Special Issue

Leisure and Well-Being in Older Adults

Message from the Guest Editors

Given increased human longevity and the expanding population of older adults, understanding well-being as we age is important and an area in need of research. Various theoretical and practical debates about conceptualizing, measuring, and predicting well-being guide public policy, helping to improve the quality of life of older adults. A consistent conclusion is that leisure plays a crucial role in the well-being of older adults. In addition to the intrinsic enjoyment, meaningfulness, and opportunities for authenticity that leisure brings to us, as we age, leisure provides various positive outcomes such as increasing a sense of inclusion and belonging, expanding social networks, enabling the development of coping strategies and resources to deal with various life challenges, and improving positive emotions that contribute to well-being. Although leisure experiences are valuable for older adults, effects may vary depending on different types of recreation activities perceived to contribute to our leisure. Therefore, the purpose of this Special Issue is to encourage theoretical and practical reflections on the broad topic of leisure and well-being in later life.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Liang-Chih Chang

Department of Living Sciences, National Open University, New Taipei City 247, Taiwan

Prof. Dr. John Dattilo

Department of Recreaiton, Park and Tourism Management, Penn State University, State College, PA 16802, USA

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Paul B. Tchounwou

RCMI Center for Urban Health Disparities Research and Innovation, Richard N. Dixon Research Center, Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD 21251, USA

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