLACK AMERICANS AND FAMILIES
Katrina Ellis, *University of Michigan, ANN ARBOR, Michigan, United States*

Cancer disproportionately affects Black Americans and consequently, their families. In addition, cancer is often just one of the significant health concerns facing Black families at any one time. Research on family support after an adult cancer diagnosis overwhelmingly focuses on a single (i.e., primary) caregiver and spousal family caregivers, limiting understanding of the complexity of caregiving within family systems facing multiple health challenges. This presentation presents a framework for a broader focus on the role of family systems in providing cancer care, highlighting both the unique strengths and challenges facing Black families who provide care. A family comorbidity lens is used to underscore the need to better understand the nature and impact of concurrent health challenges within families. Ultimately, this perspective reflects the lived experiences of older Black adults and their families after a cancer diagnosis and has implications for future research and interventions to address health issues interdependently.

GENDER, STRESS, AND MENTAL HEALTH AMONG OLDER AFRICAN AMERICANS
Christy Erving, *Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, United States*

Across studies on social stress exposure on the mental health of older African Americans, most investigate singular stress exposures (discrimination). Furthermore, this research rarely assesses gender differences in the psychological effects of specific stress exposures. I use the National Survey of American of Life to assess: (1) gendered patterns of stress exposure among older African Americans; (2) gendered nuances in the individual, collective, and cumulative effects of stress exposure on mental health. I find gender patterns of stress exposure differed by type of stressor. Women and men shared some stress predictors of mental health (everyday discrimination). Other stress predictors were specific to women (health-related mobility challenges) or to men (perceived neighborhood crime). Study findings challenge gerontologists to consider how race-gender groups are at distinct risks for stressors that elicit poor mental health and provide a call for tailored strategies for improving the psychological health of African American women and men.

MARITAL AND ROMANTIC SATISFACTION AMONG OLDER AFRICAN AMERICANS
Antonius Skipper,[1] and Robert Taylor,[2] *1. Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia, United States, 2. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States*

There remains a lack of knowledge on marital satisfaction of African Americans generally, but particularly older African Americans. In addition, only a handful of studies investigate satisfaction among couples who are unmarried. With data from the National Survey of American Life, this study examined the correlates of romantic and marital satisfaction among older African Americans. Findings reveal that married older African Americans were slightly more satisfied with their relationship than individuals who were either remarried or unmarried but in a romantic relationship. Among older African American married adults, older age was associated with higher marital satisfaction, and men had higher levels of marital satisfaction than women. Also, married older African Americans with lower family incomes reported higher marital satisfaction. Given the limited research on older African Americans couples, either married or unmarried, this study offers valuable implications for individuals and professionals engaging these couples in practical settings.

CONTEXTUAL CORRELATES OF COGNITIVE AGING IN BLACK OLDER ADULTS: EXAMINING THE NEIGHBORHOOD
Ketlyne Sol,[1] and Tanisha Hill-Jarrett,[2] *1. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States, 2. University Of South Florida Morsani College Of Medicine, Tampa, Florida, United States*