the targeting of a very important research problem, addressing health disparities by enhancing DSM skills via intergenerational technology transfer.

IPAD USE AMONG OLDER WOMEN WITH LOW VISION: FOLLOW-UP FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

S. Smallfield¹, J. Kaldenberg², S.E. Berger², 1. *Program in Occupational Therapy, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, Missouri*, 2. *Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts*

There is a growing need for older adults with low vision to use mainstream technology to enhance performance of daily activities and social connectedness. The purpose of this presentation is to describe the findings of a qualitative focus group examining the long term use of the iPad by older women with vision loss who, 22 months prior, received small group iPad instruction to enhance the performance of daily activity and social engagement. Five older women (mean age: 70.2 years) with moderate to severe visual impairment participated in the focus group. They reported using the iPad a mean 4.3 hours per day [range: 1–8 hours]. Key applications and accessibility features that were used most often include email, the camera, applications for listening to or reading books, the alarm, and access to the Internet for general information gathering. Participants consistently reported that the initial instruction in the use of the iPad and ongoing integration of it into daily activities has decreased social isolation and depressive symptoms while increasing sense of purpose, connection to others, and empowerment. As one participant stated, “the iPad gave us hope to come out from the dark”. Features of this iPad training course that were instrumental in teaching and sustained use of the iPad to enhance daily activities include a structured class format, group instruction, and teaching strategies that maximized use of remaining vision. Access to the use of tablet technology by older adults with vision loss and issues related to health disparities will be discussed.

NEW MEDIA AT OLDER AGES: EVERYDAY CHALLENGES

K. Quinn¹, R. Smith-Ray², 1. *Communication, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois*, 2. *University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois*

Social well-being is important to cognitive health, but maintaining social relations often becomes more difficult in later life due to retirement, chronic disease, and the death of spouses and friends. Social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, are accessible and relatively low cost communication technologies that enhance feelings of social connection and reduce loneliness. Yet, usage and adoption of these platforms remains low among older adults, in part due to challenges in deploying them for everyday use. Using data gathered in two focus groups (n=16), participant observation of six four-week social media training workshop interventions (n=47), and two post-workshop participant debriefing sessions (n=14), we investigate the attitudinal and practical challenges associated with social media adoption at older ages. As prior studies suggest, we find that age-related declines in physical and cognitive abilities and reduced perceptions of benefit inhibit the use of these media, especially when using the small mobile devices

for which they are designed. Importantly however, we find that social factors, such as the under-valuation of weak and informational relationships or token levels of social reinforcement, and insufficient conceptual knowledge related to the internet and platform interoperability significant impair older adults' ability to deploy these media in everyday contexts. We conclude with practical strategies to assist older adults in gaining social media competence and suggest ways in which these findings might be applied in training older adults to use other communication technologies and applications.

POLICY PRACTICE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR SENIORS AT WORK IN A SINGAPORE HOSPITAL: A QUALITATIVE STUDY

T. Tan¹, K.K. Mehta², 1. *KK WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SINGAPORE, Singapore*, Singapore, 2. *SIM University, Singapore, Singapore, Singapore*

Singapore is facing a rapidly ageing population. In 2015, the band aged 65 years and above was about 13% of the total population, and this is likely increase to approximately 20% by 2030. There are policy and practice implications for an ageing and diverse workforce adopting new technology. Studies show that prior experience with information technology at work can boost literacy and self-efficacy in adapting to technological change. This paper uses mixed methods research design to examine the effects of social-cultural capital on technology adoption, as opposed to economic and bodily capital in Bourdieu's Practice Theory. Fourteen focus group discussions each consisting of 7–12 participants aged 55–75 years, were conducted to identify the issues relating to information technology. The findings are triangulated with a case study in a Singapore hospital focussed on E-portering smartphone application by 44 porters. The median age of the porter sample was 53 years and they had an average of 8 years basic education. This case study examines the experimental implementation practice of incremental adaptation to technology adoption. Starting with basic touch-screen smartphone for basic operational use; advancing to e-portering application for smart use; and eventually using smartphone torchlight and facetime applications for operational contingency use. The consolidated findings showed that support and learning at workplace and from social networks were critical factors motivating seniors to adopt technology experientially and incrementally. The paper concludes with implications and recommendations for policy implementation and practice of adopting and adapting information technology for seniors.

ACCEPTANCE OF WEARABLE TECHNOLOGIES BY OLDER PEOPLE: FINDINGS FROM A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

A. Schlomann, C. Rietz, *University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany*

New digital media and wearable technology are gaining in importance in everyday life. Facing ageing societies there is a growing need to understand how those devices are accepted by older people. There are various models aiming to explain technology acceptance (e.g., TAM, UTAUT). Those models were developed in a time before digitization. It is therefore