

Undergraduate Summer Research Internship 2022



Project Background

This research was conducted as part of a phased empirical study, funded by the Parkinson's Society of Southwestern Ontario, that aims to identify the greatest challenges **care partners** of **individuals with Parkinson's Disease** (PD) faced in managing symptoms (and consequence) experienced by the individual brought forth by this disease.

A **key issue** highlighted by care partners early in the study pertained to their lack of preparation for having "**difficult conversations**," especially around critically important topics such as: driving cessation, changing place of residence, and power of care. These types of conversations are complex, potentially burdensome, and may induce strain on the care partner/recipients relationship.

Therefore, the purpose of this qualitative study is to explore **evidence informed** communication methods & strategies that can be utilized in the development of **educational resources** aimed to assist care partners of individuals with PD in conducting conversation that are perceived as being difficult in nature.

Research Activities

- Research evidence informed methods for addressing factors that enhance and contribute to the nature of difficult conversations between individuals with Parkinson's Disease and their care partner.
- Begin the brainstorming and development process of educational resources pertaining to the nature of difficult conversations that can be used as a tool by care partners (ie. professional instructional videos).

Scoping Review

A scoping review of the literature is being conducted in accordance with the guidelines put forth by (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005) as we search for **evidence informed communication methods/strategies** that can be used by informal care partners during the execution of difficult conversations.

4

Databases
Searched

892

Articles
Screened

202

Articles
Selected for
Review

Research Output Goal

- Utilize the empirical evidence extracted from the literature to assist in the development of professional instructional videos tailored towards improving the communication experience during difficult conversations between individuals with PD and their care partner.