



Jennifer Gabbard, MD

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“This award will provide me with training and mentorship in implementation science, applied clinical informatics, and pragmatic clinical trial design needed to design a dementia-specific advance care planning tool that can be embedded within outpatient primary care sites in a pragmatic fashion to improve outcomes for community-dwelling people living with dementia and cognitive frailty.”

Dr. Gabbard is an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. She is triple boarded in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, and Hospice and Palliative Medicine. She trained at the University of Arizona and then completed a clinician-educator fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. Her clinical interests include integration of early palliative care in patients with serious illnesses, clinical care of comorbid chronically ill and frail older adults, and promotion of healthy aging. These interests translate into both educational and research settings. Dr. Gabbard serves as the Palliative Care Research Director and Associate Program Director of the Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program at Wake Forest School of Medicine. She is a physician-scholar and educator seeking to develop her strong interests in implementation science, clinical informatics, and pragmatic clinical trial design.

Use of a Dementia-Specific Portal-Based Tool for Advance Care Planning Engagement

People living with dementia and those with cognitive frailty (i.e., mild cognitive impairment plus frailty) often experience high symptom burden affecting their quality of life and that of their care partners, with many receiving burdensome interventions that may be of limited benefit and that do not promote comfort. Because decision making capacity is often compromised as dementia progresses, it is important to have advance care planning (ACP) discussions early in the disease course to ensure goal concordant care. The Career Development Award will provide Dr. Gabbard with the necessary experience and training in implementation science, clinical informatics, and pragmatic clinical trial design to become an independent clinician-investigator conducting embedded pragmatic clinical trials to improve ACP and other care innovations among people living with dementia or cognitive frailty cared for within health care systems. This training will support the following **Specific Aims:** (1) To develop a dementia-specific, health care system patient portal-based ACP Tool for patients living with dementia or cognitive frailty and engage end-users in its design, and (2) To pilot test feasibility and preliminary effectiveness of linking the dementia-specific ACP tool to the patient portal to improve ACP engagement and documentation within the electronic health record.