represent each of the GSA sections: Biological Sciences (BS), Health Sciences (HS), Behavioral & Social Sciences (BSS), Social Research, Policy & Practice (SRPP), and the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education (AGHE). The theme of the 2019 GSA Fellows Symposium is focusing on the power of networks and will highlight the importance of neuroendocrine networks (Christian Sell), the role of social support for refugees in Canada (Esme Fuller-Thomson), the importance of professional partnerships to promote health (Heather Young), aging-friendly communities (Emily Greenfield), and the role of networks in teaching gerontology (Tina Kruger). The importance of networks across disciplinary boundaries will be discussed.

AGING-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY INITIATIVES: HARNESSING NETWORKS FOR CHANGE FROM THE LOCAL TO THE GLOBAL

Emily Greenfield,1 and Laurent Reyes2, 1. Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States, 2. Rutgers, The State University Of New Jersey, New Brunswick, New Jersey, United States

Aging-friendly community initiatives (AFCIs) represent multi-sectorial efforts to systematically make localities better for long lives. AFCIs typically work toward progress in multiple domains of community life, focusing both on social and built environments. Despite tremendous growth in AFCIs worldwide over the past decade, there has been little empirical research on how they develop and work toward their aspirational goals. This paper presents findings from a community-partnered study on the development of nine philanthropically supported AFCIs in northern New Jersey. Drawing on five waves of in-depth interview data collected with leaders over three years, the paper addresses the role of the leaders’ interpersonal and interorganizational networks as they work toward aging-friendly community change. Findings on the centrality of networks across various levels of geographic scale for the development of AFCIs has implications for program theory, as well as broader issues concerning inclusion and equity within community-level responses to population aging.

DEPRESSION AMONG OLDER CANADIAN REFUGEES: THE PROTECTIVE ROLE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT

Esme Fuller-Thomson,1 Shen (Lamson) Lin,1 Karen Kobayashi,2 Simran R. Arora,1 Hongmei Tong,3 and Karen Davison4, 1. University of Toronto, TORONTO, Ontario, Canada, 2. University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 3. MacEwan University, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, 4. Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada

This study’s objective was to identify which factors attenuate refugees’ higher odds of depression. A secondary analysis of 272 refugees and 29,398 non-refugees in the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, a 2012 study of Canadians aged 45 to 85, was conducted. The prevalence of depression was higher among refugees than non-refugees (22.1% vs 15.2%, p<.001). The age-sex adjusted odds of depression for refugees (OR=1.70, p<.001) was only modestly attenuated when sociodemographic characteristics, physical health conditions, chronic pain, binge drinking and level of physical activity were taken into account (ORs ranged from 1.61 to 1.70, all p<.05). However, in the model adjusting for social support, the odds of depression for refugees was reduced to non-significance (OR=1.30, p=0.92). Refugees have higher odds of depression than non-refugees, and this excess vulnerability is associated with lower levels of social support. Targeted interventions to decrease isolation and improve refugees’ social support warrant greater attention.

NEUROENDOCRINE NETWORKS IN AGING

Christian Sell,1. Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

It has become clear that nutrient regulatory pathways are the major determinants of lifespan. From early studies on caloric restriction to genetic ablation studies in yeast, worms, flies, and more recently mice, a unifying theme has emerged that suppressing nutrient sensing pathways and neuroendocrine networks results in lifespan extension. This work has laid the foundation for interventions designed to ameliorate late-life dysfunction. Inhibition of the mechanistic target of rapamycin (mTOR) pathway using rapamycin, an FDA-approved drug used clinically to inhibit solid organ rejection, is one of the most promising of these interventions. It has been demonstrated that rapamycin enhances longevity in mice, even when initiated in relatively old animals. We will discuss the development of anti-aging therapies, the potential for emerging therapies, and pitfalls associated with clinical trials designed to test these therapies.

HARNESSING THE POWER OF NETWORKS: PARTNERSHIPS TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

Heather Young1, 1. Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing - UC Davis, Sacramento, California, United States

This paper will address social and professional networks that support family caregivers who are providing care to older adults. Family caregiving is commonly a long-term commitment that can include functional, health care, social, financial and emotional support. This role can have a major impact on the health, well-being and economic security of the family caregiver, particularly for those who are socially isolated. This paper will highlight the nature of caregiving demands on individuals and families, particularly those providing intense and complex care, with a focus on cultural diversity. Health care professionals encounter family caregivers during routine care and at times of crisis and have an opportunity to enhance support and preparation. This paper will discuss effective community-level and health system partnerships and strategies that promote health and well-being for family caregivers, examine the potential for scaling these approaches, and suggest priorities for education, practice and future research.

THE ROLE OF NETWORKS IN TEACHING GERONTOLOGY THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECTS

Tina M. Kruger1, 1. Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana, United States

As we seek to prepare the next generation of researchers, teachers, and service providers in the field of aging, it is vital that students garner experience interacting directly and appropriately with older adults. Community engagement and service-learning (CE/SL) are high impact pedagogical