

# RIASE

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REVISTA IBERO-AMERICANA DE SALUD Y ENVEJECIMIENTO

## EDITORIAL

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Population aging is a global reality that presents major challenges to public health, considered a relevant and positive factor for society when associated with health and quality of life. However, increased lifespan does not necessarily imply experiencing these additional years with quality. Observing diverse aging patterns and striving to understand the determinants of active longevity drive research, particularly in the field of older adult health.

Maintaining older adults' health should focus on autonomy and independence, as functional decline is predictable, preventable, and can be delayed through a healthcare model that recognizes this condition, its risk factors, and aggravating factors, and seeks to intervene. For this purpose, it is recommended that older adults be linked to Primary Health Care (PHC), the level of care with the greatest potential to intervene in the management and prevention of risk factors for functional loss and vulnerability, and to support continuity of care.

PHC is the priority level for assisting and monitoring older adults' health, and it also plays a role in health promotion and disease prevention. Nevertheless, it is essential to adopt measures to reorganize this level of care to encompass actions, particularly in health education, focusing on aging and its specific characteristics, as well as on training professionals to ensure comprehensive health for older adults across different contexts.

This issue brings together approved articles that were presented and selected during the III Seminar of the International Research Network on Vulnerability, Health, Safety, and Quality of Life of Older Adults (SIRVE): Brazil, Portugal, and Spain. Held annually in a hybrid format (in-person and online), this event aims to publicly present research on older adult health, with the most recent session held from June 5 to 7, 2024, at the São João de Deus Nursing School, University of Évora, Évora, Portugal.

The São João de Deus Nursing School is part of the international research network on vulnerability, health, safety, and quality of life of older adults: Brazil, Portugal, Spain, France, Chile, Mexico, and the United States, under my leadership at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte. The network's primary focus is vulnerability and its associated factors in older adult health across various aging contexts from a multiprofessional perspective, as part of a continuous effort toward active aging and quality of life. It brings together researchers and collaborators in geriatrics and gerontology from various universities in the participating countries.

The III SIRVE provided an expanded and interdisciplinary debate, both theoretical and methodological, on issues related to vulnerability, functionality, falls, violence, cognition, and quality of life among older adults, along with the phenomena associated with these topics. Among the best papers presented, this issue highlights articles on health conditions associated with and risk factors for falls among older adults living in long-term care facilities (LTCFs).

This international network event facilitated discussions on highly relevant topics in geriatrics and gerontology, particularly through presentations of scientific studies developed by network members. These works have not only enhanced scientific dissemination but also fostered the exchange of successful experiences in reorienting health practices. This reorientation is aimed at providing comprehensive care to older adults assisted in both Primary Health Care (PHC) and LTCF settings, emphasizing humanization and strengthening the involvement of individuals in the caregiving process, addressing issues that impact their health and well-being on both individual and collective levels. The goal is to promote active aging, sustaining autonomy and independence as long as possible, and improving the quality of life for the older population.

This issue comprises articles resulting from studies conducted by researchers and collaborators from the international network, encouraging the sharing of positive experiences across various settings. Through these contributions, we aim to provide insights for discussion and necessary reflection to improve and expand aspects related to vulnerability, health, safety, and quality of life among older adults, as well as intervention strategies through health promotion and prevention in response to the changes experienced by individuals in this life stage.

Highlighted in this issue are articles focused on the topic of falls in older adults: "Health Conditions Associated with Falls in Institutionalized Older Adults" and "Identifying Fall Risk Among Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities." On cognitive decline associated with functional performance, we present: "Cognitive Decline and Functional Performance in Instrumental Activities Among Community-Dwelling Older Adults" and "Conditions Associated with Cognitive Status in Older Adults in Primary Health Care." Articles addressing the theme of managing complex cases among older adults in PHC and LTCF settings include: "Nurse Case Manager in Primary Health Care in Murcia, Spain: An Experience Report on Training" and "Association of Health Demands of Older Adults in Primary Care and Long-Term Care Facilities in Brazil: Applicability of the Nurse Case Manager Model." In the area of violence against older adults, we highlight "Sociodemographic and Health Profile of Older Adults Experiencing Violence," which addresses violence against older people. Lastly, the article "Concept of Social Ulcer and Socioemotional Aspects of Quality of Life

for Individuals Living with Venous Ulcers" focuses on social ulcers and quality of life, emphasizing the social issue and quality of life of individuals with chronic ulcerative lesions.

We invite readers to explore the themes, contexts, and reflections offered here, which underscore the continuous efforts of our international network in advancing knowledge and sharing the results of studies and experiences developed by researchers and collaborators from participating countries.

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