

exclusion as an empirical and conceptual challenge in cross-national ageing studies.

SESSION 4905 (SYMPOSIUM)

FARMING FOR HEALTH: LESSONS LEARNED FROM GREEN CARE FARMS FOR DEMENTIA CARE

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Over the last years, several innovations in dementia care have taken place, both for people with dementia using community-based services and those living in nursing homes. An example is the “green care farm (GCF)”, a farm that combines agricultural activities with care services for a variety of client groups, including people with dementia. The vast majority of GCFs provide adult day care services for people with dementia. New are GCFs providing 24-hour nursing care, as alternative for nursing homes. The number of GCFs is gradually increasing worldwide, with initiatives in Europe, Japan and the United States. Also the number of studies characterizing GCFs and their visitors, and evaluating their value for people with dementia and their family caregivers are increasing. This symposium provides insight into the experiences with green care farming so far, and the components that could also be implemented in other dementia care settings. The first presentation shows which components of Norwegian day care services at GCFs for other user groups are relevant for people with dementia. The second presentation focuses on experiences with transplanting the GCF model to the USA. During the third presentation the impact of 24-hour nursing care at GCFs as alternative for nursing homes for people with dementia is central. During the fourth presentation, lessons that other dementia care settings can learn from GCFs will be outlined.

KEY COMPONENTS OF FARM-BASED DAY CARE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

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Farm based day care services for people with dementia in Norway are aiming to provide meaningful activities and coping experiences. Nowadays, 43 care farms in Norway offer such adapted and quality based welfare services in collaboration with local health authorities. Studies have identified key components of Norwegian care farming services for other user groups to be; a social community, a structured everyday setting, a close relationship and support from the farmer, encouraging physical activity, offering a diversity of activities and work tasks, and the possibility to experience nature and having close contact with animals. Many of these components are also relevant for people with dementia, and will be beneficial for this target group. Findings from a qualitative study identifying relevant components of care farm services for this group will be showed during this presentation.

EXPERIENCES WITH GREEN CARE FARMING IN THE UNITED STATES

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Despite decades of effective implementation in Europe, the Green Care Farm (GCF) model of care has only recently arrived in the United States (US). In the US, differences in health care approaches, funding systems, liability issues, and societal attitudes toward older adults and individuals with disabilities create substantial challenges to replicating the GCF model. In this session, we will explore the past, present, and future of the GCF model in the US. First, a program director from the Netherlands will discuss his past five years of experience in transplanting and growing the GCF model in Montana. Next, a researcher will provide findings from a qualitative study ($N = 19$) exploring the views and experiences of participants, family members, farmers, and administrators involved with the Montana GCF program. Finally, both presenters will explore the practice and policy implications associated with expanding the GCF model in the US.

THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT OF GREEN CARE FARMS: A COMPARISON WITH EXISTING NURSING HOMES

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Green care farms (GCFs) that provide 24-hour nursing care are developing. The environment of a GCF has unique characteristics such as the combination of care and agricultural activities, and the presence of gardens and animals. This study investigated the physical environment of 18 nursing home units, including 5 GCFs, 4 traditional nursing home wards, 6 small-scale living facilities on the terrain of a nursing home and 3 stand-alone small-scale living facilities. The OAZIS-Dementia was used, an observation tool indicating the potential of a care environment to have positive effects for people with dementia on 7 domains. GCFs scored higher than existing nursing homes on privacy and autonomy, sensory stimulation, view and nature, orientation and routing, and domesticity ($p < .05$). No differences were found on safety and facilities. GCFs allow residents to initiate activities and go outside whenever they want, which can be beneficial for their quality of life.

WHICH LESSONS CAN OTHER DEMENTIA CARE SETTINGS LEARN FROM GREEN CARE FARMS?

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Earlier studies suggest that green care farms (GCFs) are a valuable addition to other dementia care services. We explored which lessons from GCFs could be implemented by regular long-term care institutions (RLTCIs) and which barriers and facilitators were expected. First, key lessons were identified by secondary data analysis addressing the following issues: 1. Aligning care with preferences and needs of people with dementia; 2. Making active use of stimulating