short-term rehabilitation, respite, hospice, and/or psychosocial needs. Many of the Veterans followed by the BRO Team on the CLC experienced frequent rehospitalizations and difficult placement in the community due to behavioral concerns. Local leadership encouraged participation in the BRO Team dissemination due to the growing need in this VA system to open access to dementia and mental health care, successfully discharge Veterans to appropriate community settings, and reduce unnecessary rehospitalizations. This presentation will discuss BRO Team development, including several factors facilitating successful BRO Team implementation (e.g., leadership support, community outreach approaches, staff partner buy-in), and identify barriers impacting successful implementation with a case example to illustrate strategies to overcome such barriers.

Session 1180 (Symposium)

ADVANCING THE SCIENCE ON UNEXPECTED EPISODES OF CLARITY AND LUCIDITY IN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

Chair: Joan Griffin
Discussant: Basil Eldadah

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 progression 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 describe 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 Bangert,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, Rochester, 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 Bykovskiy,1 Kim Mueller,1 Nicole Werner,2 Erica Smith,1 Laura Block,3 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