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Validating a measure of beliefs in health prevention screenings among old adults in China

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increase in lifespan has not been accompanied by comparable gains in healthspan, the number of “healthy” years an individual lives. Humans are living many more years with numerous chronic conditions, and this results in an increasing burden on aging individuals themselves, on their caregivers and on healthcare systems. Animal models have been employed to discover new interventions to increase lifespan, and multiple health assays have been developed to understand age-related changes in healthspan. However, few studies have attempted to determine to what degree lifespan and different health parameters are correlated. Here, we present a meta-analysis of inbred strains of flies, from the *Drosophila* Genetic Reference Panel, and mice, from the Jackson Laboratory Mouse Phenome Database, to uncover associations between early life health measures and lifespan. Our results suggest that very few measures of health are significantly associated with lifespan in either mice or flies. Food consumption in flies, and mice though not significant, was negatively associated with lifespan in both males and females. Also in mice, grip strength early in life was positively correlated with longevity. The results of this study suggest an overall uncoupling of early measures of healthspan and lifespan in both mice and flies, similar to a previous result found in worms. Future work will determine whether the measures of healthspan, taken later in life, will show stronger predictive power.

SESSION 815 (SYMPOSIUM)

CROSS-CULTURAL ADAPTATION OF MEASUREMENT AGING IN ASIA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SESSION: AGING IN ASIA SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP SESSION: TOOLS FOR ASIAN OLDER ADULTS: METHODS AND CHALLENGES

Chair: S. Balaswamy, OSU,

Discussant: F.K. Ejaz, *Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, Cleveland, Ohio*

In order to better understand the effects of global aging, more cross-cultural research and validation of geriatric assessments tools is needed. Current measures of health, mental health, social support, and well-being have been largely developed and often used within Western populations which compromises their validity in other cultures. This symposium describes the methods and challenges used by researchers in cross-cultural validation of commonly used scales. Investigators used quantitative and qualitative research methods to test the cultural relevance of proposed constructs using careful translation and adaptation of a common measures to establish criterion and construct validity. Two presentations explore ‘health related’ measures in China and India, one presentation tests the ‘social isolation’ construct in elders from six countries and one presentation assesses the meaning of ‘social support’ from elder perspectives in India.

Balaswamy will describe the procedures for validation of a Tamil version of function assessment scale in a sample of 82 older adults living in institutions in India.

Xu and associates describe the psychometric properties of a modified 16-item Attitudinal Index (AI), a measure of health beliefs in health prevention screenings among Chinese older adults in Shanghai.

Keiko will discuss the comparative analysis in creating a cross-cultural scale on ‘social isolation’ using micro and macro data in samples of elderly from: Japan, South Korea, India, New Zealand and USA.

Kalavar will discuss construction of transnational support scale to assess social support using a sample of 127 adult children in United States and elderly mother in India.

ASSESSING TRANSNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ELDERLY LIVING IN INDIA: MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES

J.M. Kalavar, *Human Development & Family Studies, Penn State University, New Kensington, Pennsylvania*

Support exchanges between generations over the life course are critical in families. However, when families are dispersed across the globe and such support exchanges occur across national borders, this is referred to as transnational support. Asian Indians constitute the second largest immigrant population in the United States, with most of them engaging in transnational support. Adaptation of an existing scale on social support was used to measure transnational support exchanges via an online survey.

Data was collected from 127 adult children in the USA whose elderly mother resided in India. In examining the data, it became clear that cultural sensitivity was an important issue in interpretation of participant responses. Measurement scales used exclusively in India or the United States do not apply directly for this assessment. Findings suggest that transnational support exchanges are more meaningful when assessed from cross-cultural perspectives.

VALIDATING A MEASURE OF BELIEFS IN HEALTH PREVENTION SCREENINGS AMONG OLD ADULTS IN CHINA

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We aimed to examine the psychometric properties of a modified 16-item Attitudinal Index (AI), a measure of health beliefs in health prevention screenings among Chinese older adults. We used the 2013 Shanghai Longitudinal Survey of Elderly Life and Opinion data including 3418 respondents aged 60 and above. We examined the validity and reliability of the modified AI. Psychometric evaluation of the modified AI revealed good response patterns. The overall scale had good reliability (Cronbach’s alpha = 0.835) with four distinct dimensions: barriers, fatalism, unnecessary, and detects (Cronbach’s alpha = 0.815 to 0.908). Confirmatory factor analysis of the modified AI’s factor structure verified its 4-factor solution (CFI = 0.913, SRMR = 0.048, RMSEA=0.051). The validity and reliability of the modified AI support its cultural appropriateness in measuring health beliefs among Chinese older adults. Further psychometric evaluation should focus on testing concurrent and criterion validity