Purpose

The National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) and the National Study of Caregiving (NSOC), with support from the National Institute on Aging, announce a call for conference papers and poster abstracts. The conference will focus on dementia caregiving and will be held May 2-3, 2022. Plans are being made for an in person meeting in Ann Arbor with hybrid options for attending. Early career researchers are encouraged to apply. We expect to accept 10-12 papers and 10-12 posters.

Focus of Conference

The goals of this conference are to bring together scholars interested in family and unpaid care for older adults living with dementia. Papers that compare caregivers for older adults with and without dementia, examine the effect of care on older adult’s health and wellbeing, examine interactions between family and paid caregiving, study caregiving issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic, and highlight the longitudinal features of NHATS and/or NSOC are especially of interest.

Background on NHATS and NSOC

Begun in 2011, the National Health and Aging Trends Study (NHATS) conducts annual in-person interviews with a nationally representative sample of Medicare beneficiaries ages 65 or older. Designed as a platform for scientific study of late-life disability trends and trajectories, NHATS fosters research to reduce disability, maximize independent functioning, and enhance quality of life at older ages. In 2020, a supplement on experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic was administered to participants and to family and friends who helped participants.

The supplemental National Study of Caregiving (NSOC) is conducted periodically to provide the perspective of family and friends who help older adults experiencing limitations in daily life. NSOC been conducted three times in conjunction with the NHATS at periodic intervals (2011, 2015, 2017). Interviews were conducted by telephone with family and unpaid caregivers to NHATS participants who were receiving assistance
with self-care, mobility, or household activities (the latter, for health or functioning related reasons). The 30-minute interview included questions about activities for which help was provided, duration and intensity of help, effects on helpers of providing assistance, support services used, and basic demographic information. In 2017, a longitudinal follow-up was added and a supplemental time diary interview was also administered. In 2020 NHATS participants and family members and friends who helped NHATS participants during the COVID-19 pandemic were asked to complete a supplemental mail questionnaire.

Together NHATS and NSOC are the only national study providing both care recipient and caregiver perspectives on late-life care. Rather than identify a single primary caregiver for interview, interviews were attempted with all eligible helpers for whom contact information was obtained. This design yields a caregiver sample that is representative of all eligible caregivers and allows insights into how caregiving responsibilities are distributed.

**Funding**

An honorarium will be provided of $5,000 per paper and $2,500 per poster. The honorarium may be split among multiple authors at the direction of the applicant. In addition, one author per paper/poster will be reimbursed for travel expenses, including travel, hotel, and per diem.

Articles that result from the conference must acknowledge support from the National Institute on Aging (R01AG054004) and be submitted to the NIH Manuscript Submission (NIHMS) website at [https://www.nihms.nih.gov/](https://www.nihms.nih.gov/) in order to obtain a PMCID.

**Selection Criteria**

Abstracts should propose original research not submitted or accepted for publication. Submissions will be evaluated by senior scholars affiliated with NSOC and NHATS. Preference will be given to submissions that are consistent with the conference theme on dementia caregiving and highlight longitudinal features of NHATS and/or NSOC. The selection committee will also evaluate the significance of the proposed analyses, the proposed methodology, the feasibility of the analyses to be completed in time for the conference, and the likelihood that findings will generate a peer-reviewed publication. The final program will be designed to represent a balance of topics and scientific perspectives.
Application Instructions

Applicants will be asked to submit the following information:

1. The applicant’s name, title and institutional affiliation with mailing address, email address, and phone.

2. Coauthors, titles, and institutional affiliations.

3. A 1-2 page abstract describing the specific aims and data and methods of the proposed study. Please make clear what years you plan to use and whether you plan to use NHATS and/or NSOC and/or the COVID-19 supplements.

4. An indication of whether paper and/or poster presentation should be considered and a statement that the proposed work is original research not submitted or accepted for publication

Timeline and important dates:

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<th>a. Abstract deadline</th>
<th>October 15, 2021</th>
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<td>b. Notification of acceptance</td>
<td>November 15, 2021</td>
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<td>c. Paper/poster due</td>
<td>April 25, 2022</td>
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<td>d. Present paper/poster at workshop in Ann Arbor</td>
<td>May 2-3 2022</td>
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Contact information:

Abstracts will be submitted through the Michigan Center for the Demography of Aging website. Please contact Jana Deatrick (jlbruce@umich.edu) with questions.

For further information, please contact Emily Agree (emily.agree@jhu.edu) or Vicki Freedman (vfreedma@umich.edu)

For more information on NSOC and NHATS, please visit www.nhats.org.

*Funds for this conference are provided by the National Institute on Aging*