

Contributing Our **SHARE** to Aging Research

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SHARE
Scholars in Health and
Alzheimer's Research
Engagement

Abstract

Background: Mounting evidence suggests a strong association between social factors and cognitive health outcomes. Structural and social drivers can lead to poor aging and Alzheimer's disease (AD) outcomes, particularly among communities with cumulative access barriers. Mentoring programs that stimulate research opportunities to address these non-medical drivers of health (NMDoH) can strengthen the workforce to improve outcomes.

Description: Guided by the National Institute on Aging's priorities, our program, *Scholars in Health and Alzheimer's Research Engagement (SHARE)*, is research training and mentoring program for early-career faculty designed to build capacity and expertise in the integration of community engagement, health communication, and implementation science research to advance the science on non-medical drivers of health that influence AD outcomes.

Lessons Learned: Program design included: scoping review of frameworks in implementation science, health communication, and community engagement to study aging and AD with attention to NMDoH (2,428 initial abstracts); development of a year-long, interdisciplinary training curriculum featuring faculty members across 12 departments/schools, presenting the state of the science in AD research; annual call for proposals for 3 faculty scholar awards for community-engaged AD pilot-project funding, mentorship, and training; multi-year, multi-level evaluation plan for tracking outcomes.

Implications: Training programs to increase participation by early-career faculty in AD research offer an opportunity to develop community-engaged, culturally relevant methods, messaging, and programs to improve outcomes and increase prevention of AD with attention to non-medical drivers of health.

Overview

The mission of SHARE is to 1) enhance an Alzheimer's and related dementias (ADRD) research workforce, and 2) strengthen the science on non-medical drivers of health and best practices in aging and ADRD.

The SHARE program provides monetary, curricular, and mentorship support to early-career faculty members to advance ADRD research in community engagement, health communication, and implementation science through a holistic and interdisciplinary approach.

Each year, SHARE will accept 3 scholars for mentorship and training.

Core Team



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Lead Evaluator

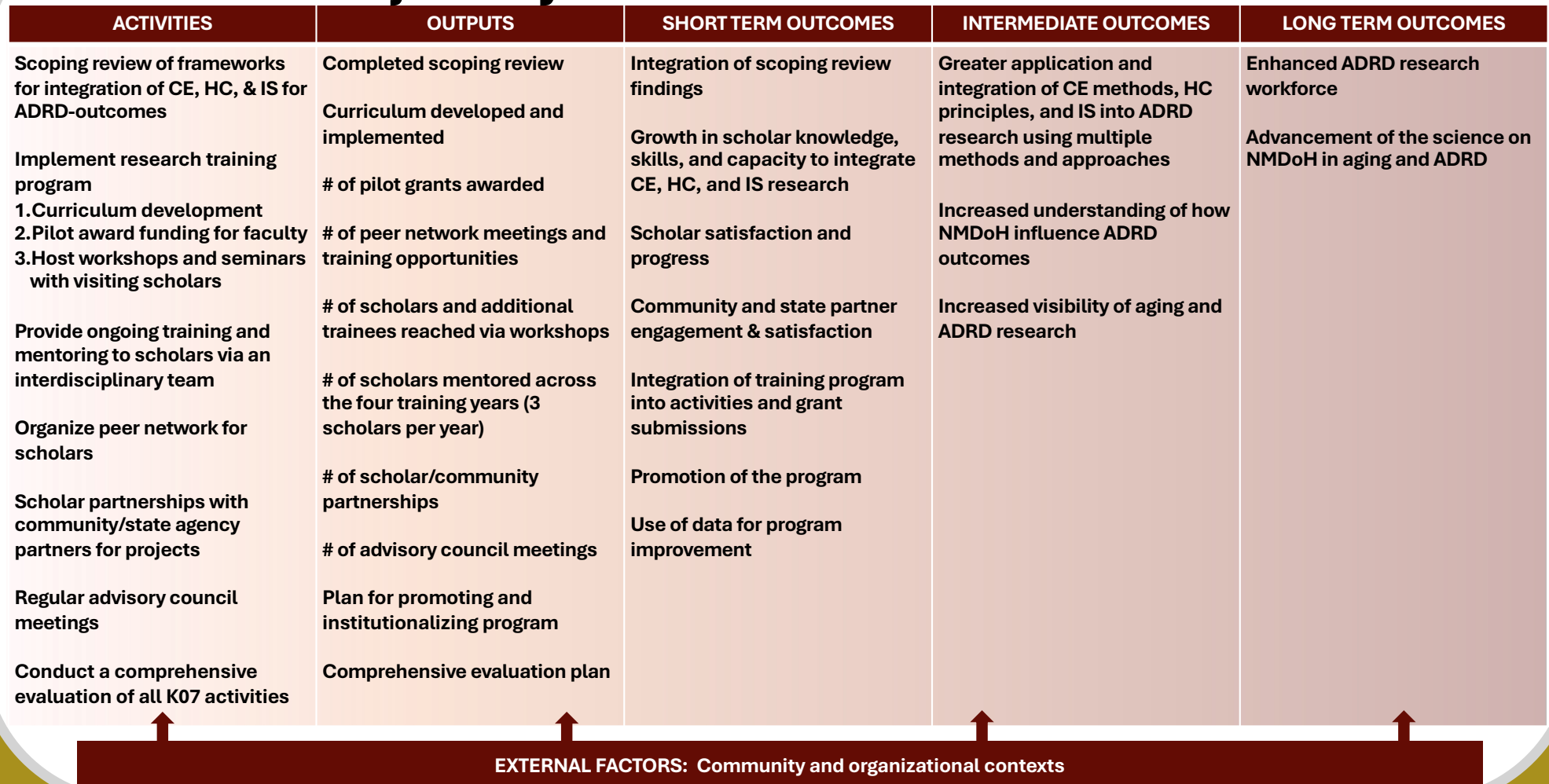
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Evaluation Trajectory



Phase 1: Scoping Review

Abstracts retrieved: 2,428

Final sample: 32

RQs

- How have models and theoretical frameworks guided community engagement, health communication, and implementation science research focused on ADRD?
- How have non-medical drivers of health (NMDoH) been considered in community engagement, health communication, and implementation science research focused on ADRD?

Findings

- Out of 39 guiding approaches, 5 were author-developed
- One third focused solely on implementation science (IS), one fourth on community engagement (CE), and four on health communication (HC)
- Five studies integrated CE & IS, two studies integrated CE & HC, two integrated HC & IS, and one integrated all three.
- Greater integration of core areas and especially community-engaged methods needed for increased efficacy and improved outcomes, particularly in consideration of NMDoH.

Phase 2: Scholar Training & Mentoring Program

Funds Available:

- \$12,500 per scholar
- 3 scholars per year, 12 scholars over 4 years

Eligibility Criteria:

- Early-career faculty members with appointments at USC Columbia campus (including USC School of Medicine – Columbia)

Pilot Project Criteria:

- Research focus in community-engagement, health communication and/or implementation science
- Utilizes at least two research methods
- Explores the non-medical drivers of ADRD outcomes
- Centers collaboration with a community partner or organization to address an important ADRD challenge
- Proposed research will lead to further scholarly activity related to ADRD health outcomes and subsequent National Institute on Aging (NIA)-funded projects

Career Development:

- Statewide aging and Alzheimer's disease research symposium
- Individual and group mentorship
- Year-long curriculum led by faculty and visiting scientists
- Technical assistance on scholar pilot projects

Mentorship Plan

- Month 1:
All scholars attend overview orientation with the core team
- Months 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12:
Each scholar meets individually with the core team
- Months 3, 5, 7, 9, 11:
Core team meets with scholars as a group to discuss progress and updates
- Monthly:
Program faculty mentor team and scholar will meet together

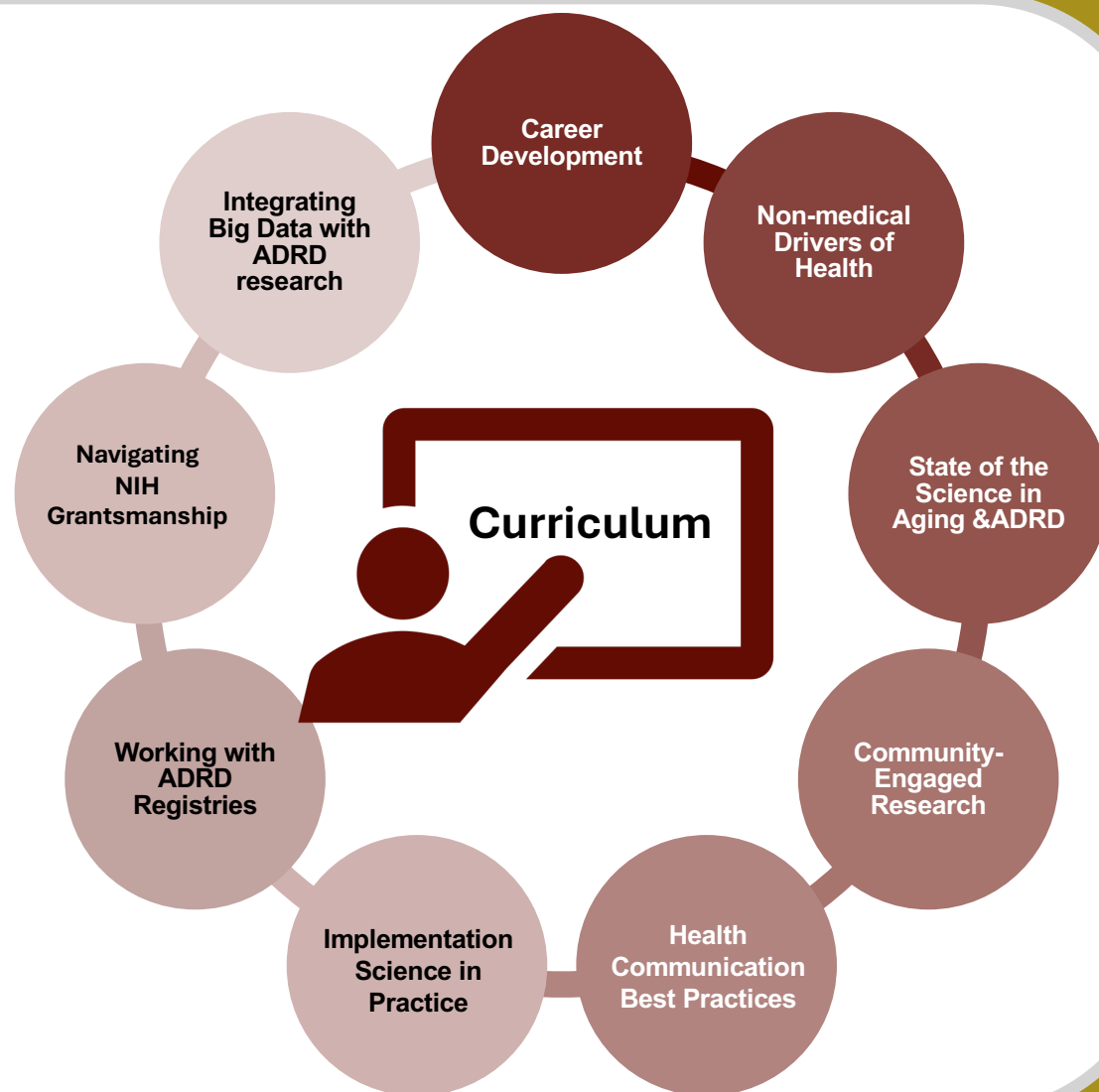
Evaluation Measures

- Scholar Self-Assessments
- Scholar Pulse Surveys
- Mentor Pulse Surveys
- Scholar Interviews
- Workshop/Seminar Evaluations
- Community Partner, Program Faculty, Visiting Senior Scientist, Advisory Council surveys
- Group discussions with Advisory Council
- Leadership Interviews

Training Curriculum

Overview

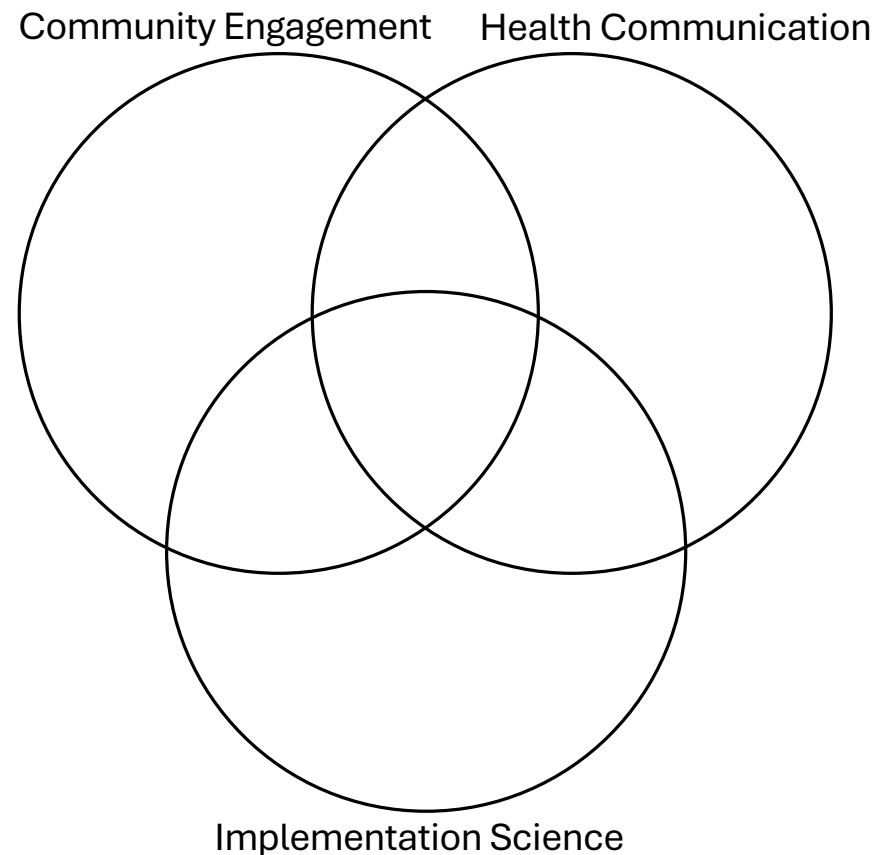
- 3-4 seminars or workshops per month
- led by program faculty across 12 departments
- opportunities for scholars to present to subsequent cohorts
- open campus wide, recorded for web
- post-seminar evaluation survey
- leverages other campus training or career development offerings where appropriate



Discussion Questions

1. What mentorship or training approaches are needed to improve community-engaged research practices and outcomes for early-career researchers?
2. What are some ideas for better integrating community engagement, health communication, and implementation science in aging or general public health research?
3. What are the barriers and facilitators to studying or addressing non-medical drivers of health in regard to AD/DRD or aging in general?

4. What frameworks, models, or theories have you used in your work in any of these areas? Where might they overlap?





SHARE

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