METHODS TRAINING TO ADVANCE INTEGRATIVE SCIENCE ON MINORITY AGING
Monica Firestone,1 Wassim Tarraf,2 and Briana Mezuk,3 1. Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Michigan, United States, 2. Institute of Gerontology & Department of Healthcare Sciences, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States, 3. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States

Minority aging is an inherently interdisciplinary field. However, it can be difficult for early-career investigators to develop skills on how to integrate data sources, study designs, measurement approaches, and analytic tools from disparate fields into their research programs. This session will illustrate how the biopsychosocial framework has been used to structure the content and delivery of methods training related to minority health/aging research in two NIH-funded exemplar programs: the MCUAAAR Analysis Core, and the Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality (MIWI) Training Program. This talk will illustrate how the 20-year history of MCUAAAR informed the development of MIWI, and how both initiatives approach early-career scientist training through: i) centering learning within a mentorship structure to model team science, ii) avoiding false dichotomizes and hierarchies in study designs and data sources, and iii) attending to the unique challenges faced by scientists working in minority health through knowledge sharing.

PROMOTING CONNECTIONS THROUGH CREATIVE APPROACHES TO RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT FOR OLDER AFRICAN AMERICANS
Jamie Mitchell,1 Kent Key,2 Vanessa Rorai,3 Sean Knurek,4 Peter Lichtenberg,4 and Tam Perry,5 1. University of Michigan School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States, 2. Michigan State University, Flint, Michigan, United States, 3. Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States, 4. Michigan State University, Corunna, Michigan, United States, 5. Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States

This presentation will feature innovative retention approaches that contributed to sustaining connections to older Black participants in the long-standing Healthier Black Elders Center (HBEC). The HBEC aims to address and reduce health disparities through research and education. In 2020, this outreach has included a telephone outreach program and a weekly social group, “The Party Line,” to promote connections and collect data on mental health, coping mechanisms and newly acquired skills, as well as health care access including access to masks, testing and tele-health. The presentation will also describe tailored approaches to initiating a Community Advisory Board and programming in Flint, MI and creative efforts to retain participants in Detroit, MI, thus ensuring the relationships between researchers and older community members are sustained despite program modifications.

SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AMONG AFRICAN AMERICAN ADULTS WITH A HISTORY OF INCARCERATION
Bridget Farmer, Jennifer Johnson, and Rodlescia Sneed, Michigan State University, Flint, Michigan, United States

Strong social relationships and social engagement are crucial for both successful aging and successful community re-entry after incarceration. Here, we utilized a mixed methods approach to understand the impact of incarceration on social relationships and social engagement among formerly incarcerated community-dwelling African-American adults aged ≥50. Participants in the 2012 or 2014 waves of the Health and Retirement Study answered questions regarding prior incarceration, social relationships, and participation in social activities. Additionally, we utilized key informant interviews to further explore how incarceration might impact relationships and social engagement. This presentation will describe quantitative associations between prior incarceration and social relationship structure & function. Further, we will use our qualitative interview data to further explore possible explanations for our findings. Finally, we will describe how MCUAAAR Scientist/Faculty interactions facilitated this work.

Session 3160 (Paper)

ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE II (HS PAPER)
ASSOCIATION BETWEEN LATE-LIFE HYPERTENSION AND RESILIENCE TO ALZHEIMER DEMENTIA AMONG OLDER ADULTS
Mo-kyung Sin,1 and Yan Cheng,2 1. Seattle University, Seattle, Washington, United States, 2. George Washington University, Washington, District of Columbia, United States

While midlife hypertension is known as one contributing factor for cognitive impairment and Alzheimer dementia in late-life older adults, less is known about the role of late-life hypertension in resilience to Alzheimer dementia. We examined the relationship between late-life hypertension and Alzheimer dementia resilience among older adults using the National Alzheimer’s Coordinating Center data from 2005-2020 (n=3,170). Hypertension, captured within 5 years prior to death, was defined as blood pressure (BP) ≥ 140/90 mmHg in at least two visits and/or ever treated with anti-hypertensive agents. Resilience was defined as positive Alzheimer disease (AD) pathology (CERAD score moderate or severe and BRAAK stage V or VI) from autopsy and Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) - Sum of Boxes (SOB): 0.5-2.5 or CDR global (0-0.5) from last data point before autopsy. Student’s t-tests and Chi-square tests were conducted to compare patients with and without resilience. A multivariate logistic regression was conducted to estimate the association between late-life hypertension and resilience, adjusting for covariates of demographics and neuropathological characteristics. We had 55 resilient cases among 1,195 positive AD pathology cases. Those resilient were older (88±6.7) and had higher systolic BP (136 ± 18.2 mmHg) than non-resilient (82±7.9 years old, 130±20 mmHg). Untreated hypertension had a protective effect on resilience (adjusted OR: 3.69 (1.10-13.5, p=0.05). Patients with a systolic BP in the range of 135-145 mmHg and a diastolic BP in the range of 65-75 mmHg had the highest resilience possibility. Unlike midlife hypertension, late-life hypertension may have different effect on dementia, prompting further studies.