schools of social work to understand why social workers are not interested in working with older adults (Scharlach et al., 2000). Berkman et al. (2016) described in their work that a critical shortage of gerontology-focused social work faculty exists in schools of social work. Thus, we cannot expect more social workers to work with older adults unless they are exposed to this work in their educational programs. The purpose of this study is to report on the academic experience, research agenda, professional experiences (practice and teaching), and future goals of social work PhD/DSW graduates. Ten social work doctoral graduates were interviewed in order to understand the impact their academic programs had on their commitment to older adults in their field and to learn their recommendations for schools of social work in an effort to sustain and grow the gerontological workforce.

Session 9505 (Late Breaking Poster)

LATE BREAKING POSTER SESSION II

A PLATFORM TO STUDY THE EFFECTS OF HOME ENVIRONMENT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF OLDER ADULTS

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While older adults’ living environment is rarely well-tuned to their specific needs, technological advances provide new opportunities to understand, and ultimately optimize, the relationship between the home environment and health outcomes. We aimed to establish proof-of-concept and feasibility of a platform enabling real-time, high-frequency, and simultaneous monitoring of environment, biological variables, and outcomes related to health and wellbeing in older adults. We recruited 7 participants (6 females, 1 male, aged 78-90, MoCA scores 14–28), installed environmental sensors measuring temperature, humidity, and CO2 inside their homes, provided them with wearables that measure sleep, activity, body temperature, and heart rhythms, and asked them to use a tablet to complete four sets of questionnaires and cognitive tests per day for three consecutive weeks. Environmental sensors collected data with no disruption or complaint from participants. Average compliance with the wearables was 81% (ring) and 60% (watch). All participants preferred the ring due to ease-of-use. Compliance was better in those with higher MoCA scores. Three participants were able to use the tablet successfully and completed 90% of prescribed questionnaires and cognitive tests. Cognitive and/or motor issues prevented the other participants from using the tablet. Exit interviews revealed that participants would prefer to complete a maximum of two sets of daily questionnaires and cognitive tests (five minutes each) in longer-term studies. These results suggest that it is feasible to study the impact of the environment on biological rhythms, cognition, and other outcomes in older adults and provide recommendations for ensuring long-term compliance with the protocol.

A SCOPING REVIEW OF PSYCHOLOGICAL SENSE OF COMMUNITY AMONG COMMUNITY DWELLING OLDER ADULTS

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Psychological sense of community (PSOC) is an important construct for health and well-being outcomes for older adults. Drawing on the Ecological Theory of Aging and the Age-Friendly Cities (AFC) framework, this scoping review explored how PSOC has been used in research with community dwelling older adults. I followed Arksey and O’Malley’s (2005) scoping review guidelines. Initial database searches yielded 860 articles. I included 33 in the final sample. I grouped articles based on study populations and conceptualization and operationalization of PSOC. I used thematic analysis to explore topic areas and main findings. The AFC framework guided development of themes and others emerged during analysis. Results show most studies used Asian or White samples and focused on geographic community or neighborhoods. Among the several measures of PSOC, the Brief Sense of Community Scale performed best with older adults. Topical research areas in the thematic analysis were built (1) built environment and neighborhoods, (2) social participation and connection, (3) civic participation, (4) PSOC as a protective factor, (5) health and well-being, (6) relocation, and (7) scale development. PSOC was a consistent predictor of health and well-being and served as a mediator to link neighborhood or environmental characteristics with health and well-being. Future research needs to examine PSOC in geographically and culturally diverse samples and conduct further psychometric testing of PSOC scales with older adults. PSOC is conceptually related to the AFC framework and serves as a mechanism that links AFC features and well-being outcomes. These results can inform practice and refine theory.

A STUDENT-LED COMMUNITY OUTREACH TELEHEALTH PROGRAM FOR COVID EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION (COACH)

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While public health measures of quarantining, socially isolating, and physical distancing are important to minimize the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), these actions may also compromise the ability to manage one’s own health, thereby increasing the risk of adverse health events. The purpose of this study was to evaluate a student-delivered Community Outreach teleHealth program for Covid education and Health promotion (COACH) to community-living adults (age ≥65 years). We hypothesized that COACH would improve health promoting behaviour as measured by the Health Directed Behaviour subscale of the Health Education Impact Questionnaire. We also anticipated COACH would improve secondary outcomes of perceived stress, depressive