outcomes over six months. We compared clinical outcomes (e.g., activities of daily living, frailty, behavioral symptoms) at baseline and six months using paired t-tests. We also conducted semi-structured phone interviews at baseline and six months with PWD-caregiver dyads. Thirty PWD-caregiver dyads enrolled. Of the 17 dyads that completed both visits, PWD’s physical function and caregiver’s burden decreased significantly over time (p < .05). There was a significant improvement in PWD’s behavioral symptoms over the six-month period (p=.03). Three preliminary themes emerged: 1) participants established trusting relationships with the VaH team, 2) VaH supported caregivers in their caregiving responsibilities, and 3) participants met their pre-program goals through increased healthcare access. Findings suggest that the HBPC intervention improved care satisfaction and healthcare access and alleviated caregiver burden. Future studies should consider introducing HBPC programs in this hard-to-reach population to decrease acute care utilization and health care costs while improving care satisfaction and quality.

PET OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTION IN OLDER ADULTS—EVIDENCE FROM THE BLSA

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Pet ownership (PO) or human-animal interaction (HAI) has been associated with better physical and mental health in individuals with existing disease or disability. In experimental studies, HAI improves some aspects of cognitive function. No research addresses HAI and longitudinal changes in cognitive function in older adults. We examined the relationship of PO to maintaining executive function (EF) within generally healthy community-dwelling older adults in the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA). We hypothesized that less EF deterioration among pet owners than non-owners; and less deterioration among dog-walkers than owners who don’t walk their dogs. 637 women (55.9%) and men aged 50–100 years (M=68.3, SD=9.6) completed a PO questionnaire which ascertained ownership history and comprehensive examination every 1–4 years over 1–13 years (M=7.5, SD=3.6). Linear mixed models with time varying PO examined changes in EF according to PO. Pet owners (n=185) were younger (p < 0.001) and healthier (p=0.030) than non-owners; thus, age and comorbidities were included as covariates in the longitudinal analyses. EF, assessed using the Trail-Making Test (TMT), deteriorated with age (p’s < 0.001). Deterioration was less severe among pet owners than non-owners (TMT A: p < 0.001; B: p < 0.001; difference: p=0.042) and dog owners than non-owners (TMT A: p=0.025; B: p=0.009; difference: p=0.076), but not among cat owners than non-owners. Among dog owners (n=73), dog walkers experienced less deterioration than non-walkers (TMT A: p=0.156; B: p=0.001; difference: p < 0.001). This study provides the first longitudinal evidence that PO may contribute to maintaining EF among community-dwelling generally healthy older adults as they age.

EXAMINING HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTIONS AND THEIR EFFECT ON FRAILTY IN LATER LIFE: A SCOPING REVIEW

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Research suggests that human-animal interactions (HAI) can improve the health and well-being of humans throughout their lifespan. While HAI interventions available to older adults as they relate to frailty statuses. Despite broad inclusion criteria, only four articles were relevant to this literature review, confirming the scarcity of relevant completed research thus far. Thematic analysis of reported results includes dog ownership as a protective factor regarding frailty statuses, the interconnected health effects of pet ownership, and meaning and purpose implications. Future interdisciplinary research should consider HAI interventions outside of pet ownership as frailty interventions for older adults, be mindful of population differences as they relate to intervention effectiveness, and work towards a universal, comprehensive definition of frailty that will aid in evaluating the frailty intervention effectiveness.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC: AN INTERGENERATIONAL CAMPUS-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

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Intergenerational programs bring individuals together across a continuum of age to share experiences. This study was designed to engage university music students with residents at a senior living community. University music student groups performed monthly at a local senior living community and completed pre- and post- performance evaluations to assess performance expectations, level of interest in the performance, perception of factors determining performance success, and perception of performance importance for the senior residents. A total of 24 students participated in one of three musical ensembles (Choir=11; Flutes=5; Steel Drums=8) during the months of February, March, and April 2022. Across all three ensembles, 50% of the students had never performed for residents at a senior living community. On a scale of 1–5, with 1 being “Not at all” and 5 being “Very much”, 21 students indicated a “4” or “5” as to the importance of the performance for the residents whereas 15 students indicated a “4” or “5” in response to the importance of the performance for themselves. Most students reported looking forward to the performance, and following the performance indicated it had been a success. Factors
identified as determining performance success included comments such as: “How much the audience enjoyed themselves!” and “Performers and audience enjoyed the performance. We would love to come back!” Our findings suggest that performing live music in an intergenerational campus-community setting is beneficial not only for students but also for senior living facility residents.

AGING DRAG QUEENS: RISKS, REWARDS, EXPRESSION AND PERFORMANCE
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This poster presentation will share the exploratory findings of a qualitative research study examining the lived experiences of older drag queens, age 50+. Drag queens are an understudied and underrepresented population in the social science literature (Knutson et al., 2021), depression, substance abuse, and resilience (Knutson et al., 2019; Tiltelein & Kruse-Diehr, 2021) and the role gender plays via sexuality identities (Taylor & Rupp, 2004, Levitt et al. 2017). This research seeks to better understand how drag expression is integrated with one’s persona and how it interfaces with dragism, coping, and if drag expression can be used as a tool to foster resilience. Using a semi-structured interview protocol and thematic analysis, many themes emerged including the risks and rewards associated with drag expression, the relationship between aging and being a drag performer, and the shift in traditional versus 21st century drag. Lastly, we highlight the implications for gender and LGBTQIA+ theory and plans for future research.

THEMES FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH MEDICAL TRAINEES ON LGBTQ OLDER ADULTS
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Approximately 6–12% of the US population 65 or older self-identifies as LGBTQ. This population faces immense barriers when accessing care, including the bias from healthcare professionals. Efforts to combat this bias through formal education are minimal. Using a mixed methods study with one-group pretest-posttest design and focus groups, medical learners were included in sessions involving a showing of Gen Silent and a post-viewing discussion. Themes from discussion were extracted by two independent reviewers. Medical learners (Nf15) included residents and faculty of psychiatric and emergency medicine at Lehigh Valley Health Network. Themes included: recognition of the social isolation faced by LGBTQ older adults, recognition of barriers to care including stigma and bias, challenges supporting patients and enabling patients’ openness, a need for a community resource repository, opportunities for EMR optimization, and physicians as advocates. These results highlight the need for additional training for medical trainees as well as the efficacy of using a tool like Gen Silent to accomplish this.

THE IMPACTS OF DEPRESSION AND SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AMONG OLDER MEN WHO HAVE SEX WITH MEN
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Suicidality among older adults has attracted much attention due to their vulnerability. Older men who have sex with men (OMSM) have rarely been studied psychologically. Study examines factors that affect the mental health of OMSM, including depression, suicidal tendency, and suicide likelihood. OMSM in the United States are analyzed using descriptive statistics for correlations between depression and suicidal tendency. A literature review helped us select scales based on the regression model we constructed. Control variables were assessed for validity and relevance. A dependent variable was depression, and a dependent variable was suicidal tendencies. Depression and suicidal tendency scores significantly differed between men who have sex with men and the general population (t = 67.084,58.193, P < 0.01). Suicidal tendencies and depression are significantly higher among homosexuals than among general groups. The regression analysis shows older men who have sex with men are more likely to suffer from depression and suicide (P < 0.01). Depression and suicide rates in OMSM are higher than those in the general population. The level of depression, in the intermediary test, mediates both the effect of OMSM on individual suicidal tendency and individual suicidal behavior (P < 0.01). Suicidal tendencies in OMSM can be reduced through depression intervention.

NAVIGATING DEMENTIA DURING COVID-19: THE EXPERIENCES OF GAY AND LESBIAN OLDER ADULTS
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By 2030, it is estimated that 30 million individuals worldwide will have Alzheimer’s disease or related-dementias (hereafter dementia). Described as a “modern epidemic of later life,” dementia research has begun to reflect the diversity of our aging society with greater attention to minority populations. Nonetheless, some marginalized dementia-affected populations remain understudied. Estimates suggest more than 1 million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender older adults will have dementia by 2030. Despite sizeable predictions, dementia-affected gay and lesbian populations remain critically understudied particularly in relation to COVID-19. To date, there is scarce literature focusing on how community-dwelling gay and lesbian adults with dementia navigate the management of their condition during the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to identify how community-dwelling gay and lesbian adults manage their dementia during the COVID-19 pandemic, data were combined from two interview-based studies. Content analysis was conducted on the interview narrative of the subset of individuals with dementia identifying as gay or lesbian and their study partner (n=18). Thematic findings include: 1. triple...