subsequent years (39% at T=6). The probability of using nursing home care at the onset was significantly greater for women vs. men (Adjusted risk ratio (ARR)=1.21; p=0.010); non-Hispanic white vs. Hispanic (ARR=1.62; p=0.004); those with low vs. high wealth (ARR=1.60; p < 0.001); those without a spouse vs. with a spouse prior to the onset (ARR=1.39; p < 0.001); and those with all adult children living far vs. at least one coresident adult child prior to the onset (ARR=1.51; p < 0.001).

Public policies and interventions aimed at providing for the needs of people with dementia should consider disparities in care use across racial/ethnic and socioeconomic groups.

GENDER DIFFERENCES IN AVOIDING LATER-LIFE DISABILITY: A LIFE COURSE PERSPECTIVE
Patricia Morton, Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan, United States

Identifying the early origins of adult health has underscored how experiences in the earliest stages of life can have lasting consequences. Whereas most research on the early origins of adult health has linked childhood conditions to worse health in adulthood, this study considered whether childhood conditions are associated with healthy aging. Guided by the World Health Organization’s emphasis on functional ability as a core component of healthy aging, the present study investigated the association between childhood social conditions and avoiding later-life limitations in basic and instrumental activities of daily living, referred to as disability-free status. This study also tested potential health-related and socioeconomic mediators and examined whether these life course antecedents of healthy aging vary by gender. Analyzing a sample of 9,376 adults over age 50 from the Health and Retirement Study over 10 years (2006-2016) revealed that childhood socioeconomic disadvantage reduced the odds of avoiding disability over time. For women, adult health lifestyles mediated this relationship whereas adult socioeconomic status (SES) mediated this relationship for men. Conditional indirect effects indicated that the mediational effects of body mass and education differed between men and women (i.e., moderated mediation). The direct effects of childhood and adult SES also varied by gender. These results demonstrate that the life course antecedents, especially SES, of healthy aging are distinct for men and women. Interventions should prioritize reducing early-life exposure to socioeconomic disadvantage, especially for women. Given the gendered differences in the mediating effects, midlife interventions can be tailored for men and women.

OLDER AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ARE VULNERABLE TO ECONOMIC AND FOOD INSECURITY DURING COVID-19
Shinae Choi,1 Eun Ha Namkung,2 and Deborah Carr,3
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This study investigated whether older Americans with physical disability were vulnerable to three types of economic insecurity (difficulty paying regular bills, difficulty paying medical bills, income loss) and two types of food insecurity (economic obstacles, logistical obstacles) during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. We evaluated the extent to which associations are moderated by three personal characteristics (age, sex, race/ethnicity) and two pandemic-specific risk factors (job loss, COVID-19 diagnosis). Data were from a random 25 percent subsample of the Health and Retirement Study participants who completed a COVID-19 module administered in 2020. Our analytic sample included 3,166 adults aged 51 and older. We estimated logistic regression models to document the odds of experiencing each hardship. Persons with three or more functional limitations reported significantly higher odds of both types of food insecurity, and difficulty paying regular and medical bills, relative to those with no limitations. After controlling for health conditions, effects were no longer significant for paying medical bills, and attenuated yet remained statistically significant for other outcomes. Patterns did not differ significantly on the basis of the moderator variables. Older adults with more functional limitations are vulnerable to economic and food insecurity during the pandemic, potentially exacerbating the physical and emotional health threats imposed by the pandemic. Our findings reveal an urgent need to promote policies and procedures to protect older adults with disability from economic and food insecurity. Supports for older adults with disability should focus on logistical as well as financial support for ensuring food security.

TOWARD A MULTIDIMENSIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF LATER LIFE DISABILITY: A LATENT PROFILE ANALYSIS
Natasha Peterson,1 Jeongeun Lee,2 and Eva Kahana,3
1. Iowa State University, Iowa State University, Iowa, United States, 2. Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, United States, 3. Case Western University, Case Western reserve University, Ohio, United States

Disability is difficult to define succinctly. Current literature on disability has primarily focused on physical functional limitations. However, relying on a single dimension or index cannot accurately represent disability as the experience of disability is nuanced and complex. To address these gaps, this study aims to understand the multidimensional nature of disability among retired, community-dwelling older adults. Using a sample of 414 older adults between the ages of 72 and 106 years (M=84.84, SD=4.56), latent profile analysis was employed to identify classes based on five indicators of disability across three domains. The five indicators of disability included difficulties with activities of daily living (ADLs), cognitive impairment, physical impairment, sensory impairment, and participation restrictions. Three classes were found to represent the data best. The most favorable and highly functioning group comprised the highest number of participants (n=242, 59.5%). The next group, class 2 (n=157, 37.9%), was characterized by high physical impairment and ADL-difficulty. The smallest group, class 3 (n=15, 3.6%), had the highest ADL-difficulty and participation restrictions but drastically lower cognitive and sensory impairment. Multinomial logistic regression revealed that class membership was related to sociodemographic characteristics. Finally, class membership predicted several mental health outcomes such as depressive symptoms, positive
SESSION 2270 (Symposium)

NEW BRAIN AGING CENTER

Chair: Feng Lin Co-Chair: Yeates Conwell Discussant: Janine Simmons

Evidence indicates an association between emotional well-being (EWB) and underlying brain processes, and that those processes change with both normal and pathological brain aging. However, the nature of these associations, the mechanisms by which EWB and its component domains change with brain aging, and how those changes may be associated with common neuropathologies like Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD), are largely unexplored. The NIA-funded Network for Emotional Well-being and Brain Aging (NEW Brain Aging) has the goal of developing a nationwide community of investigators dedicated to research that identifies and tests mechanisms by which brain aging influences EWB and how EWB may impact risk for and progression of ADRD. Synthesizing human and animal literature, our premise is that relationships between EWB and ADRD are bidirectional – normal and pathological changes in aging brain influence EWB and EWB contributes to brain health and illness, such as ADRD. NEW Brain Aging will identify and coalesce resources for interested investigators and provide funding opportunities to stimulate research and development of the field. Component presentations of this symposium will include (1) an overview by Dr. Robert Kaplan of the current state of research on EWB; (2) the role of animal studies (Kuan Hong Wang) and (3) human subjects research (Feng Yankee Lin) in EWB and aging; and (4) design of NEW Brain Aging and resources it will provide (Yeates Conwell). Janine Simmons will explain NIA’s vision for EWB research and lead open discussion.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING HUMAN STUDIES

Feng Lin, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York, United States

Early evidence indicates an association between EWB and underlying brain processes, and that those processes change with both normal and pathological brain aging. However, the nature of these associations, the mechanisms by which EWB and its component domains change with brain aging, and how those changes may be associated with common neuropathologies in ADRD, are largely unexplored. We propose an appraisal-adaptation model in understanding relationships between EWB and ADRD. For human models, we encourage the use of well-established measures that directly assess eudaimonic and hedonic EWB, including abnormal scenarios (e.g., neuropsychiatric symptoms, anhedonia, loneliness, etc.), as well as older adults with exceptional cognition (i.e., superagers or supernormals). Dr. Lin will review premises associated with the appraisal-adaptation model in conducting human research on EWB, aging, and ADRD.

ACTIVITIES OF NEW BRAIN AGING

Yeates Conwell, University of Rochester Medical Center, Rochester, New York, United States

The Network for Emotional Well-being and Brain Aging (NEW Brain Aging) was funded by NIA with the goal of forming a national, transdisciplinary collaborative that includes investigators with research expertise in emotional well-being (EBW), Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias (ADRD), human and animal neuroimaging, stress regulation, and computational/quantitative methods. Our objective is to stimulate mechanistic research identifying and testing mechanisms by which brain aging influences EWB and how EWB may impact risk for and progression of ADRD. This presentation will explain the structure and functions of the network that serve as a resource for investigators interested in EWB and aging research, and how to access them: a transdisciplinary community of scholars interested in brain, aging, and EWB research from both human and animal fields; webinars; workgroups to establish priorities for NEW Brain Aging activities; a resource repository; and pilot project funding opportunities to which network members can apply.

EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING ANIMAL MODELS

Kuan Wang, University of Rochester, Rochester, New York, United States

Clinical studies suggest an association between EWB and the risk or progression of AD. However, the mechanistic link and causal relationship between EWB and AD remain unknown, due to limited experimental access and control of the underlying human brain processes. Animal models offer genetic control of AD mutations and neural circuit analysis tools, but subjective feelings of EWB cannot be assessed through self-report. To study EWB across species, we adopt a theoretical framework that views emotions as central brain states that respond to exteroceptive or interoceptive stimuli and cause multiple cognitive, somatic and behavioral changes. Recent neuroanatomical and functional imaging studies have identified evolutionarily related brain circuits in the encoding and regulation of central emotional states in animals. Dr. Wang will review progress in elucidating the functional activities of these circuits and discuss the challenges and opportunities to link these neural representations to EWB and AD related pathological progression.

OVERVIEW OF EWB AND AGING

Robert Kaplan, Stanford University, Stanford University, California, United States

The accumulation of scientific knowledge has been hampered by inconsistent usage of terms and categories. Ontology is the study of categories, their properties, and the relations between them. This presentation considers the definition and measurement of emotional well-being (EWB), a term that has been used inconsistently in research and clinical practice. The category contains eudaimonic and hedonic well-being that represent interrelated but conceptually distinct aspects of mental health. This presentation will review the definition...