Center for Healthy Aging Research
Carolyn Aldwin
Jo Anne Leonard Endowed Director
Aging at Oregon State University

- Gerontology Program – 40+ Years Old
  - Founded by Vicky Schmall and Clara Pratt
- OSU Gerontology Conference – 40 years old (March 30 & 31)
- Center for Healthy Aging Research (CHAR) – founded 2005
  - OSU’s Strategic Investment Initiative
  - Karen Hooker, Founding Director
OSU Center for Healthy Aging Research

Innovative research, education, and outreach to enhance the quality of life for older adults, their families, and society.
Carolyn Aldwin
Jo Anne Leonard
Endowed Director

Core Directors

Tory Hagen
Diet & Genetics

Mike Pavol
Musculoskeletal

Rob Stawski
Population, Social & Individual health

Kate Hunter-Zaworski
Gerontechnology
LIFE Registry

• Provides CHAR researchers with a recruiting base for human participants
• Oregon residents age 50 and over are eligible to sign up for this registry (via web or by mail)
• 800+ people in the registry from all parts of the state (25% rural)
• 35 research studies have been approved for Registry use
• Described as a key university resource in grant applications
IGERT: LIFE* in an Aging Society
*Linking Individuals, Families, & Environments

Last year of funding

• $3M from NSF
• $750K tuition support from OSU

“these are $3M smart bombs to destroy disciplinary silos”
-- Ram Ramasubramanian, Director of IGERT Program

http://health.oregonstate.edu/igert
# Life Scholars -- Undergraduates

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<td>Lilly Anderson</td>
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GRADUATE LIFE SCHOLARS PILOT PROGRAM

• $5,000 Graduate student summer fellowships
• Research costs and/or stipend
• Must involve faculty from two different cores and/or disciplines
• Must have publication as stated outcome
Dissertation Title:
“Perceived Usefulness and Acceptability of Remote Health Monitoring among Mexican-origin and Non-Hispanic White Heart Failure Patients, their Healthcare Providers and their Informal Caregivers”

Sponsors:
Dr. Carolyn Mendez-Luck and Dr. Ron Metoyer
“Receiving the Life Scholar’s Graduate Student Research Grant has enriched my research training experience at Oregon State University. I wanted to collect my own data for my dissertation research however, it can be difficult for students to secure funding for primary data collection. This award has allowed me to collect my own data for my dissertation by funding my participant incentives and the translation of my interview guides and study documents into Spanish.”
On-going Data Collection & Preliminary Findings

Patients (n= 6, Target enrollment= 40)

Despite having multiple hospital readmissions, tend to feel that they follow their physicians instructions

Feel doctors need a better understanding of what the home environment and support systems effect their ability to manage their conditions

Caregivers (n= 10, Target enrollment= 40)

Amenable to using remote health monitoring if affordable and accurate

Want more flexible hours for doctors’ appointments

Some feel that doctors don’t provide enough information about what the medications are for

Physicians (n= 10, Target enrollment= 10)

Diet management is major concern

Would use remotely collected data if it is presented in an actionable format
Melissa McDougall

Project Title:
Mechanism for Neurological Consequences of Chronic Vitamin E Deficiency

Sponsors:
Dr. Maret Traber and Dr. Kathy Magnusson
Melissa McDougal

“I have benefited immensely from my 2015 graduate LIFE Scholar grant because it has provided financial support for the acquisition of behavioral, histological, and biochemical data; without these funds, such analyses would have been cost-prohibitive to obtain. Moreover, this funding for my project has given me the opportunity to gain desired experience in aging-related cognitive research. I am thankful for this award and anticipate that the research it has supported will yield data for journal publications.”
Melissa McDougal

Using funds from my graduate LIFE Scholar grant, I conducted adult behavioral studies in E+ vs. E- zebrafish to characterize functional abnormalities due to α-T deficiency. Our results show that E- adult zebrafish have an impaired startle response compared to E+ adults, in that E- fish do not habituate to a repeated startle (loud noise) stimulus. This is indicative of a learning deficit in the E- population. Similarly, the E- adults demonstrated cognitive impairments in the shuttle-box assay, as they were significantly slower than the E+ fish in learning to avoid a mild electrical shock by swimming from a dark (unsafe/shock administration) fish-tank to a joined, illuminated (safe/no shock) tank.
Dr. Jeon Small awarded a Diversity Supplement for “Direct and indirect impacts of HIV and ART among older people in community settings” (Dr. Chatterjee, PI).

• WHO Multi-national research on caregiving and HIV
• Dr. Small – stress and caregiving in Uganda and South Africa
OSU Healthy Aging Club
Third Annual Photo Context

Aging Families, Aging Pets

Our contest this year invites photo submissions illustrating a short story (140 characters) about older families and/or older adults with pets.

Deadline: March 23rd
Grand prize: Fitbit

blogs.oregonstate.edu/gsaosu
12:00 - 1:00  Lunch
12:30 - 12:40  Welcome & Introduction – Carolyn Aldwin
12:40 - 1:00  Alan Fern – Research areas in EECS & possible collaborations

1:00 - 2:00  Inspire -- Individual research presentations
2:00 - 2:45  Small group discussion re P01s
             Three inter-related grants + admin support
2:45 - 3:00  Idea presentation to larger group
3:00 - 3:30  CHAR future – structural additions (K07)?
             Curriculum development and/or new research areas