

P36 - AGING WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES: EMERGING THEMES IN LONG-TERM CARE (STUDENT POSTER)

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Brief Description of Research or Project: Persons with developmental disabilities (PDDs) are living longer and more of them are requiring long-term care (LTC). Persons with DDs have distinct needs as they age which should be addressed in LTC to help improve the quality and relevance of the care they receive. A qualitative study is currently underway to explore the emerging themes in the LTC context PDDs. Themes that may emerge include: geriatric care is ill-equipped to treat persons aging with DDs; co-morbidities are common and often wrongly attributed to the DD; assistive technology is a possible solution to address the needs of PDDs as they age. **Why is this research important to profile at the Research Day 2014?** As the life expectancy of persons with DD continues to increase and approach that of the general population, it is important that the knowledge of LTC in this population improves also. Aging with a DD is a complex process that is a unique experience to this population. It is essential to understand the barriers and facilitators of accessing LTC and AT so that they can receive appropriate care that meets their unique needs. With a deeper understanding of the experiences of aging with a DD, appropriate changes that need to be made can be identified. This is an emerging issue in LTC and it would be great to highlight this unique population at the OLTCA Research Day. By highlighting this project at the research day, it would help to bring needed attention to these needs that are faced by persons aging with DDs. As this is a work in progress, it would be helpful to receive feedback from scientists and experts that will also be presenting.