IN 2022, THE CENTER FOR AGING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION:

ORGANIZED
3 CAMPUS EVENTS
ON OLDER ADULT HEALTH AND CAREERS IN AGING

FORMED
2 BOARDS OF OLDER ADULT ADVISORS
EACH WITH 10 COMMUNITY MEMBERS THAT PROVIDE GUIDANCE TO HEALTH RESEARCHERS

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

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
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 and 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.”

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 8 interactive role play scenarios, 5 training videos, 12 training handouts, and a guide to planning a hospital training program.

Recorded 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.

“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 panelists (from left) Gabriel Cranley, Mara Kieser, Magda Bertalan, and Kari Hirvela.
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](https://go.wisc.edu/igt055)

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