



The Center for Aging  
Research and Education  
SCHOOL OF NURSING  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

# 2022 Annual Report

*Bringing people together to improve how we age*



IN 2022, THE CENTER FOR AGING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION:

ORGANIZED

**3 CAMPUS  
EVENTS**

ON OLDER ADULT HEALTH AND  
CAREERS IN AGING

ENGAGED

**ELEVEN  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

FOR THE INTERPROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE-LEARNING COURSE NURSING 511,  
COMMUNITY SUPPORTS FOR PEOPLE  
WITH DEMENTIA

FORMED

**2 BOARDS OF OLDER  
ADULT ADVISORS**

EACH WITH **10 COMMUNITY MEMBERS**  
THAT PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO HEALTH  
RESEARCHERS

RECRUITED

**160+**

**OLDER ADULT VOLUNTEERS**

FOR ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS WITH SCHOOL  
OF NURSING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

COLLABORATED WITH

**5 HOSPITALS AND 13 ADVISORS**

TO DEVELOP A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY HOSPITAL TOOLKIT



Three members of the Madison Board of Older Adult Advisors discuss a point during a meeting

AGING RESEARCH

“We are so grateful,” wrote one researcher who’s studying how hospitals engage older patients’ family and friend caregivers. “We learned so much!”

Another research team is reworking their study materials to include schematic images of the tests involved. They are also adding quotes from previous participants, to give a fuller picture of what being in their study is like.

A third researcher is using more accessible language to describe her next study. She’s also looking for new ways to measure what is important to older people as they recover from illness or injury.

All three benefited from the Boards of Older Adult Advisors (BOAAs), two new community advisory boards formed by CARE to provide guidance to health researchers.

Community advisory boards have been shown to make research more relevant to—and representative of—the public. Research with community input is more likely to be shared widely and used to develop solutions. With the BOAAs, CARE is working to make research more responsive to the health needs

and priorities of older people.

In 2022, CARE partnered with community organizations in Madison and rural Southwest Wisconsin to recruit older adults for the BOAAs. We formed a Madison BOAA and a Rural BOAA, each with ten members who are passionate about improving research and healthcare.

In their initial meetings, the BOAAs learned about health research and the role of community advisors. Each BOAA developed their own mission statement, community agreements, and structure for meeting with researchers.

The Madison group’s mission states, “BOAA members and researchers have a mutual responsibility to listen, learn, and challenge to make research meet the needs of older adults and their families.” The Rural BOAA “provides candid, constructive feedback to help research be more kind, open, and innovative, and to improve care, especially for people whose needs are not being met.”

Throughout 2022, CARE also expanded our network of faculty, staff, and graduate students who conduct aging research; organized discussions

about engaging older adults in research; and provided information for aging research proposals.

NURSING EDUCATION

What are the benefits of working with older adults? During Careers in Aging Week 2022, students from the School of Nursing and across the health sciences heard many from an interprofessional panel of geriatrics professionals.

“My favorite thing is to make something out of a puzzle,” geriatric clinical nurse specialist Kari Hirvela told the students. “I really like digging into the charts and looking at why patients are here, being able to tell the nurse what I found, and putting the picture together.”

Occupational therapist Gabriel Cranley appreciates older people’s clear priorities. “What really drew me to the geriatric population was they know what they want or don’t want,” she said. “You can find their interests and that’s how you shape their therapy.”

“I can spend extra time with patients and families, even connect with them after they leave the hospital to see how things are going,” geriatric social worker Magda Bertalan told the students. “I really enjoy being able to fill in some of the gaps.”

BY THE NUMBERS

AGING RESEARCH

- » Formed **2 Boards of Older Adult Advisors** (BOAAs), each with **10 community members**, that provide guidance to health researchers
- » Organized **3 meetings** between health researchers and the BOAAs, including faculty from the School of Nursing, School of Medicine and Public Health, and Occupational Therapy Program
- » Grew the CARE Affiliate program to include **36 people** representing **12 disciplines**

NURSING EDUCATION

- » Organized **3 campus events** on older adult health and careers in aging
- » Engaged **11 community partners** for the interprofessional service-learning course Community Supports for People with Dementia (Nursing 511)
- » Recruited **160+ older adult volunteers** for one-on-one meetings with School of Nursing undergraduate students
- » Identified **6 potential new clinical sites** focused on older adult care for the School of Nursing’s BSN and DNP programs

IMPROVING CARE

- » Collaborated with **5 hospitals** and **13 advisors** to develop a Dementia Friendly Hospital Toolkit with 8 interactive role play scenarios, 5 training videos, 12 training handouts, and a guide to planning a hospital training program
- » Recorded **265 sales or downloads** of CARE’s evidence-based toolkits
- » Held **4 focus groups** to help UW Hospital engage staff in age-friendly care



Careers in Aging Week panelists (from left) Gabriel Cranley, Mara Kieser, Magda Bertalan, and Kari Hirvela

“I just thought wow, what an opportunity to make a difference with older adults and drugs and all the things that can go wrong,” said Mara Kieser, a consultant pharmacist in long-term care and Assistant Dean for Experiential Education at the UW–Madison School of Pharmacy.

The Careers in Aging Week panel was one of three campus events organized by CARE in 2022. Throughout the year, CARE also recruited more than 160 older community members for one-on-one virtual meetings with nursing undergraduate students; collaborated with 11 community partners for the service-learning course Community Supports for People with Dementia; and identified six new potential clinical sites focused on older adult care.

IMPROVING CARE

“It has helped me be more aware of what dementia patients and visitors may be going through so I can better help them,” one hospital staff member wrote about interactive training exercises developed by CARE.

Another hospital staff member said the training made her “more mindful of a patient’s surroundings and how the environment may impact a therapy session.”

A third wrote that the training “served as a good reminder to slow down during teaching and involve everyone.”

In 2022, CARE worked with School of Nursing clinical and research faculty to develop a Dementia Friendly Hospital Toolkit, with support from the Rennebohm Foundation. The team piloted training materials at five hospitals across Wisconsin, to ensure that our toolkit will help staff meet the needs of people living with dementia and their family caregivers.

The training materials were informed by family caregivers of people living with dementia. The toolkit was also shaped by an advisory committee including hospital leaders in clinical care, social services, and staff education; state policymakers; home care providers; and advocates for people living with dementia from the Black and Latinx communities.



The Dementia Friendly Hospital Toolkit, which will be widely available in Spring 2023, includes eight interactive role play scenarios, five training videos, training handouts, evaluation tools, and additional resources. A planning guide helps hospitals set their own goals and develop a training plan to meet them, leveraging available resources.

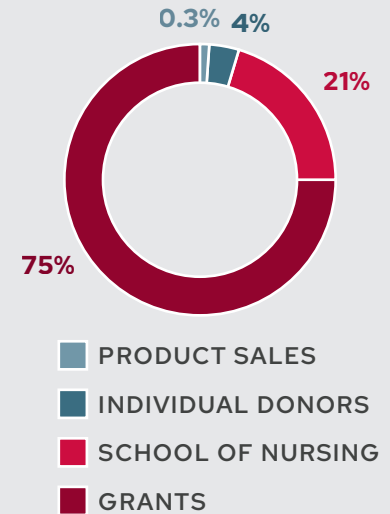
In 2022, CARE also began collaborating with UW Hospital to support the expansion of their Age-Friendly Health Systems pilot;

supported educational sessions for direct care staff and family caregivers; and partnered with Pathway Health to reach more of the nursing workforce with CARE's Geri-Res Long Term Care Nurse Residency Program.

### SEEKING YOUR SUPPORT

Support from individuals and foundations is vital to CARE. To learn how you can help ensure that older people, families, and caregivers benefit from our cutting-edge research and nursing expertise, call **Scott Fletcher** at **608-263-6007** or visit: <https://go.wisc.edu/igt055>

## CARE REVENUE



School of Nursing student and faculty members helping film a Dementia Friendly Hospital training video

### CARE Team:

**Barb King**, Executive Director  
**Diane Farsetta**, Senior Outreach Specialist  
**Barb Bowers**, Founding Director  
**Shruti Subramanian**, Aging Outreach and Program Support

### CARE Advisory Committee:

**Jonette Arms**, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Public Health  
**Sarah Endicott**, School of Nursing faculty liaison  
**Liz Jensen**, Direct Supply  
**Christine Klotz**, Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging  
**Sue Konkel**, retired public health nurse  
**Edith Lawrence-Hilliard**, Precious Memories Choir  
**Geana Shemak**, Iowa County HeART Coordinator  
**Lisa Thomson**, Pathway Health Services  
**Deanna Truedson McKillips**, Agrace Hospice and Palliative Care  
**Mike Wallace**, Fort HealthCare  
**Laura Block, Angie Li, and Jacqueline Olen**, School of Nursing students  
**Gracie Venchuk**, Sociology PhD student

For more info, visit: [care.nursing.wisc.edu](https://care.nursing.wisc.edu) or contact us at: [care@son.wisc.edu](mailto:care@son.wisc.edu) or (608) 265-4330



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