these two populations, both persons with disabilities and refugees may face physical, social, economic and environmental barriers that impede them from benefiting from the same opportunities accessible to other social groups. As a result, these populations have less access to education, higher unemployment, are more likely to be deprived and excluded from social benefits. In other words, public stigma —prejudice and discrimination voiced and practiced by the general population— translates to a life course characterized by daily stressors that result in a higher likelihood of cognitive disorders and dementia. Measuring and analyzing SDoH inclusive of disability and refugee experiences are essential to efforts aimed at recruitment and retention and knowledge generation in ADRD research.

SSDOH AND AGING IN PERSONS OF AFRICAN ANCESTRY

Joyce Balls-Berry, Washington University School of Medicine Knight Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, United States

Persons of African Ancestry (Black) encompasses a broad spectrum of individuals across the African diaspora. The diversity of the Black community must be considered in the context of SDoH especially as it relates to diseases of aging. Blacks report higher levels of discrimination as a barrier to Alzheimer’s Disease or related dementia (ADRD) care, are less likely to receive timely diagnoses of ADRD, and many do not trust that a future cure for ADRD will be shared equally and equitably with their community compared to their white counterparts. Once diagnosed, older Blacks, are twice as likely as their white counterparts to have ADRD. A key to addressing the Black community’s ADRD needs is speaking openly about the historical underpinnings related to social injustice and racism as a link to appropriate ADRD diagnoses. Ultimately, SDoH impact treatment, healthcare policy, and the future of biomedical research for the Black community.

Session 1315 (Symposium)

UNDERSTANDING THE ABNORMAL TODAY FOR LIFE TOMORROW: A STUDY OF THE GENERATIONS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Chair: Lisa D’Ambrosio
Discussant: Lisa D’Ambrosio

The spread of COVID-19 in the United States in early 2020 abruptly transformed American life, with widespread closures of public spaces and businesses, limitations on social activities, and the need for individuals to physically distance from each other. Some changes wrought by the virus may persist post-pandemic - such as Americans’ adoption of new technologies or disease prevention behaviors. Since the onset of COVID-related safer-at-home orders, the MIT AgeLab has sought to understand how the pandemic affects people’s attitudes and behaviors. This symposium will present findings drawn from three waves of national, online surveys conducted in 2020: March (N=1202), May-June (N=1,387), and November-December 2020 (N=1444). The surveys explored participants’ COVID-19-related attitudes and behaviors across a range of domains. Each presentation in this symposium will highlight a different focus of cross-generational research conducted over time, with a particular focus on experiences of adults ages 55 and over. The first will focus on participants’ overall health, wellbeing, and perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccine. The second will present experiences of family caregivers of older adults and children. The third will center on the impact of the pandemic on the generations’ retirement and longevity planning experiences. The fourth and final presentation will focus on participants’ attitudes and experiences using and adopting technology. This symposium will deepen attendees’ understandings of multigenerational attitudes and experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a particular focus on the experiences of adults ages 55 and over.

SELF-REPORTED HEALTH, WELL-BEING, AND COVID-19 VACCINATION WILLINGNESS ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Taylor Patskanick, MIT, Somerville, Massachusetts, United States

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the generations’ health and wellbeing across a range of dimensions. In the first survey, the 50+ adopted the smallest number of health behaviors (e.g., handwashing, mask-wearing, etc.) in response to the pandemic compared to younger age groups. In the first and second surveys, the Baby Boomer generation reported less intense worry than other generations, especially regarding their socioemotional health and family members’ health. For younger generations, worries tended to increase from March to June—especially those related to socioemotional health and COVID-19 in general. In the third survey wave, older generations self-reported better psychological wellbeing, less personal burnout, and better cognitive health compared to younger generations. Willingness to get the COVID-19 vaccine did not vary by generation in this sample; however, implications of this (including additional factors that may be influential such as psychological wellbeing) will be discussed.

PERCEPTIONS AND IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Alexa Balmuth, MIT AgeLab, Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States

For many family caregivers, COVID-19 has presented new obstacles to providing elder-care while balancing additional responsibilities such as work or childcare. Three survey waves explored impacts over the course of the pandemic. Family caregivers demonstrated resilience, taking a variety of measures to care for and protect family; caregivers were also more confident in their ability to protect loved ones age 60+ from contracting COVID-19 than non-caregivers. However, COVID-19’s toll on caregivers was evident. Caregivers reported higher personal burnout than non-caregivers, and across all three survey waves, consistently reported greater degrees of worry in regards to COVID-19 in general, as well as its impacts on domains including the health and wellbeing of themselves and family members, and near and far term finances. This presentation will highlight how caregivers’ perceptions and impacts of COVID-19 have evolved over the course of the pandemic, and implications of these findings for life tomorrow.