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**June 13, 2022**

### **Grant Award:**

The National Institutes of Health National Institute on Aging awarded a \$3,070,390 R01 grant to **Dr. Kara Dassel** and Co-Investigators **Dr. Kathie Supiano**, **Dr. Eli Iacob**, and **Dr. Rebecca Utz** for their project *LEADing End-of-Life Dementia Care Conversations*. **Hollie Fuhrmann** was integral to the success of the application. Advance care planning (ACP) is the process that

allows individuals to express their future health care values and preferences, so that these wishes can be enacted in the event that they become incapacitated and unable to participate in their own health care decisions. Often, families do not want to engage in these challenging conversations and wait too long, whereby the care recipient with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia (ARD) no longer has decisional ability to participate in the advance care planning process. The team previously developed "The LEAD Guide" (Life-Planning in Early Alzheimer's and Dementia) – a tool to help persons with preclinical awareness of ARD risk and those with early-stage cognitive impairment to begin important conversations with a care partner. With funding from the National Alzheimer's Association, the investigators created a preliminary interactive LEAD intervention that combines the LEAD Guide with educational materials about the importance of having conversations about, documenting (advance directive), and sharing ACP wishes with other family members and health care providers. During the next five years, the research team will conduct mixed method research to 1) evaluate the usability, acceptability, feasibility, and initial efficacy of the LEAD intervention as a self-administered, dementia-focused web-based tool that can be used to facilitate the ACP process for 60 diverse community-dwelling pairs, consisting of persons in the preclinical or early stage of ARD and their care partner; 2) assess the initial efficacy of the LEAD intervention on decision-making confidence, relationship quality, subjective well-being, and anxiety in both the care recipient and care partner; and 3) examine the process of ACP congruence (shared understanding of the care recipients' values and preferences regarding EOL care) as the primary factor related to changes observed during the LEAD intervention. Results have the potential to guide and accelerate the implementation of the LEAD intervention to community and health care practice, where a dementia-focused ACP process is needed.

The Utah Cancer Action Network awarded a \$50,000 Utah State Cancer Plan Implementation Opportunity grant to **Dr. Deanna Kepka** for her project *Using Community-based Methods and Vaccine Registry Data to Improve HPV Vaccination Receipt in the Era of COVID-19*.

### **Presentations:**

**Dr. Kara Dassel** delivered the keynote presentation *Embracing the Present and Planning for the Future* at the inaugural [Lynden Legacy Caregiver Conference](#) in Sandy, Utah.

**Dr. Kara Dassel** presented *Caregiving Stress: Preventing Burnout* at the Cache County Caregiver Coalition Conference in Logan, Utah.

**Dr. Zoe Robbins** participated in a panel discussion titled *Our Future – Our Providers: What's Happening in Post-Secondary Education?* at the [6<sup>th</sup> Annual Addictions Update: Science, Policy, & Treatment](#) in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Publications:

Mann S, Christini K, Chai A, Chang C-P, **Hashibe M, Kepka D**. Vaccine hesitancy and COVID-19 immunization among rural young adults. *Prev Med Rep*. 2022; 28:101845. [doi: 10.1016/j.pmedr.2022.101845](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2022.101845)

**Supiano KP**, Boudreaux J. Palliative and hospice care for incarcerated persons. In Altilio T, Otis-Green S, Cagle JG, eds. *The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Care Social Work*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022:404-413.

**Topham EW, Bristol A, Luther B, Elmore CE, Johnson E, Wallace AS**. Caregiver inclusion in IDEAL discharge teaching: Implications for transitions from hospital to home. *Prof Case Manag*. 2022;27(4):181-193. [doi: 10.1097/NCM.0000000000000563](https://doi.org/10.1097/NCM.0000000000000563)

**Towsley GL**, Wittenberg G, Reddy A, Baier RR. [Me & My Wishes: An efficacy trial of long-term care residents with Alzheimer's disease using videos to communicate care preferences with caregivers](#). Issue Brief #6. 2022. Brown University School of Public Health, Center for Long-term Care Quality and Innovation.

## In the Media:

SAGE for Nursing and Other Health Specialties offers a free podcast site. In [JAG Podcast 2022 – EP2](#), **Dr. Kara Dassel** discussed the article “I worry about this patient EVERY day:” Geriatrics clinicians’ challenges in caring for unrepresented older adults, which she, **Dr. Linda Edelman**, Jennifer Moye, Casey Catlin, and Timothy Farrell authored.

## In Other News:

The Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education’s AGHExchange newsletter highlighted the Gerontology Interdisciplinary Program and the College of Social Work hosting a “Music and Memory” seminar in honor of Careers in Aging Week.