The imperative for the development of practical methods to improve outcomes of caregivers and those receiving their care is intensifying as demographic shifts in 21st century affect the dynamics of caregiving. Compared to the beginning of the 21st century, the global population aged 65 and older will double by 2050 while fertility rates will decline by a third, resulting in substantial discrepancies between the number older adults needing care to that of adults available to provide care.

Recent research by Pillemer and Gilligan (2018) published in Innovation in Aging describes the need for more rapid translation of scientific discovery to develop methods, interventions, and treatments that will improve the everyday lived experiences of caregivers and care recipients. Indeed, Innovation in Aging is committed to increasing the visibility of translational research on caregiving, as seen in articles published in Innovation in Aging that describe: (1) how caregiving interventions should be tailored to the complexity of the dynamics of family caregivers (Pillemer and Gilligan, 2018), (2) how customized, brief-supportive counseling and educational and skills training support reduce care recipient and caregiver adverse events (Gitlin, Cigrapha, Cigliana, and Pappa, 2017), and (3) how non-pharmacological interventions to manage behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia should consider both the physical and social environment of care recipients, ongoing training and support for care providers, and promotion of opportunities for meaning and purpose for care recipients (Caspar, Davis, Douziech, and Scott, 2018). These studies reveal some of the complex challenges associated with caregiving and provide evidence for the critical need for translational research on caregiving across the expanse of cultural, physical, and geographic settings.

Much remains to be understood how to effectively support care recipients and caregivers. Topics of interest may include, but are not limited to, those discussing:

- Programs to support caregivers and care recipients through local agencies
- Innovative financing models to support caregivers and care recipients
- Workplace accommodations to support caregivers
- Environmental accommodations to reduce burden on care recipients and care providers
- Addressing transitions in caregiving needs from early caregiving through end of life
- Risk identification for care recipient and caregiver needs across the course of caregiving trajectory trajectories in varied settings, including acute care, pharmacies, community organizations, etc.
- Disease specific caregiving needs (e.g. dementia, cancer, end of life, etc.)
- Addressing needs associated with a variety of functional limitations including daily activities, mobility, communication, and financial decision making
- Use of technology to support caregivers and care recipients

To avoid duplicative topics and to enable us to develop a comprehensive issue, an abstract of 300 words or fewer describing the paper’s intent should be submitted electronically via ScholarOne. The editorial team will identify abstracts of interest and selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts. Full manuscripts will be evaluated using Innovation in Aging’s usual peer review process. Open Access waivers will be available for all articles published in this special issue.

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