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**Project Title**

A Biopsychosocial Approach to Understanding the Impact of Osteoarthritis on Social Participation: A Population-based Study

**Project Summary**

While the definition of healthy aging across studies is variable, the focus is dominated by disability in activities of daily living; this is especially true in osteoarthritis (OA) research. However, older individuals identify healthy/successful aging more so with social participation and engagement than with activity limitations and disease. OA is a leading cause of pain and activity limitations, which are among the strongest predictors of social participation. The prevalence of OA increases significantly as people age, and because our population is aging, OA poses a significant threat to social participation. Yet, there has been little work that has examined social participation in OA in the population. This proposal investigates the relationship between OA and social participation in a large population-based and representative Canadian sample. Our goal is to understand the relationship of OA to pain, in turn to activity and mobility, and ultimately to social participation.

**Keywords**

Osteoarthritis; Social participation; Healthy aging