

Aging PCOR Learning Collaborative

Updates



Aging PCOR
Learning Collaborative

May 2023



May Updates

Thank you for your contributions to the Learning Collaborative! Here's what we've been up to between meetings:

Focus Groups

- With your help, we recruited older adults, students, and researchers with a range of experience in engagement for our Focus Groups to discuss our [Video Series](#)
- This May, we hosted 4 Focus Group Sessions with a total of 26 participants facilitated by our very own Older Adult Advisor, Myrna Finn, and Collective Insight Deputy Director, Dr. Airia Papadopoulos
- We are just beginning to sift through the data, which we will engage our Committees to analyze. Stay tuned for preliminary findings and key takeaways!

Upcoming Activities

- **Steering Committee July Meeting:** TBD
- **Older Adult Subcommittee July Meeting:** TBD
- **[U54 Cancer Partnership](#) Quarterly Seminar:** June 1

[U54 Cancer Partnership](#) Quarterly Seminar

- The U54 Quarterly Seminar is an element of the UMass Boston – Dana-Farber/ Harvard Cancer Center Partnership
- This partnership is dedicated to “rigorous and collaborative transdisciplinary cancer and disparities-related research.”
- The Learning Collaborative, [Healthier Black Elders Center \(HBEC\)](#), and the [Office of Cancer Health Equity and Community Engagement](#) are collaborating to present: “Redefining Expertise: Engaging Older Adults as Research Partners”
- The goal of this presentation is to share the benefits of and strategies for engaging older adults in research, including cancer research, explore resources available to support engagement, and highlight funders already funding this work



Self-Assessment Checklist

What is the Checklist?

- The Self-Assessment Checklist was created in phase 1 of this project as a tool to for Academic Institutions to assess their readiness to support engagement
- The tool was designed by a workgroup of students, academic leaders, researchers, and older adults
- The initial draft was piloted by 4 academic leaders and researchers

What did we hear in the pilot?

The pilot helped to refine our tool into something academic partners will feel empowered to use. Feedback included:

- Updates to our language for an academic audience
- Suggestions to make the tool more accessible and easy to use
- Suggestions for reducing the intimidation of a self-assessment and dealing with "measurements"
- Refinement of our questions to best measure engagement in academic settings
- Requests to make the tool more action oriented

We did we learn?

While our goal is to encourage academic partners to assess their support for engagement and continue to grow, the original format of the tool elicited anxiety around "getting it right" and capturing data. We needed to check our assumptions about what a 'tool' had to be and prioritize approachability and actionability.

Where are we now?

We updated the tool into a checklist. This change may reduce the "intimidation factor" of the previous format. It also allows us to simplify the lay out and put actionable next steps front and center. View the latest version below and let us know your thoughts:

[Aging PCOR Self-Assessment Checklist](#)

How to Help Between Meetings This Month

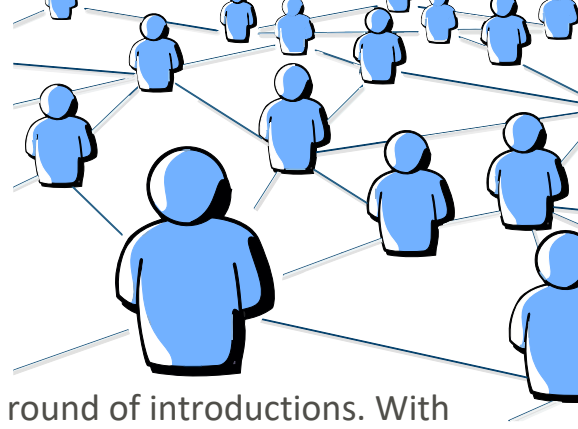
- Fill out the [Meeting Scheduling poll](#)
- Send Taylor your [biosketch](#)
- Join the Subcommittee Space (see below!)

Have questions or ideas? Contact Taylor at t.gray.19967@gmail.com

A Space for Subcommittee Connections

How can we connect more as a group?

At the May Older Adult Subcommittee meeting, we started with a round of introductions. With just a few sentences from each member, the vibrancy of the Subcommittee was on full display! We want to create a space for Subcommittee Members to continue sharing your diverse and interesting expertise, expand on exciting discussions after meetings, and connect with one another. If you're up for it, we'd like you to join us in an experiment creating such a space!



What is the Space?

- We created a private Space on the Aging Research Network (ARN) just for Subcommittee members
- For those new to it, the ARN is a virtual platform we built to bring together older adults, researchers, caregivers, academics, students, and funders interested in engaged aging research. You can find the ARN [here](#).
- Because we built this new Space in the ARN, it's free, available online from your computer, tablet, or phone, and it isn't connected to any personal social media accounts

How would we use it?

- To chat informally as a group or reach out to other members individually
- To post reminders and easy to access resources
- To build community together beyond bi-monthly meetings and email

Do you have to participate in the Space?

- Nope! Meeting links, materials, and reminders will be shared over email just as they are now

How can you join? Just click [HERE!](#)

Taylor is happy to meet with any members over Zoom to walk through the Space. Email him at t.gray.19967@gmail.com to walk through logging in, bookmarking the page, navigating the Space, and any other technical questions.

