SESSION 1210 (SYMPOSIUM)

LINKING ETHNIC MINORITY ELDERS TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES: CHALLENGES TO BUILDING NETWORKS

Chair: Allen Glicksman, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
Co-Chair: Lauren Ring, Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
Discussant: Sandra Torres, Uppsala Universitet, UPPSALA, Sweden

Building networks that are effective in linking older adults to supportive programs and services often involves challenges related to access, eligibility requirements, the elder’s ability to understand enrollment processes, and lack of trust in service providers. For ethnic minority elders these challenges are often greater due to additional linguistic and cultural barriers. The four presentations on this panel address challenges to building effective service networks for ethnic minority elders using data derived from focus groups with members of these communities and those tasked with providing their care. The first presentation (Graham and Tseng) examines the Village model, a model designed to empower older adults, and asks why more Latino, African American and Asian elders do not participate. The second paper (Ågård) looks at communication difficulties as a source for understanding the nature of cross-cultural discussions around end of life issues with ethnic minority patients. The third paper (Ajrouch, Janevic, and Antonucci) explores how caregiving programs for Alzheimer’s Disease patients can be modified to better serve Arabic speaking caregivers. The final paper (Ring, Liebman, Glicksman and Rodriguez) uses data collected among Spanish and Chinese (Mandarin) speaking elders to design a conceptual model which describes how ethnic minority and other elderly navigate the Long Term Care Services and Supports network. Our respondent will place these papers within the growing theoretical work on diversity and care support.

BARRIERS TO VILLAGE MEMBERSHIP AMONG MINORITY SENIORS

Carrie Graham,1 and Winston Tseng2, 1. University of California, Berkeley, California, United States, 2. University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, California, United States

Villages are a relatively new consumer-driven model that promotes aging in place for community-dwelling seniors. Villages promote social engagement, civic engagement, member-to-member-support, and collectively bargain for services of their members. Members report improved social support and more confidence aging in their own homes. Currently, there are over 200 operational villages nationwide and the model is proliferating rapidly. Most Villages members are white, well-educated, and well resourced. Researchers at UC Berkeley conducted 6 focus groups with Latino, African American and Asian seniors (N=58) who have not joined Villages in their regions. Focus group findings describe a lack of awareness of the Village model among underrepresented groups; and barriers to membership including the cost of membership, lack of language inclusion, and lack of diversity. The national anti-immigrant discourse emerged as a barrier to membership for non-white seniors. Participants describe how Villages could make programmatic changes to attract a more diverse membership.

EXPLORING HOW CARE PROVIDERS TALK ABOUT COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES WITH ETHNIC MINORITY PATIENTS

Pernilla Ågård1, J. Department of Sociology, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Previous research into cross-cultural interactions in health care settings shows that care providers experience communicating with elderly ethnic minority patients as problematic. According to the social constructionist framework upon which this presentation draws, people negotiate the characteristics they ascribe to the world around them through talk. It is against this backdrop that the presentation – which is based on a focus group study with end-of-life care providers (n=60) – sets out to explore how care providers talk about communication difficulties with elderly ethnic minority patients. The presentation demonstrates how the study of communication difficulties can illustrate the challenges of cross-cultural interaction in end-of-life care settings. Through the attention on how communication difficulties are discussed, this presentation shifts the focus from the elderly ethnic minority patients and the reasons for why they are experienced as problematic when it comes to communication, to the actual process where these problems are negotiated.

A FAMILY-CENTERED APPROACH TO DEMENTIA CAREGIVING AMONG ARAB AMERICANS

Kristine Ajrouch,1 Kristine Ajrouch,1
Mary Janevic,2 and Toni C. Antonucci,2, 1. Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, United States, 2. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States

This paper presents the process by which we adapted an existing Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementia (ADRD) caregiver support intervention that is directed at multiple family caregivers and culturally-responsive to the needs of the Arab American community. Three focus group discussions with Arab American families caring for a family member with ADRD were organized in partnership with the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS). Focus group discussions included two members from each family to gather data on needs of Arab American ADRD caregivers, role of family in caregiving and use of technology for caregiving information. Results underscored the lack of and desire for knowledge around ADRD, and the perception by Arab Americans that they differ from non-Arab Americans in approaches to caregiving (e.g., person with ADRD often moves from one child’s house to another). These data confirm the need for caregiving interventions responsive to Arab American needs/preferences.

CREATING NEW MODELS FOR AGING IN PLACE: DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND THE NAVIGATION OF LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS

Lauren Ring,1 Michael Liebman,2 Allen Glicksman,1 and Misha Rodriguez3, 1. Philadelphia Corporation for Aging, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, 2. IPQ Analytics, LLC, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, United States, 3. Asociación Puertorriqueños en Marcha, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

GSA 2019 Annual Scientific Meeting
There is a growing interest among aging services providers to better understand the pathways through which older adults and their caregivers navigate LTSS. Although there have been attempts at modeling this process they are often dependent on the quality of existing data, which can result in models which are incomplete and study samples that homogenize diverse older adult populations. These models face two challenges – 1) the data may not include information about important elements of the LTSS navigation process, and 2) the actions of ethnic/cultural sub-groups may not be captured. This study uses a conceptual method called Social Interaction Modeling (SIM) to examine how older adults in two limited English-speaking communities (Spanish / Mandarin Chinese) navigate the use of LTSS and to evaluate disparities in service access. The findings will help to build a more comprehensive model which looks at service navigation among all older adults in Philadelphia.

SESSION 1215 (SYMPOSIUM)

MARGRET M. AND PAUL B. BALTES FOUNDATION IN BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY AWARD LECTURE

Chair: Nancy Pedersen, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

The Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation Award in Behavioral and Social Gerontology recognizes outstanding early-career contributions in behavioral and social gerontology. The lecture will be given by the 2018 Baltes Award recipient, Frank Infurna, PhD, of Arizona State University. This session will also include the presentation of the 2019 Baltes Award. The 2019 Baltes Award recipient is Allison Bielak, PhD of Colorado State University. Supported by the Margret M. and Paul B. Baltes Foundation.

UTILIZING PRINCIPLES OF LIFESPAN DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY TO EXAMINE RESILIENCE TO ADVERSITY

Frank J. Infurna, 1 Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, United States

Lifespan developmental psychology has many guiding principles. My past, current, and future research has been influenced by the lifespan developmental principles of multidimensionality and multidirectionality and the premise that development is not entirely bound to chronological age, but to historical-, contextual-, normative- non-normative event-, pathology- and mortality-related processes. The first part of my talk will discuss ways I have utilized these principles in my research examining individual’s ability to be resilient to diverse types of adversities (cancer diagnosis, unemployment, and bereavement) and resources they are drawing on to promote more positive outcomes, such as social support. The second part of my talk will focus on future research directions that aim to advance the conceptual and methodological significance of this research. Future directions include explicitly studying individuals in midlife, inclusion of outcomes beyond that of mental health and well-being, such as character strengths, and longitudinal research designs that assess people more frequently.

SESSION 1220 (SYMPOSIUM)

MEDICAID MANAGED LONG-TERM CARE PROGRAMS VS. THE TRADITIONAL MODEL: COMPARATIVE COSTS AND OUTCOMES

Chair: Larry Polivka, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, United States

Several states have adopted Medicaid Managed Long-Term Care (MLTC) programs over the last several years. At this point at least 30 states are either administering such models or have plans to in the near future. We do not, however, know much yet about the relative cost-effectiveness of the MLTC model when compared to the traditional non-profit model of Medicaid LTC. Is the for-profit MLTC model actually generating savings in the Medicaid program while improving the quality of care? This symposia is designed to address the question through three presentations on experiences with MLTC programs in the states of Ohio, Texas and Pennsylvania and a fourth presentation offering a national overview and critique of Medicaid MLTC in comparison to the traditional Medicaid LTC program still administered through non-profit Aging Network organizations. The state focused presentations describe the current status and results of MLTC in three states that vary in their specific features, extent of formal accountability for outcomes and the political contexts in which the programs currently function. The presentations also include discussions of the implications of each states experiences for the future of Medicaid LTC policy at the state and federal levels. The fourth presentation is a critical analysis of the main differences between the traditional non-profit model of Medicaid LTC services and the for-profit MLTC programs in terms of commonly accepted criteria of cost-effective LTC services, such as access, quality of care and per-person costs and differences in the roles of advocacy and accountability.

MEDICAID-MANAGED LTC: A NATIONAL OVERVIEW

Larry Polivka, 1 Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, United States

Most of the states now have Medicaid LTC programs administered by corporate HMOs. Several states, however, still have programs administered by non-profit community based organizations, most of which are members of long standing Aging Networks which grew out of the Older Americans Act in the 1970s. This paper will offer a comparative overview of these models of LTC administration including a typology designed to identify major cultural and political differences between the states with and without corporate managed LTC models and an analysis of the available information regarding their comparative costs and outcomes, namely access to care and quality of care. The paper will conclude with an assessment of the implications of the information presented for the future of Medicaid LTC policy and politics at the state and federal levels and for the future of LTC advocacy and accountability across the states.

INTEGRATING ACUTE AND LONG-TERM SERVICES: DOES IT WORK, CAN IT WORK, WILL IT WORK?

Robert A. Applebaum, 1 and Jennifer Heston, 2 Miami University, Scripps Gerontology Center, Oxford, Ohio, United States, 2 Miami University Scripps Gerontology, Oxford, Ohio, United States