

Summary of Roundtable and Future NIH/NIA Elder Abuse Funding

NIH Workshop: Multiple Approaches to Understanding and Preventing Elder Abuse and Mistreatment

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) hosted a workshop on October 30, 2015, on understanding and preventing elder abuse and mistreatment as part of a national priority to promote elder justice which was a key focus of the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. The workshop was convened to discuss the state of the science in elder abuse research that is within NIH's mission, and to identify research with the potential to advance solutions to this growing problem.
- The workshop was co-chaired by the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the NIH Office of Research on Women's Health (ORWH). A total of 13 NIH Institutes, Centers and offices supported the workshop, including the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), the NIH Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences (OBSSR), the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR), the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the NIH Office of the Director (OD), the NIH Office of Emergency Care Research, the NIH Office of Disease Prevention, and the NIH Office of Science Policy. In addition to panel members, a number of federal partners and faculty from several colleges and universities also participated.
- The purpose of this meeting was to discuss lessons learned across fields, and common challenges and opportunities in elder abuse, child abuse, intimate partner violence, and other related interests.
- The workshop focused on research accomplishments, gaps, and opportunities in:
 - Understanding abuse (including influencing factors and the mental and physical effects)
 - Preventing abuse (e.g., organizational factors, quality metrics, or interventions for long term care/assisted living that shed light on best practices)
 - Screening tools or methods to identify abuse victims
 - Effective interventions
 - Research in related areas that might inform research on elder abuse (e.g., child abuse and mistreatment, domestic violence)

- The workshop was structured with three panel discussions and four breakout sessions to address key areas of concern in elder abuse.
 - Panel 1 focused on identifying abuse screening, standards, and detection challenges.
 - Panelists were asked to consider identifying abuse in clinical, institutional, and home settings. They discussed research opportunities in elder abuse and how findings from child abuse, intimate partner violence (IPV), and emergency geriatric care research could inform elder abuse research strategies and directions.
 - Panel 2 focused on the origins of abuse, early adversity and the cycles of abuse.
 - The panel's discussions examined the long-term health impacts of early adversity (including maltreatment, neglect, and deprivation) on health outcomes in later life. A part of this discussion concentrated on identifying the mechanisms (behavioral, psychological, biological, and interpersonal) that account for the continued risk for both poor health and for repeated cycles of abuse/adversity over the life course in order to identify potential targets for intervention. The moderated discussion focused on scientific and structural barriers to building an evidence base, lessons learned, key findings across fields, ongoing challenges, evidence gaps, and high-priority research directions.
 - Panel 3 focused on novel intervention and prevention strategies.
 - The panel discussed novel strategies for preventing abuse, mitigating its effects, and preventing recurrence. This panel (a) discussed findings from evidence-based programs to reduce elder abuse and (b) drew findings and insights from evidence-based programs for child abuse and family violence and discussed their relevance to prevention of elder abuse.
 - Breakout session 1 focused on health disparities and cultural dimensions of abuse.
 - The goal of this breakout session was to discuss relationships between elder abuse and health disparities and to consider the role that cultural factors may play in detection, identification, and intervention.
 - Breakout session 2 focused on preventing mistreatment in familial environments.
 - The goal of this breakout session was to discuss family and social risk factors that may lead to elder abuse and neglect and protective factors that may prevent it. In considering the family as a natural social system

operating within the larger context of communities and society, the panel discussed features of challenging environments within and outside of the family context that can contribute to elder neglect, mistreatment, and intentional abuse.

- Breakout session 3 focused on risk factors for individuals with diminished cognitive/decisional capacity.
 - This session invited participants to discuss research gaps and opportunities in the study of how decisional capacity is a risk factor for elder abuse. The discussion built on advances in research on the decision neuroscience of aging and research on decisional capacity in at-risk elders.
- Breakout session 4 addressed bioethics and law in elder abuse research.
 - This breakout session provided an opportunity for discussion of bioethical and legal considerations for elder abuse research and strategies for conducting ethical research.
- Key examples of critical gaps that were discussed during the workshop include the need for strengths-based interventions with a focus on skills to manage the challenges of dealing with an impaired family member or a stressful situation, simplified screening tools, and decision aids for clinicians in determining decision-making deficits for those at risk of abuse.

Current National Institute on Aging Funding and Projects in Elder Justice and Abuse

- NIA has provided support for research on the scientific basis for understanding, preventing, and treating elder mistreatment in both community and institutional settings through Requests for Applications (RFAs) for Developmental Research on Elder Mistreatment in 2005 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-05-009.html>) and 2006 (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-AG-06-009.html>), and more recently, through funding opportunity announcement opportunities for investigator-initiated applications. The primary goal of these efforts has been to generate evidence-based data to be disseminated across all sectors and settings. Examples of NIA-funded projects include:
 - R01-AG014299: Mark Lachs - Resident-to-Resident Elder Mistreatment (2007-2011)
 - R03-AG048109: Anthony Rosen - Improving Recognition of Elder Abuse through Analysis of Highly Adjudicated Cases (2014-2015)
 - K24-AG022399: Mark Lachs - Midcareer Investigator Award in Patient-Oriented Research (2007-2015)

- R01-AG042318: XinQi Dong - Epidemiology of Psychological Distress in a Chinese Aging Population (2012-2016)
- K23-AG043553: Winston Chiong - Neuroeconomics of Framing Effects and Risk Attitudes in Early Dementia (2013-2016)
- T35-AG029793: Linda Meurer - Medical Student Training in Aging and Injury Research (2007-2016)
- NIA currently has several funding opportunities to which research on elder abuse would be responsive. The Program Announcements (PA) are:
 - PA-14-159 Translational Research to Help Older Adults Maintain Independence in the Community (R21)
 - PA-14-161 Translational Research to Help Older Adults Maintain Independence in the Community (R01)
 - PA-13-246 Research to Characterize and Reduce Stigma to Improve Health (R21)
 - PA-13-247 Research to Characterize and Reduce Stigma to Improve Health (R03)
 - PA-13-248 Research to Characterize and Reduce Stigma to Improve Health (R01)
 - PA-15-042 Family and Interpersonal Relationships in an Aging Context (R01)
- The Administration for Community Living (ACL) supported the assessment of elder abuse prevalence in the NIA-funded National Social Life, Health, and Aging Project (NSHAP) in 2013, and has provided additional funding for development of national probability statistics on elder abuse, for which a second wave of data is being collected.
- NIA currently funds approximately \$1 million annually in investigator-initiated research and research training on elder abuse. Additionally, the NIA has a growing investment and interest in research addressing the challenges of Alzheimer's disease (AD) caregiving, which should be highlighted, for the reason that individuals living with cognitive impairment and dementia are among the most vulnerable elders. Additional support for research related to elder abuse and mistreatment from other Institutes and Centers at NIH has been focused largely on intimate partner violence.

NIH Workshop Follow-Up

- Workshop participants plan on developing a set of joint publications for submission to the *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*.
- The NIA has interest in incorporating input from the workshop in future Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOA).

- In anticipation of increased funding for Alzheimer's disease research, NIA released a series of Program Announcements with special review (PARs) that are active through FY 2018. Two of those announcements may be of interest to researchers in elder abuse who are considering cognitive impairment and/or dementia and its contribution to elder care and potential abuse. Those announcements are:
 - PAR-15-351 Research on Informal and Formal Caregiving for Alzheimer's Disease (R21)
 - PAR-15-348 Research on Informal and Formal Caregiving for Alzheimer's Disease (R01)