The Mission: To discover, develop and disseminate best practices through research, education and service for engaged aging in family and community living regardless of economic, social or employment status.

The Institute Goals:  
1. Increase research activities to develop best practices for engaging older adults in family and community living.  
2. Develop graduate curricula, coursework, certificate and training programs in gerontology.  
3. Develop and maintain external partnerships in research, teaching and service.  
4. Develop and disseminate policy proposals on how to engage older adults in family and community living.  
5. Explore entrepreneurial opportunities with business partners and develop and test innovative infrastructure mechanisms for university-wide center operations.

History:  
2001 College of Health, Education, and Human Development faculty begin planning gerontology research center.  
2003 Community Living niche area of Provost Town Hall meeting brings together HEHD faculty with other researchers interested in aging research and formed Gerontology Research Interdisciplinary Team.  
October 2006 The proposal to establish an Institute for Engaged Aging was approved by the Clemson University Board of Trustees.

Board of Advisors:  
AARP-Alzheimer’s Association. LT. Governor’s Office on Aging, Appalachian Council of Governments, CU Institute for Global Road Safety and Security, DHEC, Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, SCHEA, SC Occupational Therapy Ass, SC State Senate, White Oak Management, Inc., Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, SC Aging in Place Coalition.

Annual Symposia/Conferences:  
2006 – “From Baby Boom to Silver Boom: Are We Ready?”, IEA Symposium.  
2013 - “Transforming Healthcare with Compassionate Healthcare of our Aging Community; a Focus on the Care of Aging Patients with Dementia.” GHS partner.  

Longevity and Neurodegenerative Disorders:  
Cells have a sophisticated regulatory network to maintain healthy protein homeostasis (proteostasis), which results in prolongevity and prevention of neurodegeneration. However, aging significantly impacts this network and leads to the loss of proteostasis. Our research goal is to understand how the cellular proteostasis is maintained during the life of cells, thereby elevate our ability to develop effective treatments for longevity and age-related neurodegenerative disorders.  
Contact: Yinong Dong at ydong@clemson.edu.

Chronic Disease Self-Management:  

Figure (right): CeHCF Regulates the Expression of the DAF-16 Target Gene sod-3

Technology:  
In-home technologies to address the needs of urban, low income older adults designed to enable an interactive, peer-to-peer support system within the community. A privacy feature called, DigSwitch allows users to control which peers in their network could view their information. Contact: Kelly Caine at caine@clemson.edu

The Workforce and Aging:  
Most individuals with reasonable levels of health and finances who have planned to retire are very happy post-retirement; the idea that most individuals are “lost” without work is not supported.  
Most companies are aware of upcoming demographic shifts that will increase the demand for older employees, yet are not actively engaged in recruiting/retention efforts. The workforce is critical to the future of the state.  
Understanding the need to “give back” to younger workers and the firm can help us design more appealing and effective recruitment and retention strategies, and can help us make work more rewarding for experienced employees. taxcom@clemson.edu.

IEA Faculty Associates:  
L. Brooks  
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M. Cox  
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Y. Dong  
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W. Haleyzifer  
Y. Lim  
K. Malzbi  
J. McCallon  
F. McQuain  
J. Ogil  
X. Pan  
S. Pangborn  
J. Vittolo  
M. Taylor  
M. Van Puyvelde  
D. Vincent  
J. Williams  
D. Willoughby  
D. Zhang  

IEA Integrated Interdisciplinary Model:  
Multidisciplinary IEA Faculty Associates meet the diverse needs of older adults in our state. From implementation of programs featuring community health coaches mentoring in chronic condition self-management, driving assessments, therapeutic recreation, nutrition, and health literacy training, to research in longevity stress, aging work force issues, and human-computer systems and telemedicine. IEA faculty are committed to helping older adults retain their independence and quality of life as they age. IEA membership in the SeniorSMART CoEE promotes IEA research collaborations state-wide.