Investigator Spotlight

Health Care Systems Scholars Program

NIA IMPACT COLLABORATORY
TRANSFORMING DEMENTIA CARE



A. Lynn Snow, PhD
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The University of Alabama

Health Care System Partner
Caraday Healthcare

"The best ideas for improving dementia care are developed in partnership with the people who live and work in nursing homes every day, which is why I'm excited to bring together Caraday Healthcare and the resources of The University of Alabama and the NIA IMPACT Collaboratory to listen, learn, and co-design solutions grounded in the actual voices and experiences of Caraday residents, families, staff, and leaders."

Dr. Snow is a professor in the Department of Psychology at The University of Alabama and a senior clinical research psychologist at the Tuscaloosa VA Medical Center. Her research program focuses on partnering with health care systems to develop, implement, and evaluate practical, evidence-based approaches that improve care and quality of life for people living with dementia. Dr. Snow's current research emphasizes embedded pragmatic clinical trials (ePCTs), implementation science, and stakeholder-engaged intervention development to improve dementia care in nursing homes through approaches that are feasible, scalable, and responsive to real-world care environments. This award will provide the opportunity to co-design a dementia care intervention with Caraday Healthcare that is shaped by the real-world knowledge, experiences, needs, and priorities of frontline staff, residents, families, and organizational leaders, laying the foundation for a future ePCT.

A Systems Learning Partnership for Dementia Care Co-Design

Dr. Snow will partner with Caraday Healthcare to build an embedded research collaboration that listens to and learns from residents, families, frontline staff, and organizational leaders to co-design dementia care innovations grounded in real-world care experiences and operational priorities. Using stakeholder engagement, experience-based co-design, systems learning, and implementation science approaches, this partnership aims to: 1) deepen understanding of the experiences, priorities, workflows, and operational realities shaping dementia care within Caraday Healthcare; 2) work alongside residents, families, frontline staff, and organizational leaders to co-design a stakeholder-informed dementia care intervention and implementation strategy; and 3) lay the foundation for a future embedded pragmatic clinical trial (ePCT). The Scholar Year will strengthen a long-term embedded partnership between the University of Alabama and Caraday Healthcare while advancing stakeholder-informed approaches to developing dementia care interventions that are meaningful to nursing home communities, feasible to implement, and ready for future ePCTs.