

THE IALH UPDATE

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Patient-Reported Outcomes Measures



Photo: National Cancer Institute, Unsplash

Patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) can be used to assess individuals' perceptions of their symptoms, health status, functional status and quality of life. They can also be used to inform clinical decisions. In a recent publication, IALH Research Fellow Jae-Yung Kwon (Nursing) and colleagues at several other research institutes examined how patients interpret and respond to PROMs. They identified two factors that can potentially result in response biases.

The first factor - differential item functioning - occurs when the same PROM items do not result in the same outcome when used with different people. "For example, two patients with the same level of pain may provide different PROM scores for pain severity." These differences may occur as a result of cultural, environmental, personal or experiential factors.

The second factor - response shift - occurs when measurements at two or more time points are not comparable for the same individual. "For example, a patient experiences changes in their health, but reports the same PROM scores over time."

The researchers noted that both differential item functioning and response shift "can threaten the accurate interpretation and use of PROMs potentially resulting in erroneous conclusions about effectiveness, and flawed individual-level clinical decision-making." They argued that "without an awareness of biases in the interpretation of PROM scores, we risk diminishing the accuracy and utility of PROMs in shaping the goals of care, and in guiding individual treatment decisions." Further, they concluded that "PROM scores need to be interpreted through patient-clinician discussions to avoid misinterpretation" which could negatively impact communication and/or decision-making. For more information, go to <https://www.mdpi.com/1718-7729/29/5/251/htm>

Consultation on Ageism

The Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers Responsible for Seniors Forum is currently conducting a consultation on how older adults in Canada experience ageism and potential solutions to address it. The Seniors Forum would like to hear from:

- members of the general public;
- researchers and academics;
- indigenous communities; and
- organizations that represent older adults, provide support to older adults, and/or work with older individuals with disabilities, new immigrants, and/or members of LGBTQ2+ and official language minority communities.

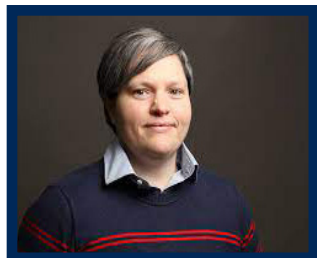
Interested individuals may participate through an online questionnaire or a Share Your Story forum (<https://esdc-consultations.canada.ca/ageism-consultation>) or via e-mail (esdc.na.agisme.consultations-consultations.ageism.na.edsc@hrsdc-rhdcc.gc.ca)

The consultation will be followed by roundtables, community-led discussion groups and engagement with Indigenous groups. Feedback will be summarized in a report. For more information, go to <https://esdc-consultations.canada.ca/ageism-consultation>

Congratulations to...



IALH Research Fellow Kelli Stadjuhar (Nursing) on being inducted into The Royal Society of Canada, Canada's highest academic honour. Kelli's research focuses on palliative and end-of-life care, particularly with vulnerable and marginalized populations.



IALH Research Fellow Theone Paterson (Psychology) on being awarded a five-year Michael Smith Health Research BC Scholar Award. Theone's research focuses on improving understanding of the relationship between neurocognition and psychosocial functioning and predicting real-world health outcomes in aging and chronic illness groups.

Resources

Using Telomere Length and Telomerase Activity as Markers of Cellular Aging for Evaluating Lifestyle Interventions: Experience Sharing

In August 2022, Denise Cheung, a visiting scholar from the University of Hong Kong, came to UVic to work with IALH Research Fellows Sam Liu and Ryan Rhodes (both in Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education) on a project focusing on physical activity promotion in cancer survivors. During her visit, Dr. Cheung delivered a virtual presentation regarding current understanding of the relationship between lifestyle interventions and the telomere/telomerase system. She also discussed her experience using telomerase activity as an outcome measure in a randomized controlled trial of Qigong in abused women.

The recording is available at <https://youtu.be/QETzW6IXzAk>

17th Annual and Final Lafayette Health Awareness Forum: *Our Planet, Our Health*

After nearly 20 years of bringing top experts in all fields of health to the Victoria community, this year marked the final forum for the Lafayette Health Awareness Series. Presented in partnership with the Lafayette String Quartet, "*Our Planet, Our Health*" explored our existence and the connections of our health and that of our precious planet. The forum featured three performances by the Lafayette String Quartet and intriguing presentations by guest speakers Suzanne Simard, Valeria Stoyanova and Katlia Lafftery.

To watch a recording of this presentation, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Unmp-fuQs1g>

Research Opportunities

History of Concussion Study

Taylor Snowden-Richardson, a third year PhD year student and IALH Student Affiliate is recruiting participants for a study exploring how concussions impact long-term brain health. To be eligible, participants must:

- be between 50 and 90 years of age
- have had at least one concussion a minimum of 3 years prior to study intake
- have normal or corrected vision
- have low weekly aerobic activity (defined as less than 1 hour per week)
- be physically able to engage in 30 minutes of aerobic walking at a time.

The study is being conducted in collaboration with IALH Research Fellows Dr. Brian Christie (Division of Medical Sciences) and Dr. Jodie Gawryluk (Department of Psychology and Division of Medical Sciences). It involves the use of Magnetic Resonance imaging (MRIs), blood and saliva collection and cognitive assessments as well as a 12-week intervention program. For more information, contact brainlab@uvic.ca using the subject *History of Concussion Study*.

Design of a Personalized Glucose Monitor

Graduate student Sabrina Lakhdhir and IALH Research Fellow Sowmya Somanath are conducting a study to design and explore tools that support the collaborative personalization and customization of assistive technologies, particularly glucose monitors. They are looking for adult participants who:

- live in Canada
- have been diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes for at least one year
- have experience using glucose monitors for at least one year

The study is being conducted in collaboration with researchers from the National Research Council of Canada, UBC, UVic and industry. The study will take place remotely via Zoom. Participants will be asked to complete a short questionnaire and participate in pre and post interviews, a design exercise and a group workshop. Participants will be allowed to keep the kit of provided materials (worth approximately \$50) and will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card as compensation for their participation. For more information, contact sabrinalakhdhir@uvic.ca or sowmyasomanath@uvic.ca

Exploring the Social Determinants of Health Associated with Sexually Transmitted Infections in Older Women

Jordan Monks is a masters student in Public Health and Social Policy at the University of Victoria and an IALH Student Affiliate. She is seeking participants for a research study exploring social barriers and facilitators (including social determinants of health) associated with sexually transmitted infections (STI's) among older women in British Columbia. To be eligible, participants must:

- identify as a woman
- be at least 60 years of age or older
- have had at least one sexual partner since turning 60
- live in British Columbia

Participation in this research study will involve answering questions that have been influenced by a preliminary literature review as well as consultations with a community advisory group. The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

This study is being supervised by IALH Research Fellows Drs. Nathan Lachowsky and Kelli Stajduhar as well as Dr. Leah Tidey. For any questions, please contact Jordan Monks at jordanmonks@uvic.ca or Dr. Lachowsky at nlachowsky@uvic.ca.

Upcoming Events

Access Denied: Inequities in Access to Oncology Care Among Indigenous Peoples

Friday, October 28, 10:00 -11:00 am (PDT)

Presented by Tara Horrill

Dr. Tara Horrill is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Manitoba. Her research takes a critical approach to investigating health inequities within the context of the cancer care system, with a particular focus on equitable access to cancer care and equity-oriented approaches to care. Indigenous Peoples experience startling differences in cancer outcomes that appear to be partly related to inequitable access to oncology care. This presentation will highlight some specific challenges to accessing oncology care, and will discuss the role of nurses in addressing inequitable access.

The link to attend is <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/88618532827>. For more information, contact equitableaccess@uvic.ca.

Support for this event provided by Dr. Kelli Stajduhar and the Canada Research Chairs Program.

Creating Space for Community Engagement with End-of-life Issues Through Intergenerational Arts Activities: Findings from Sweden

Thursday, November 3, 12:00 -1:30 pm (PDT)

Presented by Max Kleijberg

Max Kleijberg, PhD, is a designer and postdoctoral researcher at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden. He will present his doctoral research on Studio DöBra, a participatory, community-based project in Sweden involving children (9 year olds) and older adults (most 80+) in arts activities about dying, death, and loss.

Developed and studied in collaboration with academic and community partners, the goals of Studio DöBra were to support community engagement with end-of-life issues and create opportunities for intergenerational interaction. In this presentation, Max will share findings related to the ways in which arts activities can support engagement with end-of-life issues as well as the project's various forms of impact.

The link to attend is <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/82387095800>. For more information, contact equitableaccess@uvic.ca.

Support for this event provided by Dr. Kelli Stajduhar and the Canada Research Chairs Program.

Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease - Current Research and Early Detection Methods

November 1, 2022 6:30 - 8:30 pm (PST)

Dementia is not a natural part of aging. It is an umbrella term that encompasses all types of neurodegenerative diseases that affect memory, judgement, and cognitive skills severely enough to impact daily life. Alzheimer's disease is the most common form of dementia and comprises nearly 70% of all cases. During this course you will find out what researchers currently know about the disease as well as new methods for early detection.

This class will be online and recorded. Recordings will be available to registrants for 30 days after the class.

Instructor: Jamie Knight, PhD.

Cost: \$40.00 + tax

Course code: HPHE307 2022F D01

Please note this course is being offered through Uvic Continuing Studies. For more information or to register, see <https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/health-wellness-and-safety/courses/dementia-and-alzheimers-disease-current-research-and-early-detection-methods>



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UVic Institute on Aging
and Lifelong Health