Abstract

Social engagement in older adults is gaining increasing attention as the baby boomers increasingly present to the healthcare system. There is currently no coherent, operationalized definition of social engagement in the literature. The purpose of this study was to explore the concept of social engagement in older adults by using an exploratory factor analysis approach with a sample of 670 older adults from data collected from a memory improvement study conducted by Dr. Graham J. McDougall. The use of existing psychometric measures to create a social engagement questionnaire was explored, but unable to qualify as a proxy measure for the proposed construct. The findings of this research project provide more insight into the nature of social engagement in older adults, and its implications for future areas of research.