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**Caregiving for an aging population living with Dementia: Challenges and opportunities**

**Abstract:**

Global aging is a social phenomenon without historical precedence. Growing old comes with many challenges and opportunities. Thanks to the economic progress, medical advances, and advances in public health, more people are living longer. Some populations are greatly affected reflecting Global North/Global South differences and systemic levels of oppression. The average proportion of people with dementia in LMICs in their homes is 94%, and most are cared for by their family members. The reality is that growing older is a stressful period in someone's life. Adults as they age have to deal with many losses that produce a great amount of stress.

The Global Action Plan on the Public Health Response to Dementia 2017–2025 set a goal of improvement not only for the lives of people with dementia but also for their caregivers and families while decreasing the impact of dementia on them. This presentation will highlight the challenges and opportunities in addressing dementia and related brain disorders. It examines key characteristics of aging and caregiving, advocacy and community engagement to enhance the the quality of life in Sub-Saharan Africa vis a vis aging in the global context.

**Biography**

**Hugo Kamya**, PhD, is Professor at Smith College, School for Social Work. He is licensed independent clinical social worker and a licensed psychologist in Massachusetts. Before joining Smith College, Dr. Kamya was Professor and Associate Director of the Center for Innovation in Clinical Social Work at Simmons University. He has taught research, clinical practice and trauma, family therapy, spirituality, group work, narrative practice; and working with complex and diverse populations. He combines an interest in social work, psychology, and theology. Dr. Kamya has an active practice with individuals, families, couples and groups. He works with older adults who struggle with dementia and brain disorders, and their caregivers